

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
Phone: (502) 582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277
E-mail: nass-ky@nass.usda.gov
and the
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner

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FEATURING: ♦ Agricultural Prices ♦ Milk Production ♦ Farm Labor ♦ Annual Honey ♦ Slaughter
♦ Cold Storage ♦ Cattle on Feed ♦ Chicken & Eggs ♦ Crop Values ♦ Farm Numbers

GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED

Kentucky farmers received mixed prices for their grain and livestock commodities at mid-February.

Mid-month prices for **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over averaged \$80.00 per cwt. compared to \$83.00 per cwt. for the month of January. This was \$1.00 below the February price a year ago and the lowest in 4 months. **Beef cow** prices at mid-February averaged \$40.00 per cwt., \$2.00 above last month and \$4.00 above February last year. This was the highest price in 7 months. Prices received for **calves** under 500 lbs. dropped \$1.00 from last month to \$97.00 per cwt. at mid-February while averaging \$3.00 above last year.

Prices received at mid-February for **barrows and gilts** averaged \$35.00 per cwt. This was \$1.00 above last month while \$3.00 below February a year ago. **Sow** prices at mid-February were unchanged from last month at \$31.00 per cwt., while averaging \$7.00 below last year's price.

All milk prices received dropped 60 cents at mid-February to \$14.20 per cwt. This was \$1.20 above a year ago. The mid-February all milk price was the lowest in 4 months.

The mid-month price for **corn** averaged \$2.05 per bushel. This was 12 cents below last month and 18 cents below February 2000. **Soybean** prices averaged \$4.50 per bushel. This was 38 cents below last month and 51 cents below last year. The mid-February soybean price was the lowest in 19 months. Prices received for **winter wheat** was \$2.40 per bushel. This was 9 cents above last month, 8 cents above last year and was the highest price since March 2000.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in February was 99 based on 1990-92=100, up 2 points (2.1 percent) from the January index. Higher prices for lettuce, broilers, oranges, and hogs were partially offset by lower prices for strawberries, soybeans, corn, and tomatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and strawberries were partially offset by lower marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cotton. Compared with February 2000, the All Farm Products Index was 6 points (6.5 percent) higher. Price increases from February 2000 for cattle, lettuce, milk, and broilers were partially offset by lower prices for soybeans, corn, grapefruit, and potatoes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		FEB 2000	JAN 2001	FEB 2001	FEB 2001
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.23	2.17	2.05	1.92
Soybeans b/	Bu.	5.01	4.88	4.50	4.37
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	2.32	2.31	2.40	2.73
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	122.00	118.00	125.00	94.20
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	79.00	77.00	74.00	71.20
All Hogs	Cwt.	38.00	33.90	34.80	38.60
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	38.00	34.00	35.00	39.20
Sows	Cwt.	38.00	31.00	31.00	30.40
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	70.20	72.20	70.40	74.70
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	81.00	83.00	80.00	78.40
Cows	Cwt.	36.00	38.00	40.00	41.50
Calves f/	Cwt.	94.00	98.00	97.00	108.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.00	14.80	14.20	13.10
Fluid g/	Cwt.	13.00	14.90	--	13.10
Manufactured	Cwt.	9.50	9.60	--	11.10
Hog-Corn Ratios h/	Bu.	17.0	15.6	17.0	20.1

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U. S. MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 1.5 PERCENT

Kentucky milk production for January 2001 totaled 145 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier, but up 6 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms at 130,000 head was unchanged from last year and down 1,000 from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,115 pounds, down 40 pounds from January 2000, but up 70 pounds from December 2000.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during January totaled 12.1 billion pounds, down 1.5 percent from

production in these same States in January 2000. December revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds was down 0.7 percent from December 1999. The December revision represented a decrease of 0.6 percent or 77 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,550 pounds for January, 29 pounds below January 2000. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.79 million head, 27,000 head more than January 2000, but 12,000 head less than December 2000.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION DECEMBER & JANUARY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Revised December				January				'01 % of '00
	Milk Cows 1/		Production 2/		Milk Cows 1/		Production 2/		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	2000	2001	2000	2001	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Million Pounds		
CA	1,488	1,556	2,641	2,700	1,492	1,562	2,708	2,749	102
IL	121	118	173	172	120	118	180	173	96
IN	138	150	187	207	139	151	195	211	108
KY	131	131	145	137	130	130	150	145	97
MN	540	525	807	780	540	520	834	796	95
MO	158	151	190	178	158	149	196	171	87
OH	258	265	382	371	259	264	381	370	97
TX	348	345	485	450	350	343	530	466	88
VA	120	119	162	158	120	118	171	161	94
WI	1,360	1,330	1,931	1,889	1,358	1,328	1,962	1,919	98
20-State Total	7,756	7,803	11,935	11,855	7,764	7,791	12,259	12,073	98

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 2 PERCENT, WAGES UP 7 PERCENT

There were 841,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of January 7-13, 2001, down 2 percent from a year ago. There were 678,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 163,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 10.0 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 7.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.65 per hour during the January 2001 survey week, up 55 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average

of \$7.71 per hour, up 46 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$8.09 per hour compared with \$7.61 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 48 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers on farms in the **3-State Region including Kentucky**, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 27,000 during the week of January 7-13, 2001. Hired workers worked an average 32.8 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was \$7.18 per hour. Field workers averaged \$6.57 per hour and livestock workers averaged \$7.26 per hour.

HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production during 2000 for **Kentucky** totaled 144,000 pounds, down 6,000 pounds from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 48 pounds, down 2 pounds from 1999. The number of colonies producing honey totaled 3,000, unchanged from 1999.

As of December 15, 2000, Kentucky producers had 40,000 pounds of honey on hand for sale, compared with 12,000 pounds the previous year. The average price received for all classes of honey during 2000 was \$1.35 per pound, compared with \$1.24 during 1999. The value of Kentucky honey production during 2000 was \$194,000, compared with \$186,000 a year ago.

U.S. honey production in 2000 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 221 million pounds, up 8 percent from 1999. There were 2.63 million colonies producing

honey in 2000, down 2 percent from 1999. Yield per colony averaged 83.9 pounds, up 7.5 pounds from the 76.4 pounds in 1999. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 86.2 million pounds on December 15, 2000, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 2000 crop averaged 59.4 cents per pound, down 1 percent from 60.1 cents in 1999. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Co-op and private prices were lower for all color classes except "Other Honey" in 2000.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION ^{1/}

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in January, up 4 percent from the 3.78 billion pounds produced in January 2000 and up 3 percent from the previous record high for January set in 1998. January 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. January 2001 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Type	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000	Jan. 2001	Jan. 01 % of	
				Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Million Pounds					
Beef	2,178	1,998	2,205	101	110
Veal	17	18	18	103	100
Pork	1,570	*1,582	1,693	108	107
Lamb & Mutton	19	21	19	100	92
Total U.S.	3,784	*3,619	3,934	104	109
Total Kentucky	37.6	36.1	41.5	110	115

^{1/} Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. * Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 2000 & 2001 ^{1/}

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight		
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	
1,000 head			1,000 lbs.			Pounds	
Kentucky							
Cattle	1.6	1.6	1,355	1,351	862	871	
Hogs	186.0	200.5	49,428	54,254	266	271	
Sheep & Lambs	0.4	0.5	53	84	119	169	
United States							
Cattle	2,936.9	3,001.6	3,610,156	3,679,009	1,229	1,226	
Hogs	8,140.8	8,642.9	2,132,806	2,287,050	262	265	
Sheep & Lambs	281.7	268.5	38,645	38,382	137	143	

^{1/} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

Beef production, at 2.20 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, up 2 percent from 2000. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,226 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.69 billion pounds, up 8 percent from the previous year and 4 percent above the previous record for January set in 1998. Hog kill totaled 8.64 million head, 6 percent above 2000. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2001, were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, red meat, potatoes, and orange juice. Cooler stocks of apples were also higher than a year earlier.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Jan 01 as % of	
Commodity	Jan 31, 2000	Dec 31, 2000	Jan 31, 2001	Jan 2000	Dec 2000
Frozen Poultry			1,000 lbs		
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	35,772	28,441	23,131	65	81
Other Chicken	778,884	769,132	751,008	96	98
Total Chicken ^{1/}	823,683	806,560	785,042	95	97
Turkey	319,352	241,284	293,066	92	121
Total Frozen Poultry ^{2/}	1,147,063	1,051,247	1,081,576	94	103
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	350,948	401,724	413,724	118	103
Pork:					
Bellies	43,802	47,099	50,744	116	108
Total Frozen Pork ^{3/}	481,394	411,475	474,086	98	115
Total Meat ^{4/}	853,093	836,204	913,375	107	109

^{1/} Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. ^{2/} Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. ^{3/} Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, spareribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. ^{4/} Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on February 1, 2001. The inventory was 3 percent above February 1, 2000 and 14 percent above February 1, 1999. **Placements in feedlots** during January totaled 2.26 million, 2 percent above 2000 and 17 percent above 1999. Net placements were 2.19 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 499,000, 600-699 pounds were 716,000, 700-799 pounds were 664,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 384,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during January totaled 2.04 million, unchanged from 2000 but 1 percent above 1999. **Other disappearance** totaled 78,000 during January, 13 percent above 2000 and 11 percent above 1999.

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES ^{1/}

Cattle on feed February 1, 2001 in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million, up 3 percent from the previous year and 15 percent above February 1, 1999. **Placements in feedlots** during January totaled 1.97 million, 2 percent above 2000 and 17 percent above 1999. **Marketings** during January totaled 1.75 million, unchanged from 2000 and 1 percent above 1999. **Other disappearance** during January was 68,000 head, 33 percent above 2000 and 45 percent above 1999.

^{1/}AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, AND TX.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Jan. 2000	Jan. 2001	Jan. 01 % of Jan. 00
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,157	7,210	101
Average Layers (000)	328,557	333,247	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,178	2,164	99
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Feb. 1 (000)	32,847	35,357	108
Chicks Hatched (000)	34,125	37,976	111
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Feb. 1 (000)	620,179	612,779	99
Chicks Hatched (000)	749,375	733,889	98

KENTUCKY CROPS VALUED AT \$1.67 BILLION

Crops produced by **Kentucky** farmers during the year 2000 were valued at \$1.67 billion, up 2 percent from the 1999 crop valued at \$1.63 billion. The 2000 crop season was a welcome change from the 1999 drought year. The usual drier crop growing season didn't occur until September. Tobacco remained Kentucky's number one cash crop despite the 24 percent decrease in value of production from 1999. Tobacco accounted for 35.9 percent of Kentucky's total crop value for the year 2000 and 29 percent of the U.S. value of tobacco produced. Wheat also decreased in value. The other three major crops for Kentucky - hay, corn and soybeans - all increased in value. Kentucky

continued to rank 20th among all states in value of production. The value of production for the year 2000 is preliminary and based on an estimate of market year average prices. Value of production will change as market year average price and/or production are revised.

All crops produced in the **U.S.** for 2000 were valued at \$90.0 billion, up 5.5 percent from 1999. California remained the number one State with a total crop value of \$15.5 billion. Illinois was second with \$5.88 billion, and Iowa ranked third with \$5.69 billion. The Nation's top three crops in value of production were corn with \$18.6 billion, soybeans with \$13.1 billion and all baled hay with \$11.2 billion.

KENTUCKY PRINCIPAL CROPS RANKED ACCORDING TO VALUE OF PRODUCTION-1999 AND 2000

2000 Rank	Commodity	Unit	1999 Crop Year <u>1/</u>			2000 Crop Year <u>2/</u>			00 Value as % of 99 Value
			Price (Dollars)	Value (\$1,000)	% of Total Value	Price (Dollars)	Value (\$1000)	% of Total Value	
1.	Tobacco, All	Lb.	1.920	784,498	48.2	2.000	599,177	35.9	76
2.	Hay (baled)	Ton	89.00	405,630	24.9	79.00	466,005	28.0	115
3.	Corn (for grain)	Bu.	2.11	261,429	16.0	2.00	319,800	19.2	122
4.	Soybeans	Bu.	4.83	117,659	7.2	4.85	223,197	13.4	190
5.	Wheat	Bu.	2.19	53,874	3.3	2.25	53,865	3.2	100
6.	Fruit & Vegetables			2,782	.2		1,967	.1	71
7.	Sorghum, Grain	Bu.	1.81	1,158	.1	2.00	1,530	.1	132
8.	Barley	Bu.	1.32	845	.1	1.45	870	.1	103
9.	Miscellaneous			64	*		51	*	80
	TOTAL			1,627,939			1,666,462		102

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. * Less than .1%

KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS DOWN

Kentucky's number of farms for 2000 totaled 90,000. This was down 1,000 farms from the number in 1999. The decrease in number of farms was due to the continuation of small farms going out of business. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, set aside, or other government programs are considered operating farms. Nationally, Kentucky ranks fourth tying Tennessee in number of farms. Ranking ahead of Kentucky was Texas with 226,000, Missouri with 109,000, and Iowa with 95,000. Of the 90,000 Kentucky farms, 51,000 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999, 33,000 had sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 and 6,000 had sales of \$100,000 and over. Land in farms was estimated at 13.6 million acres, unchanged from 1999. Farmland in Kentucky accounted for 54 percent of the approximate 25.4 million total acres in the State. The average farm size in Kentucky for 2000 was 151 acres, up from last year's 149 acres.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2000 was estimated at 2.17 million, down 0.9 percent from 1999. The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with less than \$10,000 in sales. This was the largest decline in farms and ranches since 1991 when just over 29,000 operations were lost. Total land in farms, at 943.0 million acres, declined 0.5 percent or 4.4 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 432 acres in 1999 to 434 acres in 2000. The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 declined 1.7 percent to 1,173,650 in 2000. Farms and ranches with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class increased slightly from 1999 to 649,350 operations while the number of farms and ranches with sales over \$100,000 rose 0.1 percent to 349,080. The impact of adverse weather, lower commodity prices, and competition for land contributed to the overall reduction and consolidation of farms and ranches during 2000.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

STATE STATISTICIAN
LELANDE E. BROWN

DEPUTY STATE STATISTICIAN
WILLIAM BRANNEN



Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 1120
Louisville, KY 40201
502-582-5293 or 1-800-928-5277

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