

**FEATURING:**

‡ County Estimates  
‡ Slaughter

‡ Cattle on Feed  
‡ Dairy Products

‡ Chicken & Eggs  
‡ Milk Production

‡ Cold Storage

## **UNION, CHRISTIAN AND DAVIESS WERE TOP CORN PRODUCING COUNTIES FOR 1998**

Union County remained the top producing county in Kentucky. For 1998 there were 10,507,700 bushels produced from 88,300 acres harvested, bringing a yield of 119 bushels per acre. Christian County produced 9,342,000 bushels, ranking second, followed by Daviess County with 9,172,800 bushels. Other counties with five million bushels or more were Henderson, Logan, Todd, Graves and McLean. The county with the highest yield was Logan with 137 bushels per acre. Kentucky's corn production for 1998 totaled 135.7 million bushels, an increase of

15 percent from the 1997 small crop of 118.5 million bushels. A hot dry summer hurt yields to various degrees. Yields varied within and between counties depending on when and how much rain was received. Yield averaged 115 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from 1997. Acreage harvested for grain was 1.18 million acres, up 30,000 from the previous year. U.S. corn production totaled 9.76 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the 1997 crop. The 1998 production ranks second behind the 10.1 billion bushels produced in 1994.

## **DAVIESS, UNION AND HENDERSON COUNTIES LEAD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION**

Daviess County continued to be the leading soybean producing county in Kentucky with 2,640,000 bushels produced in 1998 with a yield of 33 bushels per acre. Union County was second with 2,492,000 bushels produced. Henderson was third with 2,283,600 bushels of soybeans. Mason was the leading yield county with 43 bushels per acre. Soybean production for Kentucky totaled 36.0 million bushels, down 14 percent from 1997 and the smallest crop since 1988. The smallest crop

resulted from both lower yields and acreage. A hot dry summer hurt yields to various degrees. Second crop beans were especially hurt. Yield per acre at 30.0 bushels was down 4.5 bushels from 1997 and the smallest yield in 10 years. Harvested acreage at 1,200,000 acres was down 20,000 acres from 1997. U.S. soybean production in 1998 totaled 2.76 billion bushels, up 3 percent from 1997. The 1998 production was the highest on record, followed by the 1997 crop of 2.69 billion bushels.

## **LOGAN REMAINS NUMBER ONE IN WHEAT PRODUCTION**

Logan County produced 2,640,000 bushels of wheat during 1998 and remained the number one wheat producing county in Kentucky. Yield averaged 48 bushels per acre. Harvested acres at 55,000 acres was also the largest for the State. Christian was a close second with 2,597,000 bushels of wheat produced and Todd County was third with 2,050,000 bushels. Other counties producing more than one million bushels were: Simpson, Calloway, Warren, Daviess, Hickman and Graves. Warren County had the largest yield per acre with 57 bushels per acre.

Kentucky's winter wheat production for 1998 totaled 24.8 million bushels, up 9 percent from 1997. Yield was 45 bushels per acre, the lowest yield in 7 years. Harvested acres at 550,000 was the highest in 16 years. Wheat development was hurt by a mid-March freeze. Some of the wheat was frozen to ground level and had to repopulate from tillers. This resulted in uneven crop development with reduced yields. Some lodging and disease was present. U.S. winter wheat production was estimated at 1.88 billion bushels down fractionally from the last estimate.

## **HOPKINS IS TOP HOG PRODUCING COUNTY**

Hopkins County was the number one hog county in Kentucky with 37,000 head on hand as of December 1, 1998. Allen was second with 35,300 head, followed by Graves with 30,000, Nelson with 26,700 and Daviess with 24,000.

Kentucky hog numbers totaled 520,000 head on December 1, 1998, down from 590,000 on December 1, 1997. Low hog prices during 1998 greatly effected inventory levels and forced many

hog producers to liquidate their herds. Consequently, the population of small hog operations continues to decline in Kentucky. U.S. hog numbers totaled 62.2 million head on December 1, 1998, 2 percent above the previous year. Iowa continued as the leading hog state with 15.3 million head. Other leading states were North Carolina, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana.

## **BARREN COUNTY STILL CATTLE CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY**

Barren County remains the number one cattle county in Kentucky with 88,000 head on January 1, 1999. Warren remains second with 81,000 head, followed by Pulaski with 62,000, Madison with 60,000, and Lincoln with 52,500. Kentucky ranked 13th in the U.S. with 2.42 million cattle on January 1, 1999. Texas has the largest cattle herd in the U.S. with 14 million head. Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and California showed cattle inventories of 5 million or more on January 1, 1999.

Kentucky has the largest beef cow herd east of the Mississippi and ranked 8th in the U.S. with 1,105,000 head on January 1, 1999. Barren had the largest beef cow inventory on January 1, 1999 with 36,000 head. Warren County showed 32,500 beef cows, the second largest inventory in Kentucky. Pulaski ranked third with 30,000 head, followed by Madison with 23,500 head. Bourbon and Monroe counties both reported 22,000 beef cows on January 1, 1999. Texas has the most beef cows with 5.53 million head. Other leading states included Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Montana and Kansas.

## CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** March 1, 1999, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.86 million, up slightly from the previous year and 1 percent above March 1, 1997.

**Placements in feedlots** during February totaled 1.54 million, 20 percent above 1998 but 1 percent below 1997.

**Marketings** during February totaled 1.55 million, 2 percent below 1998 and slightly below 1997.

**Other disappearance** during February was 42,000 head, 25 percent below 1998 but the same as 1997.

## 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 10.40 million head on March 1, 1999. The inventory was up slightly from the 10.38 million head on March 1, 1998 and 1 percent above March 1, 1997.

**Placements in feedlots** during February totaled 1.79 million, 20 percent above 1998 but 1 percent below 1997. Net placements were 1.72 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 333,000, 600-699 pounds were 492,000, 700-799 pounds were 596,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 367,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent below 1998 but 1 percent above 1997. **Other disappearance** totaled 65,000 during February, 6 percent below 1998 but 7 percent above 1997.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type		Feb. 1998	Feb. 1999	Feb. 99 % of Feb. 98
<b>Egg Production</b>				
Eggs Produced	(Million)	6,109	6,287	103
Average Layers	(000)	313,245	322,933	103
Eggs Per 100		1,950	1,947	100
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>				
Eggs Set Mar. 1	(000)	34,570	35,347	102
Chicks Hatched	(000)	34,573	35,648	103
<b>Broiler Type</b>				
Eggs Set Mar. 1	(000)	608,037	623,749	103
Chicks Hatched	(000)	644,504	661,739	103

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 1999, were greater than year earlier levels for butter, pork, chicken, vegetables, concentrated orange juice, potatoes, and fruit. Cooler stocks of peanuts and apples were higher than a year earlier.

Commodity	All U. S. Warehouse Stocks			Feb 99 as % of	
	Feb 28, 1998	Jan 31, 1999	Feb 28, 1999	Feb 1998	Jan 1999
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	21,962	22,947	23,420	107	102
Other Chicken	638,221	686,431	691,430	108	101
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	665,333	716,942	723,658	109	101
Turkey	512,668	363,920	376,045	73	103
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,180,557	1,085,039	1,104,251	94	102
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	334,948	301,309	301,314	90	100
Pork					
Bellies	55,368	82,025	92,496	167	113
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	464,452	517,592	543,260	117	105
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	825,827	840,536	866,753	105	103

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.

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.54 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.48 billion pounds produced in February 1998 and slightly higher than the previous record high for February set in 1996.

Beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,221 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous record high for February set last year. Hog kill totaled 7.90 million head, 3 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 259 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 20.0 million pounds, was down 4 percent from the previous record low for February set in 1979, 1997, and 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 299 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 2 pounds from February a year ago. February 1998 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 1999 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

### COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999	Feb. 1999	Feb. 99 % of	
				Feb. 1998	Jan. 1999
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	1,977	2,170	1,997	101	92
Veal	21	*18	17	81	98
Pork	1,457	1,627	1,501	103	92
Lamb & Mutton	21	18	20	96	112
Total U.S.	3,476	3,832	3,535	102	92
Total Kentucky	39.1	49.1	39.3	101	80

\*Revised. 1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. FEBRUARY 1998 & 1999 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	3.5	1.8	3,608	1,549	1,025	876
Hogs	191.3	199.0	49,579	51,552	259	259
Sheep & Lambs	0.4	0.5	70	62	173	132
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	2,746.8	2,721.8	3,307,625	3,322,976	1,204	1,221
Hogs	7,711.5	7,904.8	1,987,379	2,043,962	258	259
Sheep & Lambs	308.5	298.9	42,269	40,431	137	135

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

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH LEVEL IN 1998

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 45.3 billion pounds in 1998. This was 4 percent higher than both last year's production and the previous record high set in 1995. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.1 billion pounds.

Beef production, at 25.8 billion pounds, was up 1 percent from a year earlier. Veal production totaled 261 million pounds, down 22 percent from last year's figure and down 9 percent from the previous record low set in 1993. Pork production rose 10 percent to 19.0 billion pounds, eclipsing the previous record high set in 1995 by 7 percent. Lamb and mutton production totaled 252 million pounds, 3 percent below the previous record low set in 1997.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1998 totaled 35.5 million head, down 2 percent from 1997, with federal inspection comprising 98.1 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,203 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.2 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.3 percent, dairy cows 7.5 percent, other cows 9.3 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.46 million head, down 7 percent from a year ago with 97.6 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 285 pounds, down 53 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 101.0 million head, up 10 percent from 1997 with 98.3 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from a year earlier at 256 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.0 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.80 million head, was down 3 percent from 1997 with 96.5 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight fell 1 pound from 1997 to 132 pounds.

Red meat production in Kentucky during 1998 totaled 513 million pounds, up 14 percent from the 1997 level. Beef production totaled 50.98 million pounds live weight, 5 percent below the 1997 level. Pork production, at 649 million pounds live weight was 15 percent above the previous year, but lamb and mutton production, at 1.19 million pounds live weight, was 15 percent below the 1997 total. During 1998, animals were slaughtered at 74 plants in Kentucky, of which 29 were under federal inspection.

## U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, JANUARY 1998-99

PRODUCT	January 1998	December 1998 <sup>1/</sup>	January 1999	Percent of	
				Jan. 1998	Dec. 1998
	(000) Pounds			Percent	
<b>BUTTER</b>	113,512	101,643	122,276	108	120
<b>CHEESE</b>					
American Types <sup>2/</sup>	283,248	297,653	288,638	102	97
Mozzarella	188,661	210,018	200,543	106	95
All Other Types <sup>3/</sup>	143,824	159,983	144,693	101	90
Total	615,733	667,654	633,874	103	95
	(000) Gallons			Percent	
<b>FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>					
Ice Cream (Hard)	58,121	55,075	57,637	99	105
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	5,897	5,930	5,792	98	98
<b>MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>					
Ice Cream Mix	32,639	29,283	31,812	97	109
Yogurt Mix	3,732	3,753	3,666	98	98

<sup>1/</sup> Revised. <sup>2/</sup> Includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack. <sup>3/</sup> Includes Swiss, cream and all other types. Excludes cottage cheese.

### U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 4.3 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for February 1999 totaled 131 million pounds, down 5 percent from a year earlier and down 7 percent from January 1999. Average number of milk cows on farms was 135,000, down 8,000 head from last year and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 970 pounds, down 75 pounds from January 1999 and up 5 pounds from February 1998.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during February totaled 10.8 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from production in these same States in February 1998. January revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 3.5 percent from January 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,407 pounds for February, 60 pounds above February 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 16,000 head less than February 1998 and 4,000 head less than January 1999.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
 AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN  
 POST OFFICE BOX 1120  
 LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40201-1120

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

