

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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**FEATURING:** \* County Estimates \* Cattle on Feed \* Chicken & Eggs \* Cold Storage  
\* Slaughter \* Agricultural Land Values \* Dairy Products \* Milk Production

## UNION, DAVIESS AND CHRISTIAN WERE TOP CORN PRODUCING COUNTIES FOR 1999

Union County continued as the top producing county in **Kentucky**. For 1999 there were 11,048,400 bushels produced from 83,700 acres harvested, bringing a yield of 132 bushels per acre. Daviess County with 9,523,000 bushels, ranked second, followed by Christian County with 8,219,400 bushels. Other counties with five million bushels or more were Henderson, Logan, McLean, Todd and Graves. The county with the highest yield was Union with 132 bushels per acre. Kentucky's corn production for 1999 totaled 123.9 million

bushels, a decrease of 9 percent from the 1998 crop of 135.7 million bushels. Limited yield of 105 bushels per acre resulted from the hot, dry weather. This was down from 115 bushels in 1998. Early planted corn yielded the best. Acreage harvested for grain at 1.18 million acres was unchanged from 1998. An increased acreage was taken for silage due to low grain yields. **U.S.** corn for grain production was estimated at 9.44 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop. The 1999 production ranks the fourth highest production on record behind the 1994, 1998 and 1992 respective crop years.

## DAVIESS, UNION AND HENDERSON COUNTIES LEAD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Daviess County continued to be the leading soybean producing county in **Kentucky** with 2,020,000 bushels produced in 1999 with a yield of 25 bushels per acre. Union County was second with 2,558,500 bushels produced and Henderson was third with 1,830,000 bushels. Fulton, McLean and Webster also had production of over one million bushels. Union was the leading yield county with 35 bushels per acre. Soybean production for Kentucky was estimated at 24.2 million bushels for 1999, a

decrease of 33 percent from 1998. Yield was estimated at 21.0 bushels per acre, down 9 bushels per acre from 1998. This was the lowest yield in 16 years. Bean quality was also down. Double crop soybeans that follow wheat and barley harvest had a tough crop season with some fields yielding only 5 bushels or less per acre. Harvested acreage at 1.15 million acres was down 4 percent from 1998. **U.S.** soybean production in 1999 totaled 2.64 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 1998 while the third highest on record.

## LOGAN, CHRISTIAN AND TODD WERE TOP THREE WHEAT PRODUCTION COUNTIES

Logan County was the top wheat producing county in **Kentucky** with 3,080,000 bushels. Yield per acre averaged 77 bushels. Harvested acreage at 40,000 acres was the second highest behind Christian County with 43,000 acres. Christian was a close second in production with 3,010,000 bushels and Todd was third with 2,176,000 bushels. Other counties producing more than one million bushels were Simpson, Calloway, Warren and Hickman. Logan County had the largest yield per acre with 77 bushels per acre. Kentucky's winter

wheat production for 1999 totaled 24.6 million bushels, down less than 1 percent from 1998. Yield was 60 bushels per acre, equal to the 60 bushels in 1994. Harvested acres at 410,000 was down 140,000 acres from 1998 and the smallest acreage since 1993. The wheat crop in Kentucky last year had little or no freeze damage with crop development ahead of average. Few pest and disease problems were reported. **U.S.** winter wheat production was estimated at 1.70 billion bushels, down 10 percent from the previous year.

## BARREN REMAINS TOP CATTLE COUNTY IN KENTUCKY

Barren County had 85,000 head of cattle on January 1, 2000, more than any other county in Kentucky. Warren County was second with 64,000 head, followed by Pulaski with 60,000 head, and Madison County with 58,500. Allen and Lincoln Counties tied with 50,000 head. Kentucky ranks 13th in the U.S., with 2.25 million head of cattle on January 1, 2000. Texas has the largest cattle inventory with 13.9 million head. States with more than 5 million cattle on January 1, 2000 include Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and California.

Kentucky's beef cow herd remains the largest east of the Mississippi River and the 8th largest in the U.S. Kentucky producers had 1.07 million beef cows on January 1, 2000. Barren County was number one in Kentucky, with 35,000 head, followed by Pulaski and Warren with 30,000 head each. Madison County ranked 4th with 24,500 head and Monroe County had 22,000 head of beef cows on January 1, 2000. Texas had the largest beef cow inventory in the U.S. with 5.43 million head. Other leading states include Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Montana and Kansas.

### 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 11.33 million head on March 1, 2000. The inventory was up 9 percent from the 10.42 million head on March 1, 1999 and 9 percent above March 1, 1998.

**Placements in feedlots** during February totaled 1.88 million, 4 percent above 1999 and 26 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.80 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 351,000, 600-699 pounds were 476,000, 700-799 pounds were 596,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 457,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 2.05 million, 12 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998. **Other disappearance** totaled 78,000 during February, 20 percent above 1999 and 13 percent above 1998.

### CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** March 1, 2000, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.70 million, up 9 percent from the previous year and 10 percent above March 1, 1998.

**Placements in feedlots** during February totaled 1.61 million, 3 percent above 1999 and 24 percent above 1998.

**Marketings** during February totaled 1.75 million, 12 percent above 1999 and 11 percent above 1998.

**Other disappearance** during February was 47,000 head, 12 percent above 1999 but 16 percent below 1998.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Feb. 1999	Feb. 2000	Feb. 00 % of Feb. 99
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,281	6,662	106
Average Layers (000)	322,797	329,892	102
Eggs Per 100 Layers	1,946	2,019	104
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Mar. 1 (000)	35,347	36,078	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,648	35,491	100
<b>Broiler Type</b>			
Eggs Set Mar. 1 (000)	623,749	620,879	100
Chicks Hatched (000)	661,739	700,967	106

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 29, 2000, were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, chicken, and beef. February 2000 stocks of chicken, at 794 million pounds, broke the previous record February high of 722 million pounds set in 1999. Cooler stocks of pecans and peanuts were also higher than a year earlier.

Commodity	All U. S. Warehouse Stocks			Feb 00 as % of	
	Feb 28, 1999	Jan 31, 2000	Feb 29, 2000	Feb 1999	Jan 2000
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	23,406	35,738	40,666	174	114
Other Chicken	690,314	760,632	745,916	108	98
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	722,480	803,397	794,002	110	99
Turkey	375,631	312,447	348,963	93	112
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,102,659	1,119,847	1,146,675	104	102
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	300,090	306,440	321,566	107	105
Pork					
Bellies	93,323	43,755	49,936	54	114
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	540,850	443,244	482,192	89	109
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	863,119	770,403	825,103	96	107

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 SET RECORD HIGHS IN 1999

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 46.3 billion pounds in 1999. This was 2 percent higher than the previous record high set in 1998. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.1 billion pounds.

Beef production, at 26.5 billion pounds, was up 3 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent higher than the previous record high set in 1976. Veal production totaled 233 million pounds, down 11 percent from the previous record low set last year. Pork production, at 19.3 billion pounds, eclipsed the previous record high set a year earlier by 2 percent. Lamb and mutton production totaled 247 million pounds, falling 2 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 1999 totaled 36.1 million head, up 2 percent from 1998, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,210 pounds, up 7 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, heifers 32.8 percent, dairy cows 7.3 percent, other cows 8.5 percent, and bulls 1.8 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 1.28 million head, down 12 percent from a year ago with 97.6 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 291 pounds, up 6 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 101.5 million head, up 1 percent from 1998 with 98.2 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year, at 259 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.3 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 3.70 million head, was down 3 percent from 1998 with 96.1 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight rose 1 pound from 1998 to 133 pounds.

Red meat production in Kentucky during 1999 totaled 476 million pounds, down 7 percent from the 1998 level. Beef production totaled 18.4 million pounds live weight, 64 percent below the 1998 level. Pork production, at 624 million pounds live weight was 4 percent below the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 1.17 million pounds live weight, was 2 percent below the 1998 total. During 1999, animals were slaughtered at 72 plants in Kentucky, of which 27 were under federal inspection.

## AVERAGE FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES CONTINUE UPWARD

The U.S. farm real estate value, including all land and buildings, averaged \$1,050 per acre on January 1, 2000, up 2.9 percent from January 1, 1999. The \$30 per acre increase in farm real estate value during 1999 continued the climb that began in 1987. However, the 2.9 percent increase is the smallest percentage gain since 1992. The overall increase was slowed by cropland values which rose only 2.1 percent during 1999. Cropland values had been increasing recently by more than 5 percent a year. January 1, 1999 farm real estate values were revised upward to \$1,020 based on current year survey results and additional administrative data which continued to support increasing land values but at a slowing rate. Regional increases in values of farm real estate during 1999 ranged from 0.5 to 8.5 percent. The Southeast and Lake regions, at \$1,920 and \$1,490 per acre, showed the largest percentage gains from last year, at 8.5 and 7.2 percent, respectively. All regions continued to post record highs with the exceptions of the Southern and Northern Plains which have yet to surpass the highs reached in the 1980's. The Northeast Region with its urban influences had the highest average value of farm real estate at \$2,470 per acre.

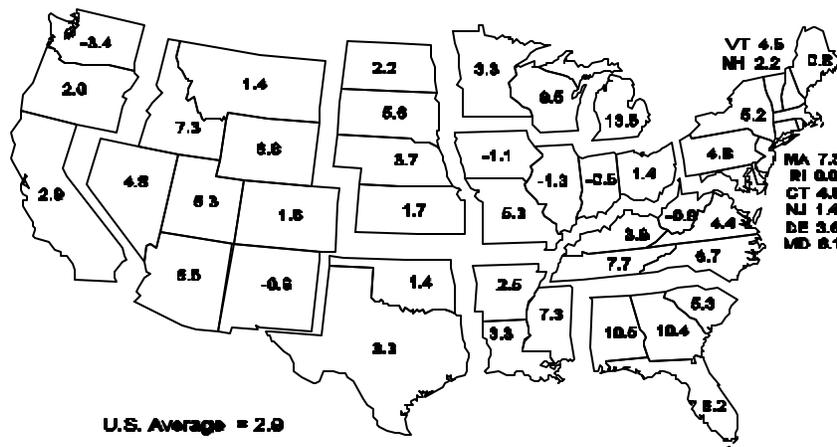
While the Mountain region with its extensive pasture and rangeland has the lowest value at \$437 per acre.

**Farm Real Estate: Average Value per Acre, Kentucky, Surrounding States & 48-State Total<sup>1/</sup>**

State	1997	1998	1999	2000	Change 1999- 00
	Dollars				Percent
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>4</b>
Illinois	1,980	2,130	2,250	2,220	-1
Indiana	1,870	2,060	2,220	2,210	0
Missouri	1,010	1,070	1,130	1,190	5
North Carolina	2,000	2,080	2,250	2,400	7
Ohio	1,890	2,040	2,220	2,250	1
Tennessee	1,650	1,810	1,950	2,100	8
Virginia	1,880	1,920	2,040	2,130	4
West Virginia	1,050	1,090	1,070	1,060	-1
<b>48 States</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>1/</sup>Value of farmland and buildings.

## Percent of Change in Farm Real Estate Value per Acre, January 1, 2000



## U.S. DAIRY PRODUCTS, JANUARY 1999-2000

PRODUCT	January 1999	December 1999 <u>1/</u>	January 2000	Percent of	
				Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999
(000) Pounds					
<b>BUTTER</b>	123,336	117,151	140,566	114	120
(000) Gallons					
<b>CHEESE</b>				Percent	
American Types <u>2/</u>	289,680	307,391	312,672	108	102
Mozzarella	203,828	219,079	214,539	105	98
All Other Types <u>3/</u>	145,219	166,152	153,042	105	92
Total	638,727	692,622	680,253	107	98
(000) Gallons					
<b>FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>				Percent	
Ice Cream (Hard)	57,387	55,759	61,696	108	111
Frozen Yogurt (Total)	5,946	4,772	5,448	92	114
(000) Gallons					
<b>MIX FOR FROZEN PRODUCTS</b>				Percent	
Ice Cream Mix	31,453	30,252	34,002	108	112
Yogurt Mix	3,763	3,020	3,448	92	114

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

## U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 8.2 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for February 2000 totaled 139 million pounds, up 5 percent from a year earlier and down 5 percent from January 2000. Average number of milk cows on farms was 130,000, down 5,000 head from last year and unchanged from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,070 pounds, up 85 pounds from last year but down 60 pounds from last month.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during February totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 8.2 percent from production in these same States in February 1999. However, adjusting

production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds was up 4.9 percent from January 1999. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 24 million pounds from last months preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,505 pounds for February, 101 pounds above February 1999 without adjusting for the extra day. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 72,000 head more than February 1999 and 3,000 head more than January 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/>

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