

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

*Livestock Slaughter
Hog and Pig Inventory
Average Prices Received by Farmers
Cotton Ginnings*

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during November totaled 1.5 million pounds, down 12 percent from October and 6 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,300 head of **cattle** slaughtered during November, down 500 head from October and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 902 pounds, up 11 pounds from the previous month and 27 pounds above November 2001. Total live weight at 1.21million pounds, was 23 percent below the previous month and 8 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during November totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from October and the previous year. Live weight averaged 490 pounds, down 4 pounds from October but 25 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 509,000 pounds, was 10 percent below October but 2 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during November totaled 2,600 head, 300 head above the previous month but 100 head below November 2001. Average live weight was 193 pounds, down 2 pounds from October and 5 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 499,000 pounds, up 13 percent from October but 8 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during November was 100 head, unchanged from October but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 70 pounds, down 22 pounds from the previous month and 11 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in November, down 2 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in November 2001.

November 2001 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Comparing November 2002 with November 2001

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 1,260 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago

Veal production totaled 16.9 million pounds, 4 percent above a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 91,100 head, up 4 percent from November 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, unchanged from November a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, 1 percent below November 2001. The average live weight was 268 pounds, down 1 pound from November a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.8 million pounds, was down 9 percent from November 2001 and 6 percent below the previous record low set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 271,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January-November red meat production was 43.3 billion pounds, 3 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year; veal was down 1 percent; pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	October	November		January - November		November		January - November	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.8	1.5	1.3	16.1	15.9	2,903.4	2,861.3	32,590.4	32,958.9
Calves	1.1	1.1	1.0	9.6	9.0	87.3	91.1	922.2	946.1
Hogs	2.3	2.7	2.6	26.5	24.1	8,716.2	8,655.5	89,542.8	91,603.2
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.3	2.1	287.1	271.3	2,942.5	2,997.7
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,574	1,311	1,211	13,473	13,737	3,644,238	3,606,275	39,684,094	41,180,069
Calves	566	498	509	4,761	4,483	26,899	28,029	295,715	295,140
Hogs	443	543	499	5,724	5,025	2,345,186	2,315,439	23,608,336	24,245,751
Sheep & Lambs	10	16	10	197	193	39,614	35,809	411,739	399,792
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	891	875	902	837	864	1,255	1,260	1,218	1,249
Calves	494	465	490	496	498	308	308	321	312
Hogs	195	198	193	216	209	269	268	264	265
Sheep & Lambs	92	81	70	86	92	138	132	140	133
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red meat	1.7	1.6	1.5	15.7	15.3	3,970.1	3,907.3	41,729.0	43,309.2

Louisiana Hog Inventory

Louisiana's total hog inventory for December 1, 2002, at 20,000, was down 6,000 head from December 2001. At 3,000 head, the Louisiana breeding hog inventory was the same as the December 1 figure a year ago. Market hog inventories totaled 17,000 head, 6,000 head below a year earlier.

The December 2001-November 2002 Louisiana pig crop, at 32,000 head, was down 11,000 head from the pig crop in 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 4,600 head, down 1,200 head from the 2001 figure. An average of 6.96 pigs were saved per litter during the December 2001-November 2002 period.

United States Hog Inventory

U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2001 - November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 100.8 million head, was virtually unchanged from last year. Sow's farrowing during this period totaled 11.4 million head, unchanged from the previous year. An average of 8.82 pigs were saved per litter during the December 2001 - November 2002 period, compared to 8.83 pigs per litter for the same period in the previous year.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled 75 percent or more of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 2,258, accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory, up from 52 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

Hogs and Pigs on Farms, December 1, 2002

Item	Louisiana		United States ¹	
	2001	2002	2001 ²	2002
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Total Hogs and Pigs	26	20	59,804	58,943
Breeding	3	3	6,209	6,012
Market	23	17	53,594	52,931
Under 60 pounds	8	6	19,908	19,461
60-119 pounds	6	4	12,924	12,919
120-179 pounds	4	4	10,744	10,736
180 pounds & over	5	3	10,018	9,815
	-----Number-----		-----Number-----	
Operations with Hogs	600	580	80,880	75,350

¹Weight groups may not add to market due to rounding. ²Revised.

Annual Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs per Litter, and Pig Crop by State and United States, December - November 2001-2002¹

Selected States	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Number-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Alabama	29.0	24.0	8.59	9.04	249.0	217.0
Arkansas	215.0	200.0	9.18	9.51	1,973.0	1,902.0
Louisiana	5.8	4.6	7.41	6.96	43.0	32.0
Mississippi	60.0	58.5	9.40	8.51	564.0	498.0
Texas	162.0	184.0	8.82	8.91	1,429.0	1,640.0
United States	11,385.0	11,429.0	8.83	8.82	100,503.0	100,758.0

¹December preceding year.

December Farm Prices Received Index Down 1 Percent

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in December is 97, based on 1990-92=100, down 1.0 percent from the November index. Lower prices for wheat, lettuce, broccoli, and eggs more than offset higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, hogs, and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn offset increased marketings of wheat, tobacco, milk, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4.3 percent above December, 2001. Higher prices for soybeans, wheat, corn, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, lettuce, calves, and dry beans.

The Food Commodities Index declined 1.0 percent from last month to 96, 2.1 percent above November of 2001.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 125 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from November but 2.5 percent above December 2001. Lower prices in December for feed concentrates, complete feeds, gasoline, and hay and forages were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, and nitrogen fertilizers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: November 2002

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	December 2001	November 2002	December 2002 ¹	December 2001	November 2002	December 2002 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.29	5.46	5.65	4.20	5.46	5.48
Rice, per cwt	4.42	3.95	3.83	4.07	3.70	3.82
Upland Cotton, per pound	.290	.416	2/ .439	.308	.419	2/ .425
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	95.60	93.60	92.60
Beef Cattle, per cwt	50.30	45.20	45.50	64.80	67.60	70.20
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	79.50	69.40	72.00	68.50	72.00	74.80
Cows, per cwt	36.50	31.60	33.00	36.00	33.00	34.20
Calves, per cwt	94.70	86.30	87.00	101.00	88.20	93.60
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.370	.290	.290
Eggs, all, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.590	.720	.679
Milk, all, per cwt ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.50	11.80	11.90

¹Mid-month;

²Based on sales during the first half of the month;

³Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

N/A = Not Available

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to
December 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 1999-2002**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Cotton				
Alabama	595,400	504,550	776,550	510,350
Arizona	509,300	519,200	515,000	471,750
Arkansas	1,388,400	1,398,450	1,775,000	1,597,850
California	1,783,800	2,092,950	1,836,650	1,627,950
Florida	104,450	90,500	131,950	60,500
Georgia	1,392,400	1,433,950	1,865,200	1,327,750
Louisiana	918,600	923,100	1,042,900	747,200
Mississippi	1,678,700	1,673,400	2,249,650	1,840,000
Missouri	450,050	501,650	664,750	564,550
New Mexico	54,400	57,750	61,350	46,000
North Carolina	714,050	1,168,250	1,355,650	711,450
Oklahoma	122,000	137,800	154,100	158,850
South Carolina	249,400	336,400	392,150	105,600
Tennessee	573,800	691,100	936,200	776,350
Texas	4,331,000	3,568,250	3,682,800	3,768,800
Virginia	125,900	135,350	166,500	79,650
United States	14,991,650	15,232,650	17,606,400	14,394,600
American-Pima				
Arizona	12,500	5,400	10,300	12,850
California	351,650	245,150	315,000	341,650
New Mexico	5,650	3,800	9,750	11,600
Texas	32,850	22,500	30,400	27,450
United States	402,650	276,850	367,450	393,550

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