

Highlights In This Report

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Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during November totaled 1.2 million pounds, down 20 percent from October and the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during November, down 400 head from October and 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 884 pounds, down 5 pounds from the previous month and 11 pounds below November 2002. Total live weight, at 1.0 million pounds, was 26 percent below the previous month and 19 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during November totaled 900 head, down 300 head from October and 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 486 pounds, up 7 pounds from October but 3 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 413,000 pounds, was down 26 percent from October and 25 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during November totaled 2,100 head, unchanged from the previous month but 500 head below November 2002. Average live weight was 192 pounds, down 3 pounds from October and 1 pound below the previous year. Total live weight was 395,000 pounds, 1 percent below October and 21 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during November was 100 head, down 100 head from October but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 70 pounds, down 9 pounds from the previous month but the same as the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002.

November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,236 pounds.

Veal production totaled 15.2 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,000 head, down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.58 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year; veal was down 3 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	October	November		January - November		November		January - November	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.5	1.4	1.1	15.8	13.6	2,861.1	2,425.8	32,962.9	32,785.5
Calves	1.2	1.1	0.9	9.1	9.4	90.8	78.0	947.1	904.2
Hogs	2.1	2.6	2.1	24.2	21.5	8,654.2	8,581.9	91,605.2	91,431.3
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.1	1.7	271.1	236.3	3,007.6	2,712.2
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,362	1,235	1,006	13,723	11,992	3,606,284	2,998,990	41,180,077	40,327,688
Calves	559	550	413	4,524	4,671	28,026	25,084	295,598	286,594
Hogs	401	499	395	5,078	4,418	2,315,147	2,311,656	24,244,585	24,314,052
Sheep & Lambs	12	10	8	195	154	35,777	32,546	400,451	362,062
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	889	895	884	869	882	1,260	1,236	1,249	1,230
Calves	479	489	486	497	497	309	321	312	317
Hogs	195	193	192	210	205	268	269	265	266
Sheep & Lambs	79	70	70	93	91	132	138	133	133
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red meat	1.5	1.5	1.2	15.4	13.8	3,907.1	3,526.0	43,309.2	42,660.2

Hogs and Pigs on Farms, December 1, 2003

Item	Louisiana		United States ¹	
	2002	2003	2002 ²	2003
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Total Hogs and Pigs	20	20	59,513	60,040
Breeding	3	3	6,012	5,966
Market	17	17	53,501	54,074
Under 60 pounds	6	6	19,461	19,821
60-119 pounds	4	5	13,054	13,250
120-179 pounds	4	3	10,881	10,839
180 pounds & over	3	3	10,105	10,164

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 2002-2003¹

Selected States	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Number-----		-----1,000 Head-----	
Alabama	24.0	25.0	9.04	8.80	217.0	220.0
Arkansas	200.0	147.0	9.53	9.63	1,905.0	1,416.0
Louisiana	4.6	4.6	6.96	7.39	32.0	34.0
Mississippi	59.0	60.0	8.51	8.60	502.0	516.0
Texas	184.0	173.0	8.93	8.71	1,643.0	1,506.0
United States	11,483.0	11,306.0	8.83	8.88	101,344.0	100,406.0

¹December preceding year.

Louisiana Hog Inventory

Louisiana's total hog inventory for December 1, 2003, at 20,000, was unchanged from December 2002. At 3,000 head, the Louisiana breeding hog inventory was the same as the December 1 inventory a year ago. Market hog inventories totaled 17,000 head, unchanged from a year earlier.

The December 2002-November 2003 Louisiana pig crop, at 34,000 head, was up 2,000 head from the pig crop in 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 4,600 head, the same as the 2002 figure. An average of 7.39 pigs were saved per litter during the December 2002-November 2003 period.

United States Hog Inventory

U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The December 2002 to November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 100.4 million head, was down 1 percent from last year. Sow's farrowing during this period totaled 11.3 million head, down 1 percent from the previous year. An average of 8.88 pigs were saved per litter during the December 2002 to November 2003 period, compared to 8.83 pigs per litter for the same period in the previous year.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: November 2003

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003 ¹	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.43	7.41	7.50	5.46	7.05	7.29
Rice, per cwt	3.83	7.36	7.79	4.13	6.99	7.25
Upland Cotton, per pound	.441	.635	2/ .626	.443	.634	2/ .631
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.10	80.70	81.30
Beef Cattle, per cwt	45.20	59.10	58.40	70.40	93.70	92.70
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	71.70	86.00	88.00	75.00	100.00	98.60
Cows, per cwt	32.80	44.00	44.50	34.60	47.80	49.90
Calves, per cwt	86.30	101.00	103.00	95.30	112.00	113.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.290	.370	.380
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.628	1.050	.868
Milk, all, per cwt ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.90	14.50	13.70

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

December Farm Prices Received Index Down 2 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in December is 115, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points below the November Index. The Livestock Products Index is down 4 points from November while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for eggs, milk, lettuce and cattle more than offset higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk and lettuce offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes and corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 15 points from December, 2002. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, is 4 points below last month but 19 points above December 2002.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from November but 5 points above December 2002. Lower prices in December for feeder cattle and gasoline offset higher prices for complete feeds, feed concentrates, feed grains and nitrogen fertilizers.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to
December 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 2000-2003**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
All Cotton				
Alabama	504,550	776,550	510,350	728,150
Arizona	519,200	515,000	471,750	368,600
Arkansas	1,398,450	1,775,000	1,596,450	1,720,800
California	2,092,950	1,836,650	1,627,800	1,452,300
Florida	90,500	131,950	60,500	113,700
Georgia	1,433,950	1,865,200	1,318,750	1,782,400
Kansas ¹	-----	-----	-----	28,300
Louisiana	923,100	1,042,900	746,850	1,028,300
Mississippi	1,673,400	2,249,650	1,840,000	2,038,650
Missouri	501,650	664,750	564,950	655,800
New Mexico	57,750	61,350	46,000	48,400
North Carolina	1,168,250	1,355,650	711,450	931,950
Oklahoma	137,800	154,100	158,650	159,900
South Carolina	336,400	392,150	105,300	263,750
Tennessee	691,100	936,200	776,350	821,300
Texas	3,568,250	3,682,800	3,777,650	3,444,500
Virginia	135,350	166,500	79,650	99,650
United States	15,232,650	17,606,400	14,392,450	15,686,450
American-Pima				
Arizona	5,400	10,300	12,850	2/
California	245,150	315,000	341,650	269,150
New Mexico	3,800	9,750	11,600	2/
Texas	22,500	30,400	27,450	31,850
United States	276,850	367,450	393,550	312,300

¹December 15 estimates began in 2003;

²Withheld to avoid disclosing individual gins.

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