

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**  
December Livestock Slaughter  
Cattle Inventory  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
Milk Production

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 1.2 million pounds, unchanged from November but down 8 percent from the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, unchanged from November and the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 840 pounds, down 44 pounds from the previous month but 22 pounds above December 2002. Total live weight, at 911,000 pounds, was 9 percent below the previous month and virtually the same as the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during December totaled 800 head, down 100 head from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 497 pounds, up 11 pounds from November and 12 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 401,000 pounds, was down 3 percent from November and 11 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 2,600 head, up 500 head from the previous month but 400 head below December 2002. Average live weight was 185 pounds, down 7 pounds from November but 2 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 488,000 pounds, 24 percent above November and 12 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 100 head, unchanged from November and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 73 pounds, up 3 pounds from the previous month but 6 pounds below the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002.

December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97,500 head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2003 commercial red meat production** was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year; veal was down 2 percent; pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November	December		January - December		December		January - December	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.1	1.1	1.1	16.9	14.7	2,771.8	2,668.2	35,734.6	35,453.7
Calves	0.9	0.9	0.8	10.0	10.2	98.2	97.5	1,045.4	1,001.7
Hogs	2.1	3.0	2.6	27.2	24.1	8,657.4	9,346.6	100,262.6	100,777.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	1.8	278.7	262.0	3,286.3	2,974.2
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,006	913	911	14,636	12,903	3,506,036	3,320,134	44,686,113	43,647,822
Calves	413	449	401	4,973	5,072	29,998	31,427	325,596	318,021
Hogs	395	555	488	5,633	4,906	2,316,087	2,513,068	26,560,672	26,827,120
Sheep & Lambs	8	8	6	203	160	37,145	35,954	437,596	398,016
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	884	818	840	866	878	1,265	1,244	1,251	1,231
Calves	486	485	497	497	497	305	322	312	317
Hogs	192	183	185	207	204	268	269	265	266
Sheep & Lambs	70	79	73	92	89	133	137	133	134
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
<b>Red meat</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>3,858.2</b>	<b>3,879.0</b>	<b>47,167.4</b>	<b>46,537.9</b>

## Cattle Inventory - January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2003 <sup>1</sup>	2004	2003 <sup>1</sup>	2004
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	860	850	96,100	94,882
Beef Cows	475	489	32,983	32,860
Milk Cows	45	41	9,142	8,991
Beef Cow Replacement, Heifers	86	81	5,624	5,517
Milk Cow Replacement, Heifers	10	10	4,114	4,020
Other Heifers	17	17	9,891	9,804
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	24	21	16,554	16,280
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	33	33	2,248	2,206
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	170	158	15,545	15,204
Cattle on Feed	---	---	13,220	13,811

	2002	2003	2002	2003
Calf Crop	415	415	38,224	37,903

<sup>1</sup>Revised

### Louisiana Cattle Inventory

**All cattle and calves** on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2004 were estimated at 850,000 head, down 1 percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 530,000 head, up 2 percent from year ago. Louisiana's 2003 **calf crop** was estimated at 415,000 head, the same as the 2002 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 489,000 head, up 3 percent from January 1, 2003.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 41,000 head, were down 9 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** - 81,000 head, down 6 percent.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** - 10,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Other heifers** - 17,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** - 21,000 head, down 12 percent
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** - 33,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** - 158,000 head, down 7 percent.

### United States Cattle Inventory

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 32.86 million, were down slightly from January 1, 2003.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 8.99 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 2003.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2004, and the change from January 1, 2003, are:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 19.3 million, down 1 percent.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.52 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.02 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.80 million, down 1 percent.
- ▶ **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 16.3 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.21 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.2 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.8 million, up 4 percent.
- ▶ The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 27.5 million, down 4 percent.

The 2003 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers: December 2003

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2003	December 2003	January 2004 <sup>1</sup>	January 2003	December 2003	January 2004 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.46	7.38	7.98	5.51	7.17	7.82
Rice, per cwt	3.95	7.91	8.21	4.66	7.57	7.71
Upland Cotton, per pound	.460	.624	<sup>2/</sup> .609	.455	.641	<sup>2/</sup> .638
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.40	81.30	79.30
Beef Cattle, per cwt	46.70	59.20	57.80	73.20	90.50	77.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	74.60	89.30	85.00	77.80	95.70	81.20
Cows, per cwt	34.80	45.00	45.00	36.90	49.40	45.80
Calves, per cwt	89.70	103.00	99.00	96.80	112.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.350	.380	.430
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.636	.868	.926
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.82	13.70	13.65

<sup>1</sup>Mid-month;

<sup>2</sup>Based on sales during the first half of the month;

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

n/a = not available

### January Farm Prices Received Index Down

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 2.0 points below the December index. The Livestock Products Index is down 5 points from December while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk and tomatoes more than offset higher commodity prices for broilers, soybeans, corn and eggs. 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 cattle, soybeans, corn and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco and cottonseed.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points from January 2003. The Food commodities Index, at 112, is 3 points below last month but 14 points above January 2003.

### Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The January 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 December but 4 points above January 2003. Lower prices in January for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, feed grains and herbicides, offset higher prices paid for complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, LP gas and diesel fuel.

## Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2002-2003

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		October-December Milk Production <sup>2</sup>	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	19	18	63	60
Arkansas	31	28	87	80
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>117</b>
Mississippi	33	29	105	96
Oklahoma	88	81	316	301
Tennessee	84	77	305	285
20 Major States <sup>3</sup>	7,795	7,713	35,938	35,879
<b>United States</b>	<b>9,148</b>	<b>9,007</b>	<b>41,555</b>	<b>41,322</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup>Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

### Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 117 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2003 quarter, down 9 percent from the same period in 2002. Milk cows averaged 43,000 head during the quarter, down 12 percent from last year.

### United States Milk Production

Milk production in the 20 major states during December totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from December 2002. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from November 2002. The November revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 13 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major states averaged 1,589 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 2002.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major states was 7.71 million head, 93,000 head less than in December 2002 but unchanged from November 2003.

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.3 billion pounds, 0.6 percent below the October-December period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.01 million head, 141,000 head fewer than during the same period last year.

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 5825 Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 65038  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038