

**Louisiana Chicken Inventory**

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

Chickens: Total Number, Value per Head and Total Value  
Chickens: Layers on Hand, Pullets not of Laying Age and other chickens  
Catfish: Number of Operations, Water Surface and Total Sales  
Pecan: Production, Price and Value of Production  
Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States

The December 1, 2003, chicken inventory totaled 2.59 million head, up 1 percent from the 2.56 million head from the previous year. The class breakdown and percent change from the previous year are: hens and pullets of laying age, 1.91 million head, up 2 percent; pullets 13 weeks old and older but less than 20 weeks and not of laying age, 267,000 head, down 9 percent; pullet chicks and pullets under 13 weeks of age, 290,000 head, down 8 percent; and other chickens, 124,000 head, up 63 percent.

**Chickens: Total Number, Value per Head and Total Value: December 1, 2002-2003<sup>1</sup>**

	Number		Value per Head		Total Value	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
<b>Selected States</b>	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Dollars-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
Alabama	15,256	14,425	3.60	4.20	54,922	60,585
Arkansas	22,787	23,321	4.70	4.20	107,099	97,822
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2.90</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>7,424</b>	<b>9,065</b>
Mississippi	10,814	10,984	4.90	4.80	52,989	52,723
Oklahoma	5,740	5,654	4.90	4.00	28,126	22,616
Texas	25,506	25,984	2.20	2.40	56,113	62,362
<b>United States</b>	<b>443,881</b>	<b>448,748</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.47</b>	<b>1,052,230</b>	<b>1,108,304</b>

<sup>1</sup>Excludes commercial broilers.

**Chickens: Layers on Hand, Pullets not of Laying Age and other Chickens: December 1, 2002-2003**

Selected States	Total Layers		Pullets 13 Weeks Old and Older, but Less Than 20 Weeks		Pullet Chicks and Pullets Under 13 Weeks of Age		Other Chickens	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----1,000 Head-----							
Alabama	9,645	9,328	2,148	1,896	2,237	2,087	1,226	1,114
Arkansas	14,312	14,756	2,460	2,668	4,715	4,497	1,300	1,400
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>124</b>
Mississippi	6,703	6,799	1,313	1,412	2,134	1,978	664	795
Oklahoma	4,194	4,137	380	393	874	879	292	245
Texas	18,775	18,342	2,452	2,756	3,851	4,436	428	450
<b>United States</b>	<b>339,203</b>	<b>339,989</b>	<b>39,679</b>	<b>42,030</b>	<b>56,646</b>	<b>58,291</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>8,438</b>

**Catfish: Number of Operations, Water Surface and Total Sales**

Selected States	Operations		Water Surface		Total Sales - All Sizes	
	January 1 2003 <sup>1</sup>	January 1 2004	January 1 2003 <sup>1</sup>	January 1 2004	During 2002 <sup>1</sup>	During 2003
	-----Number-----		-----Acres-----		-----1,000 dollars-----	
Alabama	231	200	25,500	25,400	76,045	85,159
Arkansas	155	161	34,000	34,000	56,380	59,047
California	38	30	2,400	1,800	7,875	7,228
Florida	34	35	660	710	1,756	1,208
Georgia	43	30	960	750	1,411	1,372
Illinois	12	18	130	320	226	306
Kentucky	60	70	570	600	1,180	1,381
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>15,812</b>	<b>14,505</b>
Mississippi	405	410	109,000	101,000	243,226	243,176
Missouri	31	21	1,400	1,370	1,070	1,954
North Carolina	46	49	1,700	2,100	3,143	6,118
South Carolina	13	9	130	90	617	121
Texas	36	36	850	850	3,675	3,350
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>187,200</b>	<b>177,790</b>	<b>411,413</b>	<b>424,925</b>

<sup>1</sup>Revised.

**Louisiana Catfish Growers Survey**

Commercial catfish growers had sales of 14.5 million dollars during 2003, down 8 percent from the previous year. Water surface acres totaled 8,800, of which 8,600 were being used for foodsize fish, 1,050 for fingerlings, and 170 for broodfish. Last year water surface acres totaled 9,900.

**U.S. Catfish Growers Survey**

Catfish growers in the 13 selected states had sales of 425 million dollars during 2003, up 3 percent from the previous year. The top four states (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana) accounted for 95 percent of the total U.S. sales. Nationwide, sales of all foodsize fish increased 4 percent from 2002 to 397 million dollars. Fingerlings and fry sales totaled 21.2 million dollars, an increase of 22 percent from 2002. Sales of stockers totaled 6.21 million dollars in 2003, a 51 percent decrease from the previous year.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94 percent of the total sales of foodsize fish, while 85 percent of the stocker sales were to other producers. Remaining sales were for recreational use, to live haulers, or for retail, government, or other uses.

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2004, totaled 177,790 acres, down 5 percent from the 187,200 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 4,145 acres are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2004. An additional 535 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2004. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2003, the area taken out of production totaled 4,605 acres. As of January 1, 2004, foodfish were produced on 148,310 acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 23,065 and 3,695 acres were being used for broodfish.

**Pecan: Production, Price and Value of Production**

State	All Pecan Production			Utilized Production for 2003 Crops		2003	2003
	Final 2001	Final 2002	Ind 2003	Improved	Native & Seedling	Average Price per Pound, all Pecans	Value of Production
	-----1,000 pounds-----			-----1,000 pounds-----		-----Dollars-----	--1,000 Dollars--
Alabama	15,000	5,000	8,000	7,000	1,000	0.818	6,540
Arizona	21,000	16,000	23,500	23,500	---	1.280	30,080
Arkansas	2,600	1,700	2,300	1,400	900	0.951	2,188
California	3,700	3,800	3,600	3,600	---	1.190	4,284
Florida	3,300	1,400	2,100	500	1,600	0.695	1,460
Georgia	110,000	45,000	60,000	50,000	10,000	0.950	57,000
Kansas	2,200	2,900	2,200	---	2,200	0.870	1,914
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0.753</b>	<b>11,300</b>
Mississippi	4,500	3,000	5,000	3,500	1,500	0.754	3,770
New Mexico	60,000	36,000	55,000	55,000	---	1.200	66,000
North Carolina	3,200	1,900	2,500	2,200	300	0.808	2,020
Oklahoma	20,000	10,000	12,000	2,000	10,000	0.617	7,400
South Carolina	4,000	200	1,000	900	100	0.725	725
Texas	75,000	40,000	70,000	49,000	21,000	0.979	68,530
<b>United States</b>	<b>338,500</b>	<b>172,900</b>	<b>262,200</b>	<b>203,600</b>	<b>58,600</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>263,211</b>

**U. S. Pecan Production**

The February end-of-season estimate for the 2003 crop is 262 million pounds, up 52 percent from the 2002 crop. Improved varieties are expected to account for 204 million pounds of the total with native and seedling varieties making up the difference. The 2003 average U.S. all pecan price is \$1.00 per pound (in-shell basis), up from 2002's average of \$0.95. Total value of utilized production is 263 million dollars, up 55 percent from last season. Louisiana pecan production is estimated at 15.0 million pounds, compared to 6.0 million pounds produced in 2002.

**Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States,  
January 1, 2002-2004<sup>1</sup>**

Class	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
All Sheep and Lambs	6,685	6,300	6,090	97
Market	1,772	1,642	1,610	98
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	4,913	4,658	4,480	96
Replacement Lambs- Under One Year Old	734	695	691	99
Ewes - One Year Old and Older	3,980	3,770	3,601	96
Rams - One Year Old	200	193	189	98
Lamb Crop	4,357	4,120	-----	-----

<sup>1</sup>May not add due to rounding.

**All sheep and lamb inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

**Breeding sheep inventory** declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2004 totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65-84 pounds, 23 percent 85-105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds and 4 percent were market sheep.

**The 2003 lamb crop** of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

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Louisiana  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
JACKSON, MS 39201



Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service  
(225) 922-1362  
5825 Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 65038  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038