

Highlights In This Report

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Louisiana Livestock Slaughter Drops From 2002

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 1.3 million pounds, unchanged from December but 13 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,300 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, up 200 head from December but 400 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 886 pounds, up 60 pounds from the previous month and 24 pounds above January 2002. Total live weight, at 1.17 million pounds, was 32 percent above the previous month but 19 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during January totaled 900 head, unchanged from December but 200 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 496 pounds, up 11 pounds from December but 21 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 443,000 pounds, was 1 percent below December but 20 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 2,000 head, 1000 head below the previous month and 300 head below January 2002. Average live weight was 205 pounds, up 22 pounds from December but 10 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 405,000 pounds, down 27 percent from December and 19 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 100 head, unchanged from December and the previous year. Live weight averaged 75 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous month and 14 pounds below the previous year.

U S Livestock Slaughter Unchanged from 2002

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, relatively unchanged from a year ago.

January 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, down 2 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 1,268 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 17.9 million pounds, 6 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 93,800 head, up 7 percent from January 2002. The average live weight was 317 pounds, down 4 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled a January record high 1.75 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, 1 percent above January 2002. The average live weight was 268 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from January 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 238,800 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana			United States	
	December	January		January	
	2002	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Thousand head-----			-----Thousand head-----	
Cattle	1.1	1.7	1.3	3,055.8	3,007.0
Calves	0.9	0.7	0.9	87.4	93.8
Hogs	3.0	2.3	2.0	8,657.8	8,787.5
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	254.9	238.8
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----	
Cattle	887	1,435	1,169	3,851,455	3,814,300
Calves	449	369	443	28,089	29,774
Hogs	555	497	405	2,317,054	2,353,492
Sheep & Lambs	8	12	8	35,642	31,856
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----			-----Average live weight, pounds-----	
Cattle	826	862	886	1,260	1,268
Calves	485	517	496	321	317
Hogs	183	215	205	268	268
Sheep & Lambs	79	89	75	140	133
	-----Million pounds-----			-----Million pounds-----	
Red meat	1.3	1.5	1.3	4,081.0	4,075.5

Louisiana Honey Production Falls

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 2002 totaled 4.34 million pounds, down 9 percent from 2001. The number of colonies, at 35,000, was down 10,000 from 2001. Honey stocks on December 15, 2002, amounted to 347,000 pounds, down 225,000 pounds from 2001.

The average price received for honey sold during 2002 was 114 cents per pound, up 54 cents from 2001. The value of the 2002 honey crop was 4.95 million dollars, up 73 percent from the previous year.

United States Honey Production Drops 8 Percent

Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state, thus yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Reach Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high 128.6 cents during 2002, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to 2001 crop prices.

Honey: Number of Colonies and Production¹

Selected States	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----1,000 Colonies-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 pounds-----	
Alabama	14	12	73	86	1,022	1,032
Arkansas	58	55	98	88	5,684	4,840
Georgia	55	50	57	52	3,135	2,600
Louisiana	45	35	106	124	4,770	4,340
Mississippi	17	18	66	78	1,222	1,404
Texas	97	114	79	67	7,663	7,638
United States	2,506	2,524	74.0	67.8	185,461	171,140

Honey: Stocks and Values¹

Selected States	Stocks, December 15 ²		Average Price Per Pound ³		Value of Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Cents-----		-----1,000 dollars-----	
Alabama	235	103	72	111	736	1146
Arkansas	1,876	1,065	65	124	3,695	6,002
Georgia	188	52	70	110	2,195	2,860
Louisiana	572	347	60	114	2,862	4,948
Mississippi	224	281	89	118	999	1657
Texas	1,533	985	65	109	4,981	8,325
United States	64,556	39,047	70.4	128.6	132,225	221,638

¹For producers with 5 or more colonies.

²Stocks held by producers.

³Prices weighted by sales.

Prices Received Index Unchanged from Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in February was 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the January index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, broilers, eggs and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was also unchanged from February 2002. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, cattle and cotton more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broccoli and potatoes.

The Food Commodities Index decreased 1.0 percent from last month to 97, 3.0 percent below January last year.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 127 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January 2003, but 3.3 percent above February 2002. Lower prices in February for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feed supplements, and hay and forages were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, nitrogen fertilizers, gasoline, and LP gas.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	February	January	February	February	January	February
	2002	2003	2003 ¹	2002	2003	2003 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.40	5.46	5.73	4.22	5.52	5.57
Rice, per cwt	4.31	3.93	4.12	4.16	4.29	4.22
Upland Cotton, per pound	.253	.459	2/ .454	.280	.440	2/ .448
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.70	92.90	91.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt	52.90	46.70	46.90	70.00	73.20	74.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	81.90	74.60	75.00	73.50	77.80	78.90
Cows, per cwt	41.60	34.80	36.00	40.60	36.90	38.10
Calves, per cwt	96.90	89.70	90.00	105.00	96.80	97.60
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.340	.350	.340
Eggs All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.559	.689	.640
Milk All, per cwt 3/	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.10	11.70	11.50

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

United States Farm Labor & Wage Rates

Items	Delta ¹			United States		
	January 2002	October 2002	January 2003	January 2002	October 2002	January 2003
	-----Thousand workers-----			-----Thousand workers-----		
Hired Workers (All)	24	38	18	890	1,211	884
Ag Service Workers	2 /	2 /	2 /	183	271	160
Hired Workers	24	38	18	707	940	724
150 Days or More	18	29	16	584	685	609
149 Days or Less	6	9	2	123	255	115
	-----Per week-----			-----Per week-----		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	33.1	38.9	38.3	38.5	40.4	37.8
	-----Per hour-----			-----Per hour-----		
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.95	\$7.77	\$8.63	\$8.97	\$8.95	\$9.32
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.90	\$7.12	\$8.56	\$8.25	\$8.34	\$8.29
Livestock	\$7.21	\$7.72	\$7.89	\$8.20	\$8.42	\$8.91

¹Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. ²Data Not Published.

United States Farm Labor

There were 884,000 hired workers on U.S. farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (Twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 Annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.

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