

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U.S. Farm Labor & Wage Rates

United States Livestock Slaughter

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during April totaled 1.0 million pounds, down 17 percent from March and 23 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during April, the same as March and the previous year. Average live weight was 848 pounds, down 15 pounds from the previous month and 61 pounds below April 2003. Total live weight, at 938,000 pounds, was 4 percent below the previous month and 9 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during April totaled 500 head, down 100 head from March and 300 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 497 pounds, down 13 pounds from March but 10 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 239,000 pounds, was down 27 percent from March and 40 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during April totaled 1,700 head, down 700 head from March and 600 head below April 2003. Average live weight was 200 pounds, down 25 pounds from March and 9 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 332,000 pounds, down 37 percent from March and 30 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during April was 100 head, down 100 head from March, but the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 79 pounds, down 27 pounds from the previous month and 21 pounds below the previous year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003.

April 2004 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays. April 2003 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,200 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 13 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,700 head, down 11 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was 7 pounds below last year, at 329 pounds.

Pork production set a record monthly high at 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was the same as the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2004 commercial red meat production was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	March	April		January - April		April		January - April	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.1	1.1	1.1	4.9	4.8	2,996.1	2,698.5	11,317.0	10,570.8
Calves	0.6	0.8	0.5	3.1	2.2	79.1	70.7	340.8	297.8
Hogs	2.4	2.3	1.7	9.2	8.3	8,341.9	8,652.3	32,995.7	34,366.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7	297.3	256.0	1,025.5	994.9
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	979	1,027	938	4,438	4,195	3,586,024	3,238,123	14,061,720	12,933,588
Calves	329	398	239	1,541	1,121	26,617	23,295	110,119	97,561
Hogs	529	476	332	2,005	1,743	2,234,847	2,315,187	8,823,880	9,208,434
Sheep & Lambs	24	14	8	80	76	39,015	34,711	137,250	139,261
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	863	909	848	906	874	1,209	1,200	1,243	1,224
Calves	510	487	497	497	510	336	329	323	327
Hogs	225	209	200	218	210	268	268	268	268
Sheep & Lambs	106	100	79	114	109	131	136	134	140
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	1.2	1.3	1.0	5.3	4.7	3,845.8	3,713.3	15,121.4	14,775.0

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	May 2003	April 2004	May 2004 ¹	May 2003	April 2004	May 2004 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	2/	2/	2/	6.07	9.62	9.60
Rice, per cwt	4.78	9.08	9.38	4.84	8.13	7.86
Upland cotton, per pound	.450	.615	.615 ³	.459	.612	.612 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	98.00	89.60	101.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	49.50	61.00	65.60	75.50	84.80	88.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	75.30	93.90	98.00	79.60	88.90	92.60
Cows, per cwt ⁵	37.90	47.60	51.00	42.40	50.50	52.40
Calves, per cwt	88.40	108.00	111.00	100.00	117.00	122.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.340	.480	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.587	.768	.645
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.00	18.20	20.30

¹ Mid-month;

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
n/a = not available

May Farm Prices Received Index Reaches Third Consecutive Record High

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 132, based on 1990-92=100, is 7 points above the April index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index, also at a record high, increased 9 points from April while the All Crops Index increased 4 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, hogs, cattle and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, eggs, corn and tomatoes. 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 cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk apples and asparagus. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 27 points from May 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 9 points from last month to 135. The index stands 31 points above May 2003.

Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The May Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from April and 7 points above May 2003. Higher prices in May for complete feeds, feeder cattle, hay and forages, and gasoline more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, feed grains, feeder pigs and nitrogen fertilizers.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	April 2003	January 2004	April 2004	April 2003	January ² 2004	April 2004
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
Hired Workers (All)	31	21	25	938	847	1,077
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	157	185	252
Hired Farm Workers	31	21	25	781	662	825
150 Days or More	25	18	19	619	549	648
149 Days or Less	6	3	6	162	113	177
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	43.1	32.4	39.8	40.1	38.1	40.7
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.63	\$9.03	\$7.86	\$9.16	\$9.41	\$9.22
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.20	\$8.57	\$7.75	\$8.40	\$8.39	\$8.46
Livestock	\$7.54	\$8.71	\$7.47	\$8.75	\$8.83	\$8.95

¹Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

²Revised.

---Data not published.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 were hired directly by farm operators.

Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 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.

Internet Access:

***For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>**

Periodical Postage
is paid at
Jackson, MS 39201

Louisiana
Agricultural
Statistics
Service



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