

Highlights In This Report
September Livestock Slaughter
Average Prices Received by Farmers: September 2003

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during September totaled 1.3 million pounds, up 8 percent from August but 7 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,300 head of **cattle** slaughtered during September, the same as in August but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 836 pounds, down 70 pounds from the previous month and 39 pounds below September 2002. Total live weight, at 1.1 million pounds, was 5 percent below the previous month and 14 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during September totaled 1,000 head, up 100 head from August but the same as previous year. Live weight averaged 482 pounds, down 9 pounds from August and 11 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 502,000 pounds was up 11 percent from August and was 7 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during September totaled 1,700 head, up 200 head from the previous month but 100 head below September 2002. Average live weight was 202 pounds, down 10 pounds from August and the previous year. Total live weight was 350,000 pounds, 13 percent above August but 8 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during September was 100 head, the same as August and the previous year. Live weight averaged 73 pounds, down 6 pounds from the previous month but 1 pound above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled a monthly high 4.01 billion pounds in September, up 3 percent from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in September 2002.

September 2003 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. September 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at a monthly record high 2.31 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.12 million head, up 9 percent from September 2002. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from the previous year, at 1,227 pounds.

Veal production totaled 15.4 million pounds, 6 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 82,600 head, down 7 percent from September 2002. The average live weight was 5 pounds above last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds, a monthly record high, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.55 million head, 1 percent above September 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.9 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,300 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 3 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2003 commercial red meat production was 35.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year; veal was down 1 percent; pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	August	September		Jan - Sept		September		Jan - Sept	
	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.3	1.5	1.3	12.5	11.0	2,866.7	3,122.9	26,835.1	27,357.1
Calves	0.9	1.0	1.0	6.9	7.3	88.9	82.6	755.4	738.7
Hogs	1.5	1.8	1.7	19.2	17.3	8,505.5	8,554.2	73,547.5	73,209.4
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.9	1.4	276.3	256.3	2,435.9	2,210.4
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,159	1,280	1,097	10,829	9,624	3,619,953	3,832,666	33,425,340	33,632,862
Calves	451	470	502	3,408	3,699	26,979	25,398	236,539	234,537
Hogs	311	379	350	4,116	3,622	2,215,539	2,245,673	19,446,640	19,426,537
Sheep & Lambs	11	11	8	175	134	35,374	33,594	325,057	293,810
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	906	875	836	866	875	1,263	1,227	1,246	1,230
Calves	491	493	482	494	507	303	308	313	317
Hogs	212	212	202	214	209	260	263	264	265
Sheep & Lambs	79	72	73	92	96	128	131	133	133
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red meat	1.2	1.4	1.3	12.2	11.1	3,873.2	4,008.0	35,020.0	34,980.5

Average Prices Received by Farmers: September 2003

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	October 2002	September 2003	October ¹ 2003	October 2002	September 2003	October ¹ 2003
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.42	6.09	7.19	5.20	6.06	6.94
Rice, per cwt	3.92	6.42	6.94	3.69	6.13	6.52
Upland Cotton, per pound	.404	2/	2/	.394	.557	.614 3/
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.80	84.20	84.40
Beef Cattle, per cwt	46.20	56.90	59.90	64.60	85.10	91.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	69.10	82.40	87.00	68.60	89.40	97.40
Cows, per cwt	32.80	42.00	44.00	33.60	44.90	44.70
Calves, per cwt	84.60	95.90	102.00	92.00	109.00	112.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.270	.370	.370
Eggs all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.532	.783	.841
Milk, all, per cwt ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.10	14.40	14.80

¹Mid-month;

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms;

³Based on sales during the first half of the month;

⁴Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

October Farm Prices Received Index Up 3 Percent

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October is 113, based on 1990-92=100, 3 points above the September index. Compared to the previous month, the Livestock & Products Index was higher while the All Crops Index was unchanged. Higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, dairy and lettuce more than offset lower prices for corn, hogs, wheat and potatoes. 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 soybeans, corn, cotton and cottonseed more than offset decreased marketings of dairy, grapes, wheat and tobacco.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 18 points above October 2002. Higher prices for cattle, soybeans, broilers and lettuce more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, potatoes and hay.

The Food Commodities Index increased 5 points from last month, to 117, and is 24 points above September last year. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

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