

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

*October Livestock Slaughter  
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates  
Average Prices Received by Farmers*

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 1.7 million pounds, up 21 percent from September but 6 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,800 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, up 300 head from September and 200 head above the previous year. Average live weight was 891 pounds, up 16 pounds from the previous month but 22 pounds below October 2001. Total live weight at 1.57 million pounds, was 23 percent above the previous month and 9 percent above the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during October totaled 1,100 head, up 100 head from September but 400 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 494 pounds, up 1 pound from September and 10 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 566,000 pounds was 20 percent above September but 24 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 2,300 head, up 500 head from September, but 400 head below October 2001. Average live weight was 195 pounds, down 17 pounds from September and 16 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 443,000 pounds, up 17 percent from September but 21 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 100 head, unchanged from September, but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 92 pounds, up 20 pounds from the previous month and 13 pounds above the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.38 billion pounds in October, up 3 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2001 and a new record high for October.

October 2001 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Comparing October 2002 with October 2001**

**Beef** production, at 2.51 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year and a new record high for October. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.27 million head, up 3 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 1,270 pounds, up 23 pounds from October a year ago.

**Veal** production totaled 18.7 million pounds, 5 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 100,800 head, up 7 percent from October 2001. The average live weight was 308 pounds, down 10 pounds from October a year ago.

**Pork** production totaled 1.83 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.40 million head, 1 percent above October 2001. The average live weight was 264 pounds, down 3 pounds from October a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton** production, at 19.6 million pounds, was down 1 percent from October 2001. Sheep slaughter totaled 300,200 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from October a year ago.

January-October red meat production was 39.4 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year; veal was down 1 percent; pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	September	October		January-October		October		January-October	
	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.5	1.6	1.8	14.6	14.6	3,162.0	3,266.6	29,687.0	30,097.6
Calves	1.0	1.5	1.1	8.5	8.0	93.9	100.8	834.9	855.0
Hogs	1.8	2.7	2.3	23.8	21.5	9,334.2	9,402.9	80,826.6	82,947.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.1	2.0	289.1	300.2	2,655.5	2,726.4
	-----Total Live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total Live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	1,280	1,446	1,574	12,162	12,526	3,943,776	4,148,613	36,039,856	37,573,794
Calves	470	749	566	4,263	3,974	29,830	31,047	268,816	267,111
Hogs	379	561	443	5,181	4,526	2,488,339	2,482,579	21,263,150	21,930,312
Sheep & Lambs	11	13	10	181	183	39,721	39,285	372,125	363,983
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	875	913	891	833	858	1,247	1,270	1,214	1,248
Calves	493	484	494	502	497	318	308	322	312
Hogs	212	211	195	218	211	267	264	263	264
Sheep & Lambs	72	79	92	86	92	137	131	140	134
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	1.4	1.8	1.7	14.1	13.8	4,265.1	4,381.8	37,758.9	39,401.9

## Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1/</sup>			United States		
	October 2001	July 2002	October 2002	October 2001	July 2002	October 2002
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	43	37	38	1,253	1,262	1,185
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	262	256	250
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	43	37	38	991	1,006	935
150 Days or More	31	26	29	708	723	681
149 Days or Less	12	11	9	283	283	254
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	43.0	36.9	38.9	41.7	40.0	40.4
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	\$7.13	\$7.07	\$7.77	\$8.59	\$8.57	\$8.93
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$6.83	\$6.70	\$7.12	\$8.01	\$7.90	\$8.30
Livestock	\$7.37	\$7.10	\$7.72	\$8.39	\$8.38	\$8.44

<sup>1</sup>Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. —Data not published.

### October Farm Labor- 5 Year History

October	Delta States <sup>1/</sup>		United States	
	Workers on Farms <sup>2/ 3/</sup>	Farm Wage Rates <sup>4/</sup>	Workers on Farms <sup>2/ 3/</sup>	Farm Wage Rates <sup>4/</sup>
	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers	Hired (000)	\$/Hr All Hired Workers
2002	38	\$7.77	935	\$8.93
2001	43	\$7.13	991	\$8.59
2000	42	\$7.06	952	\$8.29
1999	41	\$6.59	989	\$7.83
1998	40	\$6.48	983	\$7.60

<sup>1</sup>LA, AL, MS. <sup>2</sup>Includes all persons doing farm work for pay during the survey week. <sup>3</sup>Excludes agricultural service workers. <sup>4</sup>Includes field, livestock, supervisors, and other workers doing work for pay during the survey week.

### Delta States Farm Labor

Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi make up the Delta states for farm labor estimates. The Delta states had 38,000 hired workers on farms and ranches the week of October 6-12, 2002. This is 5,000 less hired workers than October of last year, but 1,000 more than July 2002. Of the 38,000 hired workers, workers that work 150 days or more a year account for 76 percent of the total and workers that work 149 days or less account for the remaining 24 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.77 per hour compared to \$7.13 per hour in October 2001. Delta hired farmer workers averaged \$1.16 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$7.72 per hour compared to \$7.37 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning 29 cents per hour more this October, at \$7.12, than last October.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 38.9 hours per week, was 1.5 hours less per week than the current U.S. average at 40.4 hours per week.

### United States Farm Labor

There were 1.19 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 6-12, 2002, down 5 percent from a year ago. There were 935,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 250,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.93 per hour during the October 2002 survey week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.30 per hour, up 29 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.44 per hour compared with \$8.39 a year earlier. The field and livestock workers combined wage rate, at \$8.33 was up 24 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 41.7 hours a year ago.

## Prices Received Index Up 1 Percent

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 97 based on 1990-92=100, up 1.0 percent from the October index. Higher prices for soybeans, eggs, cattle, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for hogs, milk, lettuce, and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflower.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is 4.3 percent above November, 2001. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, turkeys, and calves.

## Prices Paid Index Up 1 Percent

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 126 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 0.8 percent from October and 3.3 percent above November 2001. Higher prices in November for feeder pigs, feeder cattle, feed supplements, and nitrogen fertilizers more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, diesel fuel, herbicides, and self-propelled machinery.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers: October 2002

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2001	October 2002	November 2002 1/	November 2001	October 2002	November 2002 1/
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	4.25	5.42	5.51	4.16	5.19	5.43
Rice, per cwt	4.50	3.92	4.01	4.08	3.69	3.62
Upland Cotton, per pound	.256	.404	2/ .428	.278	.390	2/ .414
Hay, all, baled, per ton	N/A	N/A	N/A	95.90	94.50	93.60
Beef Cattle, per cwt	49.50	46.20	45.50	64.00	64.70	66.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	72.60	69.10	69.50	67.80	68.50	70.90
Cows, per cwt	36.50	32.80	32.00	35.80	33.60	32.60
Calves, per cwt	88.30	84.60	84.00	96.70	91.90	90.40
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.390	.280	.290
Eggs, all, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.641	.540	.720
Milk, all, per cwt 3/	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.40	12.10	11.70

<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

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