

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Louisiana Meat Animal Summary
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 1.2 million pounds, down 8 percent from February and the previous year.

There were 1,100 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, down 200 head from February, but unchanged from the previous year. Average live weight was 863 pounds, down 20 pounds from the previous month and 51 pounds below March 2003. Total live weight at 979,000 pounds, was 15 percent below the previous month and 4 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 600 head, up 100 head from February but 200 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 510 pounds, up 8 pounds from February and 21 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 329,000 pounds, was up 25 percent from February but 15 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 2,400 head, up 100 head from February and 200 head above March 2003. Average live weight was 225 pounds, up 3 pounds from February but 12 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 529,000 pounds, up 5 percent from February and 2 percent above a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 200 head, down 100 head from February but unchanged from the previous year. Live weight averaged 106 pounds, down 11 pounds from the previous month and 1 pound below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

March 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2003 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2004 commercial red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
-----Number, thousand head-----									
Cattle	1.3	1.1	1.1	3.8	3.7	2,773.9	2,871.2	8,350.9	7,875.1
Calves	0.5	0.8	0.6	2.3	1.7	85.0	76.9	261.7	227.5
Hogs	2.3	2.2	2.4	6.9	6.6	8,168.3	9,038.7	24,653.8	25,714.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.6	262.7	306.8	728.2	739.1
-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----									
Cattle	1,147	1,021	979	3,411	3,257	3,421,834	3,493,209	10,475,696	9,695,465
Calves	263	389	329	1,143	882	27,426	23,707	83,502	74,266
Hogs	502	517	529	1,529	1,411	2,186,800	2,419,497	6,589,033	6,893,247
Sheep & Lambs	36	24	24	66	68	36,260	44,121	98,235	104,550
-----Average live weight, pounds-----									
Cattle	883	914	863	898	880	1,234	1,217	1,255	1,232
Calves	502	489	510	497	519	323	308	319	327
Hogs	222	237	225	222	214	268	268	267	268
Sheep & Lambs	117	107	106	110	113	138	144	135	141
-----Million pounds-----									
Red Meat	1.3	1.3	1.2	4.0	3.7	3,706.1	3,946.2	11,275.6	11,063.6

Cattle and Calves: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 pounds		Value of Production	Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Cattle	Calves				
-----Thousand pounds-----			-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
2000	232,146	258,720	51.60	98.50	178,362	193,381	907	194,288
2001	229,265	234,360	53.80	97.90	174,618	177,947	938	178,885
2002	236,853	231,020	49.00	88.00	160,466	157,153	861	158,014
2003	243,459	244,950	53.20	93.00	175,945	178,288	924	179,212

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

Hogs and Pigs: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 Pounds	Value of Production ³	Cash Receipts ⁴	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
2000	8,038	8,200	35.10	2,810	2,878	71	2,949
2001	9,610	9,660	36.50	3,495	3,526	77	3,603
2002	7,232	7,790	26.20	1,872	2,041	53	2,094
2003	7,012	6,970	31.40	2,192	2,189	63	2,252

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³ Includes allowance for higher average price of state inshipment and outshipment of feeder pigs.

⁴ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Up

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2003 totaled \$180.5 million, up 13 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 98.8 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs account for 1.2 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$178.3 million, up 13 percent from 2002. Marketings, at 245.0 million pounds, were 6 percent above the 2002 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$53.20 per cwt, up \$4.20 from 2002, while calves averaged \$93.00 per cwt, \$5.00 above the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2003 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$2.19 million, up 7 percent from 2002. Marketings decreased to 6.97 million pounds, an 11 percent decrease from the previous year. The average price received was \$31.40 per cwt, up \$5.20 from 2002.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2003	March 2004	April 2004 ¹	April 2003	March 2004	April 2004 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.96	2/	2/	5.82	9.27	9.54
Rice, per cwt	4.54	9.07	8.92	4.61	8.01	7.90
Upland cotton, per pound	.450	.625	3/ .626	.454	.594	3/ .595
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	92.90	81.80	89.60
Beef Cattle, per cwt	48.60	58.20	61.60	74.50	83.40	85.30
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	75.70	92.30	95.00	78.80	87.90	89.70
Cows, per cwt ⁴	37.50	45.00	48.00	40.20	46.60	49.00
Calves, per cwt	89.30	107.00	109.00	98.90	115.00	116.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.310	.470	.480
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.686	1.100	.769
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.00	15.40	18.00

¹Mid-month;

²Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

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

⁴Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

April Farm Prices Received Index High

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April at 124, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points above the March index. This is the highest index level since records began. The Livestock Products Index increased 4 points from March while the All Crops Index increased 2 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, cattle, corn and lettuce. Lower prices were received for eggs, strawberries, hogs and tobacco. 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 cattle, milk, strawberries and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton and hogs. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points from April 2003.

The Food commodities Index increased 3 points from last month to 125. The index stands 26 points above April 2003.

Prices Paid Index Reaches Record High

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 133 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from March but 5 points above April 2003. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, hay and forages, milk cows and feed grains more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, gasoline, LP gas and insecticides.

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