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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

William G. Hamlin
State Statistician

Nebraska Cattle on Feed Down 12 Percent

Nebraska feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head contained 1.57 million cattle on feed on August 1, down 12 percent from last year and 13 percent below August 1, 2001. Placements of cattle into feedlots during July totaled 350,000 head, down 12 percent from 2002 but 9 percent above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 460,000 head, down 7 percent from last year but 15 percent above two years ago. Other disappearance during July totaled 10,000 compared with 5,000 last year and 10,000 during July 2001.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.59 million head on August 1, 2003. The inventory was 5 percent below August 1, 2002 and 12 percent below August 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.99 million, 8 percent above 2002 and slightly above 2001. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.27 million, 4 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during July, 33 percent above 2002 and 2 percent above 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2001-2002

STATE	August 1 Number on Feed ¹			July Placements			July Marketings			July Other Disappearance ²		
	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002	2002	2003	<u>2003</u> 2002
	1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		1,000 Head	Percent	
Arizona	285	271	95	26	32	123	31	26	84	1	1	100
California	485	485	100	59	66	112	56	67	120	3	4	133
Colorado	990	860	87	190	175	92	225	200	89	5	5	100
Idaho	285	240	84	52	56	108	66	70	106	1	1	100
Iowa	320	290	91	44	51	116	72	70	97	2	1	50
Kansas	2,140	2,180	102	510	570	112	520	540	104	10	10	100
Nebraska	1,790	1,570	88	400	350	88	495	460	93	5	10	200
New Mexico	109	116	106	18	21	117	9	17	189	1	3	300
Oklahoma	310	335	108	60	75	125	74	85	115	1	5	500
So. Dakota	160	148	93	18	21	117	30	38	127	3	2	67
Texas	2,740	2,690	98	390	475	122	490	590	120	10	15	150
Washington	165	170	103	39	50	128	53	39	74	1	1	100
Other States	310	230	74	34	50	147	72	68	94	2	2	100
United States	10,089	9,585	95	1,840	1,992	108	2,193	2,270	104	45	60	133

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Source: USDA NASS Cattle on Feed, August 15, 2003.

Monthly Hogs and Pigs

The July 2003 U.S. pig crop at 8.39 million head, was 3 percent below the previous year. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 943 thousand head, 3 percent below last year. The average pigs per litter for July increased to 8.90, compared to 8.89 last year.

The U.S. inventory of sows and gilts on August 1, 2003, was 5.75 million head, down 3 percent August 1, 2002. U.S. sows and gilts bred during the month of July totaled 1.12 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Monthly Farrowings: Number of Sows, Pigs Per Litter, and Pig Crop, United States December-November 2002-2003^{1 2}

Month	Sows Farrowing		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Dec ¹	923	908	8.66	8.75	7,994	7,943
Jan	946	931	8.73	8.82	8,257	8,211
Feb	967	928	8.83	8.86	8,543	8,220
Mar	978	938	8.80	8.85	8,608	8,301
Apr	983	942	8.85	8.88	8,700	8,365
May	982	941	8.81	8.91	8,651	8,387
Jun	960	926	8.89	8.91	8,537	8,250
Jul	968	943	8.89	8.90	8,609	8,393
Aug	959		8.92		8,554	
Sep	951		8.85		8,416	
Oct	940		8.83		8,300	
Nov	926		8.83		8,176	
Total	11,483		8.83		101,344	

¹ December preceding year.

² Monthly values may not add to quarterly or annual totals due to rounding.

Source: USDA NASS Monthly Hogs and Pigs, August 29, 2003.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

July 2003 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. July 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. July 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, July 2003 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	July 2003 Percent of	
		July 2002	June 2003
Nebraska			
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	723.6	100	99
Hogs, head	542.3	95	102
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	657.7	97	100
United States			
Cattle, head	3,285.3	103	101
Calves, head	84.9	89	115
Hogs, head	8,101.9	100	105
Sheep & Lambs, head	239.2	92	104
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	4,046.1	101	102

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter August 22, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, July 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	July 2003 Percent of	
		July 2002	June 2003
	<i>1,000 Lbs.</i>		
Total red meats	820,493	90	97
Beef	370,772	89	100
Pork	433,581	92	95
Poultry	1,392,326	88	101
Turkey	742,188	105	103
Chicken	645,793	74	99

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage August 21, 2003.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, July 2003 with Comparisons

Item	2002	2003	2003/2002
	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Millions</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.6	11.7	101
30 States	313.9	309.3	99
United States	335.5	331.7	99
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	261	273	105
30 States	6,880	6,858	100
United States	7,347	7,343	100
Chickens Hatched, July			
United States			
Egg-type	35.6	35.6	100
Broiler	781.7	777.3	99

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs August 22, 2003.

Turkeys Raised Down 1 Percent from 2002

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2003 is 269 million, down 1 percent from the number raised during 2002.

The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2003:

Minnesota, at 45.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, and shows a 3 percent increase from last year.

North Carolina ranks second with 45.0 million birds, down 1 percent from 2002.

Missouri is in third place by producing 27.5 million birds, 8 percent more than a year ago.

Arkansas growers expect to produce 24.0 million birds in 2003, down 19 percent from the previous year.

Virginia, at 23.0 million birds is up 15 percent from 2002.

California expects to raise 16.5 million turkeys, 7 percent less than a year earlier.

Turkeys: Number Raised, Selected States, and United States, 2002 & 2003¹

State	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Arkansas	29,500	24,000	81
California	17,700	16,500	93
Illinois	2,900	2,900	100
Indiana	13,000	12,800	98
Iowa	6,800	6,500	96
Michigan	4,800	4,800	100
Minnesota	44,000	45,500	103
Missouri	25,500	27,500	108
North Carolina	45,500	45,000	99
North Dakota	1,900	1,300	68
Ohio	5,400	5,300	98
Pennsylvania	9,900	9,500	96
South Carolina	9,900	9,900	100
South Dakota	4,800	4,900	102
Virginia	20,000	23,000	115
United States	272,429	269,200	99

¹ 2003 revised.

Source: USDA NASS Turkeys Raised, August 22, 2003.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 2002-2003¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³			
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002	
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>
January	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548	102	
February	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,484	11,401	11,588	102	
March	7,745	7,811	1,654	1,660	12,810	12,969	101	
April	7,758	7,798	1,621	1,622	12,575	12,645	101	
May	7,769	7,783	1,678	1,668	13,039	12,983	100	
June	7,782	7,775	1,587	1,590	12,348	12,366	100	
July	7,781	7,766	1,578	1,590	12,281	12,350	101	
August	7,785		1,570		12,223			
September	7,781		1,497		11,648			
October	7,789		1,539		11,991			
November	7,792		1,496		11,657			
December	7,801		1,575		12,290			
Annual	7,773		18,858		146,590			

¹ 2003 revised. ² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Source: USDA NASS Milk Production, August 15, 2003.

Farm Labor: Number and Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Selected Regions and United States, July 7-13, 2002 & July 6-12, 2003¹

Region ²	Hired Workers		Wage Rates								
			All Hired Workers		Type of work						
	2002	2003			2002	2003	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock
	<i>Thousands</i>				<i>Dollars Per Hour</i>						
Lake	62	62	8.33	9.36	7.85	8.34	7.85	8.95	7.85	8.55	
Cornbelt I	54	53	9.13	9.45	8.08	8.44	9.07	9.71	8.36	8.78	
Cornbelt II	30	23	9.20	9.51	8.42	9.60	10.72	8.87	8.94	9.31	
Northern Plains	39	37	8.72	8.52	8.32	7.89	8.57	8.79	8.41	8.15	
Southern Plains	74	61	7.53	8.15	7.06	7.62	7.23	7.58	7.14	7.60	
Mountain I	30	31	7.62	7.63	7.12	7.27	7.74	7.41	7.42	7.34	
Mountain II	19	24	7.82	8.56	7.23	7.86	7.35	8.62	7.27	8.06	
United States	1,006	953	8.57	8.88	7.90	8.18	8.38	8.62	8.02	8.28	

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

Source: USDA NASS Farm Labor, August 15, 2003.

Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August is 108, based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from the July index. Higher prices for wheat, dairy, cattle, and lettuce more than offset lower prices for grapes, cantaloup, soybeans, and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also effects the overall index. Increased average marketings of

tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8 points (8.0 percent) from August, 2002. Higher prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, hay, and turkeys.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary August 2003 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		August 2002 ¹	July 2003 ¹	August 15, 2003	August 2002 ¹	July 2003 ¹	August 15, 2003	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
Wheat	Bushels	\$ 3.76	\$ 2.81	\$ 3.30	\$ 3.63	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.44	36	\$ 9.64
Corn	Bushels	2.38	2.11	2.10	2.38	2.17	2.13	32	6.59
Oats	Bushels	2.03	1.49	1.50	1.67	1.47	1.42	34	4.12
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	4.31	3.42	3.51	4.21	3.63	3.75	34	11.10
Soybeans	Bushels	5.43	5.81	5.70	5.53	5.83	5.56	39	14.40
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	90.00	62.00	56.00	92.40	89.00	85.30		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	90.00	62.00	56.00	101.00	92.70	91.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	89.00	60.00	55.00	71.30	77.80	69.10		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	19.90	18.90	18.30	23.20	16.80	17.90	36	50.30
Hogs	Cwt.	36.00	45.50	43.50	31.90	42.80	41.10	40	102.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.30	45.70	43.70	32.60	43.20	41.60		
Sows	Cwt.	18.90	35.20	33.60	19.00	33.40	33.00		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	64.00	76.70	79.90	64.40	75.80	78.50	49	160.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	64.90	77.70	81.00	67.30	78.80	81.70		
Cows	Cwt.	33.60	46.00	45.00	36.40	44.90	44.80		
Calves	Cwt.	98.10	110.00	111.00	94.90	103.00	105.00	49	215.00
Sheep	Cwt.	23.30	27.20		25.60	28.60			78.80
Lambs	Cwt.	74.70	84.00		75.30	89.40			185.00

¹ Entire month average except hay.

² Parity price based on data for August 2003.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, August 29, 2003.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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