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CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC 7 STATES DOWN 3%

Cattle on feed February 1, 1999 in the historic seven monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 8.91 million, down 3% from the previous year but 1% above 1997. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.67 million, 12% above 1998 and slightly above 1997. Marketings during January totaled 1.74 million, 3% above a year ago and 1% above 1997. Other disappearance during January was 47,000 head, 40% below last year and 28% below 1997.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3% FROM A YEAR AGO

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.50 million head on February 1, 1999. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.92 million, 11% above 1998 and 2% above 1997. Net placements were 1.85 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 379,000, 600-699 pounds were 623,000, 700-799 pounds were 599,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 322,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.02 million, 2% above 1998 and slightly above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during January, 29% below 1998 and 24% below 1997.

NEBRASKA CATTLE ON FEED UNCHANGED FROM A YEAR AGO

Nebraska cattle feeders, with a capacity of 1,000+ head, had 2.15 million cattle on feed for slaughter markets on February 1. This inventory was unchanged from last year but 4% above February 1, 1997. Placements into these feedlots during January totaled 450,000 head, up 15% from last year and 6% above two years ago. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 400,000 head, the same as last year and two years ago. Other disappearance during January totaled 10,000 head compared with 10,000 head during January 1998 and 15,000 head during January 1997.

**CATTLE ON FEED: INVENTORIES, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS & OTHER DISAPPEARANCE,
 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS**

STATE	FEBRUARY 1 NUMBER ON FEED ^{1/}			JANUARY PLACEMENTS			JANUARY MARKETINGS			JANUARY OTHER DISAPPEAR. ^{2/}		
	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> <u>1998</u>	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> <u>1998</u>	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> <u>1998</u>	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> <u>1998</u>
	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%
Arizona*	220	202	92	21	25	119	24	28	117	22	1	5
California *	395	385	97	50	45	90	50	55	110	5	5	100
Colorado *	1,100	1,140	104	230	260	113	230	250	109	20	10	50
Idaho	270	270	100	48	50	104	56	55	98	7	10	143
Iowa *	365	350	96	46	56	122	40	40	100	1	1	100
Kansas *	2,190	2,020	92	360	410	114	470	490	104	10	10	100
Nebraska *	2,150	2,150	100	390	450	115	400	400	100	10	10	100
New Mexico	119	113	95	11	12	109	14	16	114	1	1	100
Oklahoma	410	385	94	61	60	98	78	80	103	3	5	167
So. Dakota	176	184	105	27	31	115	30	30	100	1	1	100
Texas *	2,760	2,660	96	395	425	108	475	475	100	10	10	100
Washington	179	195	109	37	37	100	46	37	80	4	4	100
Other Sts	460	445	97	50	62	124	75	65	87	5	2	40
U. S.	10,794	10,499	97	1,726	1,923	111	1,988	2,021	102	99	70	71

^{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. * Historic 7 states.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER BY CLASS JANUARY 1 AND LAMB CROP, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

Class	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	1997	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> 1998	1997	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> 1998
	1,000 head				Percent			
All sheep and lambs	95	100	105	105	8,024	7,825	7,238	92
Market	18	16	17	106	2,105	2,214	1,923	87
Breeding sheep and lambs	77	84	88	105	5,919	5,611	5,314	95
Replacement lambs	9	10	11	110	787	839	774	92
Ewes 1 yr. old and older	65	71	73	103	4,912	4,570	4,338	95
Rams 1 yr. old and older	3	3	4	133	220	203	202	100
	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u> <u>1997</u>
Lamb crop <u>1/</u>	91	95	96	101	5,361	5,356	5,013	94

1/ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

**CROPS -- MARKETING YEAR AVERAGE PRICE AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION,
NEBRASKA & UNITED STATES, 1996-1998**

Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
NEBRASKA							
Corn for Grain	Bu.	2.64	2.32	1.95	3,114,540	2,633,664	2,417,513
Sorghum for Grain	Bu.	2.34	2.15	1.75	228,969	130,613	98,700
Oats	Bu.	2.11	1.79	1.15	15,730	10,472	6,118
Barley	Bu.	2.15	2.20	1.80	1,937	1,010	720
All Wheat	Bu.	4.29	3.20	2.60	315,315	249,960	215,280
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.29	3.20	2.60	315,315	224,960	215,280
Rye	Bu.	2.50	3.60	1.80	808	864	518
Soybeans	Bu.	7.19	6.28	5.15	973,886	902,907	849,750
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	21.50	18.80	18.60	79,658	69,710	68,188
All Hay (baled)	Ton	66.50	76.00	51.00	470,033	485,941	377,295
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	69.00	79.50	51.50	357,420	335,888	270,375
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	49.50	58.50	44.00	112,613	150,053	106,920
All Potatoes	Cwt.	5.05	6.15	4.85	29,714	57,517	47,525
Sugar Beets	Ton	44.40	35.60	NA	40,537	36,063	NA
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	13.20	12.70	10.80	6,102	7,541	9,086
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	10.40	10.30	9.50	2,974	2,843	4,476
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	15.80	15.00	13.60	3,128	4,698	4,610
UNITED STATES							
Corn for Grain	Bu.	2.71	2.43	1.95	25,149,013	22,351,507	19,092,590
Sorghum for Grain	Bu.	2.34	2.21	1.75	1,986,316	1,408,909	952,514
Oats	Bu.	1.96	1.60	1.10	313,920	273,284	188,295
Barley	Bu.	2.74	2.38	1.95	1,080,940	861,620	663,773
All Wheat	Bu.	4.30	3.38	2.70	9,782,238	8,286,741	6,931,996
Winter Wheat	Bu.	4.33	3.23	2.50	6,396,217	5,948,655	4,774,374
Rye	Bu.	3.70	3.75	2.49	33,118	30,120	29,879
Soybeans	Bu.	7.35	6.47	5.35	17,439,971	17,372,628	14,659,646
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	23.50	19.30	19.80	652,240	576,658	604,888
All Hay (baled)	Ton	95.80	100.00	87.00	12,726,992	13,249,825	11,720,420
Alfalfa Hay (baled)	Ton	101.80	107.00	91.00	7,800,171	8,099,822	7,043,824
All Other Hay (baled)	Ton	76.50	75.70	73.50	4,926,821	5,150,003	4,676,596
All Potatoes	Cwt.	4.91	5.64	5.24	2,425,263	2,621,733	2,492,654
Sugar Beets	Ton	45.40	38.80	NA	1,211,001	1,160,029	NA
Sunflower (all)	Cwt.	11.70	11.60	10.20	414,842	426,766	524,654
Sunflower (oil)	Cwt.	10.80	11.00	9.35	309,057	329,858	420,140
Sunflower (non-oil)	Cwt.	13.80	14.30	13.20	105,785	96,908	104,514

NOTE: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for: commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year; commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation; or crop deficiency and disaster payments. Estimates shown for 1998 crops are preliminary. NA -- Not Available.

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 3.7% from production in these same States in January 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,523 pounds for January, 57 pounds above January 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 19,000 head less than January 1998 but 1,000 head more than December 1998.

ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production for 1998 in **Nebraska** totaled 1.05 billion pounds, up 1% from 1.04 billion pounds a year earlier. Number of milk cows, at 70,000 head, was up 1,000 head from a year ago, while milk per cow, at 15,000 pounds, was down 72 pounds from a year earlier.

United States annual milk production totaled 157.4 billion pounds, up 1% from the 156.1 billion pounds a year earlier. Milk cow numbers, at 9.2 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Production per cow increased 321 pounds from 16,871 pounds in 1997 to 17,192 pounds in 1998.

Milk production for 1998 in the **20 major States** totaled 134.9 billion pounds up 1% from 1997. Milk cow numbers were set at 7.71 million down 1% from 1997. Production per cow totaled 17,501 pounds up 321 pounds from the previous year.

POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks in the 15 States totaled 211 million cwt. on February 1, 1999, down 1% from a year earlier and 7% below two years ago.

1998 POTATO CROP

State	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 1999
Thousand cwt.		
California	3,708	2,000
Colorado	25,360	14,000
Idaho	139,650	79,000
Maine	18,060	10,500
Michigan	14,725	5,400
Minnesota	21,170	10,500
Montana	3,180	2,890
NEBRASKA	8,175	4,240
New York	7,290	1,600
North Dakota	28,670	14,000
Ohio	1,200	70
Oregon	26,229	15,800
Pennsylvania	3,360	800
Washington	93,225	36,500
Wisconsin	30,895	13,800
TOTAL 15 STATES	424,897	211,100

U.S. GRAINS SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE OUTLOOK

CROP YEAR	SUPPLY				MARKET YEAR DISAPPEARANCE 1/*				Market Year Ending Stocks*	Average Market Price
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Total	Domestic		Exports	Total		
					Primary Use 2/	Other				
Million bushels										
\$/bu.										
CORN:										
1996/97	9,233	426	13	9,672	5,302	1,692	1,795	8,789	883	2.71
1997/98	9,207	883	9	10,099	5,505	1,782	1,504	8,791	1,308	2.43
1998/99	9,761	1,308	12	11,081	5,700	1,870	1,725	9,295	1,786	1.80-2.10
SOYBEANS:										
1996/97	2,380	183	9	2,573	1,436	123	882	2,441	132	7.35
1997/98	2,689	132	5	2,826	1,567	158	870	2,626	200	6.47
1998/99	2,757	200	6	2,963	1,590	153	810	2,553	410	5.00-5.40
WHEAT:										
1996/97	2,277	376	92	2,746	891	410	1,001	2,302	444	4.30
1997/98	2,481	444	95	3,020	917	341	1,040	2,297	722	3.38
1998/99	2,550	722	95	3,368	925	438	1,025	2,388	980	2.65-2.75
SORGHUM:										
1996/97	795	18	---	814	516	45	205	766	47	2.34
1997/98	634	47	---	681	365	55	212	632	49	2.21
1998/99	520	49	---	569	275	45	185	505	64	1.55-1.85

1/ Marketing year begins: Corn, Sorghum & Soybeans, September 1; Wheat, June 1. 2/ Primary uses: Corn & Sorghum = Feed; Soybeans = Crushing; Wheat = Food. * Projections for 1997 and 1998 crops are USDA's World Outlook Board expectations of supply and disappearance as of February 10, 1999. Totals may not add due to rounding.

CHICKEN INVENTORY, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1, 1996-1998

Item	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	1996	1997	1998	1998 as % of 1997	1996	1997	1998	1998 as % of 1997
Thousands								
All Chickens	11,493	12,126	13,219	109	392,737	410,030	424,094	103
Hens & Pullets Laying Age	9,429	9,990	10,613	106	303,922	312,137	320,694	103
Pullets 3 mo. & over not of laying age	494	563	1,186	211	33,518	35,578	39,664	111
Pullets under 3 mo. old	1,566	1,573	1,420	90	48,054	54,766	56,054	102
Other chickens	4	0	0	---	7,243	7,549	7,682	102

EGG PRODUCTION, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES, YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1996-1998

Item	NEBRASKA			UNITED STATES		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
Eggs Produced (million)	2,341	2,469	2,706	76,377	77,532	79,717
Average Number of Layers (thousand)	9,103	9,525	10,398	298,270	303,604	312,058
Eggs per Layer (number)	257	259	260	256	255	256

**HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS & FARM WAGE RATES
SELECTED REGIONS AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 11-17, 1998 & JANUARY 10-16, 1999 1/**

Region 2/	Hired Workers	WAGE RATES	
		Type of work	
All Hired Workers			

					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousands				Dollars per hour					
Lake	41	42	8.32	8.48	7.74	8.43	7.16	7.33	7.35	7.59
Cornbelt I	32	29	8.31	8.46	7.51	8.01	7.62	7.82	7.57	7.89
Cornbelt II	26	16	7.08	7.86	6.82	7.36	6.43	7.35	6.50	7.35
Northern Plains	33	23	8.22	8.10	8.34	7.83	7.38	7.56	7.65	7.62
Southern Plains	52	48	7.04	6.93	6.59	6.49	6.65	6.58	6.61	6.53
Mountain I	19	14	7.26	7.80	6.53	7.36	6.80	7.35	6.74	7.35
Mountain II	14	15	7.65	8.41	7.22	7.29	6.89	7.36	7.00	7.33
United States	661	689	7.61	7.90	6.99	7.21	6.97	7.31	6.98	7.24

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.

MOST U.S. FARMERS HAVE HEARD OF THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

Eighty-one percent of U.S. farmers have heard of the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer systems problems and 68 percent realize that it could impact their automated farm systems. The Y2K problem is where some computerized systems may fail because two digits have been used to represent the year instead of four, such as 98 for 1998. The computer may not be able to determine if the year 00 is 1900 or 2000. The Y2K problem could cause computerized systems to malfunction, give erroneous results, or result in a complete system failure.

The number of farmers using automated systems of any type is 32 percent. The most

common types of systems used on farms are for record keeping and are used by 29 percent of farmers. Of the farmers using any type of automated system, 55 percent have inventoried their systems for Y2K problems and 31 percent of the inventoried systems had a problem. A solution is in process or completed for 92 percent of the systems identified with a problem. Of those farmers who have either fixed or are attempting to fix Y2K problems, 54 percent estimate the cost of fixing the problem will be less than \$1,000. Twenty-two percent were unable to estimate the cost of fixing the problem.