NASS
FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New Mexico Agricultural
Statistics Service

Weekly Ag Update

Issue 53-08 1-800-530-8810 e-mail: nass-nm@nass.usda.gov February 18, 2003

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Cattle On Feed Milk Production ERS Weather Summary

Available on Internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in New Mexico for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 112,000 head on February 1, 2003, 7,000 less than the 119,000 on feed on January 1, 2003, but still 3,000 head above the inventory total of 109,000 on February 1, 2002. Placements were down from January 1, 2003 by 33 percent to 8,000 head from the previous month's total of 12,000 head. Marketings of fed cattle were down in January by 1,000 head totaling 14,000 head. Disappearance remained at 1,000 head during January.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on February 1, 2003. The inventory was 8 percent below February 1, 2002 and 11 percent below February 1, 2001. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Net placements were 2.06 million. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.97 million, down 5 percent from 2002 and down 4 percent from 2001. Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during January, 16 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots [1/]

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance[2/]		
				DURING								
	2/1/02	1/1/03	2/1/03	1/02	12/02	1/03	1/02	12/02	1/03	1/02	12/02	1/03
	1,000 Head											
AZ	311	289	291	32	25	29	25	27	24	1	4	3
CA	475	490	475	59	55	58	57	55	67	7	10	6
CO	1,180	1,020	1,030	225	145	235	215	185	215	10	10	10
ID	320	295	285	57	44	56	65	47	65	2	2	1
IA	395	355	360	91	65	69	50	59	62	1	1	2
KS	2,450	2,200	2,220	530	390	540	540	470	500	20	20	20
NE	2,290	2,140	2,220	490	340	480	405	370	390	25	10	10
NM	**109**	**119**	**112**	**11**	**12**	**8**	**9**	**15**	**14**	**1**	**1**	**1**
OK	350	330	325	67	34	46	74	41	49	3	3	2
SD	200	205	215	46	38	53	38	27	42	3	1	1
TX	2,850	2,630	2,630	480	360	450	500	400	435	10	30	15
WA	237	*185	180	41	*32	36	50	40	39	1	2	2
Oth Sts	405	335	340	50	55	75	55	65	68	5	5	2
US	**11,572**	***10,593**	**10,683**	**2,179**	***1,595**	**2,135**	**2,083**	**1,801**	**1,970**	**89**	**99**	**75**

[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.

MILK PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Milk output continues to grow in New Mexico due to good weather conditions that have been favorable to herds. Milk production in the state during January 2003 totaled 539 million pounds, an increase of 12 million pounds from December 2002, and 34 million pounds above the 505 million pounds recorded the previous year. Production per cow was 1,740 pounds, 30 pounds above the December 2002 production of 1,710 pounds. The average number of milk cows on farms also continues to grow increasing by 2,000 to 310,000 head, a 7 percent increase over the January 2002 total of 290,000 head. New Mexico remains 7th in the nation in milk production.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.5 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from January 2002. December revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from December 2001. The December revision represented an increase of 0.6 percent or 70 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,608 pounds for January, 17 pounds above January 2002. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 56,000 head more than January 2002, and 4,000 head more than December 2002.

Milk Cows and Production: December 2002[1/] and January 2002-2003

	Milk Cows[2/]			Milk per Cow[3/]			Milk Production[3/]		
State	1/02	12/02	1/03	1/02	12/02	1/03	1/02	12/02	1/03
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
AZ	140	150	150	2,085	1,920	2,035	292	288	305
CA	1,624	1,676	1,681	1,745	1,750	1,770	2,834	2,933	2,975
FL	152	147	147	1,410	1,325	1,405	214	195	207
ID	380	390	390	1,750	1,780	1,770	665	694	690
IL	115	115	114	1,550	1,505	1,580	178	173	180
IN	155	146	146	1,450	1,515	1,535	225	221	224
IA	206	208	207	1,560	1,550	1,595	321	322	330
KY	123	120	120	1,170	1,075	1,100	144	129	132
MI	297	301	301	1,650	1,675	1,710	490	504	515
MN	495	480	480	1,515	1,485	1,520	750	713	730
MO	140	134	134	1,210	1,210	1,240	169	162	166
NM	**290**	**308**	**310**	**1,740**	**1,710**	**1,740**	**505**	**527**	**539**
NY	675	680	680	1,530	1,490	1,530	1,033	1,013	1,040
OH	260	260	260	1,480	1,405	1,440	385	365	374
PA	587	590	590	1,570	1,515	1,540	922	894	909
TX	310	311	311	1,490	1,465	1,550	462	456	482
VT	154	153	153	1,510	1,470	1,495	233	225	229
VA	120	119	118	1,390	1,295	1,340	167	154	158
WA	247	247	248	1,880	1,890	1,925	464	467	477
WI	1,279	1,266	1,265	1,465	1,465	1,490	1,874	1,855	1,885
20 STS	**7,749**	**7,801**	**7,805**	**1,591**	**1,575**	**1,608**	**12,327**	**12,290**	**12,547**

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

COTTON AND WOOL OUTLOOK

ERS, USDA, FEBRUARY 12, 2003

The latest United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) cotton forecast for 2002/03 indicates that a record global cotton usage is expected to reduce world ending stocks to their lowest since 1995/96. With global cotton production significantly lower this season at 87.6 million bales and world consumption projected to rise to 96.8 million, ending stocks are expected to decline nearly 20 percent (9 million bales) in 2002/03. At almost 38 million bales, world ending stocks are projected to equal about 39 percent of global consumption in 2002/03, 10 percentage points below 2001/02 and the lowest since 1994/95. Just as important, however, is the recent stock shift from China to the rest of the world, including the United States. Consumption has expanded significantly in China and, with the government's desire to reduce inventories, China's stocks as a share of world consumption has fallen dramatically from 1998/99 to the lowest since 1993/94. Meanwhile, the United States accounts for its lowest share in 3 years—about 6.5 percent.

U.S. Cotton Supply and Demand Overview The 2002/03 U.S. cotton crop is currently estimated at 17.1 million bales (upland—16.5 million and extra long staple (ELS)—649,000 bales), compared with a record 20.3 million in 2001/02. Based on the latest *Cotton Ginnings* report, ginnings were nearly complete by the end of January as 17 million bales had been ginned. The USDA will release the final 2002/03 ginnings, as well as final upland and ELS production on May 12^{th}. Based on the current production estimate and beginning stocks of 7.4 million bales, 2002/03 U.S. cotton supply is estimated at 24.6 million, 7 percent below last season but still the second highest since 1966/67. Total demand, on the other hand, is projected to reach 18.4 million bales in 2002/03, slightly below a year ago but 1 million above the late 1990's average. With demand exceeding production in 2002/03, ending stocks are forecast to decline 17 percent to 6.2 million bales, similar to stocks at the end of 2000/01.

Mill Use Estimate Revised, Exports Unchanged The U.S. cotton mill consumption projection for 2002/03 was raised this month to 7.6 million bales, 100,000 above the January estimate but still nearly 2 percent below last season. The increase this month reflects recent mill activity that has remained relatively strong despite increases in cotton textile and apparel imports from a year ago. U.S. mill use is in its 5th year of decline and at its lowest since 1986/87.

U.S. raw cotton exports, however, remain forecast at 10.8 million bales, slightly below last season's 75-year high. Record foreign consumption in 2002/03 is projected to exceed production which is significantly lower this season. As a result, foreign import demand remains above last season, providing a home for U.S. cotton exports. The U.S. share of world trade in 2002/03 is expected to be slightly below a year ago at approximately 37 percent.

World Production and Stocks Substantially Lower in 2002/03 Versus 2001/02 World cotton output realized its largest decline in more than a decade in 2002, down 10.7 million bales to 87.6 million bales. This 11-percent decline follows a similar drop in world prices—the A-Index's average for the year fell more than 15 cents in 2001/02, its largest decline in more than a decade. This 27-percent decline in prices in 2001/02 helped world consumption grow for its fourth consecutive year, a feat last realized during the 1980s. World consumption is forecast to increase 2.3 million bales, to 96.8 million bales in 2002/03. Ending stocks are expected to fall by 8.8 million bales, their largest decline since the mid-1980s. With this 19-percent decline, global ending stocks in 2002/03 are forecast at 37.9 million bales. As a share of world consumption, world ending stocks are expected to fall from 49 percent to 39 percent, their lowest since 1994/95. If China is excluded from these calculations, world ending stocks as a share of consumption are forecast to fall from 49 percent to 41 percent, their lowest since 2000/01.

Production declined the most in the United States in 2002/03, down 3.2 million bales. Production declined nearly as much in China, down 2.9 million bales. USDA's estimate of China's cotton production in 2002/03 is higher this month than its estimate in January, reflecting an analysis of updated provincial production estimates reported in China's press. This information corroborates the higher production estimate published by China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in November 2002. While there has been no updated NBS estimate since then, a number of other sources have published estimates similar to NBS' November estimate, and USDA has now also adopted a similar number.

U.S. Sheep and Lamb Inventories Continue To Decline The U.S. all sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2003, was estimated at 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below 2 years ago. The inventory has trended downward since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head. The inventory of breeding sheep declined to 4.68 million head, down 5 percent from January 1, 2002. In addition, the number of operations with sheep declined during 2002 to 64,170, 1 percent below 2001 and 3 percent under 2000.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, greasy, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001. The average price paid for wool in 2002 was $0.53 per pound, for a total value of $21.8 million, up 42 percent from $15.3 million in 2001.

The inventory of angora goats on January 1, 2003 totaled 305,000 head, up 1 percent from 2002. Mohair production in the United States was estimated at 2.1 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2001. Angora goats clipped totaled 283,000 head, down 9 percent from a year earlier while the average clip per goat increased from 6.4 pounds to 7.5. The average price paid for mohair sold in 2002 was $1.58 per pound, compared with $2.13 in 2001. The total value of mohair production declined to $3.4 million, down 20 percent from 2001.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
PO BOX 1809
LAS CRUCES, NM 88004-1809

WEEKLY AG-UPDATE (USPS 418330) published weekly
by USDA NASS, 2507 Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011.
Periodical postage paid at Las Cruces, NM 88001 and
additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to AG-UPDATE PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1809

WEATHER SUMMARY

After a prolonged tranquil period, the most significant storm of the new year passed over New Mexico during mid-week. Snow levels were high, but generally 6 to 10 inches of snow fell on the northern and central mountains above 9,000 feet. At the reporting stations, precipitation was most widespread in the north. Greatest totals included .84 inches at Red River and .68 inches at Chama. In spite of the clouds and precipitation, there were no intrusions of cold air with the storm, and temperatures averaged about 4 degrees above normal for the state.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS FEBRUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 16, 2003

	Temperature			Precipitation				
Station	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	02/10 02/16	02/01 02/16	Normal Feb	01/01 02/16	Normal Jan-Feb
Carlsbad	51.9	71	25	T	0.07	0.35	0.07	0.70
Hobbs	46.6	70	16	T	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.89
Roswell	52.0	75	22	0.02	0.02	0.46	0.07	0.89
Clayton	40.3	65	17	0.01	0.01	0.31	0.01	0.55
Clovis	47.1	70	18	T	0.03	0.51	0.03	0.90
Roy	38.8	54	26	0.15	0.15	0.43	0.15	0.77
Tucumcari	46.2	70	15	0.59	0.59	0.45	0.59	0.73
Chama	28.9	53	-3	0.68	0.71	1.58	0.83	3.35
Johnson Ranch	33.8	56	6	0.36	0.36	0.57	0.36	1.24
Capulin	35.4	60	4	0.08	0.18	0.56	0.48	0.96
Las Vegas	39.6	62	13	0.58	0.58	0.39	0.58	0.71
Los Alamos	35.6	53	14	0.31	0.32	0.80	0.33	1.66
Raton	36.8	60	4	0.07	0.19	0.54	0.21	1.01
Santa Fe	37.2	59	4	0.56	0.56	0.69	0.56	1.32
Red River	29.4	50	-1	0.84	1.09	1.22	1.66	2.29
Farmington	37.8	54	13	0.35	0.35	0.57	0.49	1.16
Gallup	36.1	59	5	0.42	0.46	0.74	0.47	1.54
Grants	37.2	56	5	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.00	1.00
Silver City	43.2	59	17	0.48	0.48	1.25	0.66	2.41
Quemado	37.2	59	5	0.07	0.32	0.72	0.35	1.55
Albuquerque	44.6	58	24	0.39	0.64	0.46	0.64	0.90
Carrizozo	44.0	68	18	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.22	1.17
Gran Quivera	41.5	62	20	0.06	0.22	0.82	0.22	1.52
Moriarty	40.9	66	13	0.12	0.12	0.48	0.12	0.91
Ruidoso	41.1	60	15	0.03	0.07	1.16	0.21	2.28
Socorro	46.1	69	19	0.00	0.15	0.39	0.15	0.78
Alamogordo	51.6	73	27	0.00	0.24	0.54	0.24	1.21
Animas	48.4	65	25	0.17	0.62	0.51	0.64	1.19
Deming	48.1	65	21	0.01	0.34	0.46	0.35	1.02
T or C	47.6	66	27	T	0.01	0.38	0.01	0.84
Las Cruces	50.5	67	24	0.22	0.22	0.37	0.25	0.83

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction
All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.