SOUTH DAKOTA
CROP & LIVESTOCK REPORTER

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National Agricultural Statistics Service

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CATTLE ON FEED

SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota's 1,000+ capacity feedlots reported 210,000 **cattle on feed** for the slaughter market on March 1. The March 1 number is down 5,000 from a year ago but up 10,000 head from February.

Placements during February totaled 43,000 head, up 3,000 head from a year earlier and up 13,000 head from January.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 32,000 head, down 7,000 head from last year but up 3,000 head from January.

Other disappearance during February totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from both last year and last month.

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 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003 but 5 percent below March 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 319,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 548,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 392,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002.

CATTLE ON FEED (1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS), SOUTH DAKOTA & UNITED STATES, MARCH 1, 2003 & 2004

Item	South Dakota			United States		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	- 1,000 Head -		Percent	- 1,000 Head -		Percent
On feed, February 1	215	200	93	10,700	11,128*	104
Placed on feed during February	40	43	108	1,650	1,610	98
Fed cattle marketed during February	39	32	82	1,733	1,692	98
Other disappearance during February 1/	1	1	100	71	69	97
On feed, March 1	215	210	98	10,546	10,977	104

1/ Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. *
* Revised.

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Fact Finders for Agriculture

DRY EDIBLE BEAN PRODUCTION

SOUTH DAKOTA: Dry edible bean production in 2003 was estimated at 133,000 cwt. Harvested acres, at 7,500, were down 53 percent from last year. Planted acres, at 8,000, were down 62 percent from 2002.

UNITED STATES: Dry edible bean production is forecast at 22.8 million cwt. for 2003, 24 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.36 million acres, down 21 percent from 2002.

DRY EDIBLE BEAN PRODUCTION, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1, 2003

State	Navy	Pinto	Garbanzo	Other	Total
	1,000 Cwt.				
Minnesota	612	329	--	63	1,870
Nebraska	23	1,019	14	40	3,151
North Dakota	1,164	5,864	74	84	7,800
South Dakota	24	38	17	54	133
United States	2,531	10,650	428	827	22,847

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, NUMBER OF HEAD AND AVERAGE LIVEWEIGHT, SOUTH DAKOTA AND UNITED STATES, 2003 1/

Area	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep & Lambs	
	Number	Average Liveweight	Number	Average Liveweight	Number	Average Liveweight
	1,000 Head	Pounds	1,000 Head	Pounds	1,000 Head	Pounds
South Dakota	2/	2/	4,589.6	261	13.8	122
United States	35,493.4	1,231	100,930.7	266	2,978.8	134

1/ Includes slaughter in federally inspected and in other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms. 2/ Data published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED COMMERCIAL AND FARM RED MEAT PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES, 2003

Type	Beef		Veal		Pork 1/		Lamb & Mutton		Total Red Meat 1/	
	Mil. Lbs.	% Fed. Insp.	Mil. Lbs.	% Fed. Insp.	Mil. Lbs.	% Fed. Insp.	Mil. Lbs.	% Fed. Insp.	Mil. Lbs.	% Fed. Insp.
Commercial 2/	26,248	98.6	191.6	96.7	19,983	99.0	199.4	95.5	46,622	98.8
Farm	101	--	9.6	--	21	--	4.0	--	136	--
Total	26,349	98.3	201.1	92.1	20,004	98.9	203.4	93.6	46,757	98.5

1/ Excludes lard and rendered pork fat. 2/ Based on packers' dressed weight and excludes farm slaughter.

COMING UP IN THE NEXT CROP REPORTER:

Prospective Plantings
Hogs & Pigs
March Ag Prices
Grain Stocks

HONEY PRODUCTION

SOUTH DAKOTA: South Dakota's 2003 honey production totaled 14 million pounds, up 22 percent from last year. Adequate rains created good vegetation throughout much of the spring and summer, making for more favorable conditions for honey production. South Dakota ranked fourth in the nation, following California, North Dakota, and Florida, respectively.

The number of colonies of bees in the state declined 11 percent, to 200,000, with honey production per colony increasing to 70 pounds, 19 pounds higher than the yield in 2002. Over the previous five years, the state has averaged 229,000 colonies producing an average 87 pounds of honey per colony. The price received by producers increased 3 percent in 2003, from $1.42 per pound to $1.46 per pound. The value of production in 2003 increased 25 percent from 2002, to $20.4 million.

UNITED STATES: Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002.

Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002.

HONEY PRODUCTION, 2003 1/

State	Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks on December 15 2/	Average Price per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	- - - 1,000 Pounds	- - -	Cents	1,000 Dollars
South Dakota	200	70.0	14,000	2,520	146.0	20,440
North Dakota	340	87.0	29,580	6,803	136.0	40,229
Minnesota	120	83.0	9,960	1,892	146.0	14,542
Nebraska	45	74.0	3,330	1,299	143.0	4,762
United States 4/	2,590	69.9	181,096	40,735	140.4	255,791

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. 2/ Stocks held by producers. 3/ Prices weighted by sales. 4/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

POOR FEEDLOT PERFORMANCE OFFSETS EXPORT SUPPLIES, SUPPORTING PRICES

Strong beef demand and poor feedlot performance due to poor feeding conditions are helping to offset the negative impact of the export bans on U.S. beef and cattle since December 23. Additional help is on the way as the United States, Canada, and Mexico finalize protocols that will allow beef and cattle to move within the three NAFTA countries. Safety certification issues were resolved with Mexico on March 9, and three U.S. plants were approved to begin shipping boneless beef from cattle under 30 months of age to Mexico. The three countries also are likely to resolve issues regarding beef processed on a supply line dedicated to cattle under 30 months of age.

First-quarter beef production is expected to decline about 6 percent as the supply of market-ready cattle slows due to poor feedlot performance. Steer and heifer federally inspected slaughter weights in late February were averaging 25 - 30 pounds under a year earlier. However, weights are expected to move well above year-earlier levels this spring and throughout the rest of the year, particularly in comparison with the sharply lower weights in 2003.

BEEF PRICES REMAIN TIGHT, DEMAND STRONG

Retail Choice beef and Choice boxed beef prices remain sharply above year-earlier levels in early March, but below the peak set last fall when high quality beef supplies were extremely tight. Retail prices for Choice beef likely averaged in the $3.90-range in February, down from November 2003's record $4.32, but well above the $3.48 in February 2003. With certification issues being resolved with Mexico and Canada, trade will resume with both countries, but U.S. beef supplies will tighten, with prices remaining historically high. Retail prices are expected to fall below the rapidly rising prices of a year earlier beginning this spring, but remain above previous years' averages. Any opening of banned markets as negotiations continue will add to an already volatile price situation. A return to favorable forage conditions this spring and at least normal conditions in the grain production areas are expected to result in female retention and further tightening of supplies for the next 2 to 3 years.

Fed cattle prices averaged near $80 per cwt. in January-February and rose into the mid-$80s in March as slaughter weights declined. Prices are expected to decline into the low-$70s this summer before rising to the upper-$70s this fall as supplies decline seasonally and cyclically.

COLD STORAGE

STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	February 28, 2003	January 31, 2004	February 29, 2004	February 2004 as % of	
				February 2003	January 2004
	- - - - - - - - Thousand Pounds	- - - - - - - -		- - - - Percent	- - - -
Butter	239,879	152,448	157,915	66	104
Cheese, total natural	770,008	756,932	766,893	100	101
Eggs, frozen	17,127	21,304	21,143	123	99
Fruits, frozen	856,919	895,506	812,327	95	91
Fruit juices, frozen	2,085,636	2,130,642	2,236,302	107	105
Meat, total red	978,249	960,112	934,743	96	97
Beef, total frozen	441,855	434,354	436,398	99	100
Pork, total frozen	519,713	510,514	483,609	93	95
Poultry, total frozen	1,170,657	956,851	1,021,766	87	107
Chicken	672,785	534,901	543,583	81	102
Turkey	492,737	420,466	476,855	97	113
Vegetables, total frozen	1,783,448	1,939,123	1,763,515	99	91
Potatoes, total frozen	1,210,975	1,167,259	1,208,573	100	104

Data are collected from warehouses artificially cooled to a temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, and whose food products are normally stored for 30 days or more. All food items in these facilities are reported regardless of the number of days stored at the time of the report. Also included are specialized storage facilities meeting the 30 day requirement, such as fruit houses, dairy manufacturing plants, frozen fruit, fruit juice, and vegetable processors, and poultry and meat packing plants. Excluded are stocks in space maintained by wholesalers, jobbers, distributors, chain stores, locker plants containing individual lockers, meat packer branch houses, and frozen food processors whose entire inventories are turned over more than once per month.

SLAUGHTER

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, RED MEAT PRODUCTION, SOUTH DAKOTA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Kind	Unit	Slaughter			February 2004 as % of		January-February 2/		
		February	January	February	February	January	2003	2004	2004 as %
					- - Percent	- -	Million Pounds Liveweight		Percent
SOUTH DAKOTA									
Cattle	1,000 Head	4/	4/	4/	NA	NA	4/	4/	NA
Hogs	1,000 Head	353.0	446.4	348.4	99	78	202.7	209.7	103
Sheep	1,000 Head	0.9	0.7	1.0	111	143	0.218	0.209	96
Red Meat 3/	Million Lbs.	76.6	94.5 *	74.0	97	78	166.5	168.5	101
UNITED STATES									
Cattle	1,000 Head	2,569.2	2,576.8 *	2,427.0	94	94	7,053.9	6,202.3	88
Hogs	1,000 Head	7,686.1	8,789.3 *	7,886.1	103	90	4,402.3	4,473.8	102
Sheep	1,000 Head	226.3	219.2	213.0	94	97	62.0	60.4	97
Red Meat 3/	Million Lbs.	3,496.1	3,714.0 *	3,403.4	97	92	7,569.5	7,117.4	94

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter. 2/ Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data. 3/ Red Meat is based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. 4/ Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. *Revised.

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