

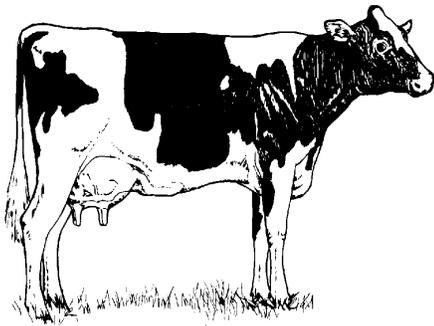


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cooperating with  
Tennessee  
Department  
of Agriculture

## Tennessee's January-March Milk Production Down 7 Percent



**Tennessee Milk Production:** January-March 2004 quarterly production of milk was 310 million pounds, down 5 percent from the January-March period in 2003. The average number of milk cows was 77,000 head, 5,000 head less than the same period a year earlier. October-December 2003 quarterly production of milk, at 285 million pounds, was down 7 percent from the October-December period in 2002. The average number of milk cows for the quarter was 77,000 head, 7,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

### Milk Cows and Production: Selected States and United States, Preliminary January-March, 2003-2004

State	Jan-Mar Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Jan-Mar Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		Change From 2003
	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
Alabama	18	17	70	70	
Arkansas	30	27	96	87	-9.4
Georgia	85	84	399	380	-4.8
Kentucky	120	111	390	365	-6.4
Mississippi	32	28	122	109	-10.7
Missouri	133	124	495	470	-5.1
North Carolina	62	58	279	264	-5.4
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-4.6</b>
Virginia	116	103	459	429	-6.5
<b>United States</b>	<b>9,144</b>	<b>8,991</b>	<b>43,069</b>	<b>42,688</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**United States: Milk production** in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. **Production per cow** in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. **The number of milk cows** on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

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**Young Chickens Slaughtered: Number, Live Weight, Average Live Weight, Pounds Certified, and Post-Mortem Condemnations, by Month and Annual Total, Tennessee, 2003**

Month	Number Slaughtered	Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Pounds Certified <sup>1</sup>	Post-Mortem Condemnations	
					NY Dressed Weight	Percent <sup>2</sup>
	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Percent
Jan	17,939	95,815	5.34	70,179	784	0.91
Feb	16,398	88,223	5.38	64,605	650	0.82
Mar	17,076	87,021	5.10	63,022	1,153	1.47
Apr	18,395	93,862	5.10	68,985	667	0.79
May	18,185	92,103	5.06	67,091	589	0.71
Jun	18,286	94,167	5.15	67,785	566	0.67
Jul	19,878	100,474	5.05	73,129	566	0.63
Aug	18,962	94,376	4.98	67,743	503	0.59
Sep	18,073	93,487	5.17	67,453	561	0.67
Oct	19,438	102,625	5.28	73,950	1,053	1.14
Nov	15,602	81,203	5.20	58,935	566	0.77
Dec	17,949	94,453	5.26	68,690	771	0.91
Total	216,181	1,117,809	5.17	811,567	8,429	0.84

<sup>1</sup> Total chilled and frozen pounds certified, ready-to-cook weights. <sup>2</sup> Pounds condemned as a percent of N.Y. dressed weight inspected.

**U.S. Egg Production:** U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003.

**Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced, Selected States and United States, During March 2003 and 2004**

Selected States	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousands				Number	
Alabama	2,360	1,939	9,856	9,224	1,928	1,865
Arkansas	4,722	4,327	15,731	15,212	1,894	1,913
Georgia	11,287	11,287	20,734	20,510	2,088	2,101
North Carolina	3,300	3,350	11,152	10,939	1,928	1,956
All Other States <sup>2</sup>	252,085	254,671	282,412	284,950	2,227	2,254
United States	273,754	275,574	339,885	340,835	2,184	2,209

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. <sup>2</sup> Tennessee included in other states.

**U.S. 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. 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 1,217pounds. 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.

**Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>: United States, March 2003 and 2004**

Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
Cattle	2,773.9	2,871.2	3,421,834	3,493,209	1,234	1,217
Calves	85.0	76.9	27,426	23,707	323	308
Hogs	8,168.3	9,038.7	2,186,800	2,419,497	268	268
Sheep & lambs	262.7	306.8	36,260	44,121	138	144

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

**Number of Livestock Slaughtering Establishments: Tennessee, January 1, 1995 - 2004**

Year	Under Federal Inspection	Custom Plants	Total
1995	29	28	57
1996	28	29	57
1997	27	23	50
1998	27	23	50
1999	25	23	48
2000	22	15	37
2001	23	15	38
2002	20	17	37
2003	21	14	35
2004	22	11	33

**Red Meat Production: By Month, Tennessee, 1994 - 2003<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total <sup>2</sup>
Million Pounds													
1994	18.4	17.5	20.9	17.4	18.2	18.9	17.5	20.4	19.9	21.6	19.9	20.7	231.2
1995	20.7	15.7	18.7	15.8	18.3	15.2	12.7	15.0	14.0	17.5	17.1	17.4	198.2
1996	18.0	15.7	15.9	16.2	16.6	15.2	15.2	15.0	17.1	19.0	19.7	18.8	202.4
1997	18.4	15.4	15.7	17.6	16.1	15.2	16.1	16.2	19.0	19.8	18.9	21.9	210.3
1998	18.3	15.9	18.6	18.0	16.4	15.7	18.6	18.5	18.5	22.3	22.2	22.0	225.0
1999	20.2	16.4	21.8	19.1	17.3	18.2	17.6	21.1	20.6	19.1	20.2	21.0	232.7
2000	21.5	21.0	20.9	15.9	19.1	17.4	17.1	21.3	19.8	19.9	20.7	19.3	233.9
2001	22.7	16.6	18.5	17.4	17.8	15.5	17.2	18.1	18.3	23.6	20.8	20.2	226.9
2002	20.2	15.8	16.2	17.8	18.4	17.7	17.3	20.3	19.6	23.1	20.7	20.5	227.6
2003	20.8	16.2	19.6	18.9	16.0	15.6	21.1	18.4	22.0	25.1	19.1	20.0	232.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter. <sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Commercial Slaughter: By Species, Number of Head by Month, Tennessee, 2003<sup>1</sup>**

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
1,000 Head													
Cattle	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4	15.8
Calves	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.3
Hogs	62.3	48.3	58.7	56.9	48.2	46.9	64.2	55.6	66.4	75.6	57.3	60.3	700.7
Sheep	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6	6.2

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter in federally inspected and in other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

**Agricultural Land Values and Cash Rents, Final Estimates: Tennessee, January 1, 1994-2003**

Year	Farm Real Estate <sup>1</sup>	Cropland <sup>2</sup>		Pasture <sup>2</sup>	
		Value Per Acre	Cash Rent Per Acre	Value Per Acre	Cash Rent Per Acre
Dollars					
1994	1,250		46.70		15.20
1995	1,340		43.00		14.30
1996	1,530		48.30		13.50
1997	1,650	1,830	56.50	1,720	16.00
1998	1,810	1,970	57.00	1,860	18.00
1999	1,950	2,050	62.00	1,950	16.40
2000	2,100	2,120	60.00	2,050	18.00
2001	2,200	2,200	59.50	2,150	18.00
2002	2,300	2,270	60.50	2,250	17.00
2003	2,400	2,350	62.00	2,350	17.50

<sup>1</sup> Includes land and buildings. <sup>2</sup> Cropland and pasture values published beginning with 1997.

## **Cotton Growers Overwhelmingly Support Boll Weevil Extension**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn, March 25, 2004** – More than 90 percent of cotton growers voted to reauthorize and refinance the boll weevil eradication program in West Tennessee announced state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens.

A total of 2,178 votes, representing more than half of eligible cotton growers, were cast in a referendum held March 8 – 19. Ballots totaled 1,961 to 217 in favor of restructuring debt to continue the program. A two-thirds majority vote was needed to approve the measure.

“This vote represents a remarkable turnout of West Tennessee cotton producers who see the value of moving the program forward,” said Givens. “The overwhelming support is a testament to the program’s success in reducing grower reliance on pesticides and increasing cotton yields. I think this will help position Tennessee growers to be more competitive in the marketplace.”

The positive vote means that the three current program areas of West Tennessee will be consolidated with one assessment rate that will refinance program debt over ten years. Under the reauthorization and refinancing plan, growers are expected to pay an annual rate of \$12.25 per acre. The assessment rate could be reduced further depending on the availability of state and federal assistance.

Program officials say that program restructuring was needed due to several factors that have increased program costs. Those factors include a delay in implementing the program in parts of West Tennessee, the migration of weevils from non-program areas in Arkansas and spraying restrictions that immediately followed Sept. 11, 2001.

The boll weevil eradication program was implemented in Southwest Tennessee beginning in 1998 and later in other portions of West Tennessee to help increase cotton yields and to reduce farmer reliance on cotton insecticides. According to program officials, on average cotton yields have increased 154 lbs. per acre since the program’s statewide implementation in 2000, and insecticide use for boll weevil control has been drastically reduced.

There are approximately 4,000 cotton growers in Tennessee. According to the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, the state’s cotton yield averaged 792 lbs. of lint per acre in 2003, up 51 lbs. from 2002 and a new state record. A yield record has been set for two of the last three years in Tennessee. The value of farm receipts from cotton was \$179 million in 2002, making it second only to soybeans as a leading cash crop in Tennessee.

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