

## AGRICULTURAL PRICES

**UTAH:** Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-January 2004, compared with December 2003, were down for barley, alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. The lamb price for December 2003 was \$98.00 per cwt, up \$7.00 from January 2003. The December 2003 sheep price, at \$38.00, was down \$1.00 from January 2003. Barley, at \$2.30 per bushel, was down 14 cents from the previous month's price and 28 cents below January 2003. Baled alfalfa hay was \$84.00 per ton, down \$3.00 from last month and \$10.00 below January 2003. Other hay, at \$71.00 per ton, was down \$5.00 from last month, but \$11.00 higher than January 2003.

**UNITED STATES:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) below the December Index. The Livestock Products Index is down 5 points (4.5 percent) from December while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset higher commodity prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco, and cottonseed.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points (11 percent) from January 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 112, is 3 points (2.6 percent) below last month but 14 points (14 percent) above January 2003.

### Wool Production

**Utah** wool production totaled 2.2 million pounds during 2003, down 15.8 percent from 2002, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. Total sheep shorn during 2003, at 240,000 head, was 14.3 percent below the 2002 level. The 2003 average fleece weight was 9.3 pounds. The 2003 average price of wool in Utah was \$0.80 per pound, 20 cents above the 2002 price. Total value of all wool produced during 2003 was \$1.8 million dollars, an increase of \$194,000 from 2002.

**Shorn wool production** in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

### Sheep Inventory

**UTAH:** Breeding sheep inventory, including replacement lambs on January 1, 2004, was 235,000 head, a decrease of 45,000 from January 1, 2003, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. The all sheep and lamb inventory was 265,000 head, 45,000 fewer than the previous year. Ewes for breeding one year old and older on January 1, 2004 totaled 195,000 head compared with 240,000 head on January 1, 2003. Lambs for breeding replacement, estimated at 33,000 head, was 2,000 more than last year. Rams one year old and older totaled 7,000 head, a decrease of 2,000 from January 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs were estimated at 30,000 head, same as January 1, 2003. The 2003 lamb crop of 240,000 head was 13 percent less than the previous year's total.

**UNITED STATES: All sheep and lamb inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

**Breeding sheep inventory** declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

**Market sheep and lambs** on January 1, 2004 totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

**The 2003 lamb crop** of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

## December Milk Production Down 0.3 Percent

**Milk production** in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from December 2002. November revised production, at 11.7 billions pounds, was down 0.1 percent from November 2002. The November revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. **Production per cow** in the 20 major States averaged 1,589 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 2002. **The number of milk cows** on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head 93,000 head less than December 2002, but unchanged from November 2003.

## Commercial Fruit Utilized Production

**UTAH:** Utah's 2003 apple, apricot, tart cherry, sweet cherry, peach, and pear utilized production estimates were up significantly from the freeze damaged crop of 2002, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

Utilized production for 2003 was as follows: apples, 22.0 million pounds, 15.5 million pounds more than 2002; apricots, 160 tons, 30 tons more than 2002; sweet cherries, 2,000 tons, 1,620 tons more than 2002; tart cherries, 26.0 million pounds, 23.2 million pounds more than 2002; peaches, 8.7 million pounds, 2.3 million pounds more than 2002; and pears, 380 tons, 30 tons more than 2002.

Value of production for Utah's 2003 fruit crop and change from 2002 were as follows: apples, \$5.1 million, up \$3.7million; apricots, \$94,000 up \$2,000; sweet cherries, \$1.8 million up \$1.2 million; tart cherries, \$7.0 million; up \$6.4 million; peaches, \$3.4 million, up 1.4 million; and pears, \$298,000, up \$73,000.

**UNITED STATES:** Utilized apple production for 2003 is estimated at 8.90 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the 2002 level. Utilized production for Michigan and New York increased 86 percent and 84 percent, respectively, while

Washington's utilized production decreased 12 percent compared to the 2002 crop. In Washington, poor weather during pollination led to spotty bloom in some orchards. In Michigan and New York, excellent growing conditions allowed production to rebound from the short 2002 crop. Improved growing conditions in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia increased utilized production from the 2002 weather reduced crops. **Utilized peach** production in 2003 is estimated at 2.41 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year but 3 percent above 2001. The California crop, accounting for 75 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, is down 3 percent from 2002. For California, the Clingstone peach estimate is down 6 percent but the Freestone estimate is virtually unchanged from 2002. **Utilized pear** production for 2003, at 921,450 tons, is up 6 percent from the previous year. Washington, the top producing State, utilized 446,000 tons, 15 percent above 2002. California, at 231,000 tons and the second largest producer, is down 12 percent from the previous season. Utilized pear production in Oregon, the third largest State, is 216,000 tons, up 9 percent from 2002.

## 2003 Onion Production

**UTAH:** Onion growers produced 828,000 hundredweight (cwt) of summer storage onions during 2003, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. This was 21.1 percent below the 2002 level, and 13.4 percent below 2001. In 2003, farmers planted 1,900 acres and harvested 1,800 acres of onions. The 2003 yield of 460 cwt per acre was 40 cwt per acre below the previous year but 5 cwt per acre above 2001. The preliminary 2003 Utah price estimate was \$11.70 per cwt compared with \$8.40 in 2002 and \$7.70 in 2001. The preliminary total crop value for 2003 is \$7.9 million compared with \$6.6 million the previous year and \$6.4 million in 2001.

**UNITED STATES:** Nationally, summer storage onion production was 48.6 million cwt, up slightly from the previous year. The preliminary national price of summer storage onions was \$11.30 per cwt, an increase of \$1.10 cents from the 2002 price. Total value of summer storage onions was \$482 million, up 15.2 percent from 2002.

## Cattle and Calf Inventory

**UTAH:** Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2004 totaled 860,000 head, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. This was 20,000 head less than January 1, 2003. Beef cows, at 351,000 head, were 12,000 head more than 2003. Milk cows, at 89,000 head, were 2,000 head less than 2003. Beef cow replacement heifers, at 65,000 head, were 10,000 head less than 2003. Milk cow replacement heifers, at 40,000 head, were down 5,000 head from last year. Other heifers not intended for replacement totaled 70,000 head, the same as 2003. The January 1, 2004 inventory level of steers weighing 500 pounds or more was 110,000 head, 12 percent less than 2003. Bulls weighing over 500 pounds inventory were 22,000 head, the same as 2003. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds on hand as of January 1, 2003 totaled 113,000 head, the same as the previous year. The 2003 calf crop of 390,000 head remained the same as 2002.

**UNITED STATES: All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. **All cows and heifers** that have calved at 41.9 million were down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003. **Beef cows** at 32.86 million were down slightly from January 1, 2003. **Milk cows** at 8.99 million were down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Other class estimates on January 1, 2004 and the change from January 1, 2003 are as follows: **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 19.3 million, down 1 percent. **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.02 million, down 2 percent. **Other heifers**, 9.80 million, down 1 percent. **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.3 million, down 2 percent. **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.21 million, down 2 percent. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.2 million, down 2 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.8 million, up 4 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots, 27.5 million, down 4 percent.

**The 2003 calf crop** was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002.

## 2003 Egg Production

**UTAH:** Utah egg production for the year 2003 totaled 866 million eggs, down 3.1 percent from 2002. Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 3,340 million, virtually unchanged from the previous year. The annual average production for 2003 was 259 eggs per layer, eight eggs per layer less than 2002. Total Utah chicken inventory on December 1, 2003 totaled 3.9 million, up slightly from December 1, 2002. The average value per head was \$2.30, sixty cents more than December 1, 2002. The 2003 inventory value was \$9.0 million, up 36.7 percent from 2002.

**UNITED STATES: Egg Production up slightly:** Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 totaled a record high 87.2 billion eggs, up slightly from 2002. Table egg production, at 74.4 billion eggs, was up slightly from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.8 billion eggs, decreased 1 percent from 2002.

**Average Number of Layers Down 1 Percent:** Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 335 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2003 was 259 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2002 average of 257.

**December 1 Inventory Numbers:** The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) was 449 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2003 was \$1.11 billion, up 5 percent from December 1, 2002. The average value increased from \$2.37 per bird on December 1, 2002, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2003.

## Livestock Slaughter

**UTAH: Commercial red meat production** totaled 32.7 million pounds in December 2003, 17.8 percent below December the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for December 2003 totaled 42,800 head, 13.0 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,193 pounds, down 69 pounds from December 2002. **Hog slaughter** totaled 5,300 head, the same as December 2002. The average live weight was 228 pounds was up 36 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during December 2003 totaled 3,100 head, the same as a year earlier. Average live weight, at 128 pounds, was up 4 pounds from the previous year.