



Issue No. 11-04 (a semi-monthly report) Released: June 1, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS:
 Farm Labor Agriculture Prices
 U.S. Cold Storage Milk Production
 Livestock Slaughter U.S. Cattle On Feed



U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2003 and 6 percent below May 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 316,000, 600-699 pounds were 302,000, 700-799 pounds

were 567,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 418,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance, 1,000 + Capacity Feedlots, United States, May 1, 2002- 2004

Item	Number			2004 as % of	
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003
	1,000 Head			Percent	
On Feed Apr 1 ¹	11,587	10,713	10,748	93	100
Placed on Feed during Apr	1,463	1,870	1,603	110	86
Fed Cattle Marketed during Apr.	1,996	1,985	1,894	95	95
Other Disappearance during Apr ²	83	63	97	117	154
On Feed May 1 ¹	10,971	10,535	10,360	94	98

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 loss, movement from feedlots to pasture and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Farm Labor

MOUNTAIN REGION II: (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of April 11-17, 2004 there were 26,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of \$9.84 per hour, up 4 cents from January 2004 and 62 cents higher than the national average. Field workers received \$9.66 per hour on average, up 91 cents from January 2004. Livestock workers received \$8.83 per hour, up 2 cents from January 2004.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, April 11-17, 2004¹

U.S. and Region	Hired							
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
		150 Days or More	149 Days or Less		Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I ²	24	21	3	42.8	8.14	8.41	8.31	8.57
Mountain II ³	26	20	6	40.8	9.66	8.83	9.29	9.84
Mountain III ⁴	17	16	1	45.7	7.55	8.20	7.81	8.37
US	825	648	177	40.7	8.46	8.95	8.58	9.22

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. ³ Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. ⁴ Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for frozen eggs, beef, orange juice, vegetables and potatoes. Butter stocks were 1 percent below last month and 41 percent below last year.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up slightly from last month, but down 4 percent from a year ago. Frozen pork stocks were down 1 percent from a month ago and down 13 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 8 percent from last month and were down 5 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2004 were 7 percent higher than the previous month, but were 10 percent lower than a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 6 percent from the previous month, but down 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 7 percent from last month, but down 6 percent from April 30, 2003.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Apr 30,	Mar 31,	Apr 30,
	2003	2004	2004
	1,000 Pounds		
Total Frozen			
Eggs	15,743	19,247	20,929
Chicken	732,015	604,738	642,192
Turkey	573,466	504,561	540,637
Total Poultry	1,311,524	1,110,545	1,183,849
Cherries, Tart			
RTP	27,782	41,893	32,281
Juice	1,221	1,015	1,001
Cherries, Sweet ..	6,247	5,534	4,967
Potatoes	1,150,523	1,192,451	1,167,283
Beef	389,653	416,772	421,855
Pork	519,993	453,834	451,548
Lamb & Mutton	5,016	3,164	3,228
Total Meat	926,776	885,846	887,427
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh	1,622,310	1,979,006	1,446,247
Butter	263,735	158,118	155,796
Cheese, Natural ..			
American	534,718	520,803	527,839
Swiss 215,292 .	25,801	23,277	27,478
Other Natural	220,586	215,466	

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 34.3 million pounds in April 2004, 17.1 percent below April of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for April 2004 totaled 46,500 head, 15.6 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,150 pounds, down 33 pounds from April 2003. **Hog slaughter** totaled 4,400 head, up 800 head from April 2003. The average live weight was 220 pounds, the same as the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during April 2004 totaled 3,000 head, the same as the previous year. Average live weight, at 126 pounds, was down 1 pound from the previous year.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003. **Beef production** at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,200 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 13.9 million pounds, 13 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,700 head, down 11 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was 7 pounds below last year, at 329 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from previous year, at 268 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production** at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago. **January to April 2004 commercial red meat production** was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter, April 2003-2004¹

Item	Utah		United States	
	April		April	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
Production (Million Pounds)				
Red Meat	41.4	34.3	3,845.8	3,713.3
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	55.1	46.5	2,966.1	2,698.5
Calves	1	1	79.1	70.7
Hogs	3.6	4.4	8,341.9	8,652.3
Sheep & Lamb	3.0	3.0	297.3	256.0
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,183	1,150	1,209	1,200
Calves	1	1	336	329
Hogs	220	220	268	268
Sheep & Lamb	127	126	131	136

Agriculture Prices

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-May 2004, compared with April 2004, were down for barley, but up for alfalfa hay, and other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for April 2004 was \$103.00 per cwt, up \$6.00 from May 2003. The April 2004 sheep price, at \$34.00 was \$8.00 above May 2003.

Barley, at \$2.67 per bushel, was down 5 cents from the previous month's price but 13 cents above last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$90.00 per ton, up \$9.00 from last month but \$9.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$75.00 per ton, was \$5.00 higher than last month but \$1.00 lower than May 2003.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May at 132, based on 1990-92=100, is 7 points (5.6 percent) above the April Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index, also at a record high, increased 9 points (7.1 percent) from April while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, hogs, cattle, and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, eggs, corn, and tomatoes. 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 cantaloups, grapes, sweet corn, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples, and asparagus. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 27 points (26 percent) from May 2003.

The Food Commodities Index increased 9 points (7.1 percent) from last month to 135. The index stands 31 points (30 percent) above May 2003.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		May 2003	Apr 2004	May 2004 ¹	May 2003	Apr 2004	May 2004 ¹
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	97.00	103.00	(²)	97.60	100.00	(²)
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	26.00	34.00	(²)	31.30	37.10	(²)
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.54	2.72	2.67	2.91	2.78	2.79
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	99.00	81.00	90.00	100.00	92.70	109.00
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	76.00	70.00	75.00	88.40	76.00	74.90

¹ Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month. ²May data will be published next month.

April Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from April 2003. March revised production, at 12.8 billion pounds, was down 1.7 percent from March 2003. The March revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,630 pounds for April, 3 pounds above April 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 81,000 head less than April 2003, but 2,000 head more than March 2004.