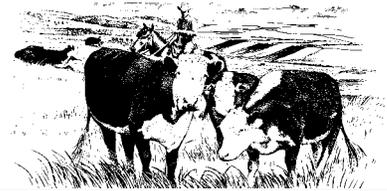


# California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly  
Released: March 31, 1998

(USPS 598-250)  
VOL. 20 NO. 3

**CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE**

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle on Feed .....	1
Wool Production and Farm Prices .....	2
Livestock Slaughter .....	3
Honey Production .....	4

## NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES

3:00 P.M. ET

Apr. 17	Cattle on Feed	May 15	Cattle on Feed
20	Cold Storage	20	Cold Storage
24	Livestock Slaughter	22	Livestock Slaughter

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 375 thousand head on March 1, 1998, down 5 percent from last month, but up 1 percent from a year ago. During February, placements of 30.0 thousand head were 40 percent less than a year earlier. Marketings of 45.0 thousand head remained the same as a year earlier. Other disappearance was 5.00 thousand head.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.25 million, 19 percent below 1997 and 13 percent below 1996. Marketings during February totaled 1.54 million, 1 percent below 1997 and slightly below 1996. Other disappearance during February was 56.0 thousand head, 33 percent above 1997 and 8 percent above 1996.

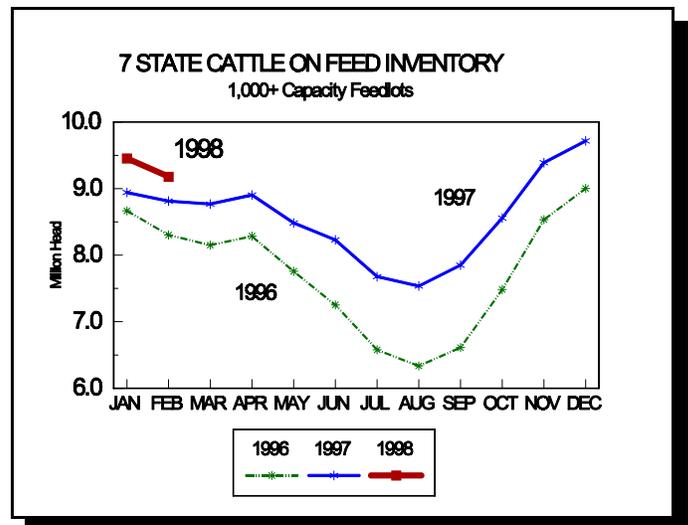
## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.37 million head on March 1, 1998. The inventory was 1 percent above March 1, 1997 and 7 percent above March 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.45 million, 19 percent below 1997 and 15 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.39 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 210 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 434 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 501 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 309 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.81 million, slightly above 1997, but 2 percent below 1996. Other disappearance totaled 69.0 thousand during February, 13 percent above 1997, but 4 percent below 1996.

## CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC SEVEN STATES UP 1 PERCENT

Cattle on feed March 1, 1998 in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 8.84 million, up 1 percent from the previous year and 8 percent above March 1, 1996.



## CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN 7 SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed February 1 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	1997	1998 2/	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
----- Thousand Head -----							
Arizona	223	220	99	31	28	29	18
California	370	395	107	50	30	45	45
Colorado	1,050	1,100	105	260	165	245	225
Iowa	360	365	101	41	27	45	41
Kansas	2,190	2,190	100	420	360	390	420
Nebraska	2,070	2,150	104	340	330	350	350
Texas	2,550	2,760	108	410	310	450	440
<b>Total 7 States</b>	<b>8,813</b>	<b>9,180</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1,552</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>1,539</b>
State	Other Disappearance During February 3/		Number on Feed March 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
----- Thousand Head -----							
Percent							
Arizona	1	10	224	220	98		
California	5	5	370	375	101		
Colorado	5	10	1,060	1,030	97		
Iowa	1	1	355	350	99		
Kansas	10	10	2,210	2,120	96		
Nebraska	10	10	2,050	2,120	103		
Texas	10	10	2,500	2,620	105		
<b>Total 7 States</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8,769</b>	<b>8,835</b>	<b>101</b>		

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. 2/ Texas data revised. 3/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding

### WOOL PRODUCTION

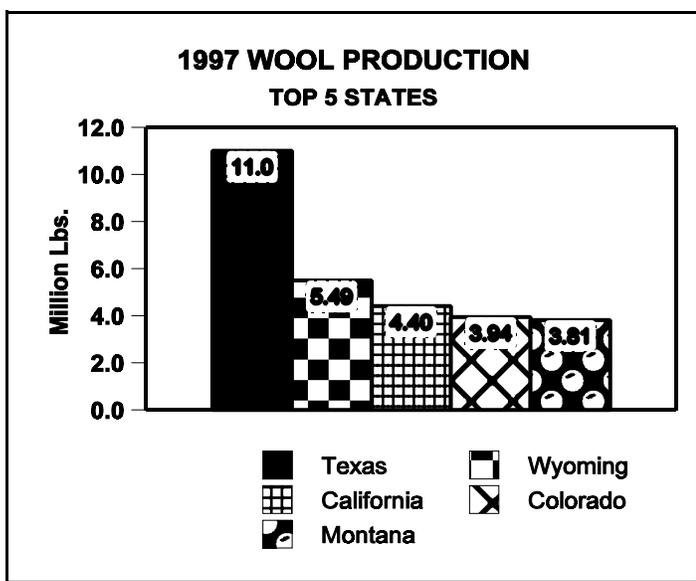
Shorn wool production in California during 1997 was 4.40 million pounds, down 9 percent from 1996. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 580 thousand head, a decrease of 9 percent from 1996. The average price paid for wool sold in 1997 was \$0.79 per pound for a total value of \$3.48 million, up 7 percent from \$3.26 million in 1996.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1997 was 53.9 million pounds, down 5 percent from 1996. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 7.03 million head, a decrease of 3 percent from 1996. The average price paid for wool sold in 1997 was \$0.84 per pound for a total value of \$45.2 million, up 14 percent from \$39.7 million in 1996.

#### WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 1996-97

State	Sheep Shorn		Weight Per Fleece		Production		Price Per Pound		Value 1/	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-- Thousand Head --		-- Pounds --		-- Thousand Pounds --		-- Dollars --		-- Thousand Dollars --	
California	640	580	7.6	7.6	4,860	4,400	0.67	0.79	3,256	3,476
Colorado	605	600	7.1	6.6	4,318	3,936	0.73	0.89	3,152	3,503
Iowa	335	260	6.0	6.0	2,000	1,550	0.39	0.42	780	651
Montana	434	402	9.6	9.5	4,150	3,813	0.94	1.01	3,901	3,851
New Mexico	305	280	9.0	9.1	2,753	2,556	0.85	1.07	2,340	2,735
Oregon	340	290	6.6	6.5	2,245	1,880	0.45	0.61	1,010	1,147
South Dakota	420	390	8.5	8.5	3,580	3,302	0.77	0.90	2,757	2,972
Texas	1,320	1,500	7.5	7.3	9,900	10,950	0.84	1.06	8,316	11,607
Utah	336	308	9.2	9.4	3,090	2,905	0.65	0.75	2,009	2,179
Wyoming	640	625	9.1	8.8	5,811	5,485	0.86	0.98	4,997	5,375
UNITED STATES	7,279	7,032	7.8	7.7	56,669	53,889	0.70	0.84	39,659	45,172

1/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price for individual states. U.S. value is summation of state values.



#### MARKETING YEAR AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S.

Commodity	Unit	California		United States	
		1996	1997	1996	1997
All Hay, Baled	Ton	108.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	110.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hogs	Cwt.	52.00	54.70	51.90	52.90
Cows 1/	Cwt.	30.40	33.10	30.50	34.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	52.50	63.10	62.50	66.80
Calves	Cwt.	55.70	68.10	58.40	78.90
Sheep	Cwt.	26.70	33.80	29.90	37.90
Lambs	Cwt.	89.40	91.60	88.20	90.30
Milk Cows	Head	1,220.00	1,240.00	1,090.00	1,100.00

1/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

#### FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		February 1997	January 1998	Feb. 15, 1998	February 1997	January 1998	Feb. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
All Hay, Baled	Ton	132.00	121.00	123.00	102.00	98.10	97.20
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	133.00	122.00	125.00	113.00	105.00	106.00
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	52.80	36.00	35.30
Cows 2/	Cwt.	31.00	32.50	33.50	33.30	34.50	35.90
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	61.00	65.00	63.50	65.20	66.10	62.70
Calves 2/	Cwt.	65.00	72.00	74.00	74.90	86.60	88.10
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	37.00	35.50	33.00	41.30	42.00	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	98.00	81.50	78.00	99.80	78.40	---
Milk Cows 3/	Head	---	1,220.00	---	---	1,070.00	---
Milk Whsle. 2/	Cwt.	12.78	14.00	13.70	13.50	14.70	14.70

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. 2/ Previous month revised to monthly average. 3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California production of red meat during February 1998 totaled 79.5 million pounds (dressed weight), 12 percent below last month, but 3 percent above February 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,243 pounds; calves, 240 pounds; hogs, 215 pounds.

**U.S. COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER  
FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 6 percent from the 3.28 billion pounds produced in February 1997. February 1997 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 1998 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 1.98 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 2 percent from 1997. The average live weight, at 1,204 pounds, was up 42 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 21.0 million pounds, 21 percent below a year ago and 5 percent below the record low for February set in 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 113 thousand head, down 10 percent from February 1997. The average live weight was 40 pounds below last year at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.46 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year and up 3 percent from the record high for February set in 1996. Hog kill totaled 7.70 million head, 11 percent above 1997. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year at 258 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 21.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 1997 and equaled the previous record low for February set in 1979 and 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 309 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.31 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was unchanged from last year, veal was down 22 percent, pork was up 12 percent, and lamb and mutton were up 2 percent.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 1997-98 1/**

Species & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	75.4	78.8	90,672	97,942	1,203	1,243
U.S. Total	2,795.0	2,746.6	3,247,911	3,307,116	1,162	1,204
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	17.2	16.7	5,757	4,008	334	240
U.S. Total	125.7	113.0	43,762	34,866	348	308
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	327.0	308.6	43,329	41,992	133	136
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	152.4	155.4	32,234	33,473	212	215
U.S. Total	6,971.6	7,711.3	1,781,669	1,987,365	256	258
<b>RED MEAT</b>	February 1997	January 1998	February 1998 2/	Feb. 98 Feb. 97	Feb. 98 Jan. 98	
	--- Million Pounds ---			-- Percent --		
California	76.8	90.0	79.5	103	88	
U.S. Total	3,275.8	3,835.8	3,476.0	106	91	

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal-inspection and other commercial slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.  
2/ U.S. total revised.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 1997**

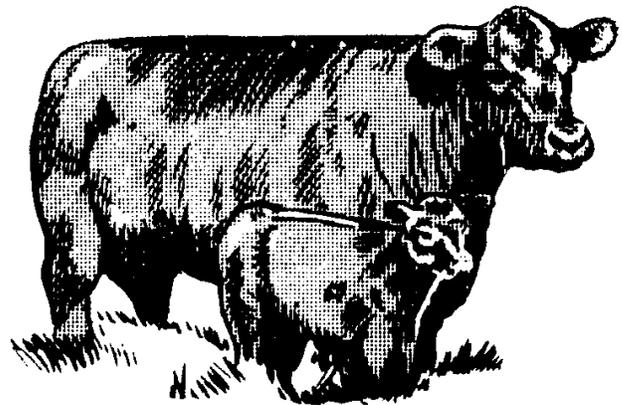
California production of red meat during 1997 totaled 1.04 billion pounds, 2 percent below last year's production of 1.05 billion pounds. The month of December 1997 had the largest red meat production at 95.0 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States during 1997 totaled 43.2 billion pounds, the same as the previous year. Production included beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughtered in commercial plants.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/**

Month	California		United States	
	1996	1997	1996	1997
	---- Million Pounds ----			
January	92.5	93.2	3,823.8	3,733.0
February	84.1	76.8	3,519.4	3,275.8
March	84.8	84.2	3,514.0	3,441.4
April	86.6	86.0	3,693.1	3,591.5
May	88.7	84.3	3,766.2	3,568.4
June	84.0	83.6	3,438.5	3,491.6
July	88.2	87.5	3,587.1	3,657.3
August	88.9	84.6	3,709.0	3,617.7
September	82.7	85.7	3,392.0	3,664.4
October	95.1	93.5	3,827.3	4,002.7
November	86.1	81.7	3,434.5	3,450.3
December	90.3	95.0	3,432.8	3,714.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,052.0</b>	<b>1,036.2</b>	<b>43,137.6</b>	<b>43,208.1</b>

1/ Includes total beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton, but excludes farm slaughter.



**CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 10 PERCENT**

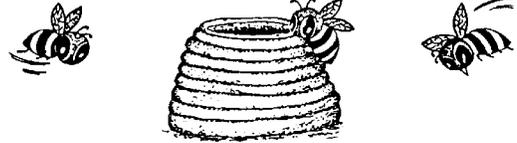
California's 1997 honey production, at 30.0 million pounds, was 10 percent above 1996. Producing colonies totaled 400 thousand, up 3 percent from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 75 pounds, compared to 70 pounds produced per colony in 1996.

**U. S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 3 PERCENT**

Honey production in 1997 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 192 million pounds, down 3 percent from 1996. Colonies producing honey in 1997 totaled 2.58 million, compared with 2.56 million in 1996. The average yield per colony was 74.6 pounds, down 2.7 pounds from the 77.3 pounds in 1996. Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 69.1 million pounds on December 15, 1997, up 47 percent from a year earlier.

**HONEY PRICES DOWN 15 PERCENT**

Prices for the 1997 crop averaged 75.2 cents per pound, down 15 percent from the record price of 88.8 cents in 1996. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. At the State level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop, and private. At the U.S. level, prices for each color are derived by weighting state average prices by the state quantities sold for each marketing channel. Coop and Private prices were lower for all color classes in 1997. Prices for 1996 reflect sales of the 1996 honey crop in 1996 and 1997.



**HONEY PRODUCTION: TOP FIVE STATES AND U.S., 1996-97**

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	-- Thousands --		-- Pounds --		-- Thousand Pounds --		-- Cents --		-- Thousand Dollars --	
California	390	400	70	75	27,300	30,000	84	70	22,932	21,000
Florida	240	240	105	67	25,200	16,080	86	73	21,672	11,738
Minnesota	150	145	77	73	11,550	10,585	90	74	10,395	7,833
N. Dakota	230	245	86	100	19,780	24,500	90	74	17,802	18,130
S. Dakota	240	240	97	65	23,280	15,600	90	74	20,952	11,544
U.S.	2,564	2,579	77	75	198,197	192,393	89	75	175,999	144,680