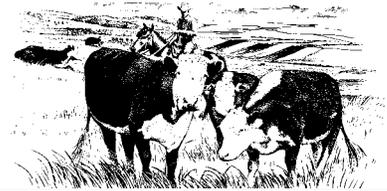


California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: September 30, 1998

(USPS 598-250)
VOL. 20 NO. 9

**CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

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NATIONAL LIVESTOCK REPORTS RELEASE DATES 3:00 P.M. EDT

Oct. 16	Cattle on Feed	Nov. 13	Cattle on Feed
20	Cold Storage	20	Cold Storage
23	Livestock Slaughter	20	Livestock Slaughter

CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 395 thousand head on September 1, 1998, the same as last month and 4 percent above September 1997. During August, placements of 55.0 thousand head were 10 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 50.0 thousand head were 11 percent above August 1997. Other disappearance remained at 5.00 thousand head.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.94 million, 4 percent below 1997, but 1 percent above 1996. The year-to-year relationship between fed cattle marketings and commercial slaughter was affected by an increase in cattle imported from Canada going directly to slaughter.

Other disappearance totaled 52.0 thousand during August, 16 percent above 1997 and 4 percent above 1996.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter markets in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 9.02 million head on September 1, 1998. The inventory was 1 percent below September 1, 1997, but 15 percent above September 1, 1996.

CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN STATES

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.03 million, 16 percent below 1997 and 10 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.98 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 378 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 406 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 630 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 617 thousand.

Cattle on feed in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 7.75 million on September 1, 1998. This was down 1 percent from the previous year, but 17 percent above September 1, 1996. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.75 million, 17 percent below 1997 and 11 percent below 1996. Marketings during August totaled 1.67 million, 5 percent below 1997, but 1 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during August was 42.0 thousand head, the same as 1997 and 14 percent above 1996.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SEVEN SELECTED STATES

State	Number on feed August 1 1/			Placed During August		Marketed During August	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
----- Thousand Head -----							
Arizona	176	196	111	45	19	35	14
California	380	395	104	50	55	45	50
Colorado	900	840	93	235	200	210	195
Iowa	270	245	91	51	39	55	48
Kansas	2,000	1,930	97	600	480	520	450
Nebraska	1,500	1,460	97	500	450	350	380
Texas	2,310	2,640	114	630	510	540	530
Seven-State Total	7,536	7,706	102	2,111	1,753	1,755	1,667
State	Other Disappearance During August 2/		Number on Feed September 1		1998/1997		
	1997	1998	1997	1998			
----- Thousand Head -----					Percent		
Arizona	1	1	185	200	108		
California	5	5	380	395	104		
Colorado	5	5	920	840	91		
Iowa	1	1	265	235	89		
Kansas	10	10	2,070	1,950	94		
Nebraska	10	10	1,640	1,520	93		
Texas	10	10	2,390	2,610	109		
Seven-State Total	42	42	7,850	7,750	99		

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/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California production of red meat during August 1998 totaled 88.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 1 percent above last month and 5 percent above August 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In August, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,236 pounds; calves, 118 pounds; and hogs, 207 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 11 percent from the previous record low for August set in 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 275 thousand head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 123 pounds, down 4 pounds from August 1997.

January-August red meat production was 29.6 billion pounds, 4 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 1 percent higher than last year, veal was down 23 percent, pork was up 11 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 3 percent.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP
PORK PRODUCTION SETS ANOTHER RECORD HIGH**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in August, up 4 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in August 1997.

August 1997 and August 1998 both contained 21 weekdays and five Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.04 million head, down 2 percent from 1997. The average live weight, at 1,209 pounds, was up 22 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 21 percent below August a year ago and 9 percent below the previous record low for August set in 1991. Calf slaughter totaled 125 thousand head, down slightly from August 1997. The average live weight was 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.50 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year and just above the previous record high for August set in 1995. Hog kills totaled 8.17 million head, 11 percent above 1997. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was 1 pound above the previous year.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, AUGUST 1997-98 1/

Class & Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Avg. Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Head -		- 1,000 Pounds -		- Pounds -	
CATTLE						
California	83.9	86.6	104,327	107,043	1,244	1,236
U.S.	3,107.3	3,040.2	3,688,069	3,676,978	1,187	1,209
CALVES						
California	17.2	19.3	6,027	2,274	350	118
U.S.	125.4	125.0	41,935	33,282	334	266
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	301.2	275.2	38,284	33,831	127	123
HOGS						
California	155.6	190.0	32,105	39,351	206	207
U.S.	7,348.9	8,167.9	1,847,655	2,055,074	251	252
	Aug. 1997	July 1998	Aug. 1998	Aug. 98 Aug. 97	Aug. 98 July 98	
	--- Million Pounds ---		--- Percent ---			
California	84.6	87.9	88.6	105	101	
U.S. 2/	3,617.7	3,780.7	3,769.5	104	100	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded. 2/ Revised total for July 1998.

FEDERALLY-INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FOR REGIONS AND U.S., JANUARY - AUGUST 1998 *

Standard Federal Regions a/	Cattle							Calves Total b/
	Total b/	Steers	Heifers	Cows			Bulls & Stags	
				All	Dairy	Other		
	----- 1,000 Head -----							
1	15.0	1.8	1.7	10.0	9.4	0.6	1.6	33.6
2	71.4	8.9	3.6	52.5	51.3	1.2	6.5	216.5
3	651.0	304.5	51.3	279.6	204.4	75.2	15.6	c/
4	614.6	10.1	20.1	525.1	174.8	350.3	59.4	143.3
5	2,460.9	1,057.5	411.0	917.5	646.6	270.9	74.9	346.9
6	4,547.7	2,296.6	1,540.9	602.9	91.7	511.2	107.3	24.8
7	10,604.3	5,784.4	4,178.3	598.0	94.3	503.7	43.5	0.6
8	2,240.3	1,133.8	868.0	200.7	35.5	165.2	37.8	---
9	985.6	467.1	81.2	413.8	337.1	76.7	23.5	144.8
10	1,116.3	520.8	342.8	228.2	102.1	126.0	24.5	22.2
U.S. b/	23,307.2	11,585.6	7,498.9	3,828.2	1,747.1	2,081.1	394.6	932.8
	Hogs				Sheep			
	Total b/	Barrows & Gilts	Sows	Stags & Boars	Total b/	Mature Sheep	Lambs & Yearlings	
	----- 1,000 Head -----							
1	11.9	11.4	0.4	0.1	12.3	3.2	9.0	
2	87.6	86.2	1.1	0.2	79.8	16.0	63.8	
3	d/	---	---	---	76.9	4.9	72.0	
4	14,191.1	13,534.6	645.0	11.5	8.4	6.0	2.5	
5	d/	---	---	---	288.0	34.4	253.6	
6	2,869.2	2,706.0	162.3	1.0	317.3	36.4	280.9	
7	42,134.6	40,669.2	1,135.9	329.5	349.1	14.1	335.0	
8	2,886.1	2,604.7	281.3	0.1	947.6	16.5	931.1	
9	1,378.4	1,377.5	0.9	0.1	e/	---	---	
10	209.7	206.7	2.7	0.3	350.4	4.3	346.1	
U.S. b/	63,768.6	61,196.3	2,229.6	342.7	2,429.8	135.7	2,294.0	

* Accumulated totals based on unrounded data.

a/ States included in regions are as follows: 1--CT, ME, NH, VT, MA & RI; 2--NY & NJ; 3--DE-MD, PA, WV & VA; 4--AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC & TN; 5--IL, IN, MI, MN, OH & WI; 6--AR, LA, NM, OK & TX; 7--IA, KS, MO & NE; 8--CO, MT, ND, SD, UT & WY; 9--AZ, CA, HI & NV; 10--ID, OR & WA.

b/ Totals may not add due to rounding. c/ Regions 3-4 are combined for calves to avoid disclosing individual operations. d/ Regions 3-4, 5 & 7 are combined for hogs to avoid disclosing individual operations. e/ Regions 9-10 are combined for sheep to avoid disclosing individual operations.

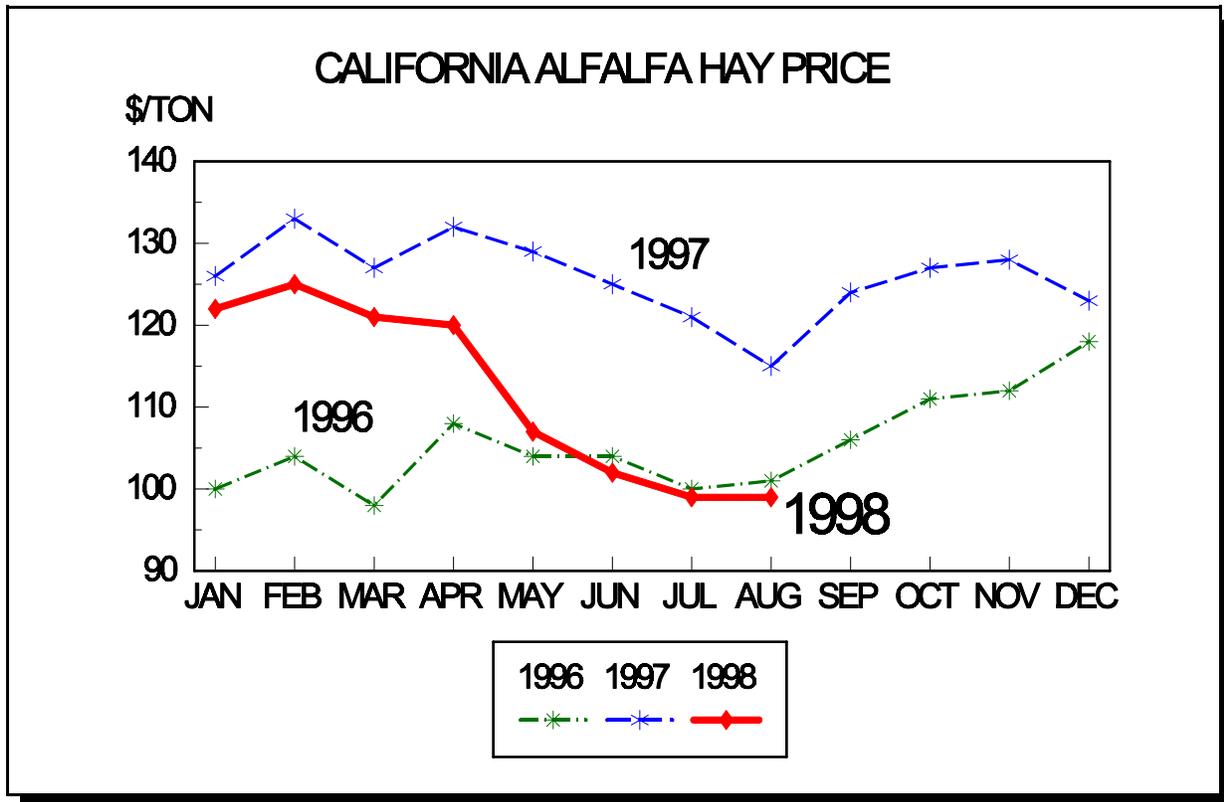
AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		August 1997	July 1998	August 15, 1998	August 1997	July 1998	August 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	113.00	99.00	97.00	99.00	88.60	88.50
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	115.00	99.00	99.00	105.00	93.40	90.50
Hogs 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	55.30	36.70	36.30
Cows 2/	Cwt.	37.00	33.00	34.50	36.40	34.70	33.70
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	64.00	60.00	59.00	66.60	61.00	60.40
Calves 2/	Cwt.	71.00	68.00	68.00	88.00	76.60	76.20
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	36.00	29.00	29.00	38.40	30.00	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.00	84.00	79.00	92.70	81.00	---
Milk Cows 3/	Head	---	1,290.00	---	---	1,120.00	---
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	12.14	14.31	15.40	12.70	14.10	15.30

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.



U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1998 was 62.9 million head. This was 3 percent above September 1997, and 2 percent above June 1, 1998.

Breeding inventory, at 6.94 million head, was down slightly from September 1, 1997 and down 1 percent from June 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 56.0 million head, was 3 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

The June-August 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 26.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 1997 and 11 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.02 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter fell to an average of 8.70 pigs saved per litter for the June-August period, compared to 8.72 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.99 million sows farrow during the September-November 1998 quarter, 2 percent above the actual farrowing during the same period in 1997 and 10 percent above 1996. Intended farrowing for December 1998-February 1999, at 3.00 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period last year and 11 percent above 1997.

The total number of hogs under contract and owned by operations with more than 5.00 thousand head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 29 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for September 1997 through June 1998 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, import and export data in U.S. level balance sheets. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than 1 percent were made to the March 1 and June 1, 1998 inventories, December 1997 to February 1998 pig crop and the March to May 1998 pig crop.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1996-98

Item	1996	1997	1998	1998/1996	1998/1997
	--- 1,000 Head ---			Percent	
September 1 Inventory					
All Hogs And Pigs	58,150	61,163	62,900	108	103
Kept For Breeding	6,765	6,944	6,936	103	100
Market	51,385	54,219	55,964	109	103
Market Hogs and Pigs by Weight Groups					
Under 60 Pounds	19,320	20,876	21,210	110	102
60-119 Pounds	12,780	13,531	13,743	108	102
120-179 Pounds	10,590	10,835	11,511	109	106
180 Pounds And Over	8,695	8,976	9,500	109	106