

# California Livestock Review



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

Feb. 19	Cattle On Feed	Mar. 19	Cattle On Feed
	Cold Storage		Cold Storage
	Livestock Slaughter		Livestock Slaughter

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 400 thousand head on January 1, 1999, 2 percent below last month and the same as January 1998. During December, placements of 50.0 thousand head were 9 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 55.0 thousand head were 10 percent above December 1997. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.81 million, 4 percent above 1997 and 8 percent above 1996. Other disappearance totaled 85.0 thousand during December, the same as 1997, but 1 percent below 1996.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.63 million head on January 1, 1999. The inventory was 5 percent below January 1, 1998, but 1 percent above January 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.44 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.14 million head, down 4 percent from 1998. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.50 million, 4 percent below 1997 and 12 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.41 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 396 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 492 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 362 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 246 thousand.

## CATTLE ON FEED

### DOWN 5 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN STATES

Cattle on feed in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 9.02 million on January 1, 1999, down 5 percent from the previous year, but 1 percent above January 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.43 million steers and steer calves, down 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 2 percent from 1998. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.24 million, 5 percent below 1997 and 13 percent below 1996. Marketings during December totaled 1.55 million, 4 percent above 1997 and 10 percent above 1996. Other disappearance during December was 69.0 thousand head, 1 percent above both 1996 and 1997.

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

State	Number on feed December 1 1/			Placed During December		Marketed During December	
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Thousand Head						
Arizona	243	214	88	30	22	26	28
California	410	410	100	55	50	50	55
Colorado	1,160	1,190	103	165	160	195	200
Iowa	355	325	92	44	48	38	36
Kansas	2,410	2,250	93	350	320	440	440
Nebraska	2,200	2,160	98	330	330	350	370
Texas	2,940	2,860	97	330	305	400	425
Total Seven States	9,718	9,409	97	1,304	1,235	1,499	1,554
State	Other Disappearance During December 2/		Number on Feed January 1		1999/1998		
	1997	1998	1998	1999			
	Thousand Head					Percent	
Arizona	2	2	245	206	84		
California	15	5	400	400	100		
Colorado	10	10	1,120	1,140	102		
Iowa	1	2	360	335	93		
Kansas	10	20	2,310	2,110	91		
Nebraska	10	10	2,170	2,110	97		
Texas	20	20	2,850	2,720	95		
Total Seven States	68	69	9,455	9,021	95		

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.

**U.S. ALL CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3 PERCENT**

Cattle on feed in all United States feedlots totaled 13.2 million on January 1, 1999. This was down 3 percent from the 13.6 million on January 1, 1998, but slightly above January 1, 1997.



**JANUARY 1 CATTLE ON FEED, 12 SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

State	1998	1999	1999/1998
	1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	245	206	84
California	400	400	100
Colorado	1,140	1,160	102
Idaho	295	295	100
Iowa	1,000	1,020	102
Kansas	2,370	2,160	91
Nebraska	2,300	2,240	97
New Mexico	123	118	96
Oklahoma	435	415	95
South Dakota	310	355	115
Texas	2,860	2,730	95
Washington	200	200	100
Other States	1,918	1,903	99
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>13,608</b>	<b>13,214</b>	<b>97</b>

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

California milk producers produced 2.33 billion pounds of milk in December 1998, 1 percent above November 1998 and 1 percent above December 1997.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,665 pounds, 5 pounds more than November 1998 and 20 pounds more than a year ago.

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk Receipts 2/		UNITED STATES 1/ 3/					
	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production		1997	1998	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998			1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,302	1,354	1,675	1,730	2,181	2,342	2,176	2,340	7,787	7,730	1,433	1,464	11,158	11,316
Feb.	1,307	1,356	1,550	1,535	2,026	2,081	2,026	2,077	7,774	7,726	1,328	1,351	10,321	10,434
Mar.	1,311	1,360	1,805	1,725	2,366	2,346	2,358	2,343	7,763	7,725	1,500	1,517	11,641	11,722
Apr.	1,315	1,364	1,795	1,695	2,360	2,312	2,357	2,311	7,763	7,735	1,474	1,499	11,446	11,591
May	1,320	1,370	1,835	1,775	2,422	2,432	2,415	2,430	7,765	7,750	1,529	1,557	11,869	12,067
June	1,324	1,374	1,755	1,715	2,324	2,356	2,314	2,313	7,765	7,753	1,471	1,489	11,419	11,546
July	1,328	1,379	1,805	1,675	2,397	2,310	2,383	2,308	7,765	7,750	1,473	1,464	11,437	11,345
Aug.	1,332	1,383	1,780	1,640	2,371	2,268	2,364	2,266	7,757	7,753	1,446	1,439	11,213	11,160
Sept.	1,335	1,387	1,695	1,570	2,263	2,178	2,256	2,181	7,752	7,757	1,377	1,381	10,671	10,712
Oct.	1,339	1,390	1,755	1,685	2,350	2,342	2,345	2,359	7,750	7,747	1,416	1,436	10,977	11,124
Nov.	1,343	1,394	1,685	1,660	2,263	2,314	2,260	2,282	7,737	7,746	1,369	1,408	10,591	10,909
Dec.	1,348	1,397	1,710	1,665	2,305	2,326	2,302	---	7,732	7,744	1,438	1,478	11,118	11,448

1/ Milk production for 1998 is preliminary and will be revised.

2/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling Branches. Excludes on farm usage.

3/ Twenty-state total.

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

Commodity	Unit	California			United States		
		December 1997	November 1998	Dec. 15, 1998	December 1997	November 1998	Dec. 15, 1998
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	122.00	87.00	79.00	95.20	81.40	78.40
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	123.00	89.00	79.00	102.00	85.00	81.40
Hogs 3/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	41.60	18.70	14.70
Cows 4/	Cwt.	31.50	29.50	30.30	33.00	29.70	29.70
Steers and Heifers 4/	Cwt.	64.50	61.00	60.00	66.80	62.30	59.40
Calves 4/	Cwt.	69.00	72.50	73.30	83.30	77.50	79.50
Sheep 4/	Cwt.	37.00	25.50	28.50	37.70	26.80	---
Lambs 4/	Cwt.	85.00	62.00	65.00	83.90	62.20	---
Milk Cows 5/	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk, Wholesale 4/	Cwt.	14.05	17.80	17.00	14.80	17.90	18.10

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/ California's December 15, 1998 price includes larger than normal percentage of low quality hay sales.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

5/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

**U.S. CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT**

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1999 totaled 98.5 million head. This was 1 percent below the 99.7 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 101.7 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.6 million, were 1 percent below the 43.1 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 43.8 million two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below two years ago.
- Milk cows, at 9.14 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1999, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.55 million, down 4 percent and down 8 percent.

- Milk replacement heifers, 4.06 million, up 2 percent and slightly above two years ago.
- Other heifers, 9.99 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2 percent and down 3 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.28 million, slightly above and down 3 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 17.2 million, down 1 percent and down 4 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 13.2 million, down 3 percent and slightly above two years ago.

**U.S. CALF CROP DOWN 1 PERCENT**

The 1998 calf crop was estimated at 38.6 million head, down 1 percent from 1997 and down 3 percent from 1996. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.4 million, down 1 percent from 1997 and down 3 percent from 1996.

**CATTLE AND CALVES BY CLASSES, CALIFORNIA AND U.S., JANUARY 1, 1998-99**

Class	California			United States		
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Thousands		Percent	Thousands		Percent
All Cattle & Calves	4,900	5,000	102	99,744	98,522	99
All Cows:	2,220	2,240	101	43,084	42,615	99
Beef	820	800	98	33,885	33,472	99
Milk	1,400	1,440	103	9,199	9,143	99
Heifers 500 Lbs. +	980	1,030	105	19,800	19,604	99
Beef Replacement	145	145	100	5,764	5,550	96
Milk Replacement	670	710	106	3,986	4,060	102
Other Heifers	165	175	106	10,051	9,994	99
Steers 500 Lbs. +	645	635	98	17,189	16,836	98
Bulls 500 Lbs. +	65	65	100	2,270	2,276	100
Calves Less Than 500 Lbs.	990	1,030	104	17,401	17,190	99
	1997	1998	1998/1997	1997	1998	1998/1997
Calf Crop	1,880	1,900	101	38,961	38,582	99

**CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER OF OPERATIONS AND PERCENT INVENTORY BY SIZE GROUPS, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 1998 1/**

State	Total Operations	Size Groups									
		1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-999 Head		1,000+ Head	
		Number of Operations	Percent Inventory								
Arizona	3,200	1,900	3	350	3	650	17	150	11	150	67
California	23,000	15,400	3	1,900	3	3,400	16	1,100	17	1,200	61
Colorado	15,500	8,100	5	2,600	6	3,700	24	650	13	450	53
Idaho	12,000	7,000	6	1,700	7	2,630	30	400	15	270	43
Iowa	39,000	19,500	10	9,000	17	9,650	50	600	11	250	12
Kansas	37,000	17,700	6	7,700	8	10,000	29	1,000	10	600	47
Nebraska	29,000	10,700	3	5,900	6	10,000	31	1,450	15	950	45
New Mexico	8,700	4,800	5	1,200	5	1,900	24	400	15	400	52
Oklahoma	62,000	38,000	14	11,200	14	11,300	37	1,000	12	500	23
S. Dakota	21,000	6,300	4	4,200	8	8,800	49	1,200	20	500	19
Texas	147,000	96,000	12	24,000	11	23,000	31	2,600	12	1,400	34
Washington	17,000	13,500	11	1,100	6	2,000	36	250	14	150	33
United States	1,115,650	695,000	13	194,310	13	198,945	37	17,965	12	9,430	26

1/ Percentages reflect average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year, but are based primarily on beginning-of-year and mid-year surveys.

### CALIFORNIA CATTLE AND CALF INVENTORY

All cattle and calves in California as of January 1, 1999 totaled 5.00 million head, 2 percent above the previous year. Beef cows, at 800 thousand head, decreased 2 percent, while milk cows increased 3 percent to 1.44 million head. All heifers over 500 pounds were estimated at 1,030 thousand head, up 5 percent from the previous year and were comprised of the following: heifers for beef cow replacement remained the same, heifers for milk cow replacement increased 6 percent from the previous year, and other heifers were up 6 percent. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 635 thousand, down 2 percent from last year and bulls in the same weight category remained the same totaling 65.0 thousand head. Calves under 500 pounds, at 1,030 thousand, were up 4 percent from a year ago.

### CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California production of red meat during December 1998 totaled 91.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 5 percent above last month, but 4 percent below December 1997. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In December 1998, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,267 pounds; calves, 128 pounds; and hogs, 210 pounds.

### RED MEAT AND PORK PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS FOR DECEMBER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in December. This was up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in December 1997 and up 6 percent from the previous record high for December set in 1994.

December 1997 and 1998 both contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year to 1,214 pounds.

Veal production totaled 22.0 million pounds, 17 percent below a year ago and 8 percent below the previous record low for December set in 1973 and 1993. Calf slaughter totaled 130 thousand head, down 10 percent from December 1997. The average live weight, at 279 pounds, was 22 pounds below last year.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year and 10 percent higher than the previous record high for December set in 1994. Hog kill totaled 9.43 million head, 9 percent above 1997. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year at 260 pounds.

### ALL CATTLE AND CALVES TWELVE SELECTED STATES AND U.S. AS OF JANUARY 1

State	1998	1999	1999/1998
	1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	820	810	99
California	4,900	5,000	102
Colorado	3,250	3,150	97
Idaho	1,860	1,900	102
Iowa	3,700	3,650	99
Kansas	6,550	6,550	100
Nebraska	6,750	6,650	99
New Mexico	1,600	1,620	101
Oklahoma	5,400	5,200	96
South Dakota	3,700	3,850	104
Texas	14,500	14,000	97
Washington	1,210	1,150	95
United States	99,744	98,522	99

Lamb and mutton production, at 23 million pounds, was up 1 percent from December 1997. Sheep slaughter totaled 355 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January-December red meat production was 45.1 billion pounds, 4 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated production was as follows: beef, up 1 percent; veal, down 22 percent; pork, up 10 percent; lamb and mutton, down 3 percent.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, DECEMBER 1997-98 a/

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	94.9	87.0	117,927	110,206	1,243	1,267
U.S. Total	2,877.0	2,896.2	3,433,646	3,515,256	1,193	1,214
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	20.1	15.5	5,163	1,981	256	128
U.S. Total	145.1	130.0	43,653	36,212	301	279
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	348.5	354.5	47,248	46,909	136	132
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	190.2	205.0	40,337	43,154	212	210
U.S. Total	8,623.1	9,425.6	2,238,746	2,451,780	260	260
<b>RED MEAT</b>	December 1997	November 1998 b/	December 1998	Dec. 98 / Dec. 97	Dec. 98 / Nov. 98	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	95.0	87.5	91.6	96	105	
U.S. Total	3,714.1	3,725.5	3,944.5	106	106	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

b/ U.S. total revised.

**U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT**

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1998 was 62.2 million head. This was 2 percent above December 1997, but 2 percent below September 1, 1998.

Breeding inventory, at 6.67 million head, was down 4 percent from December 1, 1997 and down 3 percent from September 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 55.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 1998 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 1997 and 11 percent more than 1996. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowing during this quarter represented 43 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter fell to an average of 8.65 pigs saved per litter for the September-November period, compared to 8.67 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.20 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the December 1998-February 1999 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998, but 8 percent above 1997. Intended farrowings for March-May 1999, at 2.88 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 1 percent below 1997.

The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 114,380 during 1998, down 6 percent from last year and 20 percent below 1996. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 6 percent of the operations and 64 percent of the inventory. This is the third time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 50 percent of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory, at 1,915, accounted for 42 percent of the total inventory. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000-head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 23 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory.

**U.S. HOGS AND PIGS INVENTORY NUMBERS, DECEMBER 1, 1996-98**

Item	1996	1997	1998	1998/1996	1998/1997
	1,000 Head			Percent	
<b>DECEMBER 1 INVENTORY</b>					
All Hogs And Pigs	56,124	61,158	62,156	111	102
Kept For Breeding	6,578	6,957	6,672	101	96
Market	49,546	54,200	55,483	112	102
<b>MARKET HOGS/PIGS BY WEIGHT GROUPS</b>					
Under 60 Pounds	18,503	20,237	20,000	108	99
60-119 Pounds	12,193	13,319	13,641	112	102
120-179 Pounds	10,209	11,188	11,640	114	104
180 Pounds And Over	8,641	9,457	10,203	118	108

**CALIFORNIA SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY**

All sheep and lamb inventory in California on January 1, 1999 totaled 810 thousand head, up 1 percent from last year's level of 800 thousand head.

Breeding sheep and lambs remained the same as the previous year at 390 thousand head. Ewe numbers totaled 330 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The 1998 lamb crop was estimated at 310 thousand head, 3 percent below the 1997 lamb crop. The 1998 lambing rate was 90 per 100 ewes one year and older on hand on January 1, 1999, compared with 89 for 1997.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 420 thousand head, 2 percent above January 1, 1998. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total. Forty-nine percent were under 65 pounds, 20 percent were 65-84 pounds, 18 percent were 85-105 pounds and 8 percent were over 105 pounds.

**U.S. SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 8 PERCENT**

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1999 totaled 7.24 million head, down 8 percent from 1998 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.31 million head on January 1, 1999, down 5 percent from January 1, 1998's 5.61 million head. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.34 million head, were 5 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1999 totaled 1.92 million head, down 13 percent from January 1, 1998. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65-84 pounds, 27 percent 85-105 pounds, 26 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 1998 lamb crop of 5.01 million head was down 6 percent from 1997. This compares with the previous record low of 5.36 million head set a year ago. The 1998 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1998, compared with 109 in 1997.

The number of operations with sheep during 1998 totaled 68,810, down 5 percent from 1997 and 10 percent from 1996.

**JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY, SIXTEEN SELECTED STATES AND U.S.**

State	All Sheep and Lambs			Breeding Sheep and Lambs <sup>1/</sup>		Market Sheep and Lambs	
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		1,000 Head	
Arizona	140	140	100	73	68	67	72
California	800	810	101	390	390	410	420
Colorado	575	440	77	240	220	335	220
Idaho	285	265	93	234	231	51	34
Iowa	265	260	98	172	170	93	90
Kansas	120	100	83	80	70	40	30
Minnesota	165	175	106	105	110	60	65
Montana	415	380	92	385	345	30	35
New Mexico	290	275	95	235	225	55	50
North Dakota	131	134	102	96	98	35	36
Ohio	135	125	93	104	103	31	22
Oregon	285	215	75	185	150	100	65
South Dakota	420	420	100	350	325	70	95
Texas	1,530	1,350	88	1,120	1,050	410	300
Utah	420	400	95	380	360	40	40
Wyoming	710	660	93	530	500	180	160
Other States	55	50	92	40	37	16	14
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,825</b>	<b>7,238</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5,611</b>	<b>5,314</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>1,923</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes ewes and rams one year old and older, and replacement lambs.