

California Livestock Review



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

May 21	Cattle on Feed	June 18	Cattle on Feed
	Cold Storage		Cold Storage
	Livestock Slaughter	25	Livestock Slaughter

CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 385 thousand head on April 1, 1999, the same as last month, but 4 percent above April 1998. During March, placements of 55.0 thousand head were 10 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 50.0 thousand head were 11 percent above March 1998. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 357 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 468 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 739 thousand and 800 pounds and greater were 457 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.98 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 12 percent above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 71.0 thousand during March, 24 percent below 1998 and 17 percent below 1997.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 10.38 million head on April 1, 1999. The inventory was 3 percent above April 1, 1998, but slightly below April 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.28 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.05 million head, up 4 percent from 1998. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.02 million, 18 percent above 1998 and 3 percent above 1997. Net placements were 1.95 million. During March, placements of cattle

CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT IN HISTORIC SEVEN MONTHLY STATES

Cattle on feed in the historic seven states for 1,000+ capacity feedlots totaled 8.89 million on April 1, 1999. This was up 3 percent from the previous year, but slightly below April 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.33 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.53 million head, up 6 percent from 1998. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.73 million, 22 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997. Marketings during March totaled 1.66 million, 5 percent above 1998 and 11 percent above 1997. Other disappearance during March was 52.0 thousand head, 25 percent below 1998 and 16 percent below 1997.

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

State	Number on feed March 1 1/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	1998	1999 2/	1999/1998	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	220	203	92	25	39	25	27
California	375	385	103	50	55	45	50
Colorado	1,030	1,130	110	190	240	210	240
Iowa	350	360	103	26	57	50	56
Kansas	2,120	2,020	95	360	430	360	370
Nebraska	2,120	2,160	102	290	380	340	350
Texas	2,620	2,610	100	480	530	550	565
Seven-State Total	8,835	8,868	101	1,421	1,731	1,580	1,658
State	Other Disappearance During March 3/		Number on Feed April 1		1999/1998		
	1998	1999	1998	1999			
	1,000 Head					Percent	
Arizona	8	1	212	214	101		
California	10	5	370	385	104		
Colorado	10	10	1,000	1,120	112		
Iowa	1	1	325	360	111		
Kansas	20	10	2,100	2,070	99		
Nebraska	10	10	2,060	2,180	106		
Texas	10	15	2,540	2,560	101		
Seven-State Total	69	52	8,607	8,889	103		

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/ Iowa data revised.

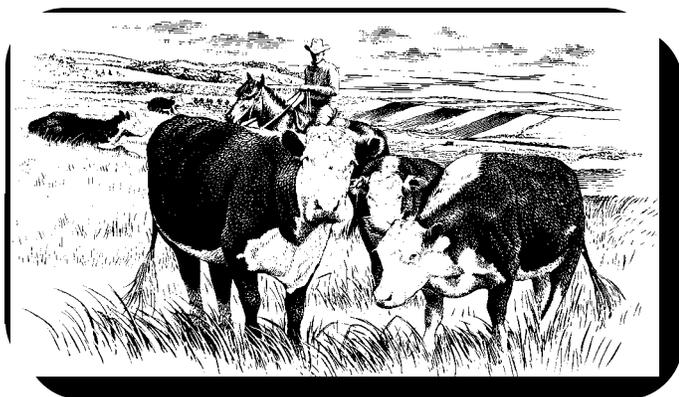
3/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, CALIFORNIA AND U.S. 1/

ITEM	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1999/1998
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent
On Feed April 1	370	385	104	10,118	10,384	103
Placed (March)	50	55	110	1,709	2,021	118
Marketed (March)	45	50	111	1,873	1,976	105
Other Disappearance (March) 2/	10	5	50	94	71	76
Kinds On Feed April 1						
Steers and Steer Calves	325	350	108	6,188	6,283	102
Heifers and Heifer Calves	40	35	88	3,879	4,053	104
Cows and Bulls	5	0		51	48	94

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 losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.



**MARKETING-YEAR
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		1997	1998	1997	1998
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	54.70	34.00	52.90	34.40
Cows 2/	Cwt.	33.10	32.90	34.80	33.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	63.10	61.50	66.80	62.80
Calves	Cwt.	68.10	70.90	78.90	78.80
Sheep	Cwt.	33.80	30.50	37.90	30.60
Lambs	Cwt.	91.60	74.80	90.30	72.30
Milk Cows	Head	1,240.00	1,270.00	1,100.00	1,120.00

1/ Prices are weighted based on seasonal volume of sales.

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

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 2.59 billion pounds of milk in March 1999, 16 percent above February 1999 and 11 percent above March

1998. Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,785 pounds, 235 pounds more than February 1999 and 120 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		1998	1999	Milk Cows		Milk Per Cow		Milk Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999			1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds			
Jan.	1,402	1,443	1,670	1,690	2,341	2,439	2,340	2,437	7,728	7,704	1,466	1,521	11,327	11,720
Feb.	1,405	1,448	1,480	1,550	2,079	2,244	2,077	2,243	7,716	7,702	1,347	1,403	10,394	10,809
Mar.	1,408	1,452	1,665	1,785	2,344	2,592	2,343		7,709	7,704	1,515	1,577	11,678	12,147
Apr.	1,410		1,640		2,312		2,311		7,713		1,501		11,579	
May	1,414		1,720		2,432		2,430		7,719		1,556		12,011	
June	1,417		1,635		2,317		2,313		7,718		1,477		11,396	
July	1,421		1,625		2,309		2,308		7,709		1,468		11,314	
Aug.	1,426		1,590		2,267		2,266		7,708		1,443		11,124	
Sept.	1,429		1,530		2,186		2,181		7,701		1,386		10,672	
Oct.	1,432		1,650		2,363		2,359		7,695		1,446		11,125	
Nov.	1,436		1,590		2,283		2,282		7,697		1,407		10,829	
Dec.	1,439		1,650		2,374		2,375		7,708		1,489		11,481	

1/ Milk production for 1999 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.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California production of red meat during March 1999 totaled 93.8 million pounds (dressed weight), 16 percent above last month and 13 percent above March 1998. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 1999 the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,275 pounds; calves, 135 pounds; and hogs, 214 pounds.

Veal production totaled 20.0 million pounds, 12 percent below the previous record low for March set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 117 thousand head, down 8 percent from March 1998. The average live weight, at 286 pounds, was 9 pounds below last year.

U.S. RED MEAT AND PORK PRODUCTION SET RECORD HIGHS FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.02 billion pounds in March, up 8 percent from the 3.73 billion pounds produced in March 1998 and up 7 percent from the previous record high for March set in 1995.

Pork production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year and 6 percent higher than the previous record high for March set in 1995. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 8 percent above 1998. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year to 259 pounds.

March 1998 contained 22 weekdays and four Saturdays, while March 1999 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturdays.

Lamb and mutton production, at 29.0 million pounds, was up 10 percent from March 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 423 thousand head, 10 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year to 1,216 pounds.

January-March red meat production was 11.4 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year; veal was down 19 percent; pork up 4 percent; lamb and mutton were down 2 percent.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, MARCH 1998-99 a/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	82.7	86.1	100,636	109,700	1,217	1,275
U.S.	2,894.5	3,048.9	3,472,734	3,707,708	1,200	1,216
CALVES						
California	15.6	15.8	2,310	2,124	148	135
U.S.	127.2	116.9	37,563	33,482	295	286
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	386.0	423.0	53,078	57,820	138	137
HOGS						
California	168.5	203.5	36,217	43,454	215	214
U.S.	8,475.0	9,117.2	2,174,664	2,362,520	257	259
RED MEAT	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999	March 99 March 98	March 99 February 99	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
	California	83.1	80.9	93.8	113	116
U.S.	3,725.9	3,535.3	4,016.0	108	114	

a/ Farm slaughter excluded.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY DOWN 1 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 1999 was 59.9 million head. This was 1 percent below March 1998 and 4 percent below December 1, 1998.

Breeding inventory, at 6.53 million head, was down 6 percent from March 1, 1998 and down 2 percent from December 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 53.3 million head, was slightly above last year, but 4 percent below last quarter.

U.S. MARCH 1 HOG AND PIG INVENTORY BY CLASS AND WEIGHT GROUPS, 1997-99

Item	1997	1998	1999	1999/1997	1999/1998
	1,000 Head			Percent	
All Hogs & Pigs	55,049	60,163	59,851	109	99
Kept For Breeding	6,637	6,942	6,527	98	94
Market	48,412	53,220	53,323	110	100
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:					
Under 60 Pounds	18,490	20,192	19,804	107	98
60-119 Pounds	11,627	12,791	12,764	110	100
120-179 Pounds	9,858	10,774	10,970	111	102
180 Pounds & Over	8,437	9,464	9,786	116	103

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 1998	February 1999	March 15, 1999	March 1998	February 1999	March 15, 1999
Dollars							
All Hay, Baled <u>2/</u>	Ton	121.00	97.00	105.00	95.30	79.00	78.50
Alfalfa, Baled <u>2/</u>	Ton	121.00	102.00	109.00	102.00	82.00	82.40
Hogs <u>3/</u> <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	34.90	27.60	26.50
Cows <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	34.50	34.60	35.40	36.00	34.70	34.70
Steers and Heifers <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	64.00	62.50	64.00	64.30	63.60	65.50
Calves <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	73.00	81.00	79.00	89.80	86.90	86.50
Sheep <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	36.50	30.00	33.00	41.00	30.20	---
Lambs <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	71.00	68.50	66.00	70.10	67.20	---
Milk Cows <u>5/</u>	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	13.50	15.39	15.00	14.40	15.50	15.00

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 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.