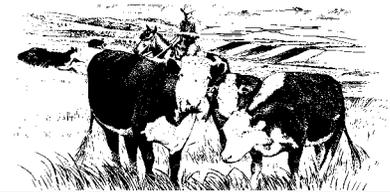


# California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly  
Released: March 25, 2004

(USPS 598-250)  
VOL. 26 NO. 3



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle On Feed .....	1
Farm Prices – Honey Production .....	2
Slaughter -- Red Meat Production .....	3
Dairy Operations – Market Prices .....	3
Farm Numbers .....	4

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003, but 5 percent below March 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 319 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 351 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 548 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 392 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 69.0 thousand during February, 3 percent below 2003, but 10 percent above 2002.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on March 1, 2004, unchanged from last month, but 5 percent above March 2003. During February, placements of 56.0 thousand head were 4 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 52.0 thousand head were 7 percent below February of 2003. Other disappearance totaled 4.00 thousand head.

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

State	Number On Feed February 1 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	291	296	102	22	27	31	25
California	480	500	104	54	56	56	52
Colorado	1,030	1,040	101	160	155	190	165
Idaho	290	275	95	48	43	57	52
Iowa 2/	390	385	99	63	61	71	40
Kansas	2,220	2,420	109	410	390	370	405
Nebraska	2,220	2,280	103	330	350	350	345
New Mexico	114	117	103	11	16	12	20
Oklahoma	330	350	106	46	47	55	59
South Dakota	215	200	93	40	43	39	32
Texas	2,600	2,770	107	370	350	395	420
Washington	180	185	103	31	24	30	32
Other States	340	310	91	65	48	77	45
UNITED STATES 2/	10,700	11,128	104	1,650	1,610	1,733	1,692
State	Other Disappearance During February 3/			Number On Feed March 1 1/		2004/2003	
	2003	2004		2003	2004	Percent	
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	3	3		279	295	106	
California	3	4		475	500	105	
Colorado	10	10		990	1,020	103	
Idaho	1	1		280	265	95	
Iowa	2	1		380	405	107	
Kansas	20	15		2,240	2,390	107	
Nebraska	10	15		2,190	2,270	104	
New Mexico	1	1		112	112	100	
Oklahoma	1	3		320	335	105	
South Dakota	1	1		215	210	98	
Texas	15	10		2,560	2,690	105	
Washington	1	2		180	175	97	
Other States	3	3		325	310	95	
UNITED STATES	71	69		10,546	10,977	104	

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/ Data revised for "Number On Feed February 1, 2004."

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

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2003	January 2004	Feb. 15, 2004	February 2003	January 2004	Feb. 15, 2004
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	100.00	88.00	96.00	91.40	79.30	79.90
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	102.00	89.00	97.00	96.20	83.60	84.70
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	34.30	36.80	43.20
Cows 2/	Cwt.	36.50	42.00	40.00	38.90	46.10	46.20
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	78.50	82.00	79.00	78.20	85.40	81.60
Calves 2/	Cwt.	91.00	109.00	102.00	97.20	110.00	110.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	37.50	36.00	---	44.00	43.80	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	86.00	89.00	---	92.40	104.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	1,350.00	---	---	1,390.00	---
Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	10.20	11.80	12.20	11.40	13.20	13.30

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/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

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

**CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 37 PERCENT**

California's 2003 honey production, at 32.2 million pounds, was 37 percent above 2002. Producing colonies totaled 480 thousand, up 2 percent from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 67 pounds, compared to 50 pounds produced per colony in 2002.



**U.S. HONEY PRICES AT RECORD HIGH**

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State-level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

**Special Note**

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates included in this publication. States that require 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Estimates for 2002 contained in this publication will be republished in the *Honey - Final Estimates 1998-02* publication, which is scheduled for release on April 29, 2004.

**U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT**

Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. The yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies, which produced honey in more than one State, were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested.

**HONEY PRODUCTION FOR TOP FIVE STATES AND U.S. 1/**

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Average Price Per Pound 2/		Value of Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000		Lbs.		1,000 Lbs.		Cents		\$1,000	
California	470	480	50	67	23,500	32,160	132	142	31,020	45,667
Florida	220	210	93	71	20,460	14,910	114	135	23,324	20,129
Minnesota	117	120	73	83	8,541	9,960	147	146	12,555	14,542
N. Dakota	320	340	75	87	24,000	29,580	146	136	35,040	40,229
S. Dakota	225	200	51	70	11,475	14,000	142	146	16,295	20,440
UNITED STATES 3/	2,574	2,590	67	70	171,718	181,096	133	140	228,338	255,791

1/ For producers with five or more colonies.

2/ Prices weighted by sales.

3/ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. U.S. "Value of Production" is the U.S. production multiplied by the U.S. price per pound.

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California's production of red meat during February 2004 totaled 105.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 13 percent below the previous month and 1 percent below February 2003. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2004, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,267 pounds; calves 210 pounds; and hogs 244 pounds.

**U.S. PORK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR FEBRUARY**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003.

Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight, at 1,233 pounds, was down 28 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71.5 thousand head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 336 pounds, 19 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record-high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 268 pounds, one pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213 thousand head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.10 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

February 2003 and 2004 both contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2003-04 a/**

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		1,000 Lbs.		Lbs.	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	102.8	101.1	131,498	128,081	1,280	1,267
U.S.	2,569.2	2,427.0	3,239,557	2,991,682	1,261	1,233
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	11.8	8.5	1,574	1,784	133	210
U.S.	83.1	71.5	26,312	24,018	317	336
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	226.3	213.0	30,119	29,596	133	139
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	179.4	180.1	42,682	44,022	238	244
U.S.	7,686.1	7,886.1	2,049,471	2,111,376	267	268
<b>RED MEAT</b>	February 2003	January 2004 b/	February 2004	Feb. 04 Feb. 03	Feb. 04 Jan. 04	
	Million Lbs.			Percent		
California	106.5	120.8	105.6	99	87	
U.S.	3,496.1	3,714.0	3,403.4	97	92	

a/ Includes slaughter under Federal-inspection and other commercial slaughter, but excludes farm slaughter.

b/ Revised U.S. total.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2003**

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2003 totaled 1.43 billion pounds, 7 percent above last year's production of 1.35 billion pounds. The month of October 2003 had the largest red meat production with 127.5 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 46.6 billion pounds in 2003, 1 percent below last year's total production of 47.2 billion. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton.

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/**

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Million Lbs.				
January	107.3	123.9	4,082.5	4,081.3
February	94.9	106.6	3,502.1	3,499.6
March	103.9	114.9	3,677.7	3,709.7
April	112.2	119.7	3,901.8	3,849.5
May	118.9	122.8	4,017.3	3,946.1
June	111.7	121.2	3,810.8	3,995.9
July	117.0	122.4	4,016.5	4,053.9
August	117.7	115.4	4,139.6	3,920.4
September	113.2	120.9	3,873.2	4,018.1
October	126.4	127.5	4,382.1	4,162.6
November	109.5	110.0	3,907.1	3,536.5
December	120.5	123.6	3,858.2	3,880.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,353.0</b>	<b>1,428.8</b>	<b>47,168.9</b>	<b>46,621.5</b>

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

**NUMBER OF LICENSED DAIRY OPERATIONS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES**

State	2002	2003
	Number	
California	2,030	2,060
Indiana	2,150	2,010
Iowa	2,760	2,500
Michigan	3,040	2,840
Minnesota	6,775	6,235
New York	6,930	6,700
Ohio	4,100	3,960
Pennsylvania	9,240	9,130
Wisconsin	17,300	16,400
Other States	19,785	18,575
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>74,110</b>	<b>70,410</b>

**MARKETING-YEAR AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		2002	2003	2002	2003
Dollars					
Hogs	Cwt.	34.20	35.70	33.40	37.20
Cows 1/	Cwt.	35.90	41.10	37.30	42.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	68.40	83.20	70.10	84.20
Calves	Cwt.	85.40	96.60	96.40	102.00
Sheep	Cwt.	27.10	31.30	27.90	34.90
Lambs	Cwt.	69.40	88.00	73.80	94.40
Milk Cows	Head	1,740.00	1,300.00	1,600.00	1,340.00

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

**FARM NUMBERS**

In 2003, an estimated 78.5 thousand farms operated on 27.1 million acres in California. The average farm size is 345 acres. The number of farms decreased by 1 percent from 2002, and the land in farms decreased by 2 percent from the previous year.

The number of U.S. farms in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1.55 million acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year.

**NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS <sup>1/</sup>**

State and Item		2001	2002	2003
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Number of Farms	81,000	79,700	78,500
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	27,800	27,600	27,100
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	344	347	345
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Number of Farms	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	942,070	940,300	938,750
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	438	440	441

<sup>1/</sup> A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.