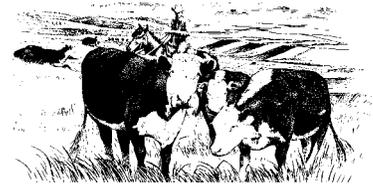


# California Livestock Review



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## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP SLIGHTLY

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003, but 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 346 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 641 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 470 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. Other disappearance totaled 67.0 thousand head during March, 8 percent above 2003, but 3 percent below 2002.

## CATTLE ON FEED IN CALIFORNIA

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 495 thousand head on April 1, 2004, 1 percent below last month, but 4 percent above April 2003. During March, placements of 70.0 thousand head were 13 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 71.0 thousand head were 22 percent above March of 2003. Other disappearance totaled 4.00 thousand head.

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

State	Number On Feed March 1 a/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	279	295	106	31	33	29	32
California	475	500	105	62	70	58	71
Colorado	990	1,020	103	160	150	175	190
Idaho	280	265	95	58	39	57	46
Iowa	380	405	107	56	69	60	56
Kansas	2,240	2,390	107	510	460	410	470
Nebraska	2,190	2,270	104	320	295	310	350
New Mexico	112	112	100	16	16	22	21
Oklahoma	320	335	105	94	74	71	77
South Dakota	215	210	98	39	33	43	36
Texas	2,560	2,690	105	600	490	480	530
Washington	180	175	97	31	29	30	33
Other States	325	310	95	55	46	58	54
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>10,546</b>	<b>10,977</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,966</b>
State	Other Disappearance During March b/		Number On Feed April 1 a/		2004/2003		
	2003	2004	2003	2004			
	1,000 Head						
	Percent						
Arizona	3	3	278	293	105		
California	4	4	475	495	104		
Colorado	5	10	970	970	100		
Idaho	1	3	280	255	91		
Iowa	1	3	375	415	111		
Kansas	20	20	2,320	2,360	102		
Nebraska	10	5	2,190	2,210	101		
New Mexico	1	2	105	105	100		
Oklahoma	3	2	340	330	97		
South Dakota	1	2	210	205	98		
Texas	10	10	2,670	2,640	99		
Washington	1	1	180	170	94		
Other States	2	2	320	300	94		
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>10,713</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>100</b>		

a/ 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.

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

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

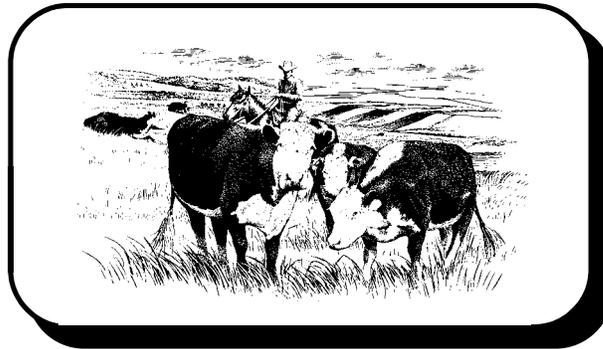
California milk producers produced 3.09 billion pounds of milk in March 2004. This was 9 percent above February 2004, but 1 percent below March 2003.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,810 pounds, 140 pounds more than February 2004, but 40 pounds less than a year ago.

**MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES**

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk Receipts 5/		UNITED STATES 1/ 2/					
	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/		2003	2004	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004			2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,672	1,701	1,790	1,755	2,993	2,985	2,989	2,982	7,810	7,716	1,615	1,619	12,616	12,491
Feb.	1,676	1,705	1,655	1,670	2,774	2,847	2,768	2,846	7,811	7,716	1,489	1,528	11,628	11,787
Mar.	1,681	1,708	1,850	1,810	3,110	3,091	3,108		7,810	7,714	1,666	1,656	13,014	12,776
Apr.	1,685		1,800		3,033		3,028		7,800		1,627		12,693	
May	1,685		1,835		3,092		3,090		7,787		1,671		13,013	
June	1,684		1,765		2,972		2,971		7,785		1,596		12,428	
July	1,690		1,755		2,966		2,965		7,780		1,597		12,421	
Aug.	1,693		1,755		2,971		2,967		7,771		1,571		12,207	
Sept.	1,695		1,670		2,831		2,826		7,764		1,511		11,731	
Oct.	1,698		1,720		2,921		2,917		7,743		1,561		12,083	
Nov.	1,694		1,665		2,821		2,817		7,721		1,517		11,709	
Dec.	1,697		1,740		2,953		2,948		7,713		1,596		12,313	

- 1/ Data was revised for the entire year of 2003 and for the months of January and February of 2004.
- 2/ Twenty-state total.
- 3/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.
- 4/ Excludes milk suckled by calves.
- 5/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches. Excludes on-farm usage.



**AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/**

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2003	February 2004	March 15, 2004	March 2003	February 2004	March 15, 2004
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Tons	99.00	96.00	104.00	92.80	79.90	81.80
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Tons	99.00	97.00	105.00	96.70	84.70	85.90
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	34.70	42.60	45.10
Cows 2/	Cwt.	39.00	41.50	43.00	39.50	46.10	46.70
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	76.00	80.00	86.00	76.70	82.30	88.60
Calves 2/	Cwt.	92.00	101.00	113.00	96.70	111.00	114.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	32.00	43.00	---	40.90	41.20	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.50	93.00	---	97.10	107.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Whsle. 2/	Cwt.	9.90	12.41	13.70	11.00	13.60	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/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.
- 4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July, and October.

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

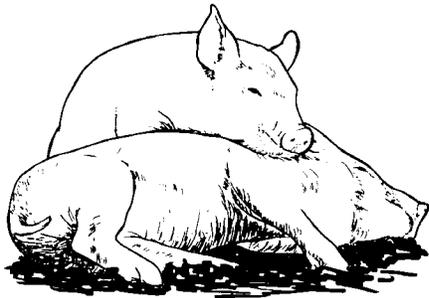
U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs was 59.3 million head on March 1, 2004. This was 2 percent above March 1, 2003, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003 and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory totaled 53.4 million head, 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The December 2003-February 2004 U.S. pig crop, with 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2003 and up slightly from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.81 million head, 2 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average number of pigs saved per litter was 8.85 for the December 2003 - February 2004 period, compared to 8.81 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5.00 thousand hogs and pigs.

**U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2002-04**

Item	2002	2003	2004	<u>2004</u> <u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	1,000 Head			Percent	
<b>March 1 Inventory</b>					
All Hogs and Pigs	59,256	58,183	59,315	100	102
Kept for Breeding	6,230	6,017	5,915	95	98
Market	53,026	52,166	53,399	101	102
<b>Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups</b>					
Under 60 Pounds	19,560	19,086	19,679	101	103
60-119 Pounds	12,938	12,649	12,993	100	103
120-179 Pounds	11,148	10,915	11,088	99	102
180 Pounds and Over	9,380	9,516	9,641	103	101



### CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2004 totaled 122.9 million pounds (dressed weight), 16 percent above the previous month and 7 percent above March 2003. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2004, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,306 pounds; calves 176 pounds; and hogs 248 pounds.

### U.S. PORK PRODUCTION AT RECORD MONTHLY HIGH FOR MARCH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 1, 217 pounds, down 17 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76.9 thousand head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight, at 308 pounds, was 15 pounds below last year.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306.8 thousand head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2004 commercial red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year and veal was down 11 percent, while pork was up 5 percent and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

March 2003 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and five Saturdays, while March 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER,  
MARCH 2003-04, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES <sup>1/</sup>**

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	109.7	111.8	140,228	146,062	1,278	1,306
U.S.	2,773.9	2,871.2	3,421,834	3,493,209	1,234	1,217
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	11.2	9.6	1,607	1,690	143	176
U.S.	85.0	76.9	27,426	23,707	323	308
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	262.7	306.8	36,260	44,121	138	144
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	193.7	219.9	46,487	54,489	240	248
U.S.	8,168.3	9,038.7	2,186,800	2,419,497	268	268
<b>RED MEAT</b>	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	Mar. 04 Mar. 03	Mar. 04 Feb. 04	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	114.8	105.6	122.9	107	116	
U.S.	3,706.1	3,403.4	3,946.2	106	116	

<sup>1/</sup> Farm slaughter excluded.