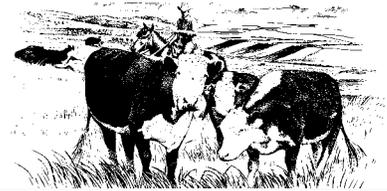


# California Livestock Review



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## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005, but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 300 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 510 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 433 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed-cattle marketing for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 73.0 thousand during February, 5 percent below 2005, but 6 percent above 2004.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 550 thousand head on March 1, 2006, unchanged from the previous month, but 7 percent above March 2005. During February, placements of 63.0 thousand head were 29 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 56.0 thousand head were 4 percent above February of 2005. Other disappearance totaled 7.00 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	
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Head						
Arizona	328	346	105	23	31	24	24
California	525	550	105	49	63	54	56
Colorado	1,060	1,110	105	175	150	185	165
Idaho	270	265	98	33	32	52	38
Iowa	465	520	112	57	60	55	58
Kansas	2,420	2,580	107	360	410	390	360
Nebraska	2,350	2,490	106	315	330	330	360
New Mexico	129	146	113	13	13	14	14
Oklahoma	350	375	107	48	49	56	56
South Dakota	205	210	102	32	33	26	29
Texas	2,720	3,030	111	340	360	360	370
Washington	190	153	81	32	25	35	22
Other States	330	335	102	46	42	53	60
UNITED STATES	11,342	12,110	107	1,523	1,598	1,634	1,612
State	Other Disappearance During February 2/		Number On Feed March 1 1/		2006/2005		
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
	1,000 Head				Percent		
Arizona	3	2	324	351	108		
California	5	7	515	550	107		
Colorado	10	5	1,040	1,090	105		
Idaho	1	4	250	255	102		
Iowa	2	2	465	520	112		
Kansas	20	20	2,370	2,610	110		
Nebraska	15	10	2,320	2,450	106		
New Mexico	3	2	125	143	114		
Oklahoma	2	3	340	365	107		
South Dakota	1	4	210	210	100		
Texas	10	10	2,690	3,010	112		
Washington	2	2	185	154	83		
Other States	3	2	320	315	98		
UNITED STATES	77	73	11,154	12,023	108		

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.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2005	January 2006	Feb. 15, 2006	February 2005	January 2006	Feb. 15, 2006
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	125.00	128.00	130.00	88.20	91.20	95.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	131.00	135.00	136.00	94.00	95.60	99.20
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	50.70	40.70	41.20
Cows 2/	Cwt.	47.80	46.40	44.70	52.50	47.30	48.50
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	90.20	99.40	94.40	93.10	102.00	98.10
Calves 2/	Cwt.	118.00	136.00	134.00	129.00	141.00	142.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	45.00	48.00	---	52.40	47.70	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	101.00	80.50	---	114.00	96.10	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	---	1,800.00	---	---	1,840.00	---
Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	14.51	13.14	12.10	15.50	14.50	13.80

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 71 PERCENT**

California's 2005 honey production, at 30.0 million pounds, was 71 percent above 2004. Producing colonies totaled 400 thousand, up 3 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 75 pounds, compared to 45 pounds produced per colony in 2004.



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

Honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. The yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Colonies, which produced honey in more than one State, were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

**U.S. HONEY PRICES DOWN 15 PERCENT**

Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004. 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. Honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2005 were lower than the previous year for all color class totals.

**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	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000		Lbs.		1,000 Lbs.		Cents		\$1,000	
California	390	400	45	75	17,550	30,000	101	84	17,726	25,200
Florida	205	160	98	86	20,090	13,760	100	87	20,090	11,971
Minnesota	135	120	75	74	10,125	8,880	104	83	10,530	7,370
N. Dakota	390	370	78	91	30,420	33,670	102	81	31,028	27,273
S. Dakota	215	220	105	79	22,575	17,380	100	76	22,575	13,209
UNITED STATES 3/	2,556	2,410	72	73	183,582	174,643	107	90	196,259	157,795

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.

**CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER**

California's production of red meat during February 2006 totaled 115.8 million pounds (dressed weight), 11 percent below the previous month, but 8 percent above February 2005. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2006, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,398 pounds; calves, 152 pounds; and hogs, 241 pounds.

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

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005.

Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year to 1,283 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53.0 thousand, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight, at 362 pounds, was 35 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 272 pounds, 2 pounds above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 203 thousand head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2006 commercial red meat production was 7.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

February 2005 and 2006 both contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

**COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2005-06 a/**

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Head		1,000 Lbs.		Lbs.	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	99.6	105.7	129,625	147,752	1,302	1,398
U.S.	2,342.9	2,345.9	2,936,796	3,009,921	1,253	1,283
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	8.7	6.9	1,162	1,053	134	152
U.S.	61.7	53.0	20,182	19,192	327	362
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	214.0	202.5	29,993	29,344	140	145
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	194.3	190.2	46,791	45,825	241	241
U.S.	8,107.8	8,054.7	2,188,843	2,190,183	270	272
<b>RED MEAT</b>	February 2005	January 2006	February 2006	Feb. 06 Feb. 05	Feb. 06 Jan. 06	
	Million Lbs.			Percent		
California	107.3	129.7	115.8	108	89	
U.S.	3,423.8	3,890.4	3,483.8	102	90	

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

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2005**

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2005 totaled 1.47 billion pounds, 3 percent above last year's production of 1.43 billion pounds. The month of December 2005 had the largest red meat production at 135 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States totaled 45.7 billion pounds in 2005, slightly higher than last year's production of 45.4 billion pounds. The month of August 2005 had the largest red meat production at 4.10 billion pounds

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/**

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
Million Lbs.				
January	120.8	125.3	3,715.5	3,648.2
February	105.4	107.3	3,404.8	3,423.8
March	122.9	126.2	3,945.0	3,878.1
April	115.6	115.0	3,712.8	3,619.7
May	109.8	117.8	3,596.9	3,713.5
June	122.6	128.5	3,927.6	3,962.0
July	115.5	115.3	3,707.9	3,613.6
August	122.0	128.0	3,879.6	4,100.4
September	124.7	119.2	3,906.3	3,929.8
October	117.8	121.9	3,921.1	3,925.1
November	121.7	129.9	3,770.1	3,942.7
December	130.2	134.6	3,930.4	3,953.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,428.9</b>	<b>1,469.1</b>	<b>45,418.0</b>	<b>45,710.5</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 1/**

State	2004	2005
	Number	
California	2,030	1,970
Indiana	1,900	1,830
Iowa	2,420	2,370
Michigan	2,680	2,590
Minnesota	5,810	5,530
New York	6,600	6,430
Ohio	3,780	3,610
Pennsylvania	8,720	8,700
Wisconsin	15,570	15,100
Other States	17,315	16,425
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>66,825</b>	<b>64,555</b>

1/ Average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk, based on counts collected from State and other regulatory agencies.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
		2004	2005	2004	2005
Dollars					
Hogs	Cwt.	49.50	50.70	49.30	50.20
Cows 1/	Cwt.	47.20	48.50	50.30	51.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	88.30	90.80	90.20	94.30
Calves	Cwt.	111.00	121.00	119.00	135.00
Sheep	Cwt.	32.20	41.00	38.80	45.10
Lambs	Cwt.	90.40	98.90	101.00	110.00
Milk Cows 2/	Head	1,560.00	1,780.00	1,580.00	1,770.00

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

2/ Calendar year average.

**FARM NUMBERS**

In 2005, an estimated 76.5 thousand farms operated on 26.4 million acres in California. The average farm size is 345 acres. The number of farms and land in farms both decreased by 1 percent from 2004.

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.10 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.90 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year.

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

State and Item		2004	2005
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Number of Farms	77,000	76,500
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	26,700	26,400
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	347	345
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Number of Farms	2,112,970	2,100,990
	Land in Farms (Thousand Acres)	936,295	933,400
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	443	444

<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.