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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 9 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for 1,000+ head capacity feedlots totaled 11.6 million head on May 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 2005 and 11 percent above May 1, 2004. This is the highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.63 million, 2 percent below 2005, but 2 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.54 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 385 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 270 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 444 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 530 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.79 million, down slightly from 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest total of fed-cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 87.0 thousand during April, 4 percent below 2005 and 10 percent below 2004.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 530 thousand head on May 1, 2006, 1 percent below the previous month, but 6 percent above May 2005. During April, placements of 60.0 thousand head were 6 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 60.0 thousand head were 2 percent above April of 2005. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

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

State	Number On Feed April 1 1/			Placed During April		Marketed During April	
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2005	2006	2005	2006
Thousand Head							
Arizona	326	351	108	31	27	24	23
California	500	535	107	64	60	59	60
Colorado	1,020	1,070	105	120	140	150	140
Idaho	240	250	104	39	31	37	34
Iowa	455	500	110	55	64	53	66
Kansas	2,340	2,590	111	375	375	425	410
Nebraska	2,260	2,400	106	320	320	380	390
New Mexico	113	139	123	19	18	16	24
Oklahoma	325	360	111	52	48	70	66
South Dakota	205	210	102	27	28	31	35
Texas	2,620	2,940	112	500	455	480	470
Washington	159	152	96	19	23	30	22
Other States	310	315	102	39	40	46	54
UNITED STATES	10,873	11,812	109	1,660	1,629	1,801	1,794
State	Other Disappearance During April 2/		Number On Feed May 1 1/		2006/2005		
	2005	2006	2005	2006			
Thousand Head					Percent		
Arizona	3	9	330	346	105		
California	5	5	500	530	106		
Colorado	20	10	970	1,060	109		
Idaho	2	2	240	245	102		
Iowa	2	3	455	495	109		
Kansas	30	25	2,260	2,530	112		
Nebraska	10	10	2,190	2,320	106		
New Mexico	2	1	114	132	116		
Oklahoma	2	2	305	340	111		
South Dakota	1	3	200	200	100		
Texas	10	15	2,630	2,910	111		
Washington	1	1	147	152	103		
Other States	3	1	300	300	100		
UNITED STATES	91	87	10,641	11,560	109		

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 PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2005	March 2006	April 15, 2006	April 2005	March 2006	April 15, 2006
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	135.00	136.00	130.00	99.40	97.10	106.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	141.00	141.00	134.00	105.00	100.00	110.00
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	51.10	42.80	39.10
Cows 2/	Cwt.	54.30	47.80	46.90	57.00	49.50	48.70
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	94.30	89.30	85.60	98.10	93.00	89.70
Calves 2/	Cwt.	127.00	124.00	129.00	141.00	138.00	136.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	40.50	40.00	---	45.10	39.50	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	99.00	78.50	---	114.00	91.10	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	1,750.00	11.60	1,600.00	1,770.00	---	1,770.00
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	14.09	11.02	10.80	15.20	12.60	12.10

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/ 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.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, PACIFIC REGION AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	PACIFIC REGION 2/		UNITED STATES	
		April 2005	April 15, 2006	April 2005	April 15, 2006
		Dollars			
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	19.20	20.20	15.40	16.40
Bran	Cwt.	18.20	18.50	15.00	16.10
Corn Meal	Cwt.	14.50	12.90	9.57	10.10
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	22.80	23.10	17.20	18.20
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	192.00	202.00	197.00	210.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	25.40	25.50	16.10	16.90

1/ Prices shown represent composite average prices paid by farmers for all grades, classes, and method of sale.

2/ Includes California, Oregon, and Washington.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 2006 totaled 180 thousand tons. This is 12 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 16 percent below May 1, 2005.

United States May 1 stocks of hay on farms totaled 21.3 million tons of hay. This was 20 percent of the December 1 stocks and 23 percent below May 1 of the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	2003	2004	2005	2004	2005	2006
	1,000 Tons					
California	2,086	1,770	1,798	306	215	180
Arizona	280	250	350	55	35	40
Nevada	857	741	788	121	80	209
Oregon	2,357	2,366	1,790	371	362	210
Utah	1,495	1,383	1,355	279	300	262
UNITED STATES	111,027	114,516	105,056	25,947	27,758	21,315

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during April 2006 totaled 123 million pounds (dressed weight), 15 percent below the previous month, but 7 percent above April 2005. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In April 2006, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,394 pounds; calves 170 pounds; and hogs 245 pounds.

**U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION
DOWN FROM PREVIOUS MONTH**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year's total of 1,246 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.9 million pounds, 16 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 47.5 thousand head, down 23 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was 379 pounds, 26 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight, at 272 pounds, was 1 pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from April 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 249 thousand head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2006 commercial red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and five Saturdays, while April 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including no holidays) and five Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, APRIL 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	Thousand Head		Thousand Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	104.2	111.4	136,214	155,303	1,307	1,394
U.S. Total	2,560.3	2,607.4	3,118,373	3,248,884	1,218	1,246
CALVES						
California	7.3	5.7	1,279	971	174	170
U.S. Total	61.6	47.5	21,738	17,990	353	379
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	220.7	248.5	31,050	33,813	141	136
HOGS						
California	208.2	199.7	50,484	48,882	243	245
U.S. Total	8,445.0	7,955.6	2,285,822	2,167,521	271	272
RED MEAT	April 2005	March 2006	April 2006	<u>Apr. 06</u> <u>Apr. 05</u>	<u>Apr. 06</u> <u>Mar. 06</u>	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	115.0	144.1	123.1	107	85	
U.S. Total	3,619.7	4,111.7	3,614.4	100	88	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.31 billion pounds of milk in April 2006. This was 3 percent below March 2006, but 4 percent above April 2005.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,850 pounds, 70 pounds less than in March 2006, but 25 pounds more than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk		UNITED STATES 2/ 3/					
	Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/		Receipts 6/		Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,739	1,776	1,770	1,825	3,078	3,241	3,076	3,239	8,087	8,195	1,643	1,710	13,287	14,014
Feb.	1,742	1,782	1,635	1,705	2,848	3,038	2,845	3,037	8,084	8,206	1,522	1,587	12,301	13,022
Mar.	1,744	1,785	1,850	1,920	3,226	3,427	3,223	3,423	8,099	8,228	1,707	1,775	13,825	14,604
Apr.	1,747	1,788	1,825	1,850	3,188	3,308	3,184		8,117	8,241	1,690	1,727	13,717	14,230
May	1,754		1,875		3,289		3,288		8,131		1,760		14,311	
June	1,757		1,810		3,180		3,178		8,138		1,690		13,755	
July	1,760		1,775		3,124		3,122		8,151		1,683		13,715	
Aug.	1,763		1,790		3,156		3,153		8,162		1,671		13,640	
Sept.	1,765		1,745		3,080		3,079		8,167		1,599		13,057	
Oct.	1,770		1,780		3,151		3,147		8,168		1,637		13,373	
Nov.	1,770		1,725		3,053		3,049		8,167		1,592		13,002	
Dec.	1,770		1,795		3,177		3,178		8,179		1,663		13,599	

1/ Revised for April 2006.

2/ Revised March 2006.

3/ Twenty-three state total.

4/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

5/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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