



California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · (916) 498-5186 Fax · www.nass.usda.gov/ca

Released: March 26, 2008 · Frequency: Monthly · (USPS 598-250) VOL. 30 NO. 3

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 — Trout Sales	4

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 385 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 533 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 475 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 60.0 thousand during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 percent below 2006.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 545 thousand head on March 1, 2008, 2 percent below last month, but a 3 percent increase from March 2007. During February, placements of 60.0 thousand head remained the same as the previous year. Marketings of 63.0 thousand head were 6 percent below February of 2007. 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 a/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	334	373	112	24	36	28	30
California	540	555	103	60	60	67	63
Colorado	1,040	1,090	105	140	155	160	190
Idaho	255	235	92	39	39	43	38
Iowa	530	570	108	64	62	63	69
Kansas	2,430	2,430	100	395	390	380	400
Nebraska	2,540	2,510	99	360	350	380	360
New Mexico	135	160	119	14	15	18	14
Oklahoma	350	355	101	59	45	58	48
South Dakota	230	230	100	43	47	41	40
Texas	2,800	2,930	105	390	440	385	440
Washington	177	153	86	25	30	31	30
Other States	365	375	103	46	54	57	54
United States	11,726	11,966	102	1,659	1,723	1,711	1,776

State	Other Disappearance During February b/		Number On Feed March 1 a/		2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	1,000 Head				Percent
Arizona	1	2	329	377	115
California	3	7	530	545	103
Colorado	10	5	1,010	1,050	104
Idaho	1	1	250	235	94
Iowa	1	3	530	560	106
Kansas	25	10	2,420	2,410	100
Nebraska	10	10	2,510	2,490	99
New Mexico	1	1	130	160	123
Oklahoma	1	2	350	350	100
South Dakota	2	2	230	235	102
Texas	15	10	2,790	2,920	105
Washington	1	2	170	151	89
Other States	4	5	350	370	106
UNITED STATES	75	60	11,599	11,853	102

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.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2007	January 2008	Feb. 15, 2008	February 2007	January 2008	Feb. 15, 2008
<i>Dollars</i>							
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	127.00	169.00	169.00	113.00	129.00	133.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	135.00	182.00	182.00	115.00	135.00	138.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	47.50	37.20	41.90
Cows 2/	Cwt.	42.00	40.60	41.60	47.00	46.30	49.70
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	90.50	92.90	92.80	91.40	93.40	93.20
Calves 2/	Cwt.	104.00	110.00	110.00	114.00	117.00	118.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	41.00	43.00	---	37.30	31.90	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	88.50	89.00	---	94.80	97.50	---
Milk Cows 5/	Head	---	1,800.00	---	---	1,960.00	---
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	13.73	18.53	17.80	14.90	20.50	19.30

- 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/ California's February 2008 prices are for the full month.
- 4/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.
- 5/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 31 PERCENT

California's 2007 honey production, at 13.6 million pounds, was 31 percent below 2006. Producing colonies totaled 340 thousand, down 11 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 40 pounds, compared to 52 pounds produced per colony in 2006.



U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 4 PERCENT

Honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. 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, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

U.S. HONEY PRICE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

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

State	Number of Colonies 2/		Yield Per Colony		Production		Average Price Per Pound 3/		Value of Production 4/	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Colonies</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Cents</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>	
California	380	340	52	40	19,760	13,600	99	104	19,562	14,144
Florida	170	160	81	71	13,770	11,360	101	99	13,908	11,246
Montana	132	135	79	68	10,428	9,180	96	94	10,011	8,629
N. Dakota	350	420	74	74	25,900	31,080	92	92	23,828	28,594
S. Dakota	225	255	47	52	10,575	13,260	95	93	10,046	12,332
UNITED STATES 5/	2,393	2,442	64.7	60.8	154,907	148,482	103.6	103.2	160,484	153,233

- 1/ For producers with five or more colonies. Revised 2006 data.
- 2/ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.
- 3/ Prices based on expanded sales.
- 4/ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.
- 5/ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.



Attention: Agricultural Producers
If you have not received the 2007 Census of Agriculture form, please make sure you are counted by calling our toll-free number at 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). Your help is important – Thank you!

Your name, address and information are confidential by law (Title 7, US Code). It cannot be shared with any individual or organization, including other U.S. government agencies.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during February 2008 totaled 134 million pounds (dressed weight), 9 percent below the previous month, but 2 percent above February 2007. This figure includes slaughter in federally inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2008, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,288 pounds; calves 115 pounds; and hogs 245 pounds.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM PREVIOUS MONTH

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69.1 thousand head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211 thousand head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2008 commercial red meat production was 8.38 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 15 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays, while February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2007- 08 a/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	126.5	128.8	168,380	163,119	1,356	1,288
U.S.	2,561.2	2,643.2	3,249,960	3,383,319	1,274	1,285
CALVES						
California	9.7	15.6	1,297	1,769	134	115
U.S.	66.7	69.1	20,375	18,577	308	272
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	204.7	211.4	28,708	30,111	140	143
HOGS						
California	204.1	208.9	48,164	51,048	236	245
U.S.	8,117.3	9,378.1	2,183,764	2,534,773	269	271
RED MEAT	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008	Feb 08 Feb 07	Feb 08 Jan 08	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	131.7	148.4	134.4	102	91	
U.S.	3,615.4	4,415.9	3,967.6	110	90	

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

RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2007

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2007 totaled 1.67 billion pounds, 4 percent above last year's production of 1.61 billion pounds. The month of January 2007 had the largest red meat production at 148 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States totaled 48.7 billion pounds in 2007, up 2 percent from last year's production of 47.5 billion pounds. The month of October 2007 had the largest red meat production at 4.62 billion pounds.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Million Pounds</i>			
January	127.7	148.2	3,899.6	4,093.8
February	114.6	131.7	3,489.9	3,615.4
March	142.4	142.2	4,112.1	4,012.4
April	121.7	136.3	3,614.8	3,753.4
May	136.0	141.9	4,063.8	4,075.5
June	144.6	142.2	4,136.2	4,027.5
July	130.5	133.4	3,790.6	3,940.4
August	138.9	144.9	4,257.6	4,325.7
September	129.7	122.1	3,949.9	3,863.6
October	142.5	145.8	4,197.2	4,615.6
November	137.7	140.7	4,151.4	4,300.2
December	141.5	142.9	3,874.5	4,059.9
TOTAL 2/	1,607.6	1,672.4	47,537.4	48,683.8

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

2/ Totals based on un-rounded data and may not equal sum of parts.

NUMBER OF LICENSED DAIRY OPERATIONS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES 1/

State	2006	2007
	<i>Number</i>	
California	1,960	1,960
Indiana	1,750	1,660
Iowa	2,230	2,130
Michigan	2,530	2,440
Minnesota	5,295	5,070
New York	5,980	5,820
Ohio	3,530	3,430
Pennsylvania	8,610	8,010
Wisconsin	14,640	14,170
Other States	15,545	14,445
UNITED STATES	62,070	59,135

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	
		2006	2007	2006	2007
		<i>Dollars</i>			
Hogs	Cwt.	47.90	48.90	46.00	46.60
Cows 1/	Cwt.	44.20	44.30	46.60	47.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	89.30	93.70	92.30	95.40
Calves	Cwt.	118.00	109.00	133.00	119.00
Sheep	Cwt.	31.40	29.60	35.20	31.00
Lambs	Cwt.	84.00	90.50	95.50	98.50
Milk Cows 2/	Head	1,630.00	1,760.00	1,730.00	1,830.00

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

2/ Calendar year average.

FARM NUMBERS

In 2007, an estimated 75.0 thousand farms operated on 26.2 million acres in California. The average farm size is 349 acres. The number of farms and land in farms both decreased from 2006, while the average farms size increased 3 acres from the previous year.

The number of farms in the United States in 2007 is estimated at 2.08 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2006. Total land in farms, at 930.9 million acres, decreased 1.5 million acres, or 0.16 percent, from 2006. The average farm size was 449 acres during 2007, an increase of three acres from the previous year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 1/

Area and Item		2006	2007
CALIFORNIA	Number of Farms	76,000	75,000
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	26,300	26,200
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	346	349
UNITED STATES	Number of Farms	2,088,790	2,075,510
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	932,430	930,920
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	446	449

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

TROUT SALES OF FISH 12" OR LONGER, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 2006-07 1/

State	Number Of Fish		Live Weight				Average Price Per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Per Fish		Total		2006	2007	2006	2007
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007				
	<i>1,000 Fish</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>	
California	1,630	1,760	1.2	1.2	2,000	2,145	2.50	2.55	5,000	5,470
U.S. 2/	52,452	59,729	1.2	1.2	65,346	69,343	1.11	1.15	72,733	80,013

1/ Revised 2006 data.