



California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP SLIGHTLY

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on April 1, 2008. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2007, but 1 percent below April 1, 2006. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.35 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.28 million head, up 3 percent from 2007. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.74 million, 11 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.67 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 330 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 561 thousand and 800 pounds and greater were 510 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million, slightly below 2007 and 6 percent below 2006. Other disappearance totaled 63.0 thousand during March, 12 percent below 2007 and 30 percent below 2006.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 530 thousand head on April 1, 2008, 3 percent below last month, but unchanged from April 2007. During March, placements of 55.0 thousand head were 19 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 65.0 thousand head remained the same as the previous year. 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 March 1 a/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head			1,000 Head		Percent	
Arizona	329	377	115	46	30	33	31
California	530	545	103	68	55	65	65
Colorado	1,010	1,050	104	160	135	140	160
Idaho	250	235	94	38	37	42	39
Iowa	530	560	106	72	59	70	68
Kansas	2,420	2,410	100	510	440	430	415
Nebraska	2,510	2,490	99	350	360	370	390
New Mexico	130	160	123	19	10	17	11
Oklahoma	350	350	100	68	50	67	58
South Dakota	230	235	102	40	32	37	37
Texas	2,790	2,920	105	520	450	495	480
Washington	170	151	89	26	30	32	28
Other States	350	370	106	43	48	45	60
UNITED STATES	11,599	11,853	102	1,960	1,736	1,843	1,842

State	Other Disappearance During March b/		Number On Feed April 1 a/		2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	2	2	340	374	110
California	3	5	530	530	100
Colorado	10	5	1,020	1,020	100
Idaho	1	3	245	230	94
Iowa	2	1	530	550	104
Kansas	20	15	2,480	2,420	98
Nebraska	10	10	2,480	2,450	99
New Mexico	1	1	131	158	121
Oklahoma	1	2	350	340	97
South Dakota	3	5	230	225	98
Texas	15	10	2,800	2,880	103
Washington	1	1	163	152	93
Other States	3	3	345	355	103
UNITED STATES	72	63	11,644	11,684	100

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 dairy farms produced a record high 3.64 billion pounds of milk in March 2008. This was 9 percent above February 2008 and 2 percent above March 2007.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,970 pounds, 165 pounds more than in February 2008, but 5 pounds less than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/ 2/						Total Milk		UNITED STATES 1/ 2/ 3/					
	Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/		Receipts 6/		Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,792	1,839	1,880	1,900	3,369	3,494	3,364	3,492	8,284	8,413	1,726	1,746	14,302	14,688
Feb.	1,795	1,843	1,755	1,805	3,150	3,327	3,145	3,325	8,286	8,427	1,584	1,654	13,125	13,942
Mar.	1,799	1,846	1,975	1,970	3,553	3,637	3,551		8,295	8,436	1,783	1,795	14,787	15,144
Apr.	1,801		1,915		3,449		3,445		8,292		1,745		14,470	
May	1,806		1,925		3,477		3,472		8,298		1,791		14,860	
June	1,811		1,845		3,341		3,338		8,302		1,712		14,216	
July	1,816		1,900		3,450		3,449		8,322		1,742		14,500	
Aug.	1,819		1,900		3,456		3,453		8,330		1,719		14,323	
Sept.	1,822		1,785		3,252		3,248		8,341		1,645		13,718	
Oct.	1,826		1,870		3,415		3,413		8,355		1,697		14,176	
Nov.	1,830		1,810		3,312		3,311		8,369		1,654		13,843	
Dec.	1,835		1,885		3,459		3,458		8,389		1,718		14,414	

- 1/ Revised 2007 data.
- 2/ Revised data for January & February 2008.
- 3/ Twenty-three-state total.
- 4/ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh.
- 5/ Excludes milk suckled 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.

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2007	February 2008	March 15, 2008	March 2007	February 2008	March 15, 2008
		<i>Dollars</i>					
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Tons	143.00	191.00	204.00	119.00	133.00	139.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Tons	150.00	208.00	212.00	121.00	138.00	143.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	44.90	42.20	41.20
Cows 2/	Cwt.	45.20	45.00	48.00	47.20	51.40	52.20
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	95.70	92.90	92.50	97.70	94.20	93.80
Calves 2/	Cwt.	112.00	112.00	120.00	122.00	120.00	120.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	47.00	29.00	---	36.60	29.90	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	90.50	89.00	---	95.50	96.80	---
Milk Cows 5/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	14.32	17.74	17.10	15.60	19.10	18.30

- 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 March 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.

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 7 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2006-08

Item	2006	2007	2008	2008 2006	2008 2007
	1,000 Head			Percent	
March 1 Inventory					
All Hogs and Pigs	60,326	61,860	65,909	109	107
Kept for Breeding	6,025	6,110	6,138	102	100
Market	54,301	55,749	59,770	110	107
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups					
Under 60 Pounds	19,988	20,381	21,897	110	107
60-119 Pounds	13,006	13,356	14,291	110	107
120-179 Pounds	11,434	11,679	12,443	109	107
180 Pounds and Over	9,874	10,334	11,140	113	108

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2008 totaled 133 million pounds (dressed weight), 1 percent below the previous month, and 6 percent below March 2007. This figure includes slaughter in federally inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2008, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,296 pounds; calves 122 pounds; and hogs 247 pounds.

**LAMB AND MUTTON PRODUCTION
AT RECORD LOW FOR MARCH**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70.8 thousand head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 231 thousand head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

March 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays, while March 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, MARCH 2006-07 1/

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	134.4	125.6	176,910	160,007	1,340	1,296
U.S.	2,793.0	2,730.9	3,505,279	3,473,012	1,260	1,276
CALVES						
California	10.6	15.5	1,404	1,871	133	122
U.S.	70.7	70.8	22,560	19,075	321	273
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	279.5	230.9	39,139	32,122	140	139
HOGS						
California	218.9	207.0	53,614	51,079	245	247
U.S.	9,201.7	9,661.6	2,485,278	2,616,784	270	271
RED MEAT	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008	Mar 08 Mar 07	Mar 08 Feb 08	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	142.2	134.4	133.0	94	99	
U.S.	4,012.4	3,967.6	4,092.9	102	103	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.



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).
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