



# California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 1 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on May 1, 2008. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2007 and 4 percent below May 1, 2006. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.54 million, 2 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.46 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 278 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 428 thousand and 800 pounds and greater were 515 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 2.01 million, 11 percent above 2007 and 13 percent above 2006. This is the highest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 75.0 thousand during April, 24 percent below 2007 and 14 percent below 2006.

## CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 520 thousand head on May 1, 2008, 2 percent below last month and 5 percent below May 2007. During April, placements of 64.0 thousand head were 25 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 70.0 thousand head were 15 percent above the previous year. 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 April 1 1/			Placed During April		Marketed During April	
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	340	374	110	31	34	30	37
California	530	530	100	85	64	61	70
Colorado	1,020	1,020	100	150	115	130	165
Idaho	245	230	94	35	28	40	32
Iowa	530	550	104	61	59	59	77
Kansas	2,480	2,420	98	355	360	445	470
Nebraska	2,480	2,450	99	290	340	340	400
New Mexico	131	158	121	12	9	24	16
Oklahoma	350	340	97	54	40	68	74
South Dakota	230	225	98	36	33	34	37
Texas	2,800	2,880	103	380	360	490	540
Washington	163	152	93	22	33	30	29
Other States	345	355	103	57	61	65	63
UNITED STATES	11,644	11,684	100	1,568	1,536	1,816	2,010

  

State	Other Disappearance During April 2/		Number On Feed May 1 1/		2008
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	1	1	340	370	109
California	4	4	550	520	95
Colorado	20	20	1,020	950	93
Idaho	5	1	235	225	96
Iowa	2	2	530	530	100
Kansas	40	20	2,350	2,290	97
Nebraska	10	10	2,420	2,380	98
New Mexico	1	1	118	150	127
Oklahoma	1	1	335	305	91
South Dakota	2	1	230	220	96
Texas	10	10	2,680	2,690	100
Washington	1	1	154	155	101
Other States	2	3	335	350	104
UNITED STATES	99	75	11,297	11,135	99

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 2007	March 2008	April 15, 2008	April 2007	March 2008	April 15, 2008
		<i>Dollars</i>					
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	155.00	204.00	203.00	124.00	139.00	152.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	164.00	212.00	212.00	127.00	143.00	157.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	47.30	40.20	40.60
Cows 2/	Cwt.	47.40	46.00	43.00	49.20	51.20	49.90
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	98.20	90.50	87.50	99.80	92.70	90.10
Calves 2/	Cwt.	116.00	117.00	105.00	125.00	119.00	115.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	42.00	33.00	---	34.20	28.30	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	87.00	88.50	---	97.10	98.00	---
Milk Cows 5/	Head	1,700.00	---	1,600.00	1,730.00	---	1,940.00
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	15.42	16.95	16.70	16.60	18.10	18.00

- 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 April 2008 prices are for the full month
- 4/ Prices include barrows, gilts, and sows.
- 5/ 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 2007	April 15, 2008	April 2007	April 15, 2008
		<i>Dollars</i>			
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	21.80	28.40	18.20	21.10
Bran	Cwt.	20.50	33.80	17.40	19.10
Corn Meal	Cwt.	18.10	21.00	12.30	13.70
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	27.60	34.40	20.00	23.00
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	246.00	356.00	249.00	313.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	26.80	32.50	18.20	23.40

- 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, 2007 totaled 250 thousand tons. This is 13 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 24 percent above May 1, 2007.

United States May 1 stocks of hay on farms totaled 21.6 million tons of hay. This was 21 percent of the December 1 stocks, and was 44 percent above the previous year.

**HAY STOCKS ON FARMS**

State	December 1			May 1		
	2005	2006	2007	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Tons					
California	1,840	1,785	1,890	192	202	250
Arizona	350	350	260	40	35	36
Nevada	788	879	767	209	202	90
Oregon	1,790	1,840	1,700	210	180	150
Utah	1,370	1,410	1,130	266	185	215
UNITED STATES	105,205	96,555	103,986	21,345	15,013	21,593

### CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during April 2008 totaled 143 million pounds (dressed weight), 7 percent above the previous month, and 5 percent above April 2007. This figure includes slaughter in federally inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In April 2008, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,302 pounds; calves 123 pounds; and hogs 242 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2007.

Sheep slaughter totaled 221 thousand head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

### U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH FOR APRIL

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007.

January to April 2008 commercial red meat production was 16.8 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 13 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

April 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays, while April 2008 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Veal production totaled 11.9 million pounds, 1 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73.3 thousand head, up 29 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 70 pounds from last year, at 278 pounds.

### COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2007-08 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	
<b>CATTLE</b>						
California	131.1	136.1	167,157	174,503	1,297	1,302
U.S. Total	2,701.4	2,959.6	3,324,065	3,714,432	1,235	1,259
<b>CALVES</b>						
California	7.7	14.6	1,147	1,772	150	123
U.S. Total	56.9	73.3	19,691	20,128	348	278
<b>SHEEP &amp; LAMBS</b>						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	216.6	221.4	29,941	30,609	138	138
<b>HOGS</b>						
California	210.2	219.1	51,272	52,935	244	242
U.S. Total	8,466.9	9,994.7	2,284,838	2,690,031	270	269
<b>RED MEAT</b>	April 2007	March 2008	April 2008	Apr 08 Apr 07	Apr 08 Mar 08	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	136.3	133.0	142.7	105	107	
U.S. Total 2/	3,753.4	4,090.6	4,297.0	114	105	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

2/ Revised March 2008.

### HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, CANADA AND UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

Type	Canada April 1 Inventory 3/			United States March 1 Inventory 4/		
	2007	2008	2008 2007	2007	2008	2008 2007
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent
All Hogs & Pigs	14,729	13,000	88	61,860	65,909	107
Kept for Breeding	1,571	1,498	95	6,110	6,138	100
Market	13,158	11,502	87	55,749	59,770	107
Sows Farrowed	824	809	98	2,905	3,051	105
Pig Crop	8,032	7,951	99	26,396	28,094	106

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Includes Boars.

3/ Source: Livestock and Animal Products Section, Statistics Canada

4/ Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service

**CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION**

California milk producers produced 3.51 billion pounds of milk in April 2008. This was 3 percent below March 2008, but 2 percent above April 2007.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,900 pounds, 70 pounds less than in March 2008, and 15 pounds less than a year ago.

**MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES**

Month	CALIFORNIA						Total Milk		UNITED STATES 1/					
	Milk Cows 2/		Milk Per Cow 3/		Milk Production 3/		Receipts 4/		Milk Cows 2/		Milk Per Cow 3/ 5/		Milk Production 3/ 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	3,636	8,295	8,436	1,783	1,794	14,787	15,134
Apr.	1,801	1,848	1,915	1,900	3,449	3,511	3,445		8,292	8,444	1,745	1,757	14,470	14,833
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/ Twenty-three state total.

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

3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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

5/ Revised March 2008.



**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.