



California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 460 thousand head on March 1, 2009, 4 percent below last month and 16 percent below March 2008. During February, placements of 36.0 thousand head were 40 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 54.0 thousand head were 14 percent below February 2008. Other disappearance totaled 2.00 thousand head.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below March 1, 2008.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million, 3 percent below 2008. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 385 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 538 thousand and 800 pounds and greater were 435 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million, 5 percent below 2008.

Other disappearance totaled 56.0 thousand during February, 7 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

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	
	2008	2009	2009/2008	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	373	349	94	36	26	30	32
California	555	480	86	60	36	63	54
Colorado	1,090	1,020	94	155	190	190	165
Idaho	235	215	91	39	38	38	37
Iowa	570	520	91	62	62	69	61
Kansas	2,430	2,260	93	390	420	400	375
Nebraska	2,510	2,400	96	350	310	360	370
New Mexico	160	158	99	15	9	14	18
Oklahoma	355	330	93	45	51	48	49
South Dakota	230	225	98	47	43	40	39
Texas	2,930	2,810	96	440	430	440	410
Washington	153	151	99	30	28	30	25
Other States	375	370	99	54	35	54	47
UNITED STATES	11,966	11,288	94	1,723	1,678	1,776	1,682

State	Other Disappearance During February b/		Number On Feed March 1 a/		2009
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	2	1	377	342	91
California	7	2	545	460	84
Colorado	5	5	1,050	1,040	99
Idaho	1	1	235	215	91
Iowa	3	1	560	520	93
Kansas	10	15	2,410	2,290	95
Nebraska	10	10	2,490	2,330	94
New Mexico	1	1	160	148	93
Oklahoma	2	2	350	330	94
South Dakota	2	4	235	225	96
Texas	10	10	2,920	2,820	97
Washington	2	1	151	153	101
Other States	5	3	370	355	96
UNITED STATES	60	56	11,853	11,228	95

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					
		February 2008			February 2008		
		January 2009	Feb. 15, 2009	January 2009	February 2008	Feb. 15, 2009	
Dollars							
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	191.00	159.00	142.00	129.00	136.00	132.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	208.00	163.00	145.00	138.00	149.00	143.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	42.20	42.80	43.50
Cows 2/ 5/	Cwt.	45.00	36.50	39.40	51.70	42.30	44.30
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	92.90	84.30	84.00	94.30	85.80	85.40
Calves 2/	Cwt.	112.00	100.00	100.00	120.00	106.00	105.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	29.00	45.50	---	29.90	31.40	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	89.00	91.50	---	96.50	101.00	---
Milk Cows 6/	Head	---	1,200.00	---	---	1,630.00	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	17.74	11.16	10.50	19.10	13.30	11.50

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 the U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ California's February 2009 prices are for the full month.

4/ Prices include barrows, gilts and sows.

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

6/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 35 PERCENT

California's 2008 honey production, at 18.4 million pounds, was 35 percent above 2007. Producing colonies totaled 360 thousand, up 6 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 51 pounds, compared to 40 pounds produced per colony in 2007.



U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT

Honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007. 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 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

U.S. HONEY PRICES RECORD HIGH

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2008 to 141.0 cents, up 31 percent from 107.7 cents in 2007. 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. Honey prices for 2008 were up from the previous year for all color classes and marketing channels. Prices for the 2007 crop reflect honey sold in 2007 and 2008. Some 2007 crop honey was sold in 2008, which caused some revisions to the 2007 crop prices.

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/	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Colonies		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Cents		\$1,000	
California	340	360	40	51	13,600	18,360	104	141	14,144	25,888
Florida	160	150	71	79	11,360	11,850	99	130	11,246	15,405
Montana	135	134	68	70	9,180	9,380	99	137	9,088	12,851
N. Dakota	420	390	74	90	31,080	35,100	96	135	29,837	47,385
S. Dakota	255	225	52	95	13,260	21,375	102	134	13,525	28,643
UNITED STATES 5/	2,443	2,301	60.7	69.9	148,341	160,861	107.7	141.0	159,763	226,814

1/ For producers with five or more colonies. Revised 2007 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.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during February 2009 totaled 134 million pounds (dressed weight), 10 percent below the previous month, and 1 percent below February 2008. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2009, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,308 pounds, calves 113 pounds and hogs 243 pounds.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM JANUARY

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.83 billion pounds in February, down 4 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in February 2008.

Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 4 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,310 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, slightly below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74.1 thousand head, up 7 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was down 15 pounds from last year, at 257 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.91 million head, down 5 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 15 percent from February 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 180 thousand head, 15 percent below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

January to February 2009 commercial red meat production was 7.99 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was up 3 percent, pork was down 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 12 percent.

February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2009 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2008- 09 a/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	128.9	130.3	163,116	167,695	1,288	1,308
U.S.	2,642.7	2,527.3	3,382,701	3,299,293	1,285	1,310
CALVES						
California	15.6	19.6	1,793	2,183	116	113
U.S.	69.1	74.1	18,616	18,749	272	257
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S.	211.6	180.1	30,084	25,527	142	142
HOGS						
California	208.2	202.5	50,946	49,104	245	243
U.S.	9,377.4	8,913.2	2,534,860	2,418,807	271	272
RED MEAT	February 2008	January 2009	February 2009	Feb 09 Feb 08	Feb 09 Jan 09	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	134.4	147.9	133.5	99	90	
U.S.	3,967.4	4,169.6	3,825.1	96	92	

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

RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2008

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2008 totaled 1.66 billion pounds, a slight decrease from last year's production of 1.67 billion pounds. The month of December 2008 had the largest red meat production at 150 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States totaled 50.2 billion pounds in 2008, up 3 percent from last year's production of 48.7 billion pounds. The month of October 2008 had the largest red meat production at 4.53 billion pounds.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Million Pounds			
January	148.2	148.4	4,093.8	4,417.7
February	131.7	134.4	3,615.4	3,967.4
March	142.2	132.8	4,012.4	4,089.8
April	136.3	142.7	3,753.4	4,298.2
May	141.9	138.7	4,075.5	4,222.0
June	142.2	135.4	4,027.5	4,050.0
July	133.4	133.3	3,940.4	4,250.1
August	144.9	133.2	4,325.7	4,095.2
September	122.1	136.0	3,863.6	4,272.9
October	145.8	148.3	4,615.6	4,529.3
November	140.7	129.4	4,300.2	3,869.5
December	142.9	149.6	4,059.9	4,162.8
TOTAL 2/	1,672.4	1,662.2	48,683.8	50,224.6

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

2/ Totals based on unrounded data and may not equal sum of parts.

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

State	2007	2008
	Number	
California	1,960	1,905
Indiana	1,660	1,670
Iowa	2,130	2,020
Michigan	2,440	2,390
Minnesota	5,070	4,865
New York	5,770	5,620
Ohio	3,430	3,360
Pennsylvania	8,010	7,670
Wisconsin	14,170	13,730
UNITED STATES	59,130	57,127

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	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	48.90	48.00	46.60	47.00
Cows 1/	Cwt.	44.30	43.70	47.90	50.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	93.70	92.90	95.40	94.50
Calves	Cwt.	109.00	102.00	119.00	110.00
Sheep	Cwt.	29.60	24.30	31.00	27.20
Lambs	Cwt.	90.50	91.30	98.50	99.60
Milk Cows 2/	Head	1,760.00	1,730.00	1,830.00	1,950.00

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

2/ Calendar year average.

TROUT SALES OF FISH 12" OR LONGER, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 2007-08 1/

State	Number Of Fish		Live Weight				Average Price Per Pound		Total Sales	
	2007	2008	Average Per Fish		Total		2007	2008	2007	2008
			2007	2008	2007	2008				
	1,000 Fish		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	1,810	2,290	1.2	1.3	2,150	2,950	2.56	2.67	5,504	7,877
U.S.	58,674	40,401	1.1	1.3	66,910	52,410	1.19	1.38	79,523	72,432

1/ Revised 2007 data.