



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 30, 2011 · Frequency: Monthly · (USPS 598-250) VOL. 33 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 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 11.4 million head on March 1, 2011. The inventory was 5 percent above March 1, 2010.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 1 percent below 2010. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 365 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 489 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 410 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.79 million, 4 percent above 2010.

Other disappearance totaled 60 thousand during February, 12 percent below 2010.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 460 thousand head on March 1, 2011, 2 percent below last month, and 8 percent above March 2010. During February, placements of 43.0 thousand head were 16 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 50.0 thousand head were 4 percent above February 2010. Other disappearance totaled 3.0 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 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2010	2011	2011/2010	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	290	266	92	21	29	24	25
California	430	470	109	51	43	48	50
Colorado	960	1,070	111	160	215	175	210
Idaho	200	230	115	36	31	40	40
Iowa	600	660	110	78	71	65	79
Kansas	2,240	2,270	101	405	365	415	405
Nebraska	2,370	2,460	104	365	350	370	365
Oklahoma	365	375	103	54	60	62	73
South Dakota	235	270	115	52	42	44	50
Texas	2,700	2,880	107	365	380	400	405
Washington	166	209	126	30	31	27	30
Other States	403	423	105	57	47	46	61
UNITED STATES	10,959	11,583	106	1,674	1,664	1,716	1,793
State	Other Disappearance During February 2/		Number On Feed March 1 1/		2011		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010		
	1,000 Head				Percent		
Arizona	1	1	286	269	94		
California	8	3	425	460	108		
Colorado	5	5	940	1,070	114		
Idaho	1	1	195	220	113		
Iowa	3	2	610	650	107		
Kansas	10	10	2,220	2,220	100		
Nebraska	15	15	2,350	2,430	103		
Oklahoma	2	2	355	360	101		
South Dakota	3	2	240	260	108		
Texas	15	15	2,650	2,840	107		
Washington	1	2	168	208	124		
Other States	4	2	410	407	99		
UNITED STATES	68	60	10,849	11,394	105		

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

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2010	January 2011	Feb. 15, 2011	February 2010	January 2011	Feb. 15, 2011
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	103.00	151.00	170.00	104.00	112.00	116.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	109.00	161.00	183.00	110.00	121.00	127.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	48.90	55.80	61.50
Cows 2/ 5/ 6/	Cwt.	51.50	---	---	51.70	65.00	71.20
Steers and Heifers 2/ 6/	Cwt.	89.00	---	---	90.50	110.00	109.00
Calves 2/ 6/	Cwt.	114.00	---	---	113.00	136.00	136.00
Sheep 2/ 7/	Cwt.	48.00	---	---	54.80	81.90	---
Lambs 2/ 7/	Cwt.	90.00	---	---	106.00	149.00	---
Milk Cows 8/	Head	---	1,330.00	---	---	1,300.00	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	14.22	15.35	17.70	15.90	16.70	18.40

- 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 2011 prices are for the full month.
- 4/ Prices include barrows, gilts, and sows.
- 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
- 6/ Beginning with January 2011, State level cows, calves, steers & heifers, and beef cattle prices will be discontinued. United States level cows, calves, steers & heifers, and beef cattle prices will be published based on data provided by United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.
- 7/ Beginning with January 2011, State level sheep and lamb prices will be discontinued. Sheep and Lamb prices for the United States will be published based on data provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service.
- 8/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

CALIFORNIA HONEY PRODUCTION UP 134 PERCENT

California's 2010 honey production, at 27.5 million pounds, was 134 percent above 2009. Producing colonies totaled 410 thousand, up 15 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 67 pounds, compared to 33 pounds produced per colony in 2009.

RECORD HIGH U.S. HONEY PRICES

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2010 to 160.3 cents per pound, up 9 percent from 147.3 cents per pound in 2009. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2009 crop reflect honey sold in 2009 and 2010. Some 2009 crop honey was sold in 2010, which caused some revisions to the 2009 crop prices.

U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION UP 20 PERCENT

Honey production in 2010 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 176 million pounds, up 20 percent from 2009. There were 2.68 million colonies producing honey in 2010, up 7 percent from 2009. Yield per colony averaged 65.5 pounds, up 12 percent from the 58.6 pounds in 2009. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield 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 45.3 million pounds on December 15, 2010, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

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/	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Colonies		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Cents		\$1,000	
California	355	410	33	67	11,715	27,470	139	156	16,284	42,853
Florida	170	200	68	69	11,560	13,800	142	157	16,415	21,666
Montana	146	157	70	74	10,220	11,618	146	155	14,921	18,008
N. Dakota	450	510	77	91	34,650	46,410	138	151	47,817	70,079
S. Dakota	270	265	66	59	17,820	15,635	142	154	25,304	24,078
UNITED STATES 5/	2,498	2,684	58.6	65.5	146,416	175,904	147.3	160.3	215,671	281,974

- 1/ For producers with five or more colonies.
- 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 2011 totaled 139.8 million pounds (dressed weight), 2 percent below the previous month, and 11 percent above February 2010. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2011, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,288 pounds; calves 103 pounds; sheep 138 pounds; and hogs 244 pounds.

ANOTHER MONTH OF RECORD LOW VEAL, LAMB AND MUTTON PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.81 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.74 billion pounds produced in February 2010.

Beef production, at 2.02 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.62 million head, up 3 percent from February 2010. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,286 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.5 million pounds, 2 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68.8 thousand head, down 7 percent from February 2010. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from last year, at 264 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.51 million head, down 2 percent from February 2010. The average live weight was up 7 pounds from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 10.9 million pounds, was down 12 percent from February 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 155.1 thousand head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

January to February 2011 commercial red meat production was 7.85 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 12 percent.

February 2010 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2011 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2009-10 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	126.4	145.0	159,254	183,534	1,284	1,288
U.S.	2,546.8	2,622.3	3,260,196	3,360,198	1,285	1,286
CALVES						
California	20.7	16.5	2,089	1,695	103	103
U.S.	74.0	68.8	18,054	17,702	247	264
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	22.8	19.1	3,142	2,667	138	139
U.S.	178.9	155.1	24,971	21,842	140	141
HOGS						
California	202.6	191.0	47,447	46,542	234	244
U.S.	8,691.3	8,508.6	2,347,377	2,358,576	270	277
RED MEAT	February 2010	January 2011	February 2011	Feb 11 Mar 10	Feb 11 Jan 11	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	126.5	142.9	139.8	111	98	
U.S.	3,735.8	4,042.0	3,811.3	102	94	

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

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2011 was 64.0 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2010, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2010.

Breeding inventory, at 5.79 million head, was up slightly from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.2 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2010-February 2011 pig crop, at 28.0 million head, was up 1 percent from 2010, but down 2 percent from 2009. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from 2010 and down 5 percent from 2009. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.80 for the December 2010-February 2011 period, compared to 9.61 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2010-11

Item	2010	2011	2011 2010
	1,000 Head		Percent
March 1 Inventory 1/			
All Hogs and Pigs	63,568	63,964	101
Kept for Breeding	5,760	5,788	100
Market	57,808	58,176	101
Market Hogs and Pigs			
By Weight Groups			
Under 50 Pounds	18,767	18,898	101
50-119 Pounds	15,993	16,225	101
120-179 Pounds	12,307	12,309	100
180 Pounds and Over	10,742	10,744	100

1/ May not add due to rounding.

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

State	2009	2010
	Number	
California	1,820	1,710
Indiana	1,680	1,660
Iowa	1,890	1,790
Michigan	2,310	2,230
Minnesota	4,700	4,540
New York	5,480	5,380
Ohio	3,310	3,250
Pennsylvania	7,400	7,340
Wisconsin	13,170	12,710
UNITED STATES	54,932	53,127

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	
		2009	2010	2009	2010
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	42.30	54.90	41.60	54.10
Cows 1/ Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	42.80	54.90	44.80	54.80
Calves	Cwt.	84.60	96.40	85.40	97.70
Sheep	Cwt.	100.00	116.00	105.00	117.00
Lambs	Cwt.	31.10	45.60	32.50	49.70
Milk Cows 2/	Head	88.70	106.00	99.60	125.00
		1,200.00	1,300.00	1,390.00	1,330.00

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

2/ Calendar year average.

FARM NUMBERS

In 2010 an estimated 81.7 thousand farms operated on 25.4 million acres in California. The average farm size is 311 acres. There was a slight increase in number of farms and a slight decrease in farm size, but the land in farms remained the same.

The number of farms in the United States in 2010 is estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2009. Total land in farms, at 920.0 million acres, increased 100 thousand acres from 2009. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 1/

Area and Item		2009	2010
CALIFORNIA	Number of Farms	81,500	81,700
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	25,400	25,400
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	312	311
UNITED STATES	Number of Farms	2,200,210	2,200,930
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	919,890	919,990
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	418	418

TROUT SALES OF FISH 12" OR LONGER, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 2009-10 1/

State	Number Of Fish		Live Weight				Average Price		Total Sales	
			Average Per Fish		Total		Per Pound			
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Fish		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Dollars		\$1,000	
California	1,400	1,310	1.2	1.2	1,660	1,620	2.93	2.96	4,864	4,795
U.S.	40,822	38,675	1.2	1.2	48,714	45,248	1.38	1.39	67,207	63,066

1/ Revised 2009 data.

VIC TOLOMEO, Director
SARAH HOFFMAN - KELLY KRUG, Deputy Directors
 Doug Flohr - Ben Blomendahl - Aaron Cosgrove
 Sarah DeVandry - Stephanie Holm - Robert Jeutong - Brian Kugel
 Jodi Letterman - John McDonnell - Karen Olmstead - Lena Schwedler
 Geoffrey Sechter - Jennifer Travis - Jennifer Van Court
Estimates Group - (916) 498-5161

USDA-NASS, California Field Office publications are available free-of-charge on the Internet at:
www.nass.usda.gov/ca