



California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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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 11.5 million head on April 1, 2012. The inventory was 2 percent above April 1, 2011. The inventory included 7.17 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.25 million head, up 4 percent from 2011.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.79 million, 6 percent below 2011. Net placements were 1.72 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 390 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 300 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 500 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 602 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.92 million, 4 percent below 2011.

Other disappearance totaled 69 thousand during March, 30 percent above 2011.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 490 thousand head on April 1, 2012, 2 percent below last month, and 9 percent above April 2011. During March, placements of 53.0 thousand head were 10 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 61.0 thousand head were 11 percent higher than March 2011. Other disappearance totaled 2.0 thousand head.

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS IN SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed March 1 1/			Placed During March		Marketed During March	
	2011	2012	2012/2011	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	269	279	104	33	27	25	27
California	460	500	109	48	53	55	61
Colorado	1,070	1,090	102	215	160	190	175
Idaho	220	230	105	35	34	34	38
Iowa	650	670	103	81	73	78	71
Kansas	2,220	2,200	99	415	375	435	395
Nebraska	2,430	2,570	106	390	440	430	460
Oklahoma	360	340	94	75	56	78	74
South Dakota	265	260	98	46	45	44	48
Texas	2,830	2,840	100	490	430	540	470
Washington	205	233	114	33	37	28	36
Other States	407	465	114	53	62	53	63
UNITED STATES	11,386	11,677	103	1,914	1,792	1,990	1,918

State	Other Disappearance During March 2/		Number On Feed April 1 1/		2012
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	1,000 Head		Percent		
Arizona	1	1	276	278	101
California	3	2	450	490	109
Colorado	5	5	1,090	1,070	98
Idaho	1	1	220	225	102
Iowa	3	2	650	670	103
Kansas	10	10	2,190	2,170	99
Nebraska	10	20	2,380	2,530	106
Oklahoma	2	2	355	320	90
South Dakota	2	2	265	255	96
Texas	10	20	2,770	2,780	100
Washington	3	1	207	233	113
Other States	3	3	404	461	114
UNITED STATES	53	69	11,257	11,482	102

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.

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.81 billion pounds of milk in March 2012. This was 9 percent above February 2011 and 6 percent above March 2011.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 2,135 pounds, 170 pounds more than in February 2012, and 95 pounds more than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/ 2/						Total Milk		UNITED STATES					
	Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/		Receipts 6/		Milk Cows 4/		Milk Per Cow 5/		Milk Production 5/	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,752	1,782	1,935	2,030	3,390	3,617	3,388	3,617	8,405	8,502	1,811	1,859	15,219	15,806
Feb.	1,756	1,784	1,800	1,965	3,161	3,506	3,159	3,504	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,780	13,997	15,149
Mar.	1,760	1,785	2,040	2,135	3,590	3,811	3,588		8,425	8,519	1,872	1,931	15,773	16,452
Apr.	1,769		1,990		3,520		3,515		8,431		1,835		15,475	
May	1,772		2,075		3,677		3,675		8,447		1,902		16,069	
June	1,774		1,980		3,513		3,508		8,450		1,820		15,382	
July	1,776		1,990		3,534		3,532		8,459		1,820		15,395	
Aug.	1,777		1,970		3,501		3,498		8,463		1,813		15,342	
Sept.	1,778		1,865		3,316		3,311		8,466		1,742		14,744	
Oct.	1,778		1,925		3,423		3,424		8,475		1,790		15,170	
Nov.	1,778		1,880		3,343		3,339		8,475		1,739		14,742	
Dec.	1,779		1,965		3,496		3,493		8,485		1,818		15,426	

- 1/ Revised 2011 data.
- 2/ Revised data for January and February 2012.
- 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 2011	February 2012	March 15, 2012	March 2011	February 2012	March 15, 2012
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Tons	224.00	246.00	240.00	126.00	176.00	181.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Tons	240.00	250.00	245.00	142.00	198.00	201.00
Hogs 2/ 4/ 5/	Cwt.	---	---	---	62.90	65.50	65.70
Cows 2/ 7/	Cwt.	---	---	---	75.20	82.00	84.50
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	118.00	131.00	134.00
Calves 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	148.00	184.00	185.00
Milk Cows 8/	Head	---	---	---	---	---	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	18.62	15.90	16.00	20.40	17.70	17.40

- 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 March 2012 prices are for the full month.
- 4/ Prices include barrows, gilts, and sows.
- 5/ Beginning with January 2011, State level cows, calves, steers & heifers, and beef cattle prices were 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.
- 6/ Sheep & Lamb price program discontinued October 2011.
- 7/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION IN 2011

California's production of red meat in commercial plants during 2011 totaled 1.73 billion pounds, 1 percent higher than the 2010 figure of 1.72 billion pounds. The month of March had the largest red meat production at 155 million pounds.

Red meat production in commercial plants for the United States totaled 49.2 billion pounds in 2011, up slightly from last year's production of 49.0 billion pounds. The month of March had the largest red meat production at 4.34 billion pounds.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION BY MONTH 1/

Month	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Million Pounds			
January	137.6	143.2	3,916.0	4,041.1
February	126.5	139.9	3,735.8	3,810.0
March	148.1	154.8	4,281.1	4,346.7
April	142.6	139.7	4,012.4	3,867.8
May	137.5	143.3	3,731.2	3,914.8
June	149.5	152.1	4,176.5	4,218.8
July	144.0	135.4	3,955.5	3,792.3
August	146.8	149.8	4,126.0	4,303.4
September	144.4	142.1	4,160.0	4,192.1
October	142.7	139.0	4,262.2	4,270.6
November	148.1	147.7	4,329.3	4,258.9
December	156.0	146.6	4,352.8	4,215.1
TOTAL 2/	1,723.9	1,733.5	49,039.4	49,231.7

- 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.

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during March 2012 totaled 147.9 million pounds (dressed weight), 8 percent higher than the previous month, and 4 percent lower than last March. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In March 2012, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,293 pounds, calves 106 pounds, sheep & lambs 146 pounds, and hogs 244 pounds.

**COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION
DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.17 billion pounds in March, down 4 percent from the 4.35 billion pounds produced in March 2011.

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 7 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,299 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59.4 thousand head, down 19 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.52 million head, down 4 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 279 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 1 percent from March 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 190 thousand head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2012 commercial red meat production was 12.2 billion pounds, up slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 7 percent.

March 2011 contained 23 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. March 2012 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, MARCH 2011-12

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head		1,000 Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	155.5	147.6	197,101	189,472	1,291	1,293
U.S.	2,959.1	2,751.1	3,761,349	3,566,623	1,276	1,299
CALVES						
California	17.1	13.4	1,705	1,404	100	106
U.S.	73.0	59.4	20,311	16,760	284	283
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	26.9	27.6	3,964	4,023	147	146
U.S.	193.8	190.2	28,172	28,350	146	149
HOGS						
California	226.3	209.0	55,556	50,948	246	244
U.S.	9,872.5	9,521.6	2,739,640	2,653,411	278	279
RED MEAT	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	Apr 12 Apr 11	Apr 12 Mar 12	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	154.8	136.6	147.9	96	108	
U.S.	4346.7	3914.0	4169.7	96	107	

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