



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 U.S. for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on May 1, 2012. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2011.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.52 million, 15 percent below 2011. Net placements were 1.44 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 250 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 380 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 536 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.82 million, slightly above 2011.

Other disappearance totaled 78.0 thousand during April, 30 percent above 2011.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 475 thousand head on May 1, 2012, 3 percent below last month, and 6 percent above May 2011. During April, placements of 45.0 thousand head were 21 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 58.0 thousand head were 5 percent higher than April 2011. Other disappearance totaled 2.0 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	
	2011	2012	2012/2011	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	276	278	101	25	26	18	27
California	450	490	109	57	45	55	58
Colorado	1,090	1,070	98	165	120	150	150
Idaho	220	225	102	34	28	23	36
Iowa	650	670	103	69	55	76	72
Kansas	2,190	2,170	99	380	300	385	380
Nebraska	2,380	2,530	106	370	370	370	420
Oklahoma	355	320	90	76	47	74	70
South Dakota	265	255	96	31	32	39	40
Texas	2,770	2,780	100	500	410	530	465
Washington	207	233	113	28	28	33	34
Other States	404	461	114	50	60	54	63
UNITED STATES	11,257	11,482	102	1,785	1,521	1,807	1,815

State	Other Disappearance During April 2/		Number On Feed May 1 1/		2012
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	1	1	282	276	98
California	2	2	450	475	106
Colorado	5	10	1,100	1,030	94
Idaho	1	2	230	215	93
Iowa	3	3	640	650	102
Kansas	15	10	2,170	2,080	96
Nebraska	10	20	2,370	2,460	104
Oklahoma	2	2	355	295	83
South Dakota	2	2	255	245	96
Texas	10	15	2,730	2,710	99
Washington	2	3	200	224	112
Other States	7	8	393	450	115
UNITED STATES	60	78	11,175	11,110	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 2011	March 2012	April 15, 2012	April 2011	March 2012	April 15, 2012
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	227.00	240.00	230.00	143.00	181.00	190.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	242.00	245.00	235.00	161.00	201.00	207.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	67.80	65.20	62.60
Cows 2/ 5/	Cwt.	---	---	---	78.90	84.20	84.90
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	122.00	132.00	129.00
Calves 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	147.00	184.00	179.00
Milk Cows 6/	Head	1,300.00	---	1,300.00	1,420.00	---	1,440.00
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	17.87	15.51	15.00	19.60	17.20	16.90

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 May 2012 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.

* Sheep & Lamb price program discontinued October 2011

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, PACIFIC REGION AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	PACIFIC REGION 2/		UNITED STATES	
		March 2011	March 2012	March 2011	March 2012
		Dollars			
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	29.00	30.90	24.00	25.30
Bran	Cwt.	27.90	28.80	24.70	26.00
Corn Meal	Cwt.	22.30	23.90	17.10	18.50
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	34.90	35.80	26.60	27.40
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	358.00	370.00	369.00	383.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	37.60	38.40	26.80	27.60

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, 2012 totaled 240 thousand tons, 15 percent of the December 1 stocks and 50 percent above May 1, 2011.

United States May 1 stocks of hay on farms totaled 21.4 million tons of hay, 24 percent of the December 1 stocks and 4 percent below the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1				May 1		
	2009	2010	2011	2010	2011	2012	
	1,000 Tons						
California	2,400	1,850	1,640	432	160	240	
Arizona	500	365	250	60	40	35	
Nevada	1,012	819	830	310	46	238	
Oregon	2,200	2,100	2,200	420	280	275	
Utah	1,330	1,050	1,420	245	144	350	
UNITED STATES	107,222	102,134	90,726	20,931	22,217	21,381	

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during April 2012 totaled 143.5 million pounds (dressed weight), 3 percent lower than the previous month, but 3 percent higher than last April. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In April 2012, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,300 pounds, calves 117 pounds, sheep & lambs 141 pounds, and hogs 239 pounds.

U.S. VEAL PRODUCTION AT RECORD LOW FOR APRIL

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. totaled 3.86 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in April 2011.

Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 6 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,282 pounds.

Veal production totaled 9.9 million pounds, 3 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56.5 thousand head,

down 4 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.83 million head, up 2 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from April 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 181 thousand head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, up 4 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2012 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, down slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2011 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays. April 2012 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2011-12 1/

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	139.7	144.6	177,645	186,846	1,296	1,300
U.S. Total	2,719.1	2,569.3	3,404,878	3,285,772	1,257	1,282
CALVES						
California	14.9	12.7	1,595	1,475	107	117
U.S. Total	58.9	56.5	17,130	16,569	296	295
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	26.3	21.6	3,806	3,042	145	141
U.S. Total	207.7	181.2	28,689	25,785	138	142
HOGS						
California	207.7	200.5	50,093	47,933	241	239
U.S. Total	8,628.8	8,826.2	2,389,955	2,457,160	277	278
RED MEAT	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	Apr 12 Apr 11	Apr 12 Mar 12	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	139.7	147.9	143.5	103	97	
U.S. Total	3,867.8	4,171.8	3,855.1	100	92	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, CANADA AND UNITED STATES 2011-12 1/ 2/

Type	Canada April 1 Inventory 3/			United States March 1 Inventory 4/		
	2011	2012	2012 2011	2011	2012	2012 2011
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent
All Hogs & Pigs	11,830	12,040	102	63,684	64,872	102
Kept for Breeding	1,310	1,310	100	5,788	5,820	101
Market	10,520	10,730	102	57,896	59,052	102
Sows Farrowed	708	709	100	2,843	2,877	101
Pig Crop	7,201	7,266	101	27,866	28,681	103

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 3.63 billion pounds of milk in April 2012, 5 percent below March 2012 and slightly above April 2011.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 2,030 pounds, 100 pounds less than in March 2012, and 35 pounds more 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/	
	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	2,130	3,590	3,802	3,588	3,804	8,425	8,521	1,872	1,930	15,773	16,447
Apr.	1,764	1,787	1,995	2,030	3,519	3,628	3,515	3,630	8,431	8,525	1,835	1,875	15,475	15,983
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 March 2012 data.

3/ Includes total of 23 states.

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

5/ Excludes milk sucked 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.

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