



California Livestock Review

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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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 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the U.S. for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on March 1, 2012. The inventory was 3 percent above March 1, 2011.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million, 3 percent above 2011. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 335 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 469 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 510 thousand.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.76 million, 2 percent below 2011.

Other disappearance totaled 93.0 thousand during February, 52 percent above 2011.

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on March 1, 2012, one percent below last month, and 9 percent above March 2011. During February, placements of 50.0 thousand head were 16 percent above the previous year. Marketings of 53.0 thousand head were 6 percent higher than February 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 February 1 1/			Placed During February		Marketed During February	
	2011	2012	2012/2011	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head			
Arizona	266	276	104	29	25	25	21
California	470	505	107	43	50	50	53
Colorado	1,070	1,140	107	215	165	210	200
Idaho	230	235	102	31	37	40	41
Iowa	660	650	98	71	85	79	62
Kansas	2,270	2,230	98	365	370	405	385
Nebraska	2,460	2,570	104	350	410	365	390
Oklahoma	375	355	95	60	48	73	61
South Dakota	270	260	96	45	47	48	45
Texas	2,870	2,900	101	380	380	405	415
Washington	207	227	110	31	41	30	32
Other States	423	463	109	47	56	61	50
UNITED STATES	11,571	11,811	102	1,667	1,714	1,791	1,755

State	Other Disappearance During February 2/		Number On Feed March 1 1/		2012
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011
	1,000 Head		1,000 Head		Percent
Arizona	1	1	269	279	104
California	3	2	460	500	109
Colorado	5	15	1,070	1,090	102
Idaho	1	1	220	230	105
Iowa	2	3	650	670	103
Kansas	10	15	2,220	2,200	99
Nebraska	15	20	2,430	2,570	106
Oklahoma	2	2	360	340	94
South Dakota	2	2	265	260	98
Texas	15	25	2,830	2,840	100
Washington	3	3	205	233	114
Other States	2	4	407	465	114
UNITED STATES	61	93	11,386	11,677	103

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 2011	January 2012	Feb. 15, 2012	February 2011	January 2012	Feb. 15, 2012
<i>Dollars</i>							
All Hay, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	170.00	238.00	246.00	116.00	172.00	176.00
Alfalfa, Baled 2/ 3/	Ton	183.00	243.00	250.00	129.00	192.00	198.00
Hogs 2/ 4/	Cwt.	---	---	---	61.40	63.50	65.50
Cows 2/ 5/ 6/	Cwt.	---	---	---	72.50	74.60	80.10
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	111.00	130.00	130.00
Calves 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	139.00	169.00	180.00
Sheep 2/ 7/	Cwt.	---	---	---	54.80	---	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	106.00	---	---
Milk Cows 8/	Head	---	1,400.00	---	---	1,460.00	---
All Milk, Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	18.01	16.61	15.80	19.10	19.00	17.90

- 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 February 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/ Beginning with January 2011, State level cows, calves, steers & heifers, and beef cattle prices will be discontinued. U.S. 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 U.S. 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 DOWN 35 PERCENT

California's 2011 honey production, at 17.8 million pounds, was 35 percent lower than 2010. Honey producing colonies totaled 370 thousand, down 10 percent from the previous year. The yield per colony averaged 48 pounds, compared with 67 pounds per colony in 2010.

RECORD HIGH U.S. HONEY PRICES

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2011 to 172.9 cents per pound, up 7 percent from 161.9 cents per pound in 2010. U.S. 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 2010 crop reflect honey sold in 2010 and 2011. Some 2010 crop honey was sold in 2011, which caused some revisions to the 2010 crop prices.

U.S. HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT

Honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010. There were 2.49 million colonies producing honey in 2011, down 7 percent from 2010. Yield per colony averaged 59.6 pounds, down 9 percent from the 65.6 pounds in 2010. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the U.S. 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 36.8 million pounds on December 15, 2011, down 18 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/	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	<i>1,000 Colonies</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Cents</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>	
California	410	370	67	48	27,470	17,760	155	161	42,579	28,594
Florida	200	180	69	61	13,800	10,980	156	165	21,528	18,117
Montana	157	145	74	92	11,618	13,340	158	164	18,356	21,878
N. Dakota	510	460	91	71	46,410	32,660	150	166	69,615	54,216
S. Dakota	265	250	58	66	15,370	16,500	151	165	23,209	27,225
UNITED STATES 5/	2,692	2,491	65.6	59.6	176,462	148,357	161.9	172.9	285,692	256,509

- 1/ For producers with five or more colonies. Revised 2010 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 2012 totaled 136.6 million pounds (dressed weight), 3 percent lower than the previous month, and 2 percent lower than last February. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In February 2012, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,301 pounds, calves 106 pounds, sheep and lambs 145 pounds, and hogs 247 pounds.

FEBRUARY RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT FROM 2011

Commercial red meat production for the U.S. totaled 3.91 billion pounds in February, up 3 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in February 2011.

Beef production, at 2.01 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 2 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,307 pounds.

Veal production totaled 9.8 million pounds, 6 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60.2 thousand head, down 13 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from last year, at 276 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.88 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.04 million head, up 6 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.3 million pounds, was up 13 percent from February 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 165.4 thousand head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 8 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2012 commercial red meat production was 8.04 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 6 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 10 percent.

February 2011 contained 20 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2012 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 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	145.1	136.1	183,539	175,793	1,288	1,301
U.S.	2,621.3	2,557.7	3,358,633	3,335,912	1,286	1,307
CALVES						
California	16.6	14.6	1,706	1,539	104	106
U.S.	68.8	60.2	17,715	16,525	264	276
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	19.0	23.8	2,653	3,459	139	145
U.S.	155	165.4	21,831	24,683	141	149
HOGS						
California	191.4	189.9	46,684	46,871	244	247
U.S.	8,506.0	9,044.5	2,357,796	2,514,623	277	278
RED MEAT						
	February 2011	January 2012	February 2012	Feb 12 Feb 11	Feb 12 Jan 12	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	139.9	141.5	136.6	98	97	
U.S.	3,810.0	4,123.4	3,914.0	108	95	

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

U.S. HOG INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2012 was 64.9 million head. This was up 2 percent from March 1, 2011, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2011.

Breeding inventory, at 5.82 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.1 million head, was up 2 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2011-February 2012 pig crop, at 28.7 million head, was up 3 percent from 2011. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, up 1 percent from 2011. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.97 for the December-February period, compared to 9.80 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. HOG AND PIG INVENTORY, MARCH 1, 2011-12 1/

Item	2011	2012	2012 2011
	1,000 Head		Percent
March 1 Inventory 2/			
All Hogs and Pigs	63,684	64,872	102
Kept for Breeding	5,788	5,820	101
Market	57,896	59,052	102
Market Hogs and Pigs By Weight Groups			
Under 50 Pounds	18,863	19,332	102
50-119 Pounds	16,060	16,456	102
120-179 Pounds	12,361	12,569	102
180 Pounds and Over	10,612	10,695	101

1/ Revised 2011 data

2/ May not add due to rounding.

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

State	2010	2011
	Number	
California	1,715	1,675
Indiana	1,660	1,650
Iowa	1,790	1,670
Michigan	2,230	2,160
Minnesota	4,540	4,325
New York	5,380	5,450
Ohio	3,250	3,170
Pennsylvania	7,340	7,240
Wisconsin	12,710	12,100
UNITED STATES	53,132	51,481

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	
		2010	2011	2010	2011
		Dollars			
Hogs	Cwt.	54.90	---	54.10	65.30
Cows 1/ Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	54.90	---	54.80	71.20
Calves	Cwt.	96.40	---	97.70	117.00
Sheep	Cwt.	116.00	---	117.00	142.00
Lambs	Cwt.	45.60	---	49.70	(N/A)
Milk Cows 2/	Head	106.00	---	125.00	(N/A)
		1,300.00	1,330.00	1,330.00	1,420.00

1/ Beginning in January 2011, state level prices for hogs, all types of cattle, and sheep & lambs were discontinued.

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

3/ US Sheep and Lamb prices are no longer being published beginning with the November 2011 Agricultural Prices release.

4/ Calendar year average.

FARM NUMBERS

In 2011 an estimated 81.5 thousand farms operated on 25.4 million acres in California. The average farm size is 312 acres. The average farm size, number of farms and land in farms remained the same from 2010.

The number of farms in the U.S. in 2011 is estimated at 2.2 million, down slightly from 2010. Total land in farms, at 917 million acres, decreased 1.85 million acres from 2010. The average farm size is 420 acres, up 1 acre from the previous year.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 1/

<i>Area and Item</i>		<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
CALIFORNIA	Number of Farms	81,500	81,500
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	25,400	25,400
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	312	312
UNITED STATES	Number of Farms	2,192,000	2,181,000
	Land in Farms (1,000 Acres)	918,840	916,990
	Average Size of Farms (Acres)	419	420

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			
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
<i>1,000 Fish</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>\$1,000</i>		
California	1,310	1,260	1.2	1.3	1,620	1,580	2.96	3.04	4,795	4,803
U.S.	38,700	38,415	1.2	1.2	45,285	45,416	1.40	1.53	63,187	69,467

1/ Revised 2010 data.

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