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LIVESTOCK DAIRY & POULTRY

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

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TOPICS IN THIS REPORT

- Cattle on Feed: Average Prices - Nebraska
- Chickens and Eggs
- Hatchery Production
- Milk Production
- Livestock Slaughter

calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 503,000, 600-699 pounds were 529,000, 700-799 pounds were 448,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 268,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 4 percent below 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during December, 9 percent below 2002 and 3 percent below 2001.

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS

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 January 1, 2004. The inventory was 6 percent above January 1, 2003 but 3 percent below January 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.84 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.33 million head, up 9 percent from January 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.75 million, 10 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.66 million. During December, placements of cattle and

Cattle on Feed: U.S. Number Placed on Feed, by weight groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, November and December, 2003

Month	Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
1,000 head					
Dec 2002	421	*512	407	255	*1,595
Nov 2003	680	578	379	289	1,926
Dec 2003	503	529	448	268	1,748

*Revised.

Cattle and Calves on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, and United States

State	Number on feed December 1			Placed during December			Marketed during December			Other disappearance during December			Number on feed January 1		
	2002	2003	2003-02	2002	2003	2003-02	2002	2003	2003-02	2002	2003	2003-02	2003	2004	2004-03
	1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent		1,000 head	Percent	
AZ	295	284	96	25	32	128	27	22	81	4	1	25	289	293	101
CA	500	500	100	55	70	127	55	55	100	10	5	50	490	510	104
CO	1,070	1,060	99	145	180	124	185	190	103	10	10	100	1,020	1,040	102
ID	300	310	103	44	53	120	47	60	128	2	3	150	295	300	102
IA	350	370	106	65	50	77	59	48	81	1	2	200	355	370	104
KS	2,300	2,480	108	390	410	105	470	435	93	20	25	125	2,200	2,430	110
NE	2,180	2,280	105	340	350	103	370	340	92	10	10	100	2,140	2,280	107
NM	123	121	98	12	14	117	15	17	113	1	3	300	119	115	97
OK	340	350	103	34	53	156	41	45	110	3	3	100	330	355	108
SD	195	200	103	38	31	82	27	30	111	1	1	100	205	200	98
TX	2,700	2,840	105	360	420	117	400	410	103	30	20	67	2,630	2,830	108
WA	195	205	105	*32	30	94	40	38	95	2	2	100	*185	195	105
Oth. Sts.	350	330	94	55	55	100	65	50	77	5	5	100	335	330	99
U.S.	10,898	11,330	104	*1,595	1,748	110	1,801	1,740	97	99	90	91	*10,593	11,248	106

*Revised.

Average prices, Nebraska, dollars per cwt

Week ended	Slaughter steers				Slaughter heifers			
	Choice 1100-1300 lbs				Choice 1000-1200 lbs			
	2003		2004		2003		2004	
Jan 3	64.39		74.96		64.98		74.56	
Jan 10	77.69		74.68		77.88		75.42	
Jan 17	79.14		79.03		79.14		79.37	

CHICKENS AND EGGS

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-January 2004 averaged 81.0 cents per dozen, up six cents from mid-December. Table egg production in Florida during December was 244 million eggs, up three percent from the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion eggs during December 2003, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 995 million were broiler-type and 61.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2003 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 2 percent from December 2002. December 2003 contained 23 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays, compared to December 2002 which contained 22 weekdays, 1 holiday, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2004, totaled 337 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 337 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2004, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.02 billion eggs during December 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during December, at 316 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

Mid-month table egg prices received
by Florida egg producers.

Month	Cents per dozen	
	2003	2004
January	55.0	81.0
February	50.0	
March	51.0	
April	52.0	
May	41.0	
June	50.0	
July	51.0	
August	66.0	
September	66.0	
October	72.0	
November	90.0	
December	75.0	

FLORIDA: Layers on hand first of month,
percent molting and molted

	Jan 2003	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004
Total layers on hand: Thous.	10,601	11,009	10,989	10,971
Percent of layers:				
Being molted	2.5	3.5	2.0	3.0
Molt completed	31.5	30.0	27.0	26.0

Layers and egg production, December 2003, production year-to-date egg production for selected States

Selected States	Average layers on hand	Eggs per 100 layers	Egg production				Layers	
			Total	Table	Hatching	Year to date ^{1/}	Being molted	Molt completed
	Thousand		Millions				Percent	
Alabama	9,418	1,932	182	50	132	182	0.5	4.5
Arkansas	14,522	1,914	278	100	178	278	1.5	10.5
California	20,899	2,244	469			469	7.0	31.0
Florida	10,989	2,321	255	244	11	255	3.0	26.0
Georgia	20,672	2,095	433	263	170	433	3.0	17.0
Indiana	23,427	2,275	533	521	12	533	3.5	32.0
Iowa	40,931	2,293	939			939	4.0	31.5
Maine	4,135	2,322	96			96	0.0	0.0
Maryland	3,011	2,435	73	71	2	73	2.5	18.5
Michigan	7,289	2,264	165			165	9.5	29.0
Minnesota	10,991	2,241	246	237	9	246	3.5	23.0
Mississippi	6,751	1,955	132	42	90	132	1.0	10.5
Missouri	6,575	2,236	147			147	3.0	15.0
Nebraska	11,743	2,282	268	268		268	6.0	22.0
New York	3,764	2,471	93			93	3.5	1.5
North Carolina	10,812	2,005	217	84	133	217	0.0	10.5
Ohio	28,276	2,309	653			653	5.0	24.0
Pennsylvania	23,504	2,314	544	528	16	544	3.5	21.5
South Carolina	5,343	2,265	121	101	20	121	2.5	24.5
Texas	18,398	2,238	412			412	5.5	10.5
Virginia	3,205	1,934	62	28	34	62	4.0	7.5
Washington	4,943	2,266	112			112	8.5	47.0
Other States	48,927		1,101	701	124	1,101		
United States	338,525	2,225	7,531	6,476	1,056	7,531	3.9	22.2

^{1/} Production year begins December 1.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The December hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 4,926,000 was 36 percent below a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on January 1, at 4,042,000, were 14 percent below a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during December at 742,000 chicks was slightly above last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on January 1, at 596,000 were six percent below a year ago.

UNITED STATES

The December 2003 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 778 million, was up 3 percent from December of the previous year. There were 637 million eggs in incubators on January 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.0 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2003, up 8 percent from December 2002.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December totaled 33.9 million, up 6 percent from December 2002. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.7 million on January 1, 2004, up 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 242,000 during December 2003, up 29 percent from December 2002.

Hatchery production, United States

Item	2003	2004	2004 % of 2003
-- Thousands --			
EGG-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Jan 1	30,117	31,665	105
Chicks hatched during Dec	31,973	33,856	106
Pullets hatched during Dec for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	187	242	129
7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	3,014	2,890	96
BROILER-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Jan 1	623,171	637,048	102
Chicks hatched during Dec	753,875	778,159	103
Pullets hatched during Dec for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks	6,475	6,978	108
7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	61,914	59,943	97

^{1/} 2003 includes pullet chicks hatched June 2002 through May 2003. ^{2/} 2003 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2002 through May 2003.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 195 million pounds of milk during December 2003, down five percent from the previous December. Production per cow of 1,320 pounds was slightly below last year. Milk cow numbers on Florida dairy farms in December totaled 140,000, five percent below last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.3 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from December 2002. November revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds, was down 0.1 percent from November 2002. The November revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,589 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 93,000 head less than December 2002, but unchanged from November 2003.

Milk cows and production, Florida and U.S.

Month and year	Milk cows	Monthly milk production	
		Per cow	Monthly Total
	Thous.	Lbs.	Mil. Lbs.
FLORIDA:			
December 2002	147	1,325	195
November 2003	140	1,170	164
December 2003	140	1,320	185
20 MAJOR STATES:			
December 2002	7,801	1,575	12,290
November 2003	7,708	1,511	11,650
December 2003	7,708	1,589	12,251
UNITED STATES:			
December 2002	9,150	1,553	14,211
November 2003	9,002	1,490	13,417
December 2003	9,001	1,568	14,110

Milk production by quarters, United States

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Thousand		Pounds		Mil. Lbs.	
Jan-Mar	9,112	9,154	4,653	4,691	42,397	42,939
Apr-Jun	9,149	9,114	4,811	4,814	44,015	43,872
Jul-Sep	9,153	9,064	4,566	4,581	41,791	41,520
Oct-Dec	9,148	9,007	4,543	4,588	41,555	41,322
Annual Total	9,141	9,085	18,571	18,674	169,758	169,653

^{1/} Dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for December 2003 was 6.0 million pounds, three percent above the same month last year. Commercial production of red meat in the

United States for December at 3.88 billion pounds, was slightly above 2002.

Commercial slaughter and red meat production, Florida and United States

Source and kind	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	Year to date 2002	Year to date 2003
Florida					
Cattle slaughtered (1000 head) ^{1/}	8	8	8	97	97
Hogs:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	9	9	14	106	110
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	1,559	1,537	2,381	19,572	17,413
Red meat production (million pounds)	5.8	5.1	6.0	68.8	66.7
United States					
Cattle:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,772	2,426	2,668	35,736	35,453
Total liveweight (million pounds)	3,506	2,999	3,320	44,685	43,647
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,265	1,236	1,244	1,251	1,231
Beef production (million pounds)	2,107	*1,778	1,973	27,089	26,235
Calves:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	98	78	98	1,044	1,002
Total liveweight (million pounds)	30	25	31	326	316
Average liveweight (pounds)	305	321	322	312	317
Veal production (million pounds)	18	15	19	197	192
Hogs:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	8,657	*8,581	9,347	100,260	100,777
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,316	2,312	2,513	26,562	26,827
Average liveweight (pounds)	268	269	269	265	266
Pork production (million pounds)	1,715	1,715	1,866	19,663	19,911
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,858	*3,525	3,876	47,168	46,533

^{1/}Does not include calf slaughter data. *Revised.