

Livestock, Dairy and Poultry

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Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on January 1, 2006. The inventory was four percent above January 1, 2005 and five percent above January 1, 2004. The inventory included 7.57 million steers and steer calves, up six percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.15 million head, up two percent from January 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.88 million head, three percent above 2004 and eight percent above 2003. This is the highest placements for the month of December since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.79 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 575,000, 600-699 pounds were 554,000, 700-799 pounds were 430,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.72 million head, three percent below 2004 and one percent below 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 91,000 head during December, one percent below 2004 but one percent above 2003.

CATTLE ON FEED: U.S. Cattle Placed on Feed, by Weight Groups, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, December 2004, November and December 2005

Month	Less than 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
1,000 head					
December 2004	465	558	489	322	1,834
November 2005	660	650	420	315	2,045
December 2005	575	554	430	325	1,884

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, AND UNITED STATES

State	Number on feed December 1		Placed during December 1		Marketed during December		Other disappearance during December		Number on feed January 1	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2005	2006
1,000 head										
AZ	329	328	33	35	30	27	1	2	331	334
CA	530	550	72	69	62	60	5	9	535	550
CO	1,100	1,070	135	155	145	140	10	5	1,080	1,080
ID	305	280	55	48	62	50	3	3	295	275
IA	435	500	71	65	55	53	1	2	450	510
KS	2,390	2,470	490	495	450	435	20	30	2,410	2,500
NE	2,300	2,400	390	350	380	305	10	15	2,300	2,430
NM	129	137	14	20	15	13	2	1	126	143
OK	355	365	53	64	52	57	6	2	350	370
SD	186	190	42	46	34	28	2	3	192	205
TX	2,740	2,940	405	465	420	470	25	15	2,700	2,920
WA	185	161	39	26	32	34	2	1	190	152
Oth. Sts.	350	335	35	46	40	43	5	3	340	335
U.S.	11,334	11,726	1,834	1,884	1,625	1,715	92	91	11,299	11,804

AVERAGE PRICES, NEBRASKA, DOLLARS PER CWT

Week ended	Slaughter steers Choice 1150-1500 lbs		Slaughter heifers Choice 1000-1300 lbs	
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2004-2005	2005-2006
December 24	89.23	96.42	89.08	96.94
December 31	86.90	93.00	87.45	93.88
January 07	87.83	92.42	87.57	92.73



United States
Department
Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
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CHICKENS AND EGGS

FLORIDA

Table eggs sold in mid-January 2006 averaged 60.0 cents unchanged from mid-December. Table egg production in Florida during December was 255 million eggs, slightly above the previous month.

UNITED STATES

U.S. egg production totaled 7.79 billion during December 2005, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.70 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The number of layers during December 2005 averaged 348 million, up one percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,237 eggs, up slightly from December 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2006, totaled 349 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.74 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2006, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, up one percent from January 1, 2005.

MID-MONTH TABLE EGG PRICES RECEIVED
BY FLORIDA EGG PRODUCERS.

Month	Cents per dozen	
	2005	2006
January	40.0	60.0
February	36.0	
March	33.0	
April	30.0	
May	27.0	
June	25.0	
July	34.0	
August	29.0	
September	50.0	
October	36.0	
November	51.0	
December	60.0	

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

	Jan 2005	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006
Total layers on hand: Thous.	10,315	11,647	11,374	11,647
Percent of layers: Being molted	8.5	7.0	6.0	6.0
Molt completed	20.0	34.0	36.0	36.0

LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 2005, 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
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Millions</i>				<i>Percent</i>	
Alabama	9,013	1,908	172	40	132	172	1.0	7.0
Arkansas	14,559	1,985	289	102	187	289	0.5	11.5
California	19,484	2,258	440			440	9.0	31.0
Florida	11,511	2,293	264	255	9	264	6.0	36.0
Georgia	19,156	2,130	408	233	175	408	2.5	13.0
Indiana	24,573	2,307	567	555	12	567	3.5	29.0
Iowa	50,350	2,230	1,123			1,123	6.0	31.5
Maine	3,980	2,362	94			94	0.0	0.0
Maryland	2,748	2,256	62	60	2	62	3.0	37.0
Michigan	8,260	2,349	194			194	2.5	21.0
Minnesota	11,135	2,317	258	249	9	258	5.5	23.0
Mississippi	6,704	1,984	133	40	93	133	2.0	9.0
Missouri	7,024	2,093	147			147	5.0	23.5
Nebraska	11,928	2,222	265	265	0	265	8.0	28.5
New York	4,267	2,461	105			105	3.5	8.0
North Carolina	10,959	2,017	221	83	138	221	0.0	8.5
Ohio	29,037	2,304	669			669	4.0	16.5
Pennsylvania	24,444	2,320	567	549	18	567	4.0	18.5
South Carolina	4,999	2,260	113	93	20	113	5.5	25.5
Texas	18,643	2,317	432			432	3.5	24.5
Virginia	3,525	2,156	76	40	36	76	2.5	16.5
Washington	4,889	2,270	111			111	6.5	40.0
Other States	47,112	2,284	485	395	90	485	2.6	25.9
United States	348,300	2,237	7,791	6,702	1,089	7,791	4.3	22.9

^{1/} Production year begins December 1.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

The December hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 5,039,000 was three percent above a year earlier. Broiler-type eggs in incubators on January 1, at 5,262,000 were 31 percent above a year ago.

Egg-type hatch during December at 724,000 chicks was 28 percent below last year. Egg-type eggs in incubators on January 1 at 815,000, were eight percent below a year ago.

UNITED STATES

Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2005 totaled 808 million, up two percent from December 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 661 million on January 1, 2006, up two percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.11 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2005, up five percent from December 2004.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2005 totaled 36.2 million, down three percent from December 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.5 million on January 1, 2006 up three percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 248,000 during December 2005, up six percent from December 2004.

HATCHERY PRODUCTION, UNITED STATES

Item	2005	2006	2006 % of 2005
<i>-- Thousands --</i>			
EGG-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Jan 1	34,456	35,547	103
Chicks hatched during Dec	37,332	36,224	97
Pullets hatched during Dec for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks 7-18 months earlier ^{1/}	235	248	106
	3,185	2,862	90
BROILER-TYPE:			
Eggs in incubators: Jan 1	650,680	660,613	102
Chicks hatched during Dec	793,090	807,848	102
Pullets hatched during Dec for intended placements in hatchery supply flocks 7-15 months earlier ^{2/}	6,772	7,112	105
	61,848	63,509	103

^{1/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched June 2004 through May 2005.

^{2/}2006 includes pullet chicks hatched September 2004 through May 2005.

MILK PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

Florida dairy farms produced 191 million pounds of milk during December 2005, four percent below the production in the previous December. Production per cow of 1,415 pounds was two percent below last year. Milk cows on Florida dairy farms in December totaled 135,000, two percent below last year.

UNITED STATES

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from December 2004. November revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.6 percent from November 2004. The November revision represented a decrease of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,665 pounds for December, 55 pounds above December 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 67,000 head more than December 2004, and 4,000 head more than November 2005.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND U.S.

Month and year	Milk cows	Monthly milk production	
		Per cow	Monthly Total
	<i>Thous.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>
FLORIDA:			
December 2004	138	1,450	200
November 2005	136	1,220	166
December 2005	135	1,415	191
23 MAJOR STATES:			
December 2004	8,097	1,610	13,037
November 2005	8,160	1,590	12,974
December 2005	8,164	1,665	13,592
UNITED STATES:			
December 2004	9,013	1,587	14,303
November 2005	9,046	1,566	14,178
December 2005	9,054	1,639	14,854

MILK PRODUCTION BY QUARTERS, UNITED STATES

Month	Milk cows ^{1/}		Milk per cow ^{2/}		Milk Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>Thousand</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Mil. Lbs.</i>	
Jan-Mar	8,993	8,996	4,755	4,807	42,759	43,242
Apr-Jun	9,001	9,034	4,869	5,054	43,824	45,660
Jul-Sep	9,027	9,054	4,679	4,858	42,239	43,984
Oct-Dec	9,019	9,050	4,655	4,819	41,983	43,605
Annual						
Total	9,010	9,034	18,957	19,536	170,805	176,491

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

^{2/} Excludes milk fed to calves.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat output in Florida for December 2005 was 4.4 million pounds, 17 percent below the same month last year. Commercial production of red meat in the United States for December at 3.95 billion pounds, was one percent above 2004.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION, FLORIDA AND UNITED STATES

Source and kind	December 2004	November 2005	December 2005	Year to date 2004	Year to date 2005
FLORIDA					
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	13	7	11	102	96
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	2,190	977	1,162	17,243	16,649
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	0.3	0.2	0.2	2.5	2.6
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	18	14	14	158	166
Red meat production (million pounds)	5.3	4.6	4.4	55.1	56.7
UNITED STATES					
CATTLE:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	2,690	2,668	2,666	32,728	32,380
Total liveweight (million pounds)	3,410	3,426	3,414	40,568	39,706
Average liveweight (pounds)	1,268	1,284	1,281	1,240	1,257
Beef production (million pounds)	2,042	2,071	2,057	24,547	24,692
CALVES:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	75	56	60	844	734
Total liveweight (million pounds)	25	21	22	282	260
Average liveweight (pounds)	334	365	370	330	353
Veal production (million pounds)	15	12	14	167	156
HOGS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	9,250	9,132	9,233	103,464	103,554
Total liveweight (million pounds)	2,496	2,484	2,510	27,587	27,824
Average liveweight (pounds)	270	272	272	267	269
Pork production (million pounds)	1,857	1,843	1,866	20,511	20,682
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	242	225	231	2,839	2,702
Total liveweight (1,000 pounds)	34	32	33	386	375
LAMB AND MUTTON:					
Head slaughtered (1,000 head)	17	16	17	194	188
Red meat production (million pounds)	3,930	3,942	3,953	45,418	45,718