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FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE

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MARCH EGG PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM YEAR AGO

Egg production during March, totaled 10.3 million eggs (28,611 cases) 10 percent less than a year earlier, according to the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service. Fewer layers on hand, when compared with a year earlier, over shadowed the slight increase in the average rate of lay to account for the decline in production. The average number of layers on hand during March 2002 was 543,000, compared with 613,000 a year ago and 538,000 during February 2002. The average rate of lay was 1,897 eggs per 100 layers (61.2 percent lay rate) compared with 1,876 (60.5 percent) a year ago.



U.S. EGG PRODUCTION

U.S. egg production totaled 7.41 billion during March 2002, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 64.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2002 averaged 337 million, slightly higher than the average number of layers during March 2001. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,197 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2,178 eggs in March 2001. March 2002 contained 21 weekdays, and five Saturdays, compared to 22 weekdays and five Saturdays in March 2001.

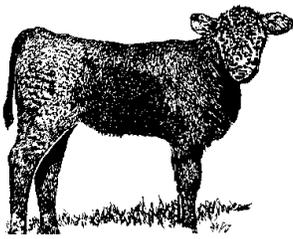
All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2002 totaled 338 million, slightly higher than a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 58.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.60 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2002, averaged 71.0 eggs per 100 layers, unchanged from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.94 billion eggs during March 2002, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 316 million, was slightly higher than a year earlier.

Number of layers and egg production, State of Hawaii, March 2002 1

Table with 9 columns: County, Number of layers on hand during month (Mar. 2001, Feb. 2002, Mar. 2002), Eggs per 100 layer (Mar. 2001, Mar. 2002), Total eggs produced (Mar. 2001, Mar. 2002, Year-to-date 2001, Year-to-date 2002). Rows include Hawaii/Kauai/Maui, Honolulu, and State.

1 State totals may not add due to rounding.



## MARCH MARKETINGS 43 PERCENT BELOW YEAR AGO

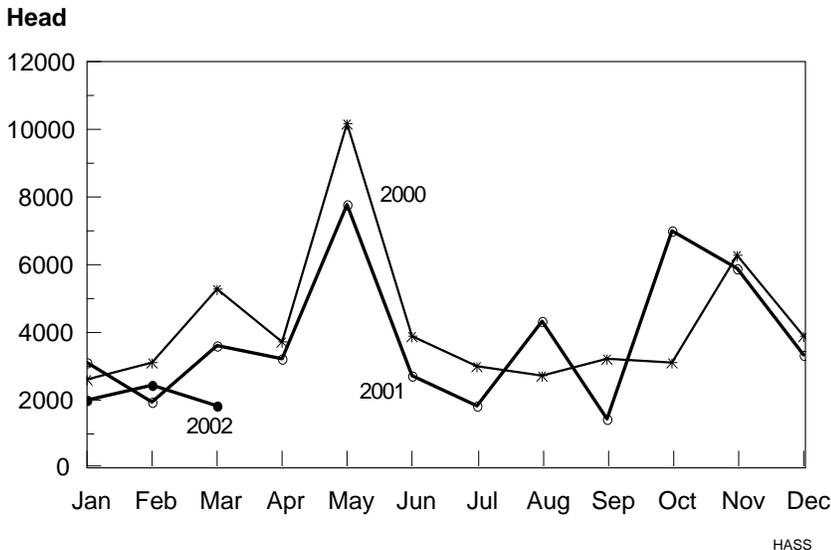
Cattle marketings during March 2002 totaled 2,800 head, compared with 4,900 head a year ago and 3,300 head during February 2002. Declines in both out-of-state shipments and local slaughter accounted for the 43 percent decrease in marketings when compared with a year earlier. Year-to-date marketings at 9,100 head were 25 percent below the same 3-month period in 2001. The number of cattle and calves shipped out-of-State totaled 1,800 head, compared with 3,600 a year earlier and 2,400 during February. Out-of-state shipments during the first three months of 2002 was 6,100 head, 29 percent less than the same period in 2001.

Cattle Marketings, State of Hawaii, March 2002

Month	Total Marketings <sup>1</sup>		Exports <sup>2</sup>							
	Number of Head <sup>3</sup>		Number of Head						Average Live Weight	
	2001	2002	Steers		Heifers		Total <sup>3</sup>		2001	2002
----- head -----										
----- pounds -----										
March	4,900	2,800	2,000	1,100	1,600	600	3,600	1,800	450	410
Year-to-date <sup>4</sup>	12,200	9,100	4,900	3,500	3,700	2,600	8,600	6,100	440	440

<sup>1</sup> Sum of Commercial Slaughter and Exports.  
<sup>2</sup> Cattle and calves shipped out-of-State.  
<sup>3</sup> Total may not add to sum due to rounding.  
<sup>4</sup> Includes any revisions made to previous month figures.

### CATTLE & CALF OUTSHIPMENTS STATE OF HAWAII, 2000-2002



### SLAUGHTER CATTLE (U.S.)

Weekly Simple Average of Daily Quotations, Choice 2-4

Dollars per 100 pounds

Week ending	Steers	Heifers
	(1,100 - 1,300 pounds)	(1,000 - 1,200 pounds)
from California		
3-23-02	—	—
4-6-02	—	—
from Sioux Falls		
3-23-02	70.00	69.75
4-6-02	71.50	71.50

**Source:** Livestock, Meat and Wool Weekly Summary and Statistics; **Agricultural Marketing Service, Livestock and Seed Division**

<b>DONALD A. MARTIN</b> State Agricultural Statistician		Contributing by County	
<b>REGINA W. HIDANO</b> Agricultural Statistician	<b>JOYCE JAY</b> Statistical Assistant	James Yamaki	Hawaii
<b>NILS K. MORITA</b> Research Statistician	<b>KAREN A. LEE</b> Statistical Assistant	Robert Miyake	Hawaii
		Naomi Landgraf	Maui
		June Okamura	Kauai, Honolulu
		Wendell Au	Honolulu



# PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION, APRIL 1, 2002



## Hawaii County

### **Hilo and Puna:**

After a wet February, below normal rains during March afforded pastures a chance to dry out. Still, rainfall amounts

were above 8 inches at all rain gage stations. Development of new grasses was slow due to cool temperatures. Forage along the upper elevation pastures of Mauna Kea was limited to old feed, as conditions continued dry. Most pastures were in fair condition with an adequate supply of forage. Stock water supplies were adequate. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition.

**Ka'u:** Rainfall in the district was erratic as evidenced by the two rain gage stations situated only a few miles apart. The Kapapala station recorded 111 percent rainfall, while the Pahala station only 33 percent. Good rains maintained pastures in fair to excellent condition at South Point, Kahuku, Kapapala, and the Keauhou areas. Drier weather in Pahala and the Naalehu sectors limited pasture development and had pastures in mostly fair condition. Cattle and calves were in fair to very good condition.

**Kona:** All rain gage stations in Kona recorded rainfall totals just over an inch, and below 30 percent of normal for the month. However, most pastures were still in fair condition. New grass growth was slow due to the dry conditions, and forage availability was limited to old growth. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition. Livestock were on some supplements.

**Kohala:** Rainfall ranged from 37 percent at the Kahua rain gage, to 137 percent at the Waikii station. However, rainfall from the previous months had most pastures in fair to very good condition. Forage supplies were adequate with prospects for new grass growth good. Lower leeward elevation pastures, however, were starting to dry. Cool temperatures, cloudy skies, and short days continue to slow grass growth at the higher elevations. The invasion of the Senecio weed continues to intrude on western pastures. Stock water supplies were adequate. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition. Some supplements were still being

fed.

**Hamakua:** This district received the greatest amount of rainfall during the month, helped by a cold front which inundated the area during mid-month. Overall, the rains were a little more consistent (not as intense as in the previous month) and spread out during the month. Most pastures were in fair to good condition with a good supply of forage feed. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition.

## Honolulu County

Rainfall during the first half of the month helped to maintain rainfall totals at most rain gage stations near or above normal. Even some leeward pastures received good rainfall. Most pastures were in fair to good condition, with new grass growth slow. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition.

## Kauai County

Several low pressure-type systems during March brought abundant rainfall to most areas of the island. Only the northern sectors had below normal rainfall amounts, due to the lack of trade wind showers. Most pastures were still in fair to good condition due to the abundant amount of previous rainfall. New grass growth, however, was slowed due to the abundant moisture and cool temperatures. Cattle and calves were in good condition.

## Maui County

Rainfall totals were below normal for most rain gage stations, except for Pukalani, Ulupalakua, and Mahinahina which recorded above normal rainfall. Most windward pastures benefitted from light trade showers, which helped to maintain pasture growth. Forage growth at the upper elevations, however, was slow due to the cool temperatures. Most pastures were still in fair to good condition, with a few pastures in poor condition. Some pastures were infested with fireweed. Cattle and calves were in fair to good condition.

**Rainfall Data Source:** National Weather Service Forecast Office.  
NWS-NOAA.

**Disclaimer:** Data from Hydronet state-wide network of automated rain gages. Gages are not certified and rainfall information is provided for informational purposes only.

# U.S. AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

## Meat Production To Increase

Total meat production in 2002 is projected to be nearly 84 billion pounds (lb.), up 1 percent from a year ago. Poultry and pork production are expected to be up modestly, while beef production is expected to be nearly unchanged. Drought conditions are forcing more cattle into feedlots and possibly delaying herd expansion for at least another year. The *March Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report* reported a 2-percent increase in the market hog inventory and producers' intentions to have 1 percent more sows farrow during March-August than a year ago.

## Drought Conditions Increase Cattle Placements

Drought continues to affect the cattle sector, much as it has over the past several years, by forcing more cattle into feedlots. Conditions coming out of the winter, without improved soil moisture conditions or snow pack to fill reservoirs, have raised even greater concern for spring and summer forage-grazing prospects. Beef cow slaughter, while below the large levels of a year earlier, are above 2000 slaughter levels. However, dairy cow slaughter is historically low, and consequently total cow slaughter continues to decline. The April 19 quarterly *Cattle and Feed Report* will provide a better view of the number of heifers on feed following the very large number of heavy-weight cattle placements in January and February and likely again in March.

Beef production estimates have been increased for the year due to the larger numbers of cattle forced into feedlots and continued record slaughter weights. Beef production in the second and third quarters is now expected to exceed year-earlier levels. Fourth-quarter production is expected to average below a year earlier, but continued poor grazing prospects and even larger placements could push production up. Although dressed weights are declining, they remain sharply above the weather-reduced weights of the first half of 2001.

Fed-cattle prices have remained relatively firm so far this year, although well below the weather-induced levels of a year earlier. However, increasing weights and slaughter numbers in late April and May are likely to pressure prices down unless prices of competing meats begin to strengthen from recent low levels. Stocker-feeder cattle prices remain under pressure from poor forage conditions, forcing large supplies onto the market. Favorable feeding costs continue to support feeder cattle prices, although at lower levels than a year earlier. Without favorable grain prices and larger placements into feedlots, given the poor forage prospects, stocker-feeder cattle prices would be even

lower. Utility cow prices remain strong as total cow slaughter and dairy cow slaughter continue to decline.

## Hog Production Up Slightly, Prices Down

The *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report* released March 28 indicated that inventories and farrowing intentions were in line with expectations. Pork production in 2002 is expected to be about 1 percent above last year. Hog prices are expected to average about \$40 per cwt, compared with \$46 in 2001. Hog and pork prices in early 2002 are running below earlier expectations.

## Pork Production Nearly Unchanged in First Half

Commercial pork production in the first quarter of 2002 was fractionally lower than a year earlier. The 2-percent lower expected hog slaughter was partially offset by a 1-pound gain in the average dressed weight. Based on the June-August 2001 pig crop and larger expected imports from Canada, second-quarter hog slaughter is expected to be slightly below a year earlier. Heavier dressed weights are expected to hold production about equal with a year ago.

## Hogs and Pigs Report Points to Larger Pig Crop in 2002

The *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report* released March 28 supported both industry expectations and last December's quarterly report in pointing to a larger pig crop in 2002. The March report showed that 3 percent more sows farrowed in the December-February quarter than in the same period a year ago. Pigs per litter in the December-February quarter were about the same as in the first quarter last year, with the resulting pig crop about 3 percent ahead of the same period a year ago. The larger pig crop, plus larger expected live imports from Canada, point to a third-quarter 2002 slaughter about 3 percent greater than a year earlier. Additionally, heavier dressed weights are expected to lift third-quarter 2002 production about 4 percent above third-quarter 2001 production.

The March report showed producers' intentions to increase March-May farrowings 1 percent above a year ago, essentially unchanged from the first intentions published in December. If producers follow their intentions, and pigs per litter decline slightly as expected, the March-May pig crop will be only slightly larger than a year ago. The pig crop plus anticipated live imports from Canada imply a fourth-quarter 2002 slaughter only slightly greater than a year earlier. Heavier dressed weights in the fourth quarter are expected to increase production nearly 1 percent above a year earlier.

Farrowing intentions for the June-August pig crop were

up 1 percent from last year. If producers' intentions and expectations for a slightly improved year-over-year litter productivity rate are both met, the June-August pig crop would be about 1 percent higher than a year ago. The pig crop, plus expected imports of live animals from Canada, point to a 1 to 2 percent larger first quarter 2003 slaughter.

In summary, the March Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Report, and USDA forecasts suggest that around 1 percent more sows will farrow in 2002. Higher farrowings and little change in pigs per litter are expected to result in a slightly larger 2002 pig crop. Larger pig crops and increased live imports from Canada should lift second-half 2002 slaughter slightly above a year ago and suggest higher slaughter into 2003. Heavier anticipated dressed weights, due to continued moderate feed costs and use of improved genetics, should increase 2002 pork production about 1 percent over last year.

### **Hog Prices Lower on Weaker Demand for Pork Products**

First-quarter hog prices averaged \$39.43 per cwt, down 8 percent from a year ago. The lower hog prices reflect the weaker market for pork products. Since the beginning of March, the cutout has fallen more than 12 percent. Hog prices are expected to average in the low \$40s in the second and third quarters and then fall to the mid \$30s in the fourth quarter. Based on current expectations, hog prices in 2002 should average near \$40 per cwt, 13 percent lower than in 2001.

Weakness on the live side of the market appears to be

driven by lower consumer demand for pork products, as evidenced by declines in pork carcass cutout values since the end of February. Factors contributing to the apparent reduction in consumer demand for pork include the uncertainty that accompanies economic slow-downs and greater first-quarter beef and poultry supplies, both of which compete with pork for consumers' food dollars. Prices are expected to be relatively weak in coming months due to continued abundant supplies of such competing meats as poultry and beef, as herd expansion is postponed for another year.

Although first-quarter retail pork prices are expected to be above a year ago, retail prices for the remainder of 2002 are expected to average below last year, reflecting greater product supplies and competition from beef and poultry.

### **Live Imports Very Strong**

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service data on live hog imports from Canada suggest that first-quarter imports were more than 18 percent ahead of a year ago, and that more than 60 percent of the imported animals are feeder pigs.

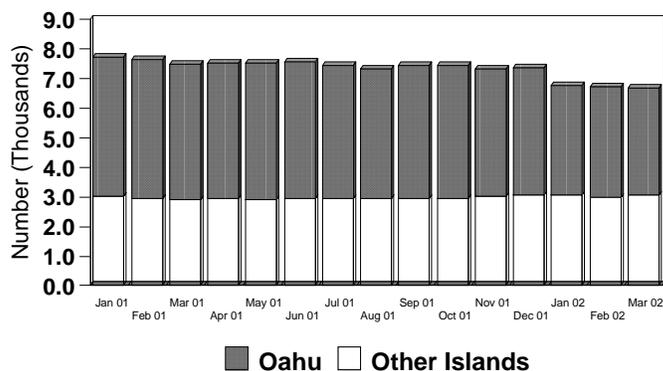
**Source:** *Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, April 23, 2002, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture.*

## MARCH AND FIRST QUARTER MILK LOWER



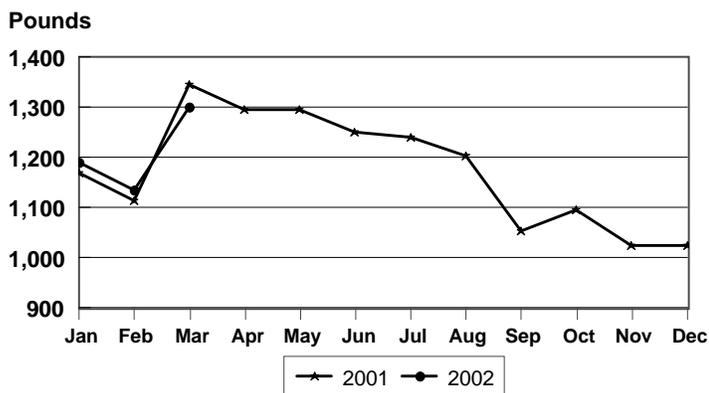
In March, Hawaii's dairy cows produced **8.7** million pounds, down 1.4 million pounds from March 2001 but up 1.1 million pounds from February 2002. The cow inventory, both dry and in milk, numbered 6,700 head, 800 less than March 2001 but unchanged from February 2002. March average output per cow was 1,300 pounds, down 45 pounds from March last year but up 165 pounds from February. Production for the first quarter of 2002 was down 12 percent from the comparable period in 2001 to 24.4 million pounds.

## Milk Cows State of Hawaii, 2001-2002



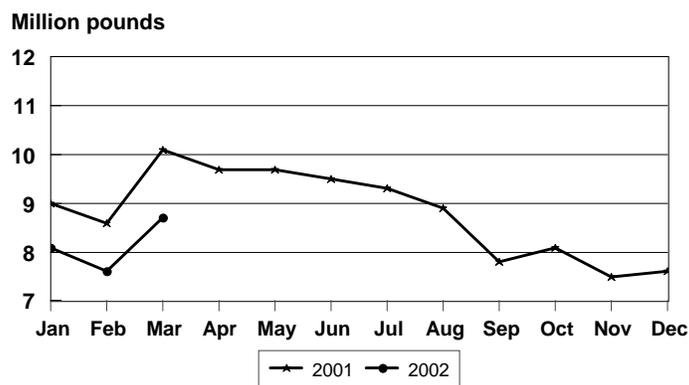
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## Milk Production Per Cow, State of Hawaii, 2001-2002



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## Total Milk Production, State of Hawaii, 2001-2002



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## Milk cows and milk production, State of Hawaii, March 2002

County	All milk cows <sup>1,2,3</sup>			Milk per cow <sup>3</sup>		Milk production <sup>1,3</sup>			
	Mar. 2001	Feb. 2002	Mar. 2002	Mar. 2001	Mar. 2002	Mar. 2001	Mar. 2002	Year-to-date	
	----- Number -----			--- Pounds ---		----- 1,000 pounds -----			
Hawaii	2,900	3,070	3,090	1,045	1,005	3,030	3,100	8,490	8,745
Honolulu	4,600	3,600	3,600	1,540	1,565	7,095	5,635	19,145	15,705
State	7,500	6,700	6,700	1,345	1,300	10,100	8,700	27,700	24,400

<sup>1</sup> State totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Includes dry cows and cows on non-commercial dairy farms.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for 2001 are final but preliminary for 2002.

## U.S. PRODUCTION UP 3.2 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from March 2001. February revised production, at 11.4 billion pounds was up 2.3 percent from February 2001. The February revision represented a decrease of 0.5 percent or 56 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,650 pounds for March, 51 pounds above March 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 2,000 head more than March 2001, and 1,000 head more than February 2002.

Average farm prices, State of Hawaii, March 2002

Commodity	March 2001	February 2002	March 2002
	----- cents per pound -----		
<b>Range steers and heifers</b> <sup>1</sup>			
- dressed weight	78.0	79.0	78.0
- (live weight equivalent)	( 42.8 )	( 43.4 )	(42.8 )
<b>Cows</b> <sup>1</sup>			
- dressed weight	52.0	56.0	54.0
- (live weight equivalent)	( 28.5 )	( 30.7 )	(29.6 )
<b>Market hogs</b> <sup>1 2</sup>			
- dressed weight	112.0	114.0	113.5
- (live weight equivalent)	( 84.0 )	( 85.5 )	(85.1 )
	----- dollars per 100 pounds -----		
<b>Milk</b> <sup>3</sup>	25.00	24.00	23.70
	----- cents per dozen -----		
<b>Eggs</b> <sup>4</sup>	84.0	87.0	85.5

<sup>1</sup>Equivalent delivered slaughterhouse for sales on island of production and delivered shippers dock for off-island sales. Factors of 0.549 and 0.75 used to convert dressed weight prices to live weight equivalent for cattle and hogs, respectively.

<sup>2</sup>Includes roasters.

<sup>3</sup>Beginning 1999, monthly average price rounded to the nearest dime.

<sup>4</sup>Prices are for all eggs, equivalent delivered processing plant. Preliminary prices are based on processor reports from Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and adjusted Market Analysis & News Branch wholesale prices for Oahu. Final prices are based on processor reports from all islands.