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# Iowa AgriNews

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## CATTLE ON FEED

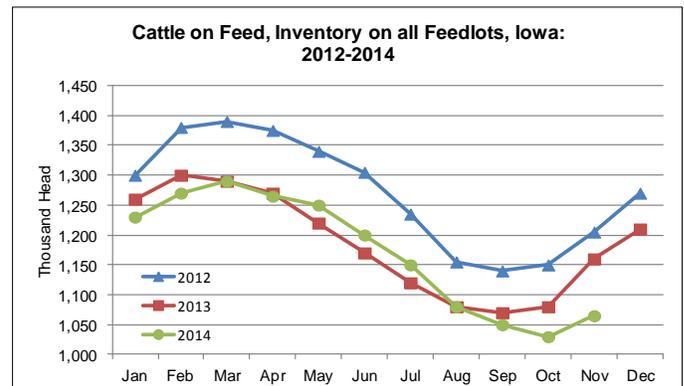
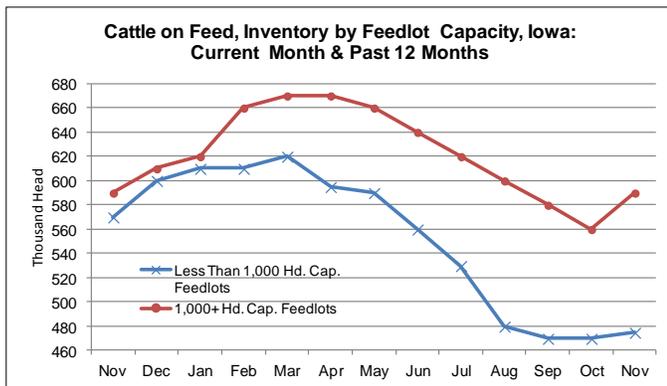
### IN THIS ISSUE

*Cattle on Feed*  
*Prices*  
*Milk Production*  
*Chickens & Eggs*  
*Labor*

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in Iowa for all feedlots totaled 1,065,000 on November 1, 2014, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Iowa Field Office. The inventory is up 3 percent from October 1, 2014, but down 8 percent from November 1, 2013. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 590,000 head on feed, up 5 percent from last month but unchanged from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 475,000 head on feed, up 1 percent from last month but down 17 percent from last year. This marks the lowest November 1 inventory for feedlots with less than 1,000 head capacity since records began in 1999.

**Placements** during October totaled 207,000 head, an increase of 8 percent from last month but down 24 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 132,000 head, up 33 percent from last month and up 1 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 75,000 head. This is down 19 percent from last month and down 47 percent from last year. This marks the lowest October placements for feedlots with less than 1,000 head capacity since records began in 1999.

**Marketings** for October were 166,000 head, down 19 percent from last month and down 11 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 100,000 head, down 12 percent from last month but up 12 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 66,000 head, down 27 percent from last month and down 33 percent from last year. This marks the lowest October marketings for feedlots with less than 1,000 head capacity since 2006. **Other disappearance** totaled 6,000 head.



### All Cattle on Feed – Iowa

Item	Lots 1,000+ head	Lots less than 1,000 head	All lots
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Cattle on Feed, October 1, 2014.....	560	470	1,030
October Placements .....	132	75	207
October Marketings .....	100	66	166
October Other Disappearance .....	2	4	6
Cattle on Feed, November 1, 2014 .....	590	475	1,065

# PRICES

The preliminary November 2014 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Iowa was \$3.50 per bushel according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Agricultural Prices* report. This is down \$0.12 from the October full month price, and \$0.93 lower than November 2013.

The preliminary November 2014 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at \$10.00 per bushel, was equal to the October full month price, and \$2.70 lower than the November 2013 price.

The preliminary November **oat** price was \$3.20 per bushel, down \$0.19 from October, and \$0.98 below November 2013. This is the lowest oat price since August 2011.

**All hay** prices in Iowa averaged \$144.00 per ton in November, up \$13.00 from the October price, but \$38.00 per ton less than November 2013. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell \$40.00 per ton from one year ago, to \$153.00 and **other hay** prices were \$26.00 per ton lower than last year, at \$104.00. All three categories of hay prices increased from last month by a combined average of \$6.33 per ton.

The preliminary November average price was \$24.50 per cwt for **milk**, down \$1.20 from October, but \$2.50 per cwt above one year ago.

## Prices Received by Farmers

<b>IOWA</b>	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov <sup>1</sup> 2014
	-----dollars-----		
Corn .....	4.43	3.62	3.50
Soybeans .....	12.70	10.00	10.00
Oats .....	4.18	3.39	3.20
All Hay, baled .....	182.00	131.00	144.00
Alfalfa Hay, baled .....	193.00	152.00	153.00
Other Hay, baled .....	130.00	99.00	104.00
Milk (whls) .....	22.00	25.70	24.50

<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov <sup>1</sup> 2014
	-----dollars-----		
Corn .....	4.37	3.56	3.57
Soybeans .....	12.70	9.97	10.10
Oats .....	3.63	3.13	2.97
All Hay, baled .....	168.00	173.00	164.00
Alfalfa Hay, baled .....	188.00	194.00	184.00
Other hay, baled .....	136.00	125.00	124.00
Hogs, all .....	63.60	77.00	66.70
Brw & Gilts .....	63.30	77.40	66.50
Sows .....	71.00	66.40	73.20
Beef Cattle .....	130.00	161.00	166.00
Cows .....	80.70	116.00	114.00
Strs & Hfrs .....	132.00	163.00	168.00
Calves .....	192.00	307.00	304.00
Milk (whls) .....	21.60	24.90	23.40
Eggs (mkt) <sup>2</sup> .....	1.160	0.934	1.370

<sup>1</sup>Preliminary

<sup>2</sup>Eggs are mid-month prices.

## Prices Index Summary, United States

<b>PRICES RECEIVED INDEX</b>	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov 2014
	2011 Base <sup>1</sup>			1910-14=100		
Agricultural Production	99	99	101	1018	1025	1043
Crop Production	90	80	80	784	699	700
Grains & Oilseeds	84	71	68	*	*	*
Feed grain	73	60	60	*	*	*
Food grain	100	84	88	*	*	*
Oilseed	100	80	80	*	*	*
Livestock Production	112	136	134	1299	1577	1559
Meat Animals	110	141	139	*	*	*
Dairy Prod.	107	124	116	*	*	*
Poultry & egg	122	135	140	*	*	*

<b>PRICES PAID INDEX</b>	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Nov 2013	Oct 2014	Nov 2014
	2011 Base <sup>1</sup>			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid	106	111	110	2863	3013	2985
Production	106	113	112	2217	2359	2330
Feed	107	103	98	1180	1131	1079
Livestock & pltry	122	177	176	2408	3491	3481
Seeds	111	114	114	3643	3752	3752
Fertilizer	91	95	95	1093	1143	1141
Chemicals	110	110	110	989	991	988
Fuels	99	93	90	2771	2604	2513
Ratio	93	89	92	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Parity Ratio <sup>1</sup>	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	36	34	35

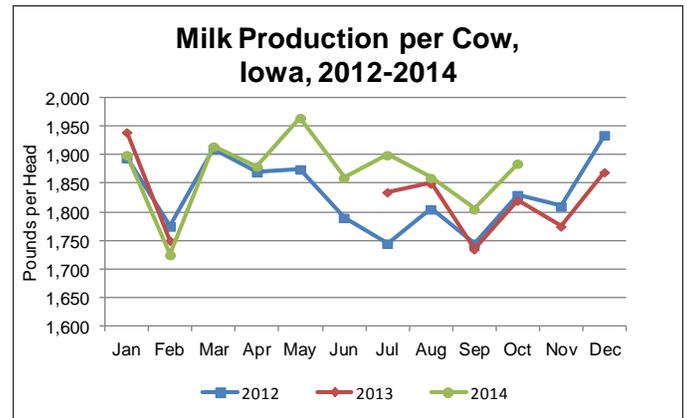
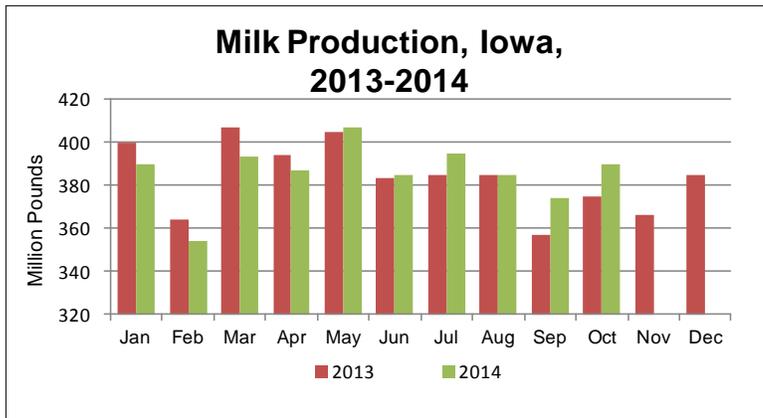
(NA) Not available.

\*Beginning in January 2014 commodity groups were reclassified. This data is no longer published.

<sup>1</sup> USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service updated the price index methodology beginning with the January 2014 Agricultural Prices Report. Methodological changes include updating the current base reference (1990-1992) to 2011; increasing vegetable, fruit, and nut commodity coverage; reclassification of the prices received commodity groups; and updating monthly commodity market weights.

# MILK PRODUCTION

**Milk production** in Iowa during October 2014 totaled 390 million pounds, up 4 percent from October 2013 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Milk Production* report. The average number of milk cows during October, at 207,000 head, was unchanged from last month, but 1,000 more than a year ago. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,885 pounds in October 2014, up 65 pounds from last October. This sets a new October record for total production for Iowa, surpassing the previous record set in 2012.



## Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: October 2013 and 2014

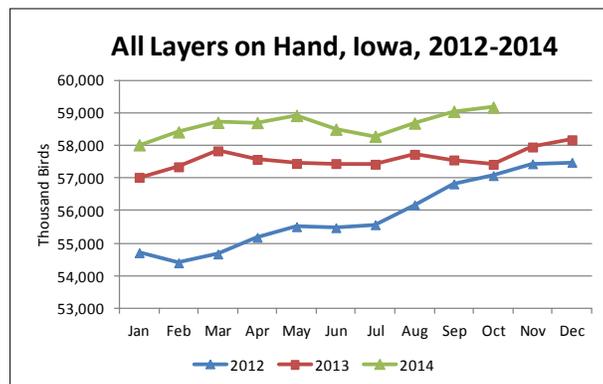
State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk Per Cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk Production <sup>2</sup>		
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	Change from 2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	190	193	1,880	1,900	357	367	2.8
California .....	1,780	1,780	1,875	1,925	3,338	3,427	2.7
Colorado .....	137	145	2,030	2,105	278	305	9.7
Florida .....	123	123	1,400	1,460	172	180	4.7
Idaho .....	569	579	1,950	2,015	1,110	1,167	5.1
Illinois .....	97	94	1,570	1,615	152	152	0.0
Indiana .....	178	179	1,790	1,820	319	326	2.2
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Kansas .....	135	143	1,835	1,855	248	265	6.9
Michigan .....	380	397	2,000	2,050	760	814	7.1
Minnesota .....	463	460	1,610	1,665	745	766	2.8
New Mexico .....	322	323	2,025	2,060	652	665	2.0
New York .....	610	615	1,840	1,880	1,122	1,156	3.0
Ohio .....	269	267	1,650	1,710	444	457	2.9
Oregon .....	123	124	1,690	1,685	208	209	0.5
Pennsylvania .....	530	530	1,620	1,680	859	890	3.6
South Dakota .....	95	97	1,830	1,865	174	181	4.0
Texas .....	440	472	1,820	1,895	801	894	11.6
Utah .....	93	96	1,840	1,920	171	184	7.6
Vermont .....	132	132	1,620	1,680	214	222	3.7
Virginia .....	94	92	1,510	1,580	142	145	2.1
Washington .....	266	275	1,975	1,995	525	549	4.6
Wisconsin .....	1,272	1,270	1,795	1,840	2,283	2,337	2.4
<b>23-State Total</b>	<b>8,504</b>	<b>8,593</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>15,449</b>	<b>16,048</b>	<b>3.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## CHICKENS & EGGS

**Egg production** in Iowa during October 2014 was a record high 1.41 billion eggs, up 3 percent from last month, and up 4 percent from last year, according to the latest *Chickens and Eggs* release from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The total number of layers on hand during October was at a record high of 59.2 million, up fractionally from last month, and up 3 percent from the 57.4 million last year. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of October were 2,384, up 3 percent from last month, and up 1 percent from 2,370 last year.



## LABOR

There were 25,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of October 12-18, 2014, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.07 per hour, the second highest October rate on record, trailing only October 2013. The number of hours worked averaged 37.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 38.1 hours in October 2013.

During the reference week of July 6-12, 2014, there were 19,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Corn Belt 2 Region (Iowa and Missouri). This is the lowest number of July farm workers hired since records began in 1989. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.01 per hour during the July 2014 reference week, up \$0.24 from July 2013. This marks the highest July wage rate since records began in 1989. The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 38.5 hours in July 2013.

**Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Corn Belt 2 Region and United States: 2013-2014**  
[Corn Belt 2 Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

Farm employment	Corn Belt 2 Region			United States		
	October 2013	July 2014	October 2014	October 2013	July 2014	October 2014
Hired Workers on Farms						
150 days or more..... 1,000 workers	19	15	17	619	583	561
149 days or less ..... 1,000 workers	10	4	8	252	255	221
Total..... 1,000 workers	29	19	25	871	838	782
Hours worked by Hired Workers ..... hrs/wk	38.1	38.2	37.5	41.7	40.5	41.3
Wage Rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field & Livestock combined..... \$/hr	12.45	11.80	12.20	11.27	11.33	11.46
Field..... \$/hr	12.71	11.77	12.24	11.38	11.36	11.52
Livestock..... \$/hr	12.02	11.84	12.12	10.93	11.26	11.29
All Hired Workers..... \$/hr	13.27	13.01	13.07	11.96	11.96	12.12

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

