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Featuring:

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Kentucky remains leading cattle producer east of the Mississippi

The **Kentucky** cattle and calf inventory for Jan. 1, 2018, was estimated at 2.16 million head. Total inventory was down 10,000 head from last year. “The cattle industry is one of the most important sectors of Kentucky’s agriculture,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “Kentucky ranks 14th in the United States in total cattle, including calves inventory, and eighth in beef cow inventory. In 2016 gross receipts from the production of cattle totaled \$734 million, ranking it fifth among all commodities. Despite a slight retreat in total inventory, today’s report shows the large breeding herd will continue to produce sizeable calf crops. Heifers held for beef cow replacement dropped slightly to the lowest level in three years, but inventory is not showing a longer term trend.”

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 1.09 million head, up 10,000 head from the 1.08 million for 2017. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 1.03 million head and milk cows were estimated at 57,000 head. “While milk cow inventory has declined every year for the last 16 years, this year’s numbers held steady from 2017,” Knopf said.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 305,000 head, unchanged from last year’s estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 145,000 head, down 5,000 from January 2017. Dairy heifers, at 45,000 head, were up 5,000 from 2017. Other heifers, at 115,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Steers 500 pounds and over numbered 195,000 head, down 20,000 from 2017. Bulls 500 pounds and over were unchanged head from a year ago and numbered 70,000 head. Calves less than 500 pounds were estimated at 500,000 head, unchanged from the 2017 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 17,000 head, down 1,000 from the previous year.

The 2017 calf crop was estimated at 990,000 head, up 10,000 from the previous year’s estimate.

All cattle and calves in the **United States**, as of Jan. 1, 2018, totaled 94.4 million head, one percent above the 93.7 million head on Jan. 1, 2017. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were one percent above the 40.6 million head on Jan. 1, 2017. Beef cows, at 31.7 million head, were up two percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.4 million head, were up one percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, as of Jan. 1, 2018, totaled 20.2 million head, one percent above the 20.1 million head on Jan. 1, 2017. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.13 million head, were down four percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.78 million head, were up one percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.33 million head, were four percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, as of Jan. 1, 2018, totaled 16.4 million head, down slightly from Jan. 1, 2017. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, as of Jan. 1, 2018, totaled 2.25 million head, up slightly from Jan. 1, 2017. Calves under 500 pounds, as of Jan. 1, 2018, totaled 14.4 million head, up slightly from Jan. 1, 2017.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14 million head on Jan. 1, 2018. The inventory is up seven percent from the Jan. 1, 2017 total of 13.1 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 82 percent of the total cattle on feed on Jan. 1, 2018, up one percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 26.1 million head, two percent below one year ago.

The 2017 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.8 million head, up two percent from last year’s calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26 million head, up two percent from the first half of 2016. Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.

Cattle and Calves : Number by Class and Calf Crop - January 1, 2017 - 2018

CLASS	Kentucky			United States		
	2017 ¹	2018	18 % of 17	2017 ¹	2018	18 % of 17
	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>		<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	
Cattle and Calves	2,170	2,160	100	93,705	94,399	101
Cows and Heifers that have Calved	1,080	1,090	101	40,559	41,123	101
Beef Cows	1,023	1,033	101	31,213	31,723	102
Milk Cows	57	57	100	9,346	9,400	101
Heifers 500 Lbs & Over	305	305	100	20,132	20,245	101
Beef Cow Replacement	150	145	97	6,368	6,131	96
Milk Cow Replacement	40	45	113	4,754	4,781	101
Other Heifers	115	115	100	9,010	9,332	104
Steers 500 Lbs & Over	215	195	91	16,384	16,352	100
Bulls 500 Lbs & Over	70	70	100	2,244	2,252	100
Calves Under 500 Lbs	500	500	100	14,386	14,427	100
Cattle on Feed ²	18	17	94	13,067	14,006	107
Calf Crop (Preceding Year)	980	990	101	35,093	35,808	102

¹ Revisions Possible. ² Cattle and Calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

JANUARY 1 SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

The total number of **sheep and lambs** in **Kentucky** on January 1, 2018, was estimated at 50,000 head, an increase of 2,000 from the previous year's estimate. All breeding sheep and lambs were estimated at 39,000 head and all market sheep and lambs were estimated at 11,000 head. Breeding ewes were increased to 31,000, but breeding rams remained constant at 2,000 head. Replacement lambs numbered 6,000, unchanged from 2017. Lamb crop for 2017 decreased by 3,000 from last year to 35,000 head.

All **sheep and lambs** inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2018 totaled 5.23 million head, down slightly from 2017. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.83 million head on January 1, 2018, decreased 1 percent from 3.88 million head on January 1, 2017. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.01 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 1.40 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory. The 2017 lamb crop of 3.20 million head was down 2 percent from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

All meat and other **goats** in **Kentucky** were estimated at 57,000 head, up 1,000 head from January 2017. Milk goats at 6,000 head, were up 500 head from the previous year's estimate.

All **goats** and kids inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2017. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down slightly from 2017. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 2 percent from a year ago. Kid crop for 2017 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, down slightly from 2016. Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2018, down 1 percent from 2017. Milk goat inventory was 380 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017, while Angora goats were down 7 percent, totaling 142 thousand head.

Sheep and Goat Inventory : January 1, 2017 - 2018

CLASS	Kentucky			United States		
	2017 ¹	2018	18 % of 17	2017 ¹	2018	18 % of 17
	(head)	(head)		(head)	(head)	
All Meat & Other Goats	56,000	57,000	102	2,115,000	2,098,000	99
All Milk Goats	5,500	6,000	109	373,000	380,000	102
All Sheep & Lambs	48,000	50,000	104	5,250,000	5,230,000	100
Total Breeding, Sheep & Lambs	38,000	39,000	103	3,875,000	3,830,000	99
Ewes - 1 year+	30,000	31,000	103	3,045,000	3,005,000	99
Rams - 1 year+	2,000	2,000	100	170,000	170,000	100
Replacement Lambs	6,000	6,000	100	660,000	655,000	99
Total Market, Sheep & Lambs	10,000	11,000	110	1,375,000	1,400,000	102
Lamb Crop (Preceding Year) ²	38,000	35,000	92	3,250,000	3,200,000	98

¹ Revisions possible. ² Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

**ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION SUMMARY 2016-2017
KENTUCKY AND UNITED STATES**

Crops	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		17 % of 16
	2016 ¹	2017	2016 ¹	2017	2016 ¹	2017	2016 ¹	2017	
	KENTUCKY								
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(000 bu)	(000 bu)	%
Corn ²	1,500	1,320	1,400	1,220	159.0	178.0	222,600	217,160	98
Soybeans ²	1,790	1,950	1,780	1,940	50.0	53.0	89,000	102,820	116
Wheat, Winter ²³	510	480	400	310	80.0	77.0	32,000	23,870	75
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(tons)	(tons)	(000 tons)	(000 tons)	%
Hay:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All	--	--	2,250	2,150	2.48	2.48	5,580	5,325	95
Alfalfa	--	--	150	150	3.60	3.50	540	525	97
Other, All	--	--	2,100	2,000	2.40	2.40	5,040	4,800	95
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(000 pounds)	(000 pounds)	%
Tobacco:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All	--	--	75,300	80,500	1,810	2,277	136,280	183,300	135
Burley	--	--	61,000	63,000	1,750	2,050	106,750	129,150	121
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	9,500	11,500	2,300	3,300	21,850	37,950	174
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	4,800	6,000	1,600	2,700	7,680	16,200	211
	UNITED STATES								
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(bushels)	(bushels)	(000 bu)	(000 bu)	%
Corn ²	94,004	90,167	86,748	82,703	174.6	176.6	15,148,038	14,604,067	96
Soybeans ²	83,433	90,142	82,696	89,522	52.0	49.1	4,296,086	4,391,553	102
Wheat, Winter ²³	36,152	32,696	30,237	25,291	55.3	50.2	1,672,582	1,269,437	76
	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(000 ac)	(tons)	(tons)	(000 tons)	(000 tons)	%
Hay:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All	--	--	53,481	53,784	2.52	2.44	134,995	131,455	97
Alfalfa	--	--	16,885	16,563	3.45	3.32	58,263	55,068	95
Other, All	--	--	36,596	37,221	2.10	2.05	76,732	76,387	100
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(000 pounds)	(000 pounds)	%
Tobacco:	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
All	--	--	319,660	321,470	1,967	2,209	628,720	710,161	113
Burley	--	--	80,000	81,500	1,747	1,977	139,750	161,140	115
Dark-Fire Cured	--	--	16,760	19,270	2,358	3,089	39,520	59,531	151
Dark-Air Cured	--	--	6,000	7,600	1,670	2,658	10,020	20,200	202

Commodities with estimates not available are (denoted by "--").

¹Revisions possible. ² Area harvested represents grain. ³ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

**Milk Cows & Milk Production, Selected States & U.S.
Preliminary October-December, 2016 - 2017**

State	Oct - Dec Milk Cows ¹		Oct - Dec Milk Production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	17 % 16
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	1,757	1,743	9,900	9,813	99
IL	93	93	461	476	103
IN	185	187	1,032	1,059	103
KY	57	56	252	257	102
MN	461	456	2,388	2,430	102
MO	88	84	333	291	87
OH	262	264	1,357	1,366	101
TX	490	515	2,796	2,976	106
VA	88	87	418	429	103
WI	1,278	1,277	7,432	7,533	101
US	9,344	9,399	52,517	53,071	101

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Crop Average Prices Received ¹

Commodity	Kentucky		U.S.	
	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2016	Dec 2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$
All Corn (Bu) ²³	3.80	3.57	3.32	3.23
Soybeans (Bu) ²	9.97	9.65	9.64	9.30
Winter Wheat (Bu) ²	(4)	(4)	3.40	3.91
Hay, Alfalfa (Ton)	220.00	205.00	127.00	148.00
Hay, Other (Ton)	110.00	110.00	117.00	118.00

¹ Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. ² Includes contract sales paid during month. ³ Includes yellow and white corn. ⁴ Kentucky is a minor State, not published separately.

Livestock Average Prices Received ^{1 2}

Commodity	United States		
	Dec 2016	Nov 2017	Dec 2017
	\$/ Cwt.	\$/ Cwt.	\$/ Cwt.
All Hogs	43.10	50.00	48.60
Barrows & Gilts	43.60	50.20	48.80
Sows	27.60	44.60	41.80
All Beef Cattle ³	111.00	119.00	118.00
Steers & Heifers ⁴	113.00	121.00	120.00
Cows	61.10	63.40	62.00
Calves ⁵	148.00	177.00	174.00

¹ U.S. prices based on data provided by USDA AMS. ² Only full month prices published starting in January 2015. ³ "Steers & Heifers" and "Cows" combined. ⁴ 500 lbs. and over. ⁵ Under 500 lbs.

Internet Access: Data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>