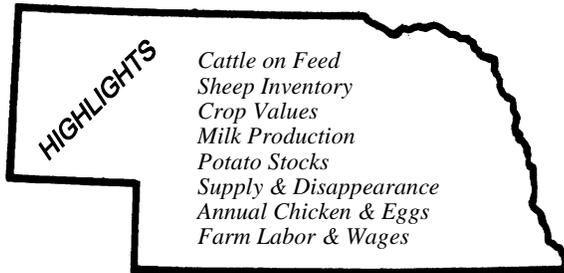


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## CATTLE ON FEED IN HISTORIC 7 STATES UP 11%

Cattle on feed February 1, 2000 in the historic seven monthly States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.89 million, up 11% from the previous year and 8% above 1998. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.93 million, 15% above 1999 and 29% above 1998. Marketings during January totaled 1.75 million, 1% above a year ago and 3% above 1998. Other disappearance during January was 51,000 head, 9% above last year but 35% below 1998.

## NEBRASKA CATTLE ON FEED UP 10% FROM A YEAR AGO

Nebraska cattle feeders, with a capacity of 1,000+ head, had 2.37 million cattle on feed for slaughter markets on February 1. This inventory was up 10% from last year and February 1, 1998. Placements into these feedlots during January totaled 500,000 head, up 11% from last year and 28% above two years ago. Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 420,000 head, up 5% from both last year and two years ago. Other disappearance during January totaled 10,000 head compared with 10,000 head during January 1999 and 10,000 head during January 1998.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 10% FROM A YEAR AGO

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.58 million head on February 1, 2000. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.23 million, 15% above 1999 and 29% above 1998. Net placements were 2.16 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 494,000, 600-699 pounds were 696,000, 700-799 pounds were 654,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 382,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.05 million, 1% above 1999 and 3% above 1998. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during January, 1% below 1999 and 30% below 1998.

**CATTLE ON FEED: INVENTORIES, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS & OTHER DISAPPEARANCE, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS**

STATE	FEBRUARY 1 NUMBER ON FEED 1/			JANUARY PLACEMENTS			JANUARY MARKETINGS			JANUARY OTHER DISAPPEAR. 2/		
	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999
	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%	1,000 head		%
Arizona* . . . . .	202	275	136	25	29	116	28	24	86	1	2	200
California * . . . .	385	415	108	45	57	127	55	50	91	5	7	140
Colorado * . . . . .	1,140	1,200	105	260	290	112	250	260	104	10	10	100
Idaho . . . . .	270	300	111	50	66	132	55	70	127	10	6	60
Iowa * . . . . .	350	385	110	56	60	107	40	48	120	1	2	200
Kansas * . . . . .	2,030	2,340	115	420	520	124	490	480	98	10	10	100
<b>Nebraska</b> * . . . .	2,150	2,370	110	450	500	111	400	420	105	10	10	100
New Mexico . . . . .	113	113	100	12	10	83	16	13	81	1	0	0
Oklahoma . . . . .	385	430	112	60	72	120	80	67	84	5	5	100
So. Dakota . . . . .	184	200	109	31	38	123	30	30	100	1	2	200
Texas * . . . . .	2,660	2,900	109	425	475	112	475	465	98	10	10	100
Washington . . . . .	195	211	108	37	45	122	37	59	159	4	3	75
Other Sts . . . . .	445	445	100	62	64	103	65	62	95	2	2	100
U. S . . . . .	10,509	11,584	110	1,933	2,226	115	2,021	2,048	101	70	69	99

1/ 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.

2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. \* Historic 7 states.

**SHEEP AND LAMBS: NUMBER BY CLASS JANUARY 1 AND LAMB CROP, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES**

Class	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	1998	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999	1998	1999	2000	<u>2000</u> 1999
	1,000 head				1,000 head			
				Percent				Percent
All sheep and lambs .....	100	105	102	97	7,825	7,215	7,026	97
Market .....	16	17	14	82	2,214	1,916	1,863	97
Breeding sheep and lambs .....	84	88	88	100	5,611	5,299	5,163	97
Replacement lambs .....	10	11	12	109	839	774	730	94
Ewes 1 yr. old and older .....	71	73	72	99	4,570	4,322	4,228	98
Rams 1 yr. old and older .....	3	4	4	100	203	203	206	101
	<u>1997</u>	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> 1998	<u>1997</u>	1998	1999	<u>1999</u> 1998
Lamb crop <u>1/</u> .....	95	96	98	102	5,361	5,007	4,719	94

1/ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

**CROPS -- MARKETING YEAR AVERAGE PRICE AND VALUE OF PRODUCTION,  
NEBRASKA & UNITED STATES, 1997-1999**

Crop	Prod. Unit	Price			Value of Production		
		1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
		Dollars			1,000 dollars		
<u>NEBRASKA</u>							
Corn for Grain .....	Bu.	2.32	1.88	1.85	2,633,664	2,330,730	2,134,345
Sorghum for Grain .....	Bu.	2.15	1.68	1.65	130,613	94,752	70,571
Oats .....	Bu.	1.79	1.19	1.00	10,472	6,331	4,650
Barley .....	Bu.	2.20	1.80	1.40	1,010	720	202
All Wheat .....	Bu.	3.20	2.54	2.30	224,960	210,312	198,720
Winter Wheat .....	Bu.	3.20	2.54	2.30	224,960	210,312	198,720
Rye .....	Bu.	3.60	1.80	1.40	864	518	504
Soybeans .....	Bu.	6.28	4.83	4.60	902,907	796,950	830,875
Dry Edible Beans .....	Cwt.	18.80	18.00	17.10	69,710	65,988	63,954
All Hay (baled) .....	Ton	76.00	48.50	37.00	485,941	363,150	275,815
Alfalfa Hay (baled) .....	Ton	79.50	49.50	38.00	335,888	259,875	196,840
All Other Hay (baled) .....	Ton	58.50	42.50	32.50	150,053	103,275	78,975
All Potatoes .....	Cwt.	6.15	4.95	6.80	57,517	48,511	71,442
Sugar Beets .....	Ton	35.60	35.20	NA	36,063	32,877	NA
Sunflower (all) .....	Cwt.	12.70	10.80	9.45	7,541	9,086	10,954
Sunflower (oil) .....	Cwt.	10.30	9.50	7.50	2,843	4,476	4,759
Sunflower (non-oil) .....	Cwt.	15.00	13.60	11.80	4,698	4,610	6,195
<u>UNITED STATES</u>							
Corn for Grain .....	Bu.	2.43	1.94	1.90	22,351,507	18,922,084	17,949,707
Sorghum for Grain .....	Bu.	2.21	1.66	1.65	1,408,909	905,468	970,966
Oats .....	Bu.	1.60	1.10	1.10	273,284	199,748	169,873
Barley .....	Bu.	2.38	1.98	2.05	861,620	686,517	552,941
All Wheat .....	Bu.	3.38	2.65	2.55	8,286,741	6,780,623	5,903,501
Winter Wheat .....	Bu.	3.23	2.52	2.40	5,948,655	4,740,361	4,059,968
Rye .....	Bu.	3.75	2.49	2.28	30,120	30,404	25,054
Soybeans .....	Bu.	6.47	4.93	4.75	17,372,628	13,493,891	12,451,149
Dry Edible Beans .....	Cwt.	19.30	19.00	17.60	576,658	567,243	587,857
All Hay (baled) .....	Ton	100.00	84.60	77.00	13,249,825	11,606,734	10,889,893
Alfalfa Hay (baled) .....	Ton	107.00	88.10	80.00	8,099,822	6,951,140	6,254,082
All Other Hay (baled) .....	Ton	75.70	71.80	66.30	5,150,003	4,655,594	4,645,811
All Potatoes .....	Cwt.	5.64	5.56	5.84	2,622,621	2,633,198	2,782,762
Sugar Beets .....	Ton	38.80	36.40	NA	1,160,029	1,181,494	NA
Sunflower (all) .....	Cwt.	11.60	10.20	8.00	426,766	536,971	353,472
Sunflower (oil) .....	Cwt.	11.00	9.45	6.86	329,858	423,775	239,986
Sunflower (non-oil) .....	Cwt.	14.30	14.40	13.40	96,908	113,196	113,486

NOTE: All prices in this report are marketing year average prices which do not include allowances or adjustments for: commodities under government loan at the end of the marketing year; commodities forfeited to the Commodity Credit Corporation; or crop deficiency and disaster payments. Estimates shown for 1999 crops are preliminary. NA -- Not Available.

## JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in the 20 major States during January totaled 12.2 billion pounds, up 4.7% from production in these same States in January 1999. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,576 pounds for January, 58 pounds above January 1999. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 69,000 head more than January 1999 and 6,000 head more than December 1999.

## ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production for 1999 in **Nebraska** totaled 1.14 billion pounds, up 8% from 1.05 billion pounds a year earlier. Number of milk cows, at 74,000 head, was up 4,000 head from a year ago, while milk per cow, at 15,392 pounds, was up 392 pounds from a year earlier.

**United States** annual milk production totaled 162.7 billion pounds, 3.4% above 1998. This was the third consecutive year of increased milk production and a new record high. Milk cow numbers, at 9.16 million head, were down slightly from 1998. Production per cow averaged 17,771 pounds for 1999, 582 pounds above 1998.

Milk production for 1999 in the **20 major States** totaled 140.0 billion pounds up 4% from 1998. Milk cow numbers were set at 7.73 million up slightly from 1998. Production per cow totaled 18,103 pounds up 602 pounds from the previous year.

## POTATO STOCKS

Potato stocks in the 15 States totaled 206 million cwt. on February 1, 2000, down 2% from a year earlier and 3% below two years ago.

1999 POTATO CROP		
State	Production	Total Stocks Feb. 1, 2000
Thousand cwt.		
California	4,005	2,200
Colorado	25,762	15,100
Idaho	133,330	76,500
Maine	17,813	11,300
Michigan	14,963	5,800
Minnesota	18,020	7,100
Montana	3,325	3,000
NEBRASKA	8,904	3,250
New York	6,758	1,500
North Dakota	26,400	10,500
Ohio	987	80
Oregon	28,020	18,600
Pennsylvania	3,080	850
Washington	95,200	35,000
Wisconsin	34,000	15,000
TOTAL 15 STATES	420,567	205,780

## U.S. GRAINS SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE OUTLOOK

CROP YEAR	SUPPLY				MARKET YEAR DISAPPEARANCE 1/*				Market Year Ending Stocks*	Average Market Price
	Pro-duction	Begin-ning stocks	Im-ports	Total	Domestic		Ex-ports	Total		
					Primary Use 2/	Other				
Million bushels										
\$/bu.										
<b>CORN:</b>										
1997/98	9,207	883	9	10,099	5,505	1,782	1,504	8,791	1,308	2.43
1998/99	9,759	1,308	19	11,085	5,496	1,822	1,981	9,298	1,787	1.94
1999/00	9,437	1,787	15	11,239	5,650	1,900	1,950	9,500	1,739	1.75-2.05
<b>SOYBEANS:</b>										
1997/98	2,689	132	5	2,826	1,597	156	873	2,626	200	6.47
1998/99	2,741	200	3	2,944	1,590	205	801	2,595	348	4.93
1999/00	2,643	348	3	2,994	1,600	159	890	2,649	345	4.50-5.00
<b>WHEAT:</b>										
1997/98	2,481	444	95	3,020	914	343	1,040	2,298	722	3.38
1998/99	2,547	722	103	3,373	907	478	1,042	2,427	946	2.65
1999/00	2,302	946	95	3,343	905	391	1,050	2,346	997	2.50-2.60
<b>SORGHUM:</b>										
1997/98	634	47	---	681	365	55	212	632	49	2.21
1998/99	520	49	---	569	262	45	197	504	65	1.66
1999/00	595	65	---	660	325	55	225	605	55	1.50-1.80

1/ Marketing year begins: Corn, Sorghum & Soybeans, September 1; Wheat, June 1. 2/ Primary uses: Corn & Sorghum = Feed; Soybeans = Crushing; Wheat = Food.  
\* Projections for 1998 and 1999 crops are USDA's World Outlook Board expectations of supply and disappearance as of February 11, 2000. Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CHICKEN INVENTORY, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES, DECEMBER 1, 1997-1999

Item	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES				
	1997	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998	1997	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998	
Thousands									
All Chickens	12,126	13,219	13,846	105	410,030	425,045	436,326	103	
Hens & Pullets Laying Age	9,990	10,613	11,842	112	312,137	321,718	329,305	102	
Pullets 3 mo. & over not of laying age	563	1,186	203	17	35,578	39,664	38,587	97	
Pullets under 3 mo. old	1,573	1,420	1,801	127	54,766	55,981	58,775	105	
Other chickens	0	0	0	---	7,549	7,682	9,659	126	

## EGG PRODUCTION, NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES, YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1997-1999

Item	NEBRASKA			UNITED STATES		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Eggs Produced (million)	2,469	2,706	2,837	77,532	79,690	82,707
Average Number of Layers (thousand)	9,525	10,398	11,167	303,604	312,035	322,322
Eggs per Layer (number)	259	260	254	255	255	257

**HIRED WORKERS ON FARMS & FARM WAGE RATES**  
 SELECTED REGIONS AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 10-16, 1999 & JANUARY 9-15, 2000 1/

Region 2/	Hired Workers		WAGE RATES							
			All Hired Workers		Type of work					
					Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	Thousands				Dollars per hour					
Lake .....	42	48	8.48	8.83	8.43	8.72	7.33	7.96	7.59	8.11
Cornbelt I .....	29	36	8.46	9.32	8.01	8.51	7.82	8.45	7.89	8.48
Cornbelt II .....	16	19	7.86	8.13	7.36	7.31	7.35	7.87	7.35	7.80
Northern Plains .....	23	29	8.10	8.34	7.83	8.12	7.56	7.90	7.62	7.98
Southern Plains .....	48	44	6.93	7.52	6.49	7.06	6.58	7.10	6.53	7.08
Mountain I .....	14	21	7.80	8.19	7.36	7.55	7.35	7.67	7.35	7.64
Mountain II .....	15	19	8.27	8.09	7.29	7.46	7.36	7.60	7.33	7.56
United States .....	705	666	7.94	8.12	7.23	7.32	7.31	7.64	7.25	7.43

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following: Lake: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin; Cornbelt I: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio; Cornbelt II: Iowa, Missouri; Northern Plains: Kansas, NEBRASKA, North Dakota, South Dakota; Southern Plains: Oklahoma, Texas; Mountain I: Idaho, Montana, Wyoming; Mountain II: Colorado, Nevada, Utah.

**HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 2 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 836,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 9-15, 2000, down 3% from a year ago. There were 666,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees working on farms and ranches made up the remaining 170,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.3% of the January hired workforce compared to 6.0% last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.12 per hour during the January 2000 survey week, up 18 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.32 per hour, up 9 cents from last January. Livestock workers earned \$7.46 per hour compared with \$7.31 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was up 18 cents from last year.

Number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.1 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Northern Plains (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas), and Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio) regions.

The largest declines in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the California, Northeast I (New England and New York), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions.

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