



LIVESTOCK

CATTLE AND CALVES

New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves as of January 1, 2008, was 1,530,000 head, a decrease of 50,000 from 2007. Milk cow inventory decreased from 360,000 head to 340,000 head. Dairy producers retained 130,000 heifers for replacement, 8 percent more than the previous year. Beef cow inventory increased by 5 percent to 460,000 head in 2007. Ranchers held on to 90,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more decreased 19 percent to 170,000 head. Bull inventory this year came in at 40,000 head. Calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, including both beef and dairy calves, totaled 200,000 head. The 2007 calf crop was estimated at 590,000 head. Cattle and calves on full feed for the slaughter market on January 1, 2008, increased to 160,000 head compared to 136,000 head the previous year. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$955 million in 2007, up about 5 percent.

RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2007

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in mid-March with conditions reported at 3 percent very poor; 13 percent poor; 48 percent fair; 32 percent good, and 4 percent excellent and remained fairly steady through the months of March and April. Ranchers were calving, branding, marketing, and supplemental feeding. Scattered showers were reported throughout the month. Soil moisture at mid-month May was reported at 74 percent adequate bringing range and pasture conditions to mostly good. Ranchers were branding and moving cattle. June saw more of the same with temperatures rising throughout the state. Conditions were mostly good and moisture remained adequate. Range and pasture conditions began to shift slightly in July from mostly good to mostly fair to good. The hot temperatures also saw a shift in soil moistures from mostly adequate to mostly short to adequate. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding. Much of the rain received

in August was widespread and scattered. Rangelands were in mostly fair condition. September had above average temperatures and little moisture but rain became active as the month progressed. Moisture was reported as mostly adequate, while rangelands were reported as mostly good. Ranchers saw increasingly dry conditions during October and November and most ranching activities included moving cattle and supplemental feeding. The final report in early December had ranchers preparing for winter and indicated range and pasture in mostly poor to good conditions.

DAIRY

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 360,000 head on January 1, 2008, with the average number during the year totaling 342,000 head. Milk production was down slightly from 7.6 billion pounds last year to 7.3 billion pounds in 2007. Cash receipts from marketings and gross producer income both increased from the previous year due to a 55 percent increase in milk prices. New Mexico ended the year ranked eighth in the nation in milk production as well as in number of milk cows. For the sixth straight year, milk was ranked the number one cash commodity for the state.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2008, totaled 130,000 head, level with the January 1, 2007 inventory. The number of breeding sheep for 2008 was 112,000 head, an increase of 2,000 head from 2007. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2,000 head from the previous year to 18,000 head. The 2007 lamb crop remained steady from the previous year at 75,000 head. State level producer gross income dropped 11 percent to \$5.94 million, down \$712,000. In 2007 wool was sheared from 120,000 sheep and lambs, producing 900,000 pounds. The value of wool produced increased by 33 percent from 2006 to \$1.26 million as the average price of wool increased from \$0.90 to \$1.40 per pound.