



## LIVESTOCK

### **CATTLE AND CALVES**

New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves as of January 1, 2009, was 1,540,000 head, an increase of 10,000 from 2008. Milk cow inventory increased from 330,000 head to 336,000 head. Dairy producers retained 140,000 heifers for replacement. Beef cow inventory decreased by 6.9 percent to 484,000 head in 2009. Ranchers held on to 80,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more increased slightly to 170,000 head. Bull inventory this year came in at 30,000 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, 2009, increased to 165,000 head compared to 160,000 head the previous year. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$1,365 million in 2008, up slightly from the previous year.

### **RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2008**

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in mid-March with conditions reported at 11 percent very poor; 32 percent poor; 43 percent fair; 13 percent good, and 1 percent excellent with conditions deteriorating through the months of March and April. Ranchers were calving, branding, marketing, and supplemental feeding. Little to no precipitation was recorded during these months. Soil moisture at mid-month May was reported at only 8 percent adequate bringing range and pasture conditions down to mostly poor. Ranchers were hauling water and heavy supplemental feeding. June saw more of the same with temperatures rising throughout the state. There was a slight increase in moisture throughout the state, but conditions remained mostly poor. Normal June and July moisture did not materialize leaving little improvement in range conditions. Ranchers were reducing herd sizes.

Much of the rain received in August was widespread and scattered, but helped to improve rangelands to mostly fair condition. September brought cooler temperatures and a little more rain. Moisture was reported as 50 percent adequate, while rangelands were reported as mostly fair. Ranchers continued supplemental feeding through October.

### **DAIRY**

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 336,000 head on January 1, 2009, with the average number during the year totaling 338,000 head. Milk production was up slightly from 7.3 billion pounds last year to 7.9 billion pounds in 2008. Cash receipts from marketings and gross producer income both increased by about 1 percent from the previous year due to increased production. New Mexico ended the year ranked eighth in the nation in milk production and ninth overall in number of milk cows. For the seventh straight year, milk was ranked the number one cash commodity for the state.

### **SHEEP AND LAMBS**

Sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2009, totaled 120,000 head, down about 10,000 head from the 2008 inventory. The number of breeding sheep for 2009 was 103,000 head, a decrease of 9,000 head from 2008. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2,000 head from the previous year to 14,000 head. The 2008 lamb crop decreased about 9,000 head from the previous year to 65,000 lambs. State level producer gross income dropped 5 percent to \$5.57 million. In 2008 wool was sheared from 105,000 sheep and lambs, producing 800,000 pounds. The value of wool produced increased by 8 percent from 2007 to \$1.36 million as the average price of wool increased from \$1.40 to \$1.70 per pound.