



**MONTHLY AG UPDATE – FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

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USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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**CATTLE ON FEED**

**NEW MEXICO:** Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in New Mexico feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totalled 164,000 head on January 1, 2009. The inventory was 2.5 percent above January 1, 2008 and 2.4 percent below December 1, 2008. Placements decreased from 21,000 head in November 2008 to 16,000 head in December. Marketings also dropped to 18,000 head in December from 23,000 head in November 2008. Other disappearance remained at 2,000 head.

**UNITED STATES:** Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totalled 11.2 million head on January 1, 2009. The inventory was 7 percent below January 1, 2008 and 6 percent below January 1, 2007. The inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.10 million head,

**INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE – JANUARY 2009**

<u>Report</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
Cattle on Feed	January 23, 2009
Sheep and Lambs	January 09, 2009
November Milk Production	January 16, 2009
Pecan Production	January 23, 2009
Cattle	January 30, 2009
Chile Peppers	January 28, 2009
Onions	January 28, 2009
Agricultural Prices	January 30, 2009

down 6 percent from 2008. Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.65 million, 3 percent below 2007 and 4 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.57 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 425,000, 600-699 pounds were 490,000, 700-799 pounds were 407,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 325,000. Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent above 2007 and 4 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during December, 31 percent above 2007 but 14 percent below 2006.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots <sup>1/</sup>**

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance <sup>2/</sup>		
	01/1/08	12/1/08	01/1/09	DURING								
				12/07	11/08	12/08	12/07	11/08	12/08	12/07	12/08	12/08
AZ	368	359	358	26	26	29	24	28	29	1	1	1
CA	560	495	490	67	48	59	60	50	60	2	3	4
CO	1,100	1,010	1,000	170	185	150	135	130	155	5	5	5
ID	235	225	220	39	65	36	42	49	39	2	1	2
IA	570	500	500	71	92	66	69	75	64	2	2	2
KS	2,480	2,310	2,270	385	405	380	390	310	405	15	15	15
NE	2,530	2,380	2,370	355	440	345	335	355	340	10	15	15
<b>NM</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>*168</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>*21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
OK	350	335	335	44	69	49	37	52	46	2	2	3
SD	230	220	220	50	57	38	33	35	37	2	2	1
TX	2,960	2,810	2,790	380	510	405	420	395	405	10	15	20
WA	164	169	157	25	36	28	28	29	38	1	1	2
Oth Sts	390	365	360	63	62	46	59	44	47	4	3	4
<b>US</b>	<b>12,097</b>	<b>*11,346</b>	<b>11,234</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>*2,016</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 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. <sup>2/</sup> Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. \* Revised.

## ALL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY DOWN 3 PERCENT

**UNITED STATES:** All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2009, totaled 5.75 million head, down 3 percent from 2008. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.25 million head on January 1, 2009, down 4 percent from 4.43 million head on January 1, 2008. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.40 million head, were 4 percent below last year. Market sheep and

lambs on January 1, 2009, totaled 1.50 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2008. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-three percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 11 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 21 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 39 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings.

### Sheep and Lambs: Number by Class, United States, January 1, 2008-2009

Class	2008	2009	2009 as % of 2008
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Percent-----
All Sheep and Lambs	5,950	5,747	97
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	4,432	4,247	96
Replacement Lambs			
Under One Year Old	697	649	93
Ewes – One Year Old			
And Older	3,540	3,404	96
Rams – One Year Old			
And Older	195	195	100
Market	1,519	1,500	99

### Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, United States, 2007-2008

Period	Lamb Crop	Breeding Ewes 1+ Jan 1	Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1
		-----1,000 Head-----	Number
2007	3,895.0	3,620.0	108
2008	3,710.0	3,540.0	105

## DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.5 PERCENT

**NEW MEXICO:** Milk production in New Mexico during December totalled 660 million pounds. Milk per cow during the month averaged 1,975 pounds. Milk cows on farms increased from previous month to 334,000 head.

**UNITED STATES:** Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 14.6 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from December 2007. November revised production at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent

November 2007. The November revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,726 pounds for December, 8 pounds above December 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.48 million head, 90,000 head more than December 2007, and 7,000 head more than November 2008.

**Milk Cows and Production: November 2008 <sup>1/</sup> and December 2007 - 2008**

State	Milk Cows <sup>2/</sup>			Milk per Cow <sup>3/</sup>			Milk Production <sup>3/</sup>		
	12/07	11/08	12/08	12/07	11/08	12/08	12/07	11/08	12/08
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	185	187	188	1,925	1,850	2,000	356	346	376
CA	1,835	1,843	1,844	1,885	1,795	1,860	3,459	3,308	3,430
CO	120	130	130	1,965	1,845	1,940	236	240	252
FL	124	119	118	1,360	1,320	1,490	169	15	176
ID	530	554	554	1,870	1,770	1,820	991	981	1,008
IL	103	102	102	1,580	1,470	1,580	163	150	161
IN	166	167	167	1,705	1,580	1,650	283	264	276
IA	215	215	215	1,665	1,630	1,690	358	350	363
KS	109	118	121	1,650	1,720	1,785	180	203	216
KY	90	87	87	1,145	1,100	1,180	103	96	103
MI	344	352	353	1,895	1,755	1,820	652	618	642
MN	463	465	465	1,580	1,530	1,610	732	129	749
MO	110	110	109	1,210	1,175	1,270	133	129	138
<b>NM</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>660</b>
NY	626	624	625	1,620	1,580	1,620	1,014	986	1,013
OH	278	278	276	1,500	1,450	1,510	417	403	417
OR	115	115	115	1,515	1,560	1,590	174	179	183
PA	550	548	548	1,620	1,510	1,580	891	827	866
TX	355	390	393	1,825	1,765	1,875	648	688	737
VT	140	139	139	1,545	1,445	1,525	216	201	212
VA	99	97	97	1,495	1,410	1,495	148	137	145
WA	243	245	244	1,930	1,840	1,900	469	451	464
WI	1,250	1,254	1,255	1,600	1,565	1,630	2,000	1,963	2,045
<b>23 STS</b>	<b>8,389</b>	<b>8,472</b>	<b>8,479</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>14,414</b>	<b>14,021</b>	<b>14,633</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Revised. <sup>2/</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. <sup>3/</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## PECAN PRODUCTION

**NEW MEXICO:** Pecan production in New Mexico summed to 45 million pounds in 2008, a low bearing year in the alternating cycle of the trees. This was a 39% decrease from the record 2007 production of 74 million pounds and 4.3% below production in 2006, the previous low bearing year in the

cycle. The price per pound increased to \$1.45 a pound compared to \$1.30 a pound a year earlier. Production in 2008 was valued at \$65.25 million, compared to \$96.2 in 2007 and \$86.95 million in 2006.

**All Pecans: Utilized Production, Price and Value of Production, State and U.S., 2007-2008**

State	Utilized Production		Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
<b>Improved Varieties<sup>1/</sup></b>						
AL	10,000	6,300	0.890	1.350	8,900	8,505
AZ	23,000	16,500	1.600	1.500	36,800	24,750
AR	1,500	550	1.090	1.360	1,635	748
CA	4,400	3,500	1.780	1.180	7,832	4,130
FL	1,700	1,400	1.000	2.000	1,700	2,800
GA	135,000	65,000	1.100	1.510	148,500	98,150
LA	3,000	1,500	1.200	1.250	3,600	1,875
MS	2,200	900	1.150	1.300	2,530	1,170
MO	2	140	1.200	1.700	2	238
<b>NM</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>1.300</b>	<b>1.450</b>	<b>96,200</b>	<b>65,250</b>
NC	160	600	1.510	1.470	242	882
OK	3,000	2,000	1.350	1.600	4,050	3,200
SC	1,500	1,800	1.160	1.050	1,740	1,890
TX	44,000	20,000	1.350	1.540	59,400	30,800
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>303,462</b>	<b>165,190</b>	<b>1.230</b>	<b>1.480</b>	<b>373,131</b>	<b>244,388</b>
<b>Native &amp; Seedling</b>						
AL	2,000	700	0.660	0.890	1,320	623
AR	800	450	0.760	1.020	608	459
FL	200	300	0.700	1.100	140	330
GA	15,000	2,000	0.720	1.300	10,800	2,600
KS	500	1,200	0.900	1.500	450	1,800
LA	11,000	3,500	0.700	0.850	7,700	2,975
MS	800	400	0.700	1.000	560	400
MO <sup>2/</sup>	3	540	1.000	1.350	3	729
NC	40	100	0.810	0.770	32	77
OK	27,000	6,000	0.750	0.700	20,250	4,200
SC	500	700	0.900	0.720	450	504
TX	26,000	10,000	0.700	1.090	18,200	10,900
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>83,843</b>	<b>25,890</b>	<b>0.722</b>	<b>0.989</b>	<b>60,513</b>	<b>25,597</b>
<b>All Pecans</b>	<b>387,305</b>	<b>191,080</b>	<b>1.120</b>	<b>1.410</b>	<b>433,644</b>	<b>269,985</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Budded, grafted, or top-worked varieties.

## JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 2 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2009, totaled 94.5 million head, 2 percent below the 96.0 million on January 1, 2008.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.0 million, were down 2 percent from the 41.7 million on January 1, 2008.

- Beef cows, at 31.7 million, were down 2 percent from January 1, 2008.
- Milk cows, at 9.33 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2008.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2009, and the change from January 1, 2008, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.53 million, down 2 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.41 million, down slightly.
- Other heifers, 9.65 million, down 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.18 million, down 1 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 14.9 million, down 1 percent.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.9 million, down 7 percent.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 27.5 million, up 1 percent.

### Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, United States, January 1, 2008-2009 <sup>1/</sup>

Class	2008	2009	2009 as % of 2008
	-----1,000 Head-----		-----Percent-----
Cattle and Calves	96,035	94,491	98
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	41,692	41,005	98
Beef Cows	32,435	31,671	98
Milk Cows	9,257	9,333	101
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	19,854	19,586	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,647	5,526	98
Expected to Calve <sup>2/</sup>	3,414	3,357	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,415	4,410	100
Expected to Calve <sup>2/</sup>	2,923	2,909	100
Other Heifers	9,793	9,650	99
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	17,163	16,774	98
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,207	2,184	99
Calves Under 500 Pounds	15,118	14,943	99
Cattle on Feed	14,827	13,851	93
	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
Calf Crop	36,759	36,113	98

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year.

**CHILE PEPPERS**

**NEW MEXICO:** Chile peppers planted for all purposes for 2008 was 12,300 acres, up 300 acres from 2007. Acres harvested for all purposes rose 100 acres from 2007 to 11,100 acres. Total state production for 2008 was 1,610,000 lbs., down 10,000 lbs. from 2007, due primarily to disease pressures. Price increased \$2.10 per cwt. to \$19.80, resulting in an overall value to the state of 31.8 million dollars.

**Chile Peppers for Fresh Market and Processing: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production, and Value by State and United States, 2006-2008 1/ 2/**

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
-----						
	Acres					
AZ	5,500	4,000	3,500	5,400	3,600	3,000
CA	5,500	5,800	5,700	5,500	5,800	5,600
NM	15,300	12,000	12,300	13,800	11,000	11,100
TX	4,500	4,700	6,400	3,500	4,500	5,300
US	30,800	26,500	27,900	28,200	24,900	25,000
-----						
	Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	----- Cwt -----			----- 1,000 Cwt -----		
AZ	85	80	75	460	288	224
CA	330	310	270	1,815	1,798	1,512
NM	170	145	145	2,364	1,620	1,610
TX	40	38	33	140	171	174
US	169	156	141	4,779	3,877	3,520
-----						
	Value					
	Per Cwt			Total		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	----- Dollars -----			----- 1,000 Dollars -----		
AZ	34.40	45.10	48.90	15,840	12,992	10,964
CA	24.30	34.40	23.00	44,049	61,884	34,831
NM	16.80	17.70	19.80	39,636	28,677	31,801
TX	37.50	71.30	79.80	5,250	12,192	13,883
US	21.90	29.90	26.00	104,775	115,745	91,479

1/ Chile peppers are defined as all peppers excluding bell peppers.  
2/ Estimates include both fresh and dry product combined.

**ONIONS**

**NEW MEXICO:** Planted onion acreage for 2008 is revised to 7,000 acres, 1,500 acres above earlier estimates and 300 acres below revised 2007 planted acreage. Harvested onion acreage fell 500 acres from 2007 to 6,600 acres.

**Onions: Area Planted and Harvested by Season, State, and United States, 2006-2008**

Season and State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	----- Acres -----					
Spring 1/						
AZ	1,000	1,100	1,500	1,000	1,100	1,500
CA	7,800	6,900	6,700	7,600	6,700	6,500
GA	14,000	12,500	12,000	10,500	12,000	11,500
TX	17,700	12,500	11,000	15,200	10,400	8,900
Total	40,500	33,000	31,200	34,300	30,200	28,400
Summer Non-Storage 1/						
CA	9,100	8,000	7,800	8,700	7,800	7,600
NV	2,600	2,800	2,600	2,600	2,800	2,600
NM	6,600	7,300	7,000	6,400	7,100	6,600
TX	1,000	1,100	800	900	1,000	700
WA 2/	1,500	1,500	1,900	1,500	1,500	1,900
Total	20,800	20,700	20,100	20,100	20,200	19,400
Season and State	Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	----- Cwt -----			----- 1,000 Cwt -----		
Spring 1/						
AZ	490	450	440	490	495	660
CA	415	450	440	3,154	3,015	2,860
GA	310	270	320	3,255	3,240	3,680
TX	270	300	270	4,104	3,120	2,403
Total	321	327	338	11,003	9,870	9,603
Summer Non-Storage 1/						
CA	560	565	540	4,872	4,407	4,104
NV	760	740	760	1,976	2,072	1,976
NM	480	500	500	3,072	3,550	3,300
TX	240	400	400	216	400	280
WA 2/	380	380	360	570	570	684
Total	533	545	533	10,706	10,999	10,344

1/ Primarily fresh.

2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED**

**NEW MEXICO:** Alfalfa hay prices for January averaged \$193.00 per ton holding at the same level as December, 2008. All hay prices also was unchanged from a month earlier at \$190.00 per ton. Cow prices increased slightly to \$44.80 per hundredweight. Steer and heifer prices increased by \$2.40 from the December price of \$84.40 per hundredweight to \$86.80 per hundredweight. Calf prices also increased by \$3.00 to \$101.00 per hundredweight. Milk prices declined from \$14.90 per hundredweight to \$14.80 per hundredweight.

**Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, December 2008 and January 2008- 09**

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S. <sup>1/</sup>
		January 2008 <sup>1/</sup>	December 2008 <sup>2/</sup>	January 2009 <sup>1/</sup>	January
-----Dollars-----					
<b>CROPS</b>					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	5.29
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.474
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	9.49
Hay, all baled	Ton	164.00	190.00	190.00	136.00
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	168.00	193.00	193.00	149.00
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.233
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	4.15
Wheat, all	Bu.	-	-	-	5.90
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>					
Sheep <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	31.70
Lambs <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	-	-	-	100.00
Cows	Cwt.	45.00	44.00	44.80	42.20
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	101.00	84.40	86.80	86.30
Calves	Cwt.	114.00	98.00	101.00	105.00
Milk Cow Replacement <sup>4/</sup>	Hd.	1,940.00	---	1,610.00	1,630.00
Milk	Cwt.	21.30	14.90	14.80	13.80

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month <sup>2/</sup> Entire month <sup>3/</sup> December - entire month <sup>4/</sup> Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct.