



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK

MARCH 2004

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CATTLE ON FEED

On March 1, 2004, Arizona had 295,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 16,000 head from a year ago. Placements totaled 27,000 head, up 5,000 head from February 2003. During February, 25,000 head were marketed, a decrease of 6,000 head from last February.

On March 1, 2004, California had 500,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 25,000 head from March 2003. Placements totaled 56,000 head, up 2,000 head from a year ago. During February, 52,000 head were marketed, a decrease of 4,000 head from last February.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003, but 5 percent below March 1, 2002. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 319,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 548,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 392,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003, but 10 percent above 2002.

CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED, NUMBER PLACED ON FEED, NUMBER MARKETED, AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE, 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, BY MONTH, STATE, AND UNITED STATES 2003-2004

STATE	Number on Feed 1/					Placements			Marketings			Other Disappearance		
	Mar 1, 2003	Feb 1, 2004	Mar 1, 2004			During February			During February			During February 2/		
			Number	as % of 2003	as % of Feb	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
1,000 Head		Percent			1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	
AZ	279	296	295	106	100	22	27	123	31	25	81	3	3	100
CA	475	500	500	105	100	54	56	104	56	52	93	3	4	133
CO	990	1,040	1,020	103	98	160	155	97	190	165	87	10	10	100
ID	280	275	265	95	96	48	43	90	57	52	91	1	1	100
IA	380	*385	405	107	105	63	61	97	71	40	56	2	1	50
KS	2,240	2,420	2,390	107	99	410	390	95	370	405	109	20	15	75
NE	2,190	2,280	2,270	104	100	330	350	106	350	345	99	10	15	150
NM	112	117	112	100	96	11	16	145	12	20	167	1	1	100
OK	320	350	335	105	96	46	47	102	55	59	107	1	3	300
SD	215	200	210	98	105	40	43	108	39	32	82	1	1	100
TX	2,560	2,770	2,690	105	97	370	350	95	395	420	106	15	10	67
WA	180	185	175	97	95	31	24	77	30	32	107	1	2	200
Other Sts	325	310	310	95	100	65	48	74	77	45	58	3	3	100
US	10,546	*11,128	10,977	104	99	1,650	1,610	98	1,733	1,692	98	71	69	97

* Revised.

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 pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

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RELEASE DATES FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL REPORTS

April 16	Milk Production
April 16	Cattle on Feed
April 23	.....	Livestock Slaughter
April 28	.....	Annual Dairy Products
April 28	.....	Milk-Production, Disposition, Income
April 28	.....	Meat Animals-Production, Disposition, Income
April 30	.....	Agricultural Prices

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.7 PERCENT

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be down 1.8 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was down 1.0 percent from January 2003. The January revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,531 pounds for February, 42 pounds above February 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 91,000 head less than February 2003, but 4,000 head more than January 2004.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION: BY STATE, FEBRUARY 2003-2004

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		2004 as % of 2003
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	1,000 Head		Lbs		Million Lbs		Percent
AZ	155	155	1,850	1,880	287	291	1.4
CA	1,676	1,705	1,655	1,680	2,774	2,864	3.2
FL	146	139	1,290	1,375	188	191	1.6
ID	394	412	1,650	1,700	650	700	7.7
IL	114	108	1,485	1,520	169	164	-3.0
IN	147	145	1,525	1,590	224	231	3.1
IA	204	194	1,480	1,510	302	293	-3.0
KY	120	112	1,000	1,025	120	115	-4.2
MI	302	299	1,590	1,670	480	499	4.0
MN	480	465	1,385	1,425	665	663	-0.3
MO	133	124	1,150	1,185	153	147	-3.9
NM	314	326	1,605	1,660	504	541	7.3
NY	677	660	1,400	1,400	948	924	-2.5
OH	260	259	1,360	1,370	354	355	0.3
PA	588	564	1,430	1,425	841	804	-4.4
TX	320	317	1,410	1,585	451	502	11.3
VT	152	146	1,370	1,425	208	208	
VA	116	105	1,235	1,310	143	138	-3.5
WA	248	240	1,750	1,790	434	430	-0.9
WI	1,265	1,245	1,370	1,415	1,733	1,762	1.7
20-State Total	7,811	7,720	1,489	1,531	11,628	11,822	1.7

1/ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

2003 WOOL PRODUCTION DOWN 8 PERCENT

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

Mohair production in the three major producing states (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas) during 2003 was 1.88 million pounds, down 14 percent from 2002. Goats and kids clipped, at 248,000 head, were down 12 percent from 2002. Average weight per clip was 7.6 pounds compared with 7.7 pounds a year earlier. Value of mohair was \$3.1 million dollars, down 9 percent from 2002.

SHEEP AND LAMBS SHORN, WEIGHT PER FLEECE, WOOL PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 2002 AND 2003

State	Sheep and Lambs Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production		Price per Pound		Value of Production 1/	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head		Lbs		1,000 Lbs		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
AZ	109	102	6.1	6.1	660	620	0.32	0.34	211	211
CA	510	500	7.1	7.0	3,600	3,500	0.45	0.79	1,620	2,765
CO	460	360	6.7	7.2	3,070	2,580	0.57	0.74	1,750	1,909
ID	217	217	9.7	9.7	2,115	2,115	0.67	0.86	1,417	1,819
MT	289	272	9.6	9.5	2,788	2,597	0.76	1.03	2,119	2,675
NV	65	55	9.1	8.4	590	460	0.85	0.95	502	437
NM	175	160	8.1	7.8	1,410	1,240	0.80	1.10	1,128	1,364
TX	850	800	7.0	7.0	5,950	5,600	0.68	0.90	4,046	5,040
UT	280	240	9.5	9.3	2,650	2,230	0.60	0.80	1,590	1,784
WA	44	36	8.1	8.1	357	292	0.47	0.63	168	184
WY	420	390	8.9	9.4	3,750	3,650	0.73	1.10	2,738	4,015
U.S.	5,476	5,057	7.5	7.5	41,322	38,114	0.53	0.72	21,876	27,408

1/ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. U.S. value is summation of State values.

PORK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH FOR FEBRUARY

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. February 2004 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.5 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, down 14 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was 19 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 268 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: ARIZONA AND U.S. 1/

Class	February 2003	January 2004	February 2004	February 2004 as % of	
				February 2003	January 2004
		1,000 Lbs	Percent		
ARIZONA 2/					
Total Red Meat	35,800	29,700	25,700	72	87
		Million Lbs	Percent		
UNITED STATES					
Beef	1,942	*1,924	1,803	93	94
Veal	16	16	15	91	90
Pork	1,523	*1,758	1,571	103	89
Lamb and Mutton	15	15	15	98	96
Total Red Meat	3,496	*3,714	3,403	97	92

*Revised

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Breakdown by class not available, includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER: ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 2004 AND U.S., JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2004 1/

SPECIES	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
	February 2004			January - February 2004		
	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight 2/	Number Slaughtered	Total Dressed Weight 3/	Average Live Weight 2/
	1,000 Head	1,000 Lbs	Lbs	1,000 Head	Million Lbs	Lbs
ARIZONA						
Cattle	33.0	43,679	1,324	5,003.8	3,727	1,241
Calves 4/				150.5	31	336
Hogs	0.2	59	263	16,675.4	3,329	268
Sheep 4/				432.2	30	140

1/ Includes slaughter under federal inspection and other commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Average liveweights based on unrounded data.

3/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

4/ Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations, but included in U.S. total.

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MARCH FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX REACHES RECORD HIGH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.2 percent) above the February Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index increased 8 points (7.1 percent) from February while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from March 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 7 points (6.0 percent) from last month to 123. The index stands 27 points (28 percent) above March 2003.

PRICES PAID INDEX UP SLIGHTLY

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 131 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from February and 3 points (2.3 percent) above March 2003. Higher prices in March for feeder cattle, feed grains, diesel fuel, and gasoline account for most of the index increase.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: ARIZONA AND U.S., MARCH 2003 AND 2004 AND FEBRUARY 2004

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2003 Entire Month	February 2004 Entire Month	March 2004 Mid-Month	March 2003 Entire Month	February 2004 Entire Month	March 2004 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	53.4	63.8	66.5	47.3	62.7	61.8
All Wheat 2/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	3.54	3.77	3.71
Durum Wheat 2/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	4.14	4.08	4.15
Winter Wheat 2/	\$ Cwt	---	---	---	3.29	3.68	3.61
All Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	98.00	85.00	84.00	92.80	79.90	81.80
Alfalfa Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	98.00	85.00	84.00	96.20	84.70	85.90
Other Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	90.00	80.00	79.00	82.30	69.90	70.90
Grapefruit 4/	\$ Box	12.30	15.80	17.00	14.70	15.30	16.10
Oranges 4/	\$ Box	19.10	15.10	16.50	15.40	17.80	18.70
Lemons 4/	\$ Box	18.50	23.10	20.80	19.20	23.70	27.20
Tangerines 4/	\$ Box	19.60	22.10	20.20	23.30	23.10	22.70
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	43.00	46.00	47.00	39.50	46.10	46.70
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	77.80	89.00	90.30	76.70	82.30	88.60
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	77.50	88.60	89.90	72.70	78.50	84.00
Calves	\$ Cwt	93.60	112.00	113.00	97.00	111.00	114.00
All Milk 7/	\$ Cwt	10.40	13.00	14.10	11.00	13.60	14.70

1/ Includes both spot and contract sales.

2/ Not available for Arizona.

3/ Mid-month.

4/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Grapefruit 67 lbs., Oranges 75 lbs., Lemons 76 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs.

5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

6/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

7/ Preliminary: Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

U.S. PRICE INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004	
	February	March	February	March
Prices Received	99	99	116	122
Prices Paid	128	128	130	131
Ratio 1/	77	77	89	93

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.