



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK

APRIL 2004

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Arizona Cattle on Feed up 5 Percent

On April 1, 2004, Arizona had 293,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down slightly from last month but up 5 percent from a year ago. Placements totaled 33,000 head, 6 percent above the previous March. During March, 32,000 head were marketed, up 10 percent from March 2003.

On April 1, 2004, California had 495,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down slightly from last month but up 4 percent from April 1, 2003. Placements totaled 70,000 head, 13 percent above March 2003. During March, 71,000 head were marketed, 22 percent above last March.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April

1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 and 3 percent below 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 During March			Marketings During March			Other Disappearance During March 2/		
	Apr 1, 2003	Mar 1, 2004	Apr 1, 2004			2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
			Number	as % of 2003	as % of Mar									
	1,000 Head		Percent	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent	Percent	
AZ	278	295	293	105	99	31	33	106	29	32	110	3	3	100
CA	475	500	495	104	99	62	70	113	58	71	122	4	4	100
CO	970	1,020	970	100	95	160	150	94	175	190	109	5	10	200
ID	280	265	255	91	96	58	39	67	57	46	81	1	3	300
IA	375	405	415	111	102	56	69	123	60	56	93	1	3	300
KS	2,320	2,390	2,360	102	99	510	460	90	410	470	115	20	20	100
NE	2,190	2,270	2,210	101	97	320	295	92	310	350	113	10	5	50
NM	105	112	105	100	94	16	16	100	22	21	95	1	2	200
OK	340	335	330	97	99	94	74	79	71	77	108	3	2	67
SD	210	210	205	98	98	39	33	85	43	36	84	1	2	200
TX	2,670	2,690	2,640	99	98	600	490	82	480	530	110	10	10	100
WA	180	175	170	94	97	31	29	94	30	33	110	1	1	100
Other Sts	320	310	300	94	97	55	46	84	58	54	93	2	2	100
US	10,713	10,977	10,748	100	98	2,032	1,804	89	1,803	1,966	109	62	67	108

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 loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

March Milk Production Down 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was

7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

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Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 2003-2004

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
AZ	155	155	2,085	2,095	323	325	0.6
CA	1,681	1,708	1,850	1,810	3,110	3,091	-0.6
FL	145	139	1,435	1,540	208	214	2.9
ID	395	413	1,850	1,810	731	748	2.3
IL	113	108	1,670	1,650	189	178	-5.8
IN	147	145	1,720	1,730	253	251	-0.8
IA	203	194	1,640	1,630	333	316	-5.1
KY	120	109	1,135	1,175	136	128	-5.9
MI	302	298	1,800	1,790	544	533	-2.0
MN	480	465	1,540	1,510	739	702	-5.0
MO	131	123	1,340	1,345	176	165	-6.3
NM	315	327	1,835	1,765	578	577	-0.2
NY	680	660	1,540	1,510	1,047	997	-4.8
OH	260	260	1,500	1,520	390	395	1.3
PA	585	564	1,600	1,570	936	885	-5.4
TX	320	317	1,610	1,735	515	550	6.8
VT	151	144	1,535	1,540	232	222	-4.3
VA	116	101	1,360	1,450	158	146	-7.6
WA	248	240	1,950	1,925	484	462	-4.5
WI	1,263	1,244	1,530	1,520	1,932	1,891	-2.1
20-State Total	7,810	7,714	1,666	1,656	13,014	12,776	-1.8

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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RELEASE DATES FOR UPCOMING NATIONAL REPORTS

May 17 Milk Production
 May 21 Cattle on Feed
 May 21 Farm Labor
 May 21 Livestock Slaughter
 May 28 Agricultural Prices

Pork Production at Record Monthly High for March

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

Beef production, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head,

11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2004 commercial red meat production was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

March 2003 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. March 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Commercial Red Meat Production: Arizona and U.S. 1/

Class	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	March 2004 as % of	
				March 2003	February 2004
1,000 Pounds			Percent		
ARIZONA 2/					
Total Red Meat	33,100	25,700	31,600	95	123
UNITED STATES					
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,048	1,803	2,109	103	117
Veal	16.5	14.5	14.2	86	98
Pork	1,623	1,571	1,801	111	115
Lamb and Mutton	18.1	14.8	22.1	122	149
Total Red Meat	3,706.1	3,403.4	3,946.2	106	116

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, March 2004 and U.S., January-March 2004 1/

SPECIES	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES 2/		
	March			January - March		
	Number	Total	Average	Number	Total 3/	Average
	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Head	Million Pounds	Pounds
ARIZONA						
Cattle	40.8	53,219	1,304	7,875.1	5,836	1,232
Calves 4/				227.5	44.7	327
Hogs	0.8	155	200	25,714.1	5,130	268
Sheep	0.2	14	70	739.1	52.4	141

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

2/ Accumulated totals and 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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April Farm Prices Received Index Reaches Second Consecutive Record High

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April at 124, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points (2.5 percent) above the March Index. This is the highest index level since records began. The Livestock Products Index increased 4 points (3.3 percent) from March while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, cattle, corn, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for eggs, strawberries, hogs, and tobacco. 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 cattle, milk, strawberries, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and hogs. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 points (23 percent) from April 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.5 percent) from last month to 125. The index stands 26 points (26 percent) above April 2003.

Prices Paid Index Reaches Record High

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPIW) is 133 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from March but 5 points (3.9 percent) above April 2003. Higher prices in April for feeder cattle, hay and forages, milk cows, and feed grains more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, gasoline, LP gas, and insecticides.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and U.S., April 2003 and 2004 and March 2004

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2003 Entire Month	March 2004 Entire Month	April 2004 Mid-Month	April 2003 Entire Month	March 2004 Entire Month	April 2004 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	2/	67.9	2/	45.4	59.4	59.5
All Wheat 2/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	112.32	127.99	127.32
Durum Wheat 2/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	130.99	137.99	139.99
Winter Wheat 2/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	106.32	125.32	125.32
All Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	94.00	84.00	90.00	94.50	81.80	89.60
Alfalfa Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	94.00	84.00	90.00	96.20	85.90	92.70
Other Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	87.00	79.00	85.00	86.40	70.90	76.00
Grapefruit 4/	\$ Box	13.70	17.00	16.50	14.90	16.10	16.20
Oranges 4/	\$ Box	9.90	16.50	9.86	16.60	18.70	17.50
Lemons 4/	\$ Box	22.50	20.80	2/	24.00	27.20	31.00
Tangerines 4/	\$ Box	22.80	20.20	35.20	24.60	22.70	26.10
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	41.40	47.10	51.80	40.20	46.60	49.00
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	78.80	95.60	102.00	78.80	87.90	89.70
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	78.40	95.10	101.00	74.60	83.40	85.30
Calves	\$ Cwt	94.00	118.00	120.00	99.10	115.00	116.00
All Milk 7/	\$ Cwt	10.50	14.50	16.90	11.00	15.40	18.00

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	
	March	April	March	April
Prices Received	99	101	121	124
Prices Paid	128	128	133	133
Ratio 1/	77	79	91	93

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