



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK

December 2004

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Arizona Cattle On Feed Higher Than Last Year

On December 1, 2004, Arizona had 329,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 16 percent from a year ago, and up 2 percent from last month. Placements totaled 35,000 head, 35 percent more than November 2003. During November, 23,000 head were marketed, 21 percent higher than last November.

On December 1, 2004, California had 530,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 6 percent from last year, and up 1 percent from last month. Placements totaled 66,000 head, up 6 percent from last year. During November, 53,000 head were marketed, up 1,000 head from last year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above December 1, 2003 and 4 percent above December 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.74 million, 10 percent below 2003 and 12 percent below 2002. This is the lowest placements for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.64 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 590,000, 600-699 pounds were 557,000, 700-799 pounds were 326,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 270,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.63 million, 6 percent above 2003 but 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 108,000 during November, 11 percent above 2003 and 20 percent above 2002.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed (1,000+ Capacity Feedlots) November 1, 2004 and December 1, 2003 and 2004, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance November 2003 and 2004 by State and United States

State	Number on Feed 1/					Placements During November			Marketings During November			Other Disappearance During November 2/			
	Dec 1, 2003	Nov 1, 2004	Dec 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 Nov										
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>			<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	284	321	329	116	102	26	35	135	19	23	121	1	4	400	
CA	500	525	530	106	101	62	66	106	52	53	102	5	8	160	
CO	1,060	1,090	1,100	104	101	185	175	95	165	155	94	10	10	100	
ID	310	305	305	98	100	64	50	78	47	48	102	2	2	100	
IA	370	430	435	118	101	77	90	117	56	82	146	1	3	300	
KS	2,480	2,400	2,390	96	100	425	390	92	350	370	106	25	30	120	
NE	2,280	2,210	2,300	101	104	410	410	100	260	310	119	10	10	100	
NM	121	134	129	107	96	22	14	64	17	16	94	2	3	150	
OK	350	360	355	101	99	56	43	77	51	44	86	5	4	80	
SD	200	169	186	93	110	54	51	94	30	33	110	1	1	100	
TX	2,840	2,880	2,740	96	95	440	320	73	410	430	105	30	30	100	
WA	210	180	185	88	103	46	37	80	35	31	89	1	1	100	
Other Sts	330	330	360	109	109	59	62	105	45	30	67	4	2	50	
US	11,335	11,334	11,344	100	100	1,926	1,743	90	1,537	1,625	106	97	108	111	

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.

Commercial Red Meat Production

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in November, up 7 percent from the 3.53 billion pounds produced in November 2003.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, up 4 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,271 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 9 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 13 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, a new monthly record, and was up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.96 million head, 4 percent above November 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from November 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,100 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2004 commercial red meat production was 41.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By Arizona and United States 1/

Class	November 2003	October 2004	November 2004	November 2004 as % of 2/	
				November 2003	October 2004
Arizona 3/	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Total Red Meat	28,900	* 26,400	27,800	96	105
United States	<i>Million Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Beef	1,783	2,114	1,943	109	92
Veal	15.2	12.4	13.8	91	111
Pork	1,718	1,779	1,797	105	101
Lamb and Mutton	16.3	16.3	16.5	101	101
Total Red Meat	3,533	3,921	3,771	107	96

* Revised

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

2/ Accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data.

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

Commercial Livestock Slaughter: By Arizona, November 2004 and United States, January-November 2004 1/

Species	Arizona			United States		
	November			January-November		
	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight 2/	Number Slaughtered	Total Dressed Weight 3/	Average Live Weight 2/
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
Cattle	35.7	47,785	1,340	30,032.0	22,506	1,238
Calves 4/				768.7	152.2	330
Hogs	0.4	42	118	94,196.6	18,650	266
Sheep	0.1	9	64	2,595.2	176.8	136

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.

November Milk Production Up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during November totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from November 2003. October revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from October 2003. The October revision represented an increase of 0.1 percent or 9 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for November, 9 pounds above November 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 44,000 head more than November 2003, but unchanged from October 2004.

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

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change from 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		
							<i>Percent</i>
AZ	155	168	1,775	1,760	275	296	7.6
CA	1,694	1,741	1,665	1,700	2,821	2,960	4.9
FL	140	137	1,180	1,250	165	171	3.6
ID	412	436	1,740	1,720	717	750	4.6
IL	109	106	1,485	1,450	162	154	-4.9
IN	151	154	1,620	1,560	245	240	-2.0
IA	197	190	1,515	1,520	298	289	-3.0
KY	112	109	1,025	1,030	115	112	-2.6
MI	300	306	1,675	1,650	503	505	0.4
MN	465	460	1,390	1,390	646	639	-1.1
MO	125	120	1,190	1,215	149	146	-2.0
NM	320	324	1,670	1,605	534	520	-2.6
NY	660	646	1,410	1,410	931	911	-2.1
OH	258	266	1,370	1,390	353	370	4.8
PA	560	563	1,420	1,420	795	799	0.5
TX	317	320	1,440	1,455	456	466	2.2
VT	146	145	1,415	1,410	207	204	-1.4
VA	108	103	1,260	1,340	136	138	1.5
WA	243	234	1,810	1,820	440	426	-3.2
WI	1,249	1,237	1,410	1,415	1,761	1,750	-0.6
20-State Total	7,721	7,765	1,517	1,526	11,709	11,846	1.2

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

January 5 Dairy Products
 January 18 Milk Production
 January 21 Cattle on Feed
 January 21 Livestock Slaughter
 January 28 Sheep and Goats
 January 28 Cattle
 January 31 Agricultural Prices
 January 31 Farm Numbers and Livestock Operations

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December Farm Prices Received Index Down 3 Points From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 3 points below the November Index. The Crop Index is down 8 points (7.1 percent) from November while the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, dairy, eggs, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, corn, and cotton. 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 dairy, tobacco, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, grapes, and soybeans.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from December 2003. The Food Commodities Index decreased 4 points (3.3 percent) from last month to 118. The index is up 2 points (1.7 percent) from December 2003.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from November but 5 points (3.9 percent) above December 2003. Lower prices in December for feeder cattle, diesel fuel, complete feeds, and gasoline,

are offset by higher prices for feeder pigs, nitrogen fertilizers, LP gas, and feed concentrates.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, December 2003, November and December 2004

Commodity	Unit	Arizona			United States		
		December 2003	November 2004	December 2004	December 2003	November 2004	December 2004
		Entire Month	Entire Month	Mid-Month	Entire Month	Entire Month	Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	1/	49.7	51.7	63.3	44.4	41.0
Cottonseed	\$ Ton	148.00	161.00	159.00	127.00	104.00	111.00
Durum Wheat 2/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	131.70	125.70	121.30
All Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	80.00	98.00	95.00	80.60	86.20	84.30
Alfalfa Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	80.00	98.00	95.00	87.00	94.00	92.40
Other Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	78.00	90.00	90.00	66.50	67.80	67.10
Grapefruit 4/	\$ Box	15.20	---	24.20	16.10	29.30	30.00
Oranges 4/	\$ Box	17.60	18.90	22.10	18.10	22.30	19.40
Lemons 4/	\$ Box	23.10	30.70	30.20	23.60	31.30	30.90
Tangerines 4/	\$ Box	27.40	---	24.20	25.20	29.20	29.00
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	49.40	50.70	53.40	49.20	48.90	48.70
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	91.90	105.00	104.00	95.60	90.20	91.90
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	91.50	104.00	103.00	90.40	85.10	86.80
Calves	\$ Cwt	109.00	122.00	120.00	112.00	124.00	121.00
All Milk 7/	\$ Cwt	13.30	15.60	16.50	13.80	16.10	16.50

1/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004	
	November	December	November	December
Prices Received	116	114	115	112
Prices Paid	129	129	134	134
Ratio 1/	90	88	86	84

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