National Agricultural Statistics Service

Arizona Livestock

November 2005

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Arizona Cattle on Feed Inventory Up 7 Percent From Last Year

On November 1, 2005, Arizona had 325,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 1 percent from a year ago and up 7,000 head from last month. Placements totaled 35,000 head, 27 percent below October 2004. During October, 27,000 head were marketed, 6,000 more than last October.

On November 1, 2005, California had 545,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 4 percent from last year, and up 10,000 from last month. Placements totaled 64,000 head, down 9 percent from last year. During October, 50,000 head were marketed, 9,000 less than last October.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2004 and 4 percent above November 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Net placements were 2.74 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 880,000, 600-699 pounds were 790,000, 700-799 pounds were 600,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Number Placed on Feed, Number Marketed, and Other Disappearance, 1000+ Capacity Feedlots, By Month, State, and United States 2004-2005

State	Number on Feed 1/					Number Placed on Feed During October			Number Marketed During October			Other Disappearance During October 2/		
	Nov 1, 2004	Oct 1, 2005	Nov 1, 2005 Number	Nov 1, 2005 as % of 2004	Nov 1, 2005 as % of Oct	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	1,000 Head			*Percent*		*1,000 Head*		*Percent*	*1,000 Head*		*Percent*	*1,000 Head*		*Percent*
AZ	**321**	**318**	**325**	**101**	**102**	**48**	**35**	**73**	**21**	**27**	**129**	**4**	**1**	**25**
CA	525	535	545	104	102	70	64	91	59	50	85	6	4	67
CO	1,090	900	1,030	94	114	260	290	112	185	155	84	5	5	100
ID	305	270	290	95	107	78	76	97	47	55	117	1	1	100
IA	430	410	475	110	116	125	131	105	68	65	96	2	1	50
KS	2,400	2,250	2,410	100	107	570	580	102	375	400	107	15	20	133
NE	2,210	1,940	2,280	103	118	600	660	110	325	310	95	5	10	200
NM	134	136	141	105	104	29	22	76	29	16	55	2	1	50
OK	360	335	360	100	107	87	79	91	64	53	83	3	1	33
SD	169	130	161	95	124	65	68	105	38	35	92	1	2	200
TX	2,880	2,830	2,970	103	105	650	670	103	520	520	100	20	10	50
WA	185	153	163	88	107	43	34	79	37	23	62	1	1	100
Other Sts	325	275	325	100	118	76	86	113	35	35	100	1	1	100
US	11,334	10,482	11,475	101	109	2,701	2,795	103	1,803	1,744	97	66	58	88

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.

Wishing You and Yours the Happiest of Holidays
and a Wonderful New Year

Pork Production Up From Previous Month and Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 228,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

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

Class	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	October 2005 as % of 2/	
				October 2004	September 2005
		1,000 Pounds		*Percent*	
Arizona 3/					
Total Red Meat	**26,400**	**31,100**	**27,900**	**105**	**90**
United States		*Million Pounds*		*Percent*	
Beef	2,114	2,161	2,081	98	96
Veal	12.4	13.2	12.6	102	95
Pork	1,779	1,743	1,816	102	104
Lamb and Mutton	16.3	15.6	15.8	97	101
Total Red Meat	3,921	3,933	3,925	100	100

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.
2/ Percentages based on unrounded data.
3/ Breakdown by class not available, includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

Higher Quality Beef Supplies Remain Tight

Choice boxed beef prices are well above year-earlier levels as supplies of high quality beef remains tight. In September and October the proportion of steers and heifers grading Choice and higher was near 54 percent, well below the near 55 to 56 percentage range of a year earlier. The present situation is similar to the same period in 2003 when fed cattle marketings were being pulled forward to compensate for the loss of Canadian cattle imports due to the first case of BSE in Canada in May 2003. The proportion of the cattle grading Choice and higher has dropped sharply over the past couple of months and stabilized near 54 percent in the later half of the October. Seasonally, the proportion grading Choice and higher should begin to rise. The market continues to shift toward more demand for higher grading, consistent quality beef, and given the continued wide Choice/Select spread, appears willing to pay the premium for Choice beef. The spread in October was ranging over $13 per cwt, well above the 5-year average and over the $8 per cwt above a year ago. The real question is why can't we get more cattle to grade Choice and higher.

Source: Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry Outlook, November 17, 2005, Economic Research Service, USDA

October Milk Production Up 4.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 13.4 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October 2004. September revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.7 percent from September 2004. The September revision represented a decrease of 27 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,636 pounds for October, 53 pounds above October 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 58,000 head more than October 2004, and 4,000 head more than September 2005.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, October 2004-2005

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	Percent change from 2004
	1,000 Head		*Pounds*		*Million Pounds*		*Percent*
AZ	**167**	**161**	**1,785**	**1,840**	**298**	**296**	**-0.7**
CA	1,740	1,770	1,770	1,780	3,080	3,151	2.3
CO	103	106	1,785	1,870	184	198	7.6
FL	137	135	1,165	1,175	160	159	-0.6
ID	434	470	1,800	1,880	781	884	13.2
IL	106	104	1,480	1,510	157	157	0.0
IN	152	155	1,585	1,685	241	261	8.3
IA	191	187	1,640	1,640	313	307	-1.9
KS	114	112	1,590	1,715	181	192	6.1
KY	109	103	1,035	1,030	113	106	-6.2
MI	304	312	1,730	1,790	526	558	6.1
MN	460	450	1,425	1,470	656	662	0.9
MO	120	114	1,230	1,200	148	137	-7.4
NM	323	335	1,690	1,760	546	590	8.1
NY	653	650	1,470	1,550	960	1,008	5.0
OH	266	270	1,410	1,440	375	389	3.7
OR	120	121	1,575	1,590	189	192	1.6
PA	563	558	1,465	1,550	825	865	4.8
TX	320	320	1,470	1,605	470	514	9.4
VT	145	142	1,455	1,505	211	214	1.4
VA	104	105	1,355	1,370	141	144	2.1
WA	234	244	1,895	1,925	443	470	6.1
WI	1,238	1,237	1,475	1,535	1,826	1,899	4.0
23-State Total	8,103	8,161	1,583	1,636	12,824	13,353	4.1

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

December 2……………..………………………….....Dairy Products
December 16…..…………………………………….Milk Production
December 23...Cattle on Feed
December 23………………………………....Livestock Slaughter
December 29…………………………………..Agricultural Prices

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November Farm Prices Received Index Increased 2 Points From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 1 point (1.0 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers, and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and sweet corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 119, increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month but decreased 3 points (2.5 percent) from November 2004.

Prices Paid Index Decreased 1 Point

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 143 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index decreased 1 point (0.7 percent) from October but is 8 points (5.9 percent) above November 2004. Lower prices in November for diesel fuel, gasoline, complete feeds, and hays & forages offset higher prices for feed concentrates, nitrogen fertilizers, building materials, and feeder pigs.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, November 2004 and 2005 and October 2005

Commodity	Unit	**Arizona**			United States		
		November 2004 Entire Month	October 2005 Entire Month	November 2005 Mid-Month	November 2004 Entire Month	October 2005 Entire Month	November 2005 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	**45.40**	**1/**	**1/**	43.20	48.50	48.20
Cottonseed 2/	$ Ton	**161.00**	**149.00**	**1/**	104.00	89.40	92.60
Durum Wheat 3/	$ Cwt	**---**	**---**	**---**	126.33	113.33	107.67
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	$ Ton	**98.00**	**120.00**	**120.00**	95.20	106.00	97.50
Lemons 5/	$ Box	**24.60**	**27.20**	**28.30**	31.20	27.10	28.90
Tangerines 5/	$ Box	**28.60**	**---**	**33.10**	29.60	31.00	30.80
Grapefruit 5/	$ Box	**14.20**	**---**	**30.40**	30.80	31.90	28.20
Cows 6/	$ Cwt	**50.70**	**46.20**	**44.20**	48.70	46.60	45.80
Steers and Heifers	$ Cwt	**105.00**	**103.00**	**104.00**	90.20	96.60	97.40
Beef Cattle 7/	$ Cwt	**104.00**	**102.00**	**103.00**	85.40	91.10	91.60
Calves	$ Cwt	**122.00**	**120.00**	**117.00**	123.00	134.00	132.00
All Milk 8/	$ Cwt	**15.60**	**15.30**	**15.10**	16.20	15.50	15.10

1/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or insufficient sales.
2/ Marketing year August – February.
3/ Not available for Arizona.
4/ Mid-month.
5/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Lemons 76 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs., Grapefruit 67 lbs.
6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
7/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.
8/ Preliminary; before for hauling. Includes quality and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. October 2005 Fat test percent: all milk 3.71.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	October	November	October	November
Prices Received	114	115	111	113
Prices Paid	136	135	144	143
Ratio 1/	84	85	77	79

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