



**National
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Service**

Arizona Livestock December 2005

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Arizona Cattle on Feed Inventory Down Less Than 1 Percent From Last Year

On December 1, 2005, Arizona had 328,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down less than 1 percent from a year ago but up 5,000 head from last month. Placements totaled 35,000 head, same as a year ago. During November, 29,000 head were marketed, 6,000 more than last November.

On December 1, 2005, California had 550,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 4 percent from last year, and up 5,000 from last month. Placements totaled 66,000 head, same as last year. During November, 53,000 head were marketed, same as last November.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on December 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above December 1, 2004 and 3 percent above December 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 17 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.95 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 660,000, 600-699 pounds were 650,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 315,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 4 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during November, 16 percent below 2004 and 6 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			Number Marketed			Other Disappearance		
	Dec 1, 2004	Nov 1, 2005	Dec 1, 2005			During November			During November			During November 2/		
			Number	as % of 2004	as % of Nov	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	329	*323	328	100	102	35	35	100	23	29	126	4	1	25
CA	530	545	550	104	101	66	66	100	53	53	100	8	8	100
CO	1,100	1,030	1,070	97	104	175	165	94	155	115	74	10	10	100
ID	305	290	280	92	97	50	49	98	48	57	119	2	2	100
IA	435	475	500	115	105	90	108	120	82	80	98	3	3	100
KS	2,390	2,410	2,470	103	102	390	465	119	370	375	101	30	30	100
NE	2,300	2,280	2,400	104	105	410	440	107	310	305	98	10	15	150
NM	129	141	137	106	97	14	18	129	16	20	125	3	2	67
OK	355	360	365	103	101	43	68	158	44	62	141	4	1	25
SD	186	161	190	102	118	51	63	124	33	33	100	1	1	100
TX	2,740	2,970	2,940	107	99	320	495	155	430	510	119	30	15	50
WA	185	163	161	87	99	37	27	73	36	28	78	1	1	100
Other Sts	350	325	335	96	103	62	46	74	35	34	97	2	2	100
US	11,334	*11,473	11,726	103	102	1,743	2,045	117	1,635	1,701	104	108	91	84

* 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.

Pork Production at Record High for November

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004.

Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent above

November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2005 commercial red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent 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	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005	November 2005 as % of 2/	
				November 2004	October 2005
Arizona 3/ Total Red Meat	27,800	27,900	33,600	121	121
United States	<i>Million Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Beef	1,941	2,081	2,071	107	100
Veal	13.8	12.6	12.4	90	99
Pork	1,799	1,816	1,843	102	101
Lamb and Mutton	16.5	15.8	15.8	96	100
Total Red Meat	3,770	3,925	3,942	105	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.

Cattle and Beef Markets Steady to Improving

Cattle markets during 2005 have moved significantly in response to changes in market status quo, such as mid-July when live cattle under 30 months of age were again allowed to be imported from Canada. In other instances, despite the apparent significance of events, markets reacted very little. The markets reacted very little to the June 2005 confirmation of the second case of BSE. In part, this lack of response was likely due in part to the time lapse between November 2004 when the cow was initially tested and the June confirmation and the lack of additional cases. Also, consumers and other market participants may have developed a mature perspective regarding the extremely low level of human risk to BSE. Weather conditions in 2005 were generally favorable throughout most of the year, but over the past couple of months soil moisture conditions deteriorated to the point of reducing winter forage prospects, particularly winter wheat pasture.

Cattle and beef markets are gearing up for the winter holiday season and may continue to react to the potential impact of resuming Japanese imports of U.S. beef. Higher fed cattle prices, and favorable cost of gain overriding deteriorating winter forage conditions are reflected in higher feeder calf prices. The 2005/06 winter forage conditions are reflected in higher feeder calf prices. The 2005/06 winter wheat pasture situation is likely shaping up well below last year's favorable situation and likely also below the 2003/04 conditions with fewer calves being placed on pasture. Feedlots continue to move cattle at relatively high prices as disappointing grading conditions continue. Packer margins hover at or below breakeven levels. Wholesale prices continue well above year-earlier levels, while retail prices remain strong and are about steady to slightly below prices for the same time during 2004

Source: Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry Outlook, December 16, 2005, Economic Research Service, USDA

November Milk Production Up 4.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from November 2004. October revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 4.0 percent from October 2004. The October revision represented a decrease of 17 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,590 pounds for November, 59 pounds above November 2004.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 60,000 head more than November 2004, and 2,000 head more than October 2005.

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

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		Percent change from 2004
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	168	161	1,760	1,840	296	296	
CA	1,741	1,770	1,700	1,725	2,960	3,053	3.1
CO	103	106	1,760	1,820	181	193	6.6
FL	137	136	1,250	1,210	171	165	-3.5
ID	434	471	1,720	1,780	746	838	12.3
IL	106	104	1,450	1,480	154	154	
IN	154	157	1,540	1,650	237	259	9.3
IA	190	187	1,610	1,620	306	303	-1.0
KS	112	112	1,580	1,670	177	187	5.6
KY	109	102	1,030	1,040	112	106	-5.4
MI	306	312	1,660	1,735	508	541	6.5
MN	460	450	1,390	1,445	639	650	1.7
MO	120	114	1,215	1,230	146	140	-4.1
NM	322	337	1,605	1,720	517	580	12.2
NY	651	648	1,410	1,485	918	962	4.8
OH	266	270	1,390	1,400	370	378	2.2
OR	120	121	1,490	1,490	179	180	0.6
PA	563	556	1,420	1,500	799	834	4.4
TX	320	321	1,455	1,630	466	523	12.2
VT	144	142	1,415	1,460	204	207	1.5
VA	104	105	1,340	1,370	139	144	3.6
WA	235	242	1,825	1,835	429	444	3.5
WI	1,237	1,238	1,415	1,485	1,750	1,838	5.0
23-State Total	8,102	8,162	1,531	1,590	12,404	12,975	4.6

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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January 5.....Dairy Products
 January 18.....Milk Production
 January 20.....Cattle on Feed
 January 20.....Livestock Slaughter
 January 27.....Cattle
 January 27.....Sheep and Goats
 January 31.....Agricultural Prices
 January 31....Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations

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December Farm Prices Received Index Increased 1 Point From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.8 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and lettuce. Lower prices were received for oranges, broilers, dairy, and grapes. 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, wheat, oranges, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 3 points (2.7 percent) from December 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 120, was unchanged from last month but increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from December 2004.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The December 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 is unchanged from November but 9 points (6.7 percent) above December 2004. Lower prices in

December for feeder cattle, diesel fuel, complete feeds, and LP gas offset higher prices for nitrogen fertilizers, feed concentrates, feeder pigs, and feed grains.

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

Commodity	Unit	Arizona			United States		
		December 2004 Entire Month	November 2005 Entire Month	December 2005 Mid-Month	December 2004 Entire Month	November 2005 Entire Month	December 2005 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	46.20	53.90	1/	39.30	48.50	48.90
Cottonseed 2/	\$ Ton	159.00	1/	125.00	111.00	92.60	95.10
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	122.33	108.33	111.00
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	95.00	120.00	120.00	92.10	97.50	97.70
Oranges 5/	\$ Box	20.30	---	19.40	20.10	22.80	19.50
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	30.60	28.30	26.40	31.30	28.90	27.10
Tangerines 5/	\$ Box	28.40	33.10	29.40	29.40	30.80	29.20
Grapefruit 5/	\$ Box	27.10	30.40	22.80	29.70	28.20	25.30
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	51.60	44.00	49.20	48.60	46.00	46.60
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	104.00	103.00	107.00	91.90	97.30	99.10
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	103.00	102.00	106.00	86.80	91.30	92.70
Calves	\$ Cwt	120.00	120.00	122.00	122.00	133.00	135.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	15.90	15.00	14.50	16.40	15.10	14.70

- 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., Oranges 75 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.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	November	December	November	December
Prices Received	115	111	113	114
Prices Paid	135	134	143	143
Ratio 1/	85	83	79	80

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