



**National
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Arizona Livestock

March 2006

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Arizona Cattle on Feed Inventory Up 8 Percent From Last Year

On March 1, 2006, Arizona had 351,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 8 percent from a year ago and up 5,000 head from last month. Placements totaled 31,000 head, 8,000 head more than a year ago. During February, 24,000 head were marketed, unchanged from last February.

On March 1, 2006, California had 550,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 7 percent from last year, but the same as last month. Placements totaled 63,000 head, up 14,000 head from last year. During February, 56,000 head were marketed, up 2,000 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 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Number Placed on Feed, Number Marketed, and Other Disappearance, 1000+ Capacity Feedlots, By Month, State, and United States 2005-2006

State	Number on Feed 1/					Number Placed on Feed			Number Marketed			Other Disappearance		
	Mar 1, 2005	Feb 1, 2006	Mar 1, 2006			During February			During February			During February 2/		
			Number	as % of 2005	as % of Jan	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005	2005	2006	2006 as % of 2005
	1,000 Head		Percent			1,000 Head	Percent		Percent		1,000 Head	Percent		
AZ	324	346	351	108	101	23	31	135	24	24	100	3	2	67
CA	515	550	550	107	100	49	63	129	54	56	104	5	7	140
CO	1,040	1,110	1,090	105	98	175	150	86	185	165	89	10	5	50
ID	250	265	255	102	96	33	32	97	52	38	73	1	4	400
IA	465	520	520	112	100	57	60	105	55	58	105	2	2	100
KS	2,370	2,580	2,610	110	101	360	410	114	390	360	92	20	20	100
NE	2,320	2,490	2,450	106	98	315	330	105	330	360	109	15	10	67
NM	125	146	143	114	98	13	13	100	14	14	100	3	2	67
OK	340	375	365	107	97	48	49	102	56	56	100	2	3	150
SD	210	210	210	100	100	32	33	103	26	29	112	1	4	400
TX	2,690	3,030	3,010	112	99	340	360	106	360	370	103	10	10	100
WA	185	153	154	83	101	32	25	78	35	22	63	2	2	100
Other Sts	320	335	315	98	94	46	42	91	53	60	113	3	2	67
US	11,154	12,110	12,023	108	99	1,523	1,598	105	1,634	1,612	99	77	73	95

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.

February Milk Production Up 5.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005.

The number of cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2006.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 2005-2006

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		Percent change from 2005
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	164	166	1,840	1,930	302	320	6.0
CA	1,742	1,781	1,635	1,705	2,848	3,037	6.6
CO	100	106	1,720	1,795	172	190	10.5
FL	139	134	1,475	1,440	205	193	-5.9
ID	437	473	1,680	1,680	734	795	8.3
IL	105	104	1,500	1,540	158	160	1.3
IN	155	162	1,600	1,575	248	255	2.8
IA	190	200	1,615	1,630	307	326	6.2
KS	109	111	1,575	1,620	172	180	4.7
KY	110	101	1,000	1,050	110	106	-3.6
MI	308	314	1,660	1,725	511	542	6.1
MN	455	450	1,405	1,480	639	666	4.2
MO	117	114	1,230	1,320	144	150	4.2
NM	320	344	1,560	1,700	499	585	17.2
NY	650	649	1,415	1,485	920	964	4.8
OH	267	273	1,370	1,390	366	379	3.6
OR	120	121	1,460	1,430	175	173	-1.1
PA	560	555	1,420	1,550	795	860	8.2
TX	317	325	1,560	1,755	495	570	15.2
VT	143	143	1,430	1,450	204	207	1.5
VA	105	103	1,345	1,410	141	145	2.8
WA	237	236	1,805	1,790	428	422	-1.4
WI	1,234	1,240	1,400	1,455	1,728	1,804	4.4
23-State Total	8,084	8,205	1,522	1,588	12,301	13,029	5.9

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Wool Production Down 1 Percent From 2004

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2005 was 37.2 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2004. The average price

paid for wool sold in 2005 was \$0.71 per pound for a total value of 26.3 million dollars, down 12 percent from 29.9 million dollars in 2004.

Wool: Number of Sheep and Lambs Shorn, Weight Per Fleece, Production, Price, and Value, Selected States and United States 2004-2005

State	Sheep and Lambs Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production		Price per Pound		Value of Production 1/	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
AZ	90	95	6.4	5.9	580	560	0.30	0.30	174	168
CA	480	500	7.1	7.0	3,400	3,500	0.82	0.70	2,788	2,450
CO	390	420	6.6	6.3	2,570	2,650	0.85	0.63	2,185	1,670
ID	225	210	9.4	9.0	2,125	1,890	0.88	0.75	1,870	1,418
MT	267	260	9.3	9.6	2,472	2,490	1.17	0.98	2,892	2,440
NV	55	54	9.3	9.3	510	500	0.94	0.87	479	435
NM	140	155	7.3	7.4	1,020	1,150	1.00	1.20	1,020	1,380
TX	810	800	6.9	6.9	5,600	5,550	1.02	0.96	5,712	5,328
UT	245	235	9.2	9.3	2,250	2,180	0.83	0.71	1,868	1,548
WA	40	40	8.2	8.1	326	324	0.80	0.68	261	220
WY	390	380	9.3	9.3	3,640	3,530	1.17	1.00	4,259	3,530
US	5,073	5,072	7.4	7.3	37,622	37,232	0.80	0.71	29,921	26,272

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 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005.

Beef production, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

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

Class	February 2005	January 2006	February 2006	February 2006 as % of 2/	
				February 2005	January 2006
			<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		
Arizona 3/ Total Red Meat	26,000	33,100	27,600	106	84
			<i>Million Pounds</i>		
			<i>Percent</i>		
<u>United States</u>					
Beef	1,767	2,044	1,825	103	89
Veal	12.0	12.5	16.7	97	94
Pork	1,629	1,817	1,633	100	90
Lamb and Mutton	15.1	16.2	14.7	97	91
Total Red Meat	3,424	3,890	3,484	102	90

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.

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Release Dates For Upcoming National Reports

April 18.....Milk Production
 April 21.....Cattle on Feed
 April 21.....Livestock Slaughter
 April 27.....Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income
 April 27.....Milk Production, Disposition, and Income
 April 28.....Agricultural Prices

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March Farm Prices Received Index Decreased 1 Point From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of

commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of asparagus, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points (5.0 percent) from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from last month and 7 points (5.7 percent) from March 2005.

Prices Paid Index down 1 Point

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 144 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is down 1 point (0.7 percent) from February but 5 points (3.6 percent) above March 2005. Lower prices

in March for feeder cattle, LP gas, nitrogen fertilizers, and feed concentrates offset higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, herbicides, and hay & forages.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, March 2005 and 2006 and February 2006

Commodity	Unit	Arizona			United States		
		March 2005 Entire Month	February 2006 Entire Month	March 2006 Mid-Month	March 2005 Entire Month	February 2006 Entire Month	March 2006 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	46.1	56.1	1/	40.3	49.0	49.6
Durum Wheat 2/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	123.30	111.70	110.70
Alfalfa Hay Baled 3/	\$ Ton	112.00	130.00	128.00	98.60	99.20	100.00
Oranges 4/	\$ Box	16.80	16.90	16.10	18.90	19.70	19.50
Lemons 4/	\$ Box	27.40	24.10	26.10	29.90	25.80	27.70
Tangerines 4/	\$ Box	17.10	24.80	23.60	29.00	26.50	25.50
Grapefruit 4/	\$ Box	21.30	21.30	15.10	29.20	25.60	23.20
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	55.50	47.30	48.50	55.00	49.70	49.90
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	110.00	107.00	104.00	95.20	97.80	94.10
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	99.60	90.30	88.50	91.00	92.40	89.20
Calves	\$ Cwt	133.00	129.00	126.00	136.00	142.00	138.00
All Milk 7/	\$ Cwt	15.10	13.30	13.10	15.60	13.50	12.80

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

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005		2006	
	February	March	February	March
Prices Received	114	119	114	113
Prices Paid	137	139	145	144
Ratio 1/	83	86	79	78

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