



HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

December Livestock Slaughter
Cattle Inventory
Average Prices Received by Farmers
Milk Production

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during December totaled 0.8 million pounds, down 11 percent from November and the previous year.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, down 300 head from November and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 864 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous month and 45 pounds below December 2005. Total live weight, at 627,000 pounds, was 28 percent below the previous month and down 21 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 300 head, unchanged from November but 100 pounds below the previous year. Live weight averaged 505 pounds, up 14 pounds from November and 6 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight, at 150,000 pounds, was down 5 percent from November and 25 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 2,200 head, up 200 head from the previous month but 300 head below December 2005. Average live weight was 157 pounds, down 9 pounds from November and 7 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 344,000 pounds, up 6 percent from November but 15 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 200 head, up 100 head from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 69 pounds, down 19 pounds from the previous month and 14 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in December, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in December 2005.

December 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, down 2 percent from December 2005. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,297 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.4 million pounds, 7 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,100 head, up 13 percent from December 2005. The average live weight was 25 pounds below last year, at 346 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.79 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, 4 percent below December 2005. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 8 percent from December 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2006 commercial red meat production was 47.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year; veal was up slightly; pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	November	December		January - December		December		January - December	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	1.0	0.9	0.7	13.0	9.7	2,667.1	2,609.1	32,387.7	33,684.4
Calves	0.3	0.4	0.3	5.7	3.4	60.0	68.1	734.4	711.6
Hogs	2.0	2.5	2.2	20.9	18.2	9,234.5	8,883.1	103,581.5	104,738.7
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.7	1.6	230.8	223.7	2,697.8	2,693.8
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	871	790	627	11,485	7,966	3,415,148	3,382,844	40,688,287	42,900,937
Calves	158	201	150	2,859	1,755	22,259	23,557	259,319	256,381
Hogs	326	406	344	3,979	3,431	2,551,536	2,418,256	27,828,143	28,256,320
Sheep & Lambs	12	7	10	158	147	32,899	30,456	373,160	369,341
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	868	909	864	883	821	1,280	1,297	1,256	1,274
Calves	491	499	505	502	516	371	346	353	360
Hogs	166	164	157	190	189	272	272	269	270
Sheep & Lambs	88	83	69	93	92	143	136	138	137
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.9	0.9	0.8	12.0	8.8	3,953.6	3,863.0	45,710.3	47,410.5

Cattle Inventory – January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	820	860	96,702	97,003
Beef Cows	463	490	32,994	32,894
Milk Cows	32	30	9,063	9,129
Beef Cow Replacement Heifers	82	86	5,904	5,877
Milk Cow Replacement Heifers	9	9	4,275	4,310
Other Heifers	18	18	9,805	9,899
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	20	21	16,933	17,222
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	32	33	2,263	2,215
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	164	173	15,465	15,456
Cattle on Feed	---	---	14,132	14,269

	2005	2006	2005	2006
Calf Crop	395	415	37,575	37,567

Louisiana Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2007, were estimated at 860,000 head, up 5 percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 520,000 head, up 5 percent from a year ago. Louisiana's 2006 calf crop was estimated at 415,000 head, up 5 percent from the 2005 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 490,000 head, up 6 percent from January 1, 2006.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 30,000 head, were down 6 percent from a year ago.

Other cattle inventory estimates and changes from a year ago were:

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** – 86,000 head, up 5 percent.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** – 9,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Other heifers** – 18,000 head, unchanged.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** – 21,000 head, up 5 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** – 33,000 head, up 3 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** – 173,000 head, up 5 percent.

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2007, totaled 97.0 million head, slightly above the 96.7 million on January 1, 2006. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.0 million, were down slightly from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2006.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 32.9 million, were down slightly from January 1, 2006.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 9.13 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2006.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2007 and the change from January 1, 2006, are as follows:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 20.1 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.88 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.31 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.90 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.2 million, up 2 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, down 2 percent.
- ▶ **Calves** under 500 pounds, 15.5 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves** on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up 1 percent.
- ▶ The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 28.3 million, up 1 percent.

The 2006 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.6 million head, down slightly from 2005. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, up slightly from 2005.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: December 2006

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2006	December 2006	January 2007 ¹	January 2006	December 2006	January 2007 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	6.03	6.34	6.77	5.87	6.18	6.42
Rice, per cwt	7.63	10.30	10.30	7.80	9.87	9.69
Upland cotton, per pound	.492	.495	.496 ²	.486	.493	.495 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	93.10	108.00	112.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	64.00	56.30	59.10	95.10	83.60	85.00
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	107.00	86.70	92.00	102.00	89.30	90.30
Cows, per cwt ⁴	45.50	42.00	45.00	47.30	42.20	43.80
Calves, per cwt	128.00	106.00	107.00	141.00	115.00	115.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.380	.400	.430
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.610	.807	.915
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.50	14.10	14.40

¹ Mid-month.

² Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

³ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁴ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available.

January Farm Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 124, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points from December. The Crop Index is up 4 points and the Livestock Index increased 3 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, oranges, broilers and eggs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, calves and grapefruit. 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 broilers, cotton, soybeans and rice offset decreased marketings of oranges, tobacco, eggs and cattle.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points from January 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 123, increased 1 point from last month and 5 points from January 2006.

Prices Paid Index Up

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 152 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 2 points from December and 4 points above January 2006. Higher prices in January for complete feeds, other services, feed supplements and feed grains more than offset lower prices for diesel fuel, feeder cattle, cash rent and LP gas.

Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2005-2006

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows ¹		October-December Milk Production ²	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	15	13	50	46
Arkansas	21	19	67	62
Louisiana	32	30	93	86
Mississippi	24	22	82	76
Oklahoma	75	70	293	290
Tennessee	69	66	257	248
23 Major States ³	8,171	8,254	39,974	40,956
United States⁴	9,060	9,116	43,674	44,639

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

⁴ May not add due to rounding.

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 86 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2006 quarter, down 8 percent from the same period in 2005. Milk cows averaged 30,000 head during the quarter, down 6 percent from last year.

United States Milk Production

Milk production in the United States during the October-December quarter totaled 44.6 billion pounds, up 2.2 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.12 million head, 56,000 head more than the same period last year.

The Louisiana Farm Reporter (USPS-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, La 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals Postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038

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