



Cooperating with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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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 500,000 pounds, down 17 percent from November and 29 percent from the previous year.

There were 500 head of **cattle** slaughtered during December, down 100 head from November and 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 770 pounds, down 28 pounds from the previous month and 96 pounds below December 2006. Total live weight, at 396,000 pounds, was down 14 percent from the previous month and 37 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during December totaled 200 head, down 200 head from November and 100 pounds below the previous year. Live weight averaged 503 pounds, up 3 pounds from November but 2 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 93,000 pounds, was down 50 percent from November and 38 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during December totaled 2,000 head, up 300 head from the previous month but 200 head below December 2006. Average live weight was 158 pounds, down 25 pounds from November but 2 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 318,000 pounds, up 4 percent from November but 7 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during December was 300 head, up 100 head from November and the previous year. Live weight averaged 68 pounds, down 8 pounds from the previous month and 1 pound below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.1 billion pounds in December, up 5 percent from the 3.9 billion pounds produced in December 2006.

December 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. **December 2006** contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.1 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.7 million head, up 1 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,302 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.4 million pounds, 21 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,000 head, down 11 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was down 35 pounds from last year, at 289 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.0 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.7 million head, up 9 percent from December 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,100 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 1 pound from December a year ago.

January to December 2007 commercial red meat production was 49 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 4 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	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	0.6	0.7	0.5	10.1	7.6	2,612.5	2,645.3	33,698.3	34,259.3
Calves	0.4	0.3	0.2	3.3	3.3	68.4	61.0	711.3	758.2
Hogs	1.7	2.2	2.0	18.6	17.2	8,882.8	9,691.3	104,736.6	109,172.0
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.6	3.2	226.9	229.1	2,698.5	2,692.0
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	463	627	396	8,466	6,269	3,385,204	3,430,848	42,818,180	43,473,596
Calves	186	151	93	1,678	1,645	21,944	17,391	243,584	229,560
Hogs	305	342	318	3,529	3,304	2,402,254	2,633,077	28,042,626	29,312,099
Sheep & Lambs	12	10	17	150	272	30,762	30,826	368,088	364,995
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	798	866	770	838	825	1,300	1,302	1,275	1,273
Calves	500	505	503	508	498	324	289	345	305
Hogs	183	156	158	190	192	271	272	269	269
Sheep & Lambs	76	69	68	94	85	136	135	137	136
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.6	0.7	0.5	8.8	7.3	3,874.5	4,058.1	47,537.3	48,677.3

Cattle Inventory – January 1

Class	Louisiana		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----Thousand Head-----		-----Thousand Head-----	
All Cattle and Calves	860	890	97,003	96,669
Beef Cows	490	513	32,891	32,553
Milk Cows	30	27	9,132	9,224
Beef Cow Replacement Heifers	86	90	5,877	5,670
Milk Cow Replacement Heifers	9	8	4,310	4,457
Other Heifers	18	20	9,899	9,876
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	21	23	17,222	17,305
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	33	34	2,215	2,207
Calves, Under 500 Pounds	173	175	15,456	15,378
Cattle on Feed	---	---	14,269	14,317

	2006	2007	2006	2007
Calf Crop	415	425	37,519	37,361

Louisiana Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves on Louisiana farms as of January 1, 2008, were estimated at 890,000 head, up 3 percent from a year ago. All cows that have calved were estimated at 540,000 head, up 4 percent from a year ago. Louisiana's 2007 calf crop was estimated at 425,000 head, up 2 percent from the 2006 calf crop.

- ▶ **Beef cows** were estimated at 513,000 head, up 5 percent from January 1, 2007.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 27,000 head, were down 10 percent from a year ago.

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

- ▶ **Beef cow replacement heifers** – 90,000 head, up 5 percent.
- ▶ **Milk cow replacement heifers** – 8,000 head, down 11 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers** – 20,000 head, up 11 percent.
- ▶ **Steers 500 pounds and over** – 23,000 head, up 10 percent.
- ▶ **Bulls 500 pounds and over** – 34,000 head, up 3 percent.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds** – 175,000 head, up 5 percent.

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2008, totaled 96.7 million head, slightly below the 97 million on January 1, 2007. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.8 million, were down 1 percent from the 42 million on January 1, 2007.

- ▶ **Beef cows**, at 32.6 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 2007.
- ▶ **Milk cows**, at 9.2 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2007.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2008, and the change from January 1, 2007, are as follows:

- ▶ **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 20 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.7 million, down 4 percent.
- ▶ **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.5 million, up 3 percent.
- ▶ **Other heifers**, 9.9 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 17.3 million, up slightly.
- ▶ **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.2 million, down slightly.
- ▶ **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, down 1 percent.
- ▶ **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up slightly.
- ▶ The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 28.2 million, down slightly.

The 2007 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: December 2007

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	January 2007	December 2007	January 2008 ¹	January 2007	December 2007	January 2008 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	6.29	8.82	9.21	6.37	10.00	11.00
Rice, per cwt	10.10	11.70	11.50	10.40	11.30	11.60
Upland cotton, per pound	.498	.564	.576 ²	.494	.592	.614 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	109.00	133.00	129.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	59.90	59.80	58.00	84.30	88.90	89.40
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	92.90	92.70	86.00	89.80	95.10	95.20
Cows, per cwt ⁴	45.80	44.30	46.00	44.40	44.90	46.20
Calves, per cwt	108.00	106.00	100.00	115.00	118.00	116.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.430	.440	.480
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.915	1.360	1.290
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.50	21.50	20.70

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 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 6 points from December. The Crop Index was up 16 points but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points. The January All Farm Index and All Crop Index were record highs. Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, broilers and wheat and lower prices were received for milk, tomatoes, hogs and turkeys. 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 corn, soybeans, cattle and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, milk, broilers and cottonseed.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 27 points from January 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 150, increased 2 points from last month and 26 points from January 2007.

Prices Paid Index Up

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 168 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 3 points from December and 13 points above January 2007. This was a record high for the index. Higher prices in January for cash rent, taxes and other farm services more than offset the decline in diesel fuel, feeder cattle and hay & forages.

Quarterly Milk Production: Selected States, October-December 2006-2007

Selected States	October-December Milk Cows ¹		October-December Milk Production ²	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Thousands-----		-----Millions-----	
Alabama	13	13	46	46
Arkansas	19	17	62	50
Louisiana	30	27	86	76
Mississippi	22	21	76	72
Oklahoma	70	67	290	271
Tennessee	66	61	248	229
23 Major States ³	8,266	8,368	40,952	42,450
United States	9,115	9,195	44,611	46,045

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 and Wisconsin.

Louisiana Milk Production

Louisiana dairies produced 76 million pounds of milk during the October-December 2007 quarter, down 12 percent from the same period in 2006. Milk cows averaged 27,000 head during the quarter, down 3,000 head from last year.

United States Milk Production

Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 46.0 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.2 million head, 80,000 head more than the same period last year.

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