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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

January Livestock Slaughter
Honey Production
Prices Received By Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 600,000 pounds, up 20 percent from December but 14 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, up 100 head from December but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 770 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but 75 pounds below January 2007. Total live weight, at 463,000 pounds, was 17 percent above the previous month but 29 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during January totaled 300 head, up 100 head from December but the same the previous year. Live weight averaged 514 pounds, up 11 pounds from December but 4 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 136,000 pounds, was up 46 percent from December but 5 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 1,400 head, down 600 head from the previous month but unchanged from January 2007. Average live weight was 205 pounds, up 47 pounds from December and 18 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 295,000 pounds, down 7 percent from December but 9 percent above a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 200 head, down 100 head from December but up 100 from the previous year. Live weight averaged 83 pounds, up 15 pounds from the previous month and 16 pounds above the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.4 billion pounds in January, up 8 percent from the 4.1 billion pounds produced in January 2007.

January 2008 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. **January 2007** contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.2 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, up 4 percent from January 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.3 million pounds, 21 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, 4 percent below January 2007. The average live weight was down 55 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.2 billion pounds, 14 percent above the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.6 million head, 13 percent above January 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was 2 percent below January 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,400 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana			United States	
	December	January		January	
	2007	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----Number thousand head-----			-----Number thousand head-----	
Cattle	0.5	0.8	0.6	2,798.7	2,898.6
Calves	0.2	0.3	0.3	74.3	71.5
Hogs	2.0	1.4	1.4	9,365.5	10,557.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.1	0.2	216.7	213.4
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----	
Cattle	396	653	463	3,596,488	3,728,434
Calves	93	140	136	23,857	18,985
Hogs	318	271	295	2,535,127	2,875,461
Sheep & Lambs	17	9	16	30,197	29,649
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----			-----Average live weight, pounds-----	
Cattle	770	845	770	1,290	1,291
Calves	503	518	514	324	269
Hogs	158	187	205	271	273
Sheep & Lambs	68	67	83	139	139
	-----Million pounds-----			-----Million pounds-----	
Red Meat	0.5	0.7	0.6	4,092.5	4,415.9

Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield and Production¹

Selected States	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----1,000 Colonies-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 Pounds-----	
Alabama	11	11	72	56	792	616
Arkansas	32	28	76	80	2,432	2,240
Georgia	63	60	74	58	4,662	3,480
Louisiana	30	29	90	89	2,700	2,581
Mississippi	14	15	98	105	1,372	1,575
Texas	82	105	70	82	5,740	8,610
United States	2,393	2,442	64.7	60.8	154,907	148,482

Honey: Stocks, Price and Values¹

Selected States	Stocks, December 15 ²		Average Price Per Pound ³		Value of Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Cents-----		-----1,000 Dollars-----	
Alabama	230	209	133	141	1,053	869
Arkansas	730	717	91	95	2,213	2,128
Georgia	746	522	122	114	5,688	3,967
Louisiana	675	413	90	108	2,430	2,787
Mississippi	453	189	93	90	1,276	1,418
Texas	976	1,550	91	95	5,223	8,180
United States	60,548	52,484	103.6	103.2	160,484	153,233

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Prices weighted by sales.

Louisiana Honey Production

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 2007 totaled 2.6 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. The number of colonies, at 29,000, was down 1,000 from 2006. Honey stocks on December 15, 2007, amounted to 413,000 pounds, down 262,000 pounds from 2006.

The average price received for honey sold during 2007 was 108 cents per pound, up 18 cents from 2006. The value of the 2007 honey crop was 2.8 million dollars, up 14 percent from the previous year.

United States Honey Production Down 4 Percent

Honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.4 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and state level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	February 2007	January 2008	February ¹ 2008	February 2007	January 2008	February ¹ 2008
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	6.55	8.89	10.40	6.87	9.96	11.00
Rice, per cwt	10.10	11.80	12.70	10.10	11.80	12.20
Upland Cotton, per pound	.486	.574	.556 ²	.474	.607	.607 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	113.00	129.00	133.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	61.00	59.30	64.60	86.70	87.30	87.80
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	95.10	87.40	97.00	91.40	93.40	93.20
Cows, per cwt ⁴	47.80	47.20	52.00	47.20	46.30	49.70
Calves, per cwt	112.00	100.00	108.00	114.00	117.00	118.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.470	.480	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.781	1.290	1.310
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.90	20.50	19.30

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.

February Farm Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 145 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from January. The Crop Index was up 1 point and the Livestock Index increased 1 point. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, soybeans, corn, and hogs and lower prices were received for milk, lettuce, broccoli and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cattle, broilers and eggs offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 17 points from February 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 145, decreased 1 point from last month but increased 17 points from February 2007.

Prices Paid Index Increased Two Points

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 172 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 2 points from January and 16 points above February 2007. Higher prices in February for complete feeds, feeder cattle, potash & phosphate materials, and feed concentrates offset lower prices for LP gas, self-propelled machinery, gasoline and other machinery.

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