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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Livestock Slaughter
Louisiana Meat Animal Summary
Average Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during March totaled 0.9 million pounds, 29 percent above the previous month but the same as March 2006.

There were 700 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, the same as the previous month but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 876 pounds, down 63 pounds from the previous month and 7 pounds below March 2006. Total live weight, at 640,000 pounds, was 2 percent above the previous month but 20 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 400 head, up 100 head from February and the previous year. Live weight averaged 489 pounds, down 36 pounds from February and 8 pounds below March 2006. Total live weight, at 184,000 pounds, was up 2 percent from February and 15 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 2,000 head, up 500 head from the previous month but the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 222 pounds, up 13 pounds from February and 10 pound above the previous year. Total live weight was 447,000 pounds, 41 percent above February and 7 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 400 head, down 100 head from February and down 200 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 99 pounds, down 2 pounds from the previous month and 7 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.0 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 4.1 billion pounds produced in March 2006.

March 2007 contained 22 weekdays (and no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. March 2006 contained 23 weekdays (and no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.1 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.8 million head, down 2 percent from March 2006. The average live weight, at 1,259 pounds was down 10 pounds from the previous year.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 7 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up 20 percent from March 2006. The average live weight, at 321 pounds, was down 38 pounds from last year.

Pork production totaled 1.9 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.2 million head, down slightly from March 2006. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year to 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.6 million pounds, was up 7 percent from March 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 278,600 head, 12 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2007 commercial red meat production was 11.7 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	0.7	0.9	0.7	2.3	2.2	2,854.0	2,792.6	7,843.2	8,152.8
Calves	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.0	59.1	70.8	167.3	212.0
Hogs	1.5	2.0	2.0	5.0	4.9	9,235.8	9,203.2	26,207.6	26,685.6
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.8	249.8	278.6	677.3	699.7
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	626	799	640	1,972	1,919	3,607,680	3,504,629	9,990,086	10,351,441
Calves	180	160	184	462	504	21,078	22,588	59,296	66,847
Hogs	318	417	447	1,055	1,036	2,504,377	2,485,226	7,114,892	7,204,042
Sheep & Lambs	35	19	41	54	85	36,178	39,013	97,541	97,841
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	939	883	876	857	872	1,269	1,259	1,279	1,274
Calves	525	497	489	513	504	359	321	357	318
Hogs	209	212	222	211	211	271	270	272	270
Sheep & Lambs	101	106	99	108	106	145	140	144	140
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.7	0.9	0.9	2.3	2.3	4,112.1	4,011.9	11,500.5	11,719.8

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Up

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2006 totaled \$198.5 million, down 16 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 99 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs account for 1 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$196.6 million, down 16 percent from 2005. Marketings, at 214.9 million pounds, were 13 percent below the 2005 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$63.40 per cwt, down \$3.80 from 2005, while calves averaged \$120.00 per cwt, \$3.00 below the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2006 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$1.97 million, down 23 percent from 2005. Marketings decreased to 5.04 million pounds, a 15 percent drop from the previous year. The average price received was \$38.40 per cwt, down \$5.20 from 2005.

Louisiana Cattle and Calves: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 pounds		Value of Production	Cash Receipts ³	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
			Cattle	Calves				
	-----Thousand pounds-----		-----Dollars-----		-----Thousand dollars-----			
2002	236,853	231,020	49.00	88.00	160,466	157,153	861	158,014
2003	243,459	244,950	53.20	93.00	175,945	178,288	924	179,212
2004	237,631	233,850	63.70	113.00	209,118	205,490	1,100	206,590
2005	218,254	248,330	67.20	123.00	212,057	232,772	1,197	233,969
2006	242,612	214,860	63.40	120.00	215,544	196,550	1,119	197,619

Louisiana Hogs and Pigs: Production and Income

Year	Production ¹	Marketings ²	Average Price Per 100 Pounds	Value of Production ⁴	Cash Receipts ^{3,4}	Value of Home Consumption	Gross Income
2002	7,232	7,790	26.20	1,872	2,041	53	2,094
2003	6,930	6,888	31.40	2,166	2,163	63	2,226
2004	6,473	6,950	44.10	2,852	3,065	87	3,152
2005	5,896	5,925	43.60	2,567	2,583	81	2,664
2006	5,142	5,035	38.40	1,969	1,933	72	2,005

¹ Adjustments made for changes in inventory and for inshipments.

² Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the state.

³ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

⁴ Includes allowance for higher average price of state inshipment and outshipment of feeder pigs.

April Farm Prices Received Index Increases 1 Point From March

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 135 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point from March. The Crop Index was down 1 point, but the Livestock Index increased 3 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for onions, milk, cattle and tomatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, corn, strawberries and eggs. 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 cattle, oranges, strawberries and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and hogs.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 24 points from April 2006. The Food commodities Index, at 137, increased 2 points from last month and 25 points from April 2006.

Prices Paid Index Up 2 Points

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 157 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 2 points from March and 9 points above April 2006. Higher prices in April for field crop seeds, feeder cattle, diesel fuel and gasoline more than offset lower prices for feed grains, feeder pigs, complete feed and feed supplements.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2006	March 2007	April 2007 ¹	April 2006	March 2007	April 2007 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.54	2/	2/	5.52	6.95	6.81
Rice, per cwt	8.20	9.94	9.87	8.16	9.73	9.84
Upland cotton, per pound	.464	.473	3/ .467	.485	.474	3/ .543
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	105.00	117.00	124.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ⁴	62.90	61.70	64.50	84.80	92.00	94.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	101.00	102.00	105.00	89.20	97.70	100.00
Cows, per cwt ⁵	47.30	46.00	48.00	48.40	47.20	48.80
Calves, per cwt	121.00	120.00	122.00	137.00	124.00	126.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.350	.500	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.512	.828	.723
Milk, all, per cwt ⁶	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.10	15.60	16.40

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

⁵ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁶ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

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