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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 700,000 pounds, 17 percent above February but 22 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during March, up 100 head from February but 100 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 802 pounds, down 17 pounds from the previous month and 74 pounds below March 2007. Total live weight, at 489,000 pounds, was 12 percent above the previous month but 24 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during March totaled 300 head, unchanged from February but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 511 pounds, up 5 pounds from February and 22 pounds above March 2007. Total live weight, at 143,000 pounds, was down 3 percent from February and 22 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during March totaled 1,700 head, up 200 head from the previous month but 300 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 232 pounds, up 3 pounds from February and 10 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 392,000 pounds, 11 percent above February but 12 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during March was 300 head, the same as February but down 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 87 pounds, down 3 pounds from the previous month and 12 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.1 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.0 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

March 2008 contained 21 weekdays (and no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. **March 2007** contained 22 weekdays (and no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.1 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.7 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.0 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.7 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

January to March 2008 commercial red meat production was 12.5 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 2 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 12 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	February	March		January - March		March		January - March	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	0.5	0.7	0.6	2.2	1.7	2,793.0	2,730.9	8,154.4	8,272.9
Calves	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.9	70.7	70.8	211.8	211.3
Hogs	1.5	2.0	1.7	5.0	4.6	9,201.7	9,661.6	26,684.0	29,596.8
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.8	279.5	230.9	699.0	655.8
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	438	640	489	1,962	1,390	3,505,279	3,473,012	10,351,727	10,584,765
Calves	147	184	143	504	426	22,560	19,075	66,792	56,637
Hogs	354	447	392	1,058	1,041	2,485,278	2,616,784	7,204,169	8,027,018
Sheep & Lambs	31	41	30	85	77	39,139	32,122	98,044	91,882
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	819	876	802	892	818	1,260	1,276	1,274	1,284
Calves	506	489	511	504	473	321	273	318	271
Hogs	229	222	232	212	226	270	271	270	272
Sheep & Lambs	90	99	87	106	96	140	139	140	140
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.6	0.9	0.7	2.4	1.9	4,012.4	4,092.9	11,720.3	12,476.4

Louisiana Meat Animal Income Down in 2007

Cash receipts from meat animals in Louisiana during 2007 totaled \$195.7 million, down 1 percent from the previous year. Cattle and calves made up 99 percent of these receipts, while hogs and pigs accounted for 1 percent.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from cattle and calves totaled \$193.9 million, down 1 percent from 2006. Marketings, at 221.6 million pounds, were 3 percent above the 2006 figure. Cattle prices averaged \$63.50 per cwt, up \$.10 from 2006, while calves averaged \$111.00 per cwt, \$9.00 below the previous year.

Hogs and Pigs: The 2007 cash receipts for hogs and pigs totaled \$1.82 million, down 6 percent from 2006. Marketings decreased to 4.7 million pounds, an 8 percent drop from the previous year. The average price received was \$39.10 per cwt, down \$.70 from 2006.

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-----			
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	242,112	214,360	63.40	120.00	214,944	195,900	1,119	197,019
2007	244,877	221,560	63.50	111.00	208,881	193,891	1,073	194,964

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
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
2007	4,281	4,655	39.10	1,671	1,820	74	1,894

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 Declines 2 Points From March

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 144 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 2 points from March. The Crop Index was unchanged but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points. Producers received lower commodity prices for eggs, strawberries, cattle and wheat. Higher prices were received for corn, lettuce, onions and soybeans. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, strawberries, milk and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 11 points from April 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 140, decreased 5 points from last month but increased 5 points from April 2007.

Prices Paid Index Up 3 Points

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 181 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 3 points from March and 21 points above April 2007. Higher prices in April for field crop seeds, diesel fuel, feed grains, and hay and forages more than offset lower prices for feeder pigs, feeder cattle, feed supplements and complete feeds.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	April 2007	March 2008	April 2008 ¹	April 2007	March 2008	April 2008 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.12	11.60	11.50	6.88	11.50	11.80
Rice, per cwt	10.10	14.30	14.30	10.20	13.60	14.80
Upland cotton, per pound	.463	.557	2/ .557	.463	.605	2/ .600
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	124.00	139.00	152.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	64.30	64.20	62.70	93.70	87.70	85.10
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	103.00	95.20	89.00	99.80	92.70	90.10
Cows, per cwt ⁴	48.50	52.20	52.00	49.20	51.20	49.90
Calves, per cwt	121.00	108.00	100.00	125.00	119.00	115.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.460	.460	.450
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.729	1.380	1.030
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.60	18.10	18.00

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

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