



Louisiana Farm Reporter
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

June 1 Livestock Slaughter
July 1 Cattle Inventory
July 1 Catfish Inventory
Prices Received by Farmers

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during June totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from May and the same as the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during June, the same as in May and the previous year. Average live weight was 789 pounds, up 52 pounds from the previous month and 8 pounds above June 2007. Total live weight, at 455,000 pounds, was 4 percent below the previous month and the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during June totaled 300 head, unchanged from May but 100 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 500 pounds, down 32 pounds from May but 33 pounds above June 2007. Total live weight, at 171,000 pounds, was up 25 percent from May and 141 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during June totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous month and the previous year. Average live weight was 186 pounds, down 10 pounds from May and 8 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 192,000 pounds, down 11 percent from May and the previous year.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during June was 300 head, up 100 head from May and the previous year. Live weight averaged 63 pounds, down 1 pound from the previous month and 21 pounds below the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.1 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 4.0 billion pounds produced in June 2007.

June 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. **June 2007** contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.3 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.0 million head, down 4 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,261 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 5 percent above June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 75,400 head, up 23 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 41 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.8 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.9 million head, up 7 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 266 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from June 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 192,400 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, the same as June a year ago.

January to June 2008 commercial red meat production was 25.0 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year; veal was down 9 percent; pork was up 10 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	May	June		January - June		June		January - June	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----Number, thousand head-----					-----Number, thousand head-----			
Cattle	0.6	0.6	0.6	4.1	3.5	3,076.5	2,955.5	16,983.7	17,324.4
Calves	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.7	1.8	61.3	75.4	388.9	431.3
Hogs	1.1	1.1	1.0	8.9	8.0	8,297.2	8,884.7	52,209.5	57,539.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.5	1.6	200.6	192.4	1,334.7	1,276.3
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----					-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			
Cattle	472	475	455	3,548	2,834	3,833,514	3,716,859	21,257,530	21,933,001
Calves	137	71	171	862	888	18,664	19,833	125,613	115,997
Hogs	216	215	192	1,816	1,713	2,210,482	2,358,949	14,052,817	15,024,411
Sheep & Lambs	14	17	16	143	126	27,412	26,279	186,375	178,745
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----					-----Average live weight, pounds-----			
Cattle	737	781	789	865	810	1,250	1,261	1,256	1,270
Calves	532	467	500	507	493	307	266	325	272
Hogs	196	194	186	204	214	267	266	269	270
Sheep & Lambs	64	84	63	95	79	137	137	140	140
	-----Million pounds-----					-----Million pounds-----			
Red Meat	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.1	3.5	4,027.5	4,049.6	23,576.7	25,043.0

July 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2008, totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007, and down 1 percent from the 105.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, was down slightly from both July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2006.

- * **Beef cows**, at 33.2 million head, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2007, and 1 percent below two years ago.
- * **Milk cows**, at 9.3 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2007, and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2008, and the changes from July 1, 2007, are as follows:

- * **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 16.5 million, down 1 percent.
- * **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.6 million, down 2 percent.
- * **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.9 million, unchanged.
- * **Other heifers**, 8.0 million, unchanged.
- * **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, 14.7 million, down 1 percent.
- * **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over**, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- * **Calves under 500 pounds**, 28.6 million, down slightly.
- * **All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter**, 11.7 million, down 5 percent.

Louisiana and United States Cattle and Calf Inventories

Class	Louisiana ¹	United States		
	Jan. 1, 2008	July 1, 2007	July 1, 2008	2008 as a percent of 2007
	-----Thousand Head-----			Percent
All Cattle and Calves	890	104,800	104,300	100
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	540	42,500	42,400	100
Beef Cows	513	33,350	33,150	99
Milk Cows	27	9,150	9,250	101
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	118	16,600	16,500	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	90	4,700	4,600	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	8	3,900	3,900	100
Other Heifers	20	8,000	8,000	100
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	23	14,900	14,700	99
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	34	2,100	2,100	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	175	28,700	28,600	100
Calf Crop ²	425	37,361	37,250	100

¹ July 1 estimates are not published for Louisiana.

² For the U.S., the 2008 calf crop is all calves born before July 1, 2008, plus the number expected to be born on or after July 1.

Louisiana Catfish Growers Survey

Commercial catfish operations in Louisiana had 7.0 million foodsize fish on hand July 1, 2008, down 27 percent from the July 1, 2007, total of 9.5 million. Live weight totaled 8.9 million pounds for all foodsize fish, 22 percent below July 1, 2007. The breakout of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2008, with their respective percent change from the previous year are: large foodsize, 215,000, up 26 percent; medium foodsize, 1.5 million, up 25 percent; and small foodsize, 5.2 million, down 36 percent. The number of stockers on hand on July 1, 2008 totaled 3.9 million fish, up 25 percent from the 3.1 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers on hand, 570,000 were large stockers, down 69 percent from the previous year. The remaining 3.4 million were small stockers, up 160 percent.

United States Catfish Growers Survey

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing states (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi) had 279 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2008, up 7 percent from the July 1, 2007, total of 260 million foodsize fish. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2008, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize, 6.4 million fish, up 4 percent; medium foodsize, 69.6 million fish, up 3 percent; and small foodsize, 203 million fish, up 9 percent. The four major states also had 660 thousand broodfish on hand on July 1, 2008, down 17 percent from last year's 791 thousand broodfish. The number of large stockers on hand on July 1, 2008, totaled 283 million fish, down 12 percent from the 320 million fish on hand a year ago. There were 280 million small stockers, down 14 percent from last year. Producers had 1.0 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on July 1, 2008, down 29 percent from the 1.5 billion fingerlings and fry on hand July 1, 2007. Live weight, at 18.7 million pounds, was down 8 percent from the 20.3 million pounds a year ago.

Louisiana and United States Catfish Production, July 1, 2008

Item	Louisiana				United States			
	Total Number		Total Live Weight		Total Number		Total Live Weight	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----1,000 Fish-----		-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----1,000 Fish-----		-----1,000 Pounds-----	
Broodfish	*	*	*	*	791	660	3,829	3,196
Large Foodsize	171	215	571	740	6,191	6,415	21,071	22,740
Medium Foodsize	1,230	1,540	2,700	2,920	67,330	69,640	129,100	133,620
Small Foodsize	8,110	5,220	8,100	5,240	186,610	202,720	183,300	197,740
Total Foodsize	9,511	6,975	11,371	8,900	260,131	278,775	333,471	354,100
Large Stockers	1,850	570	837	315	320,050	283,170	132,837	111,015
Small Stockers	1,290	3,350	175	490	326,290	280,250	33,375	28,890
Total Stockers	3,140	3,920	1,012	805	646,340	563,420	166,212	139,905
Fingerlings/Fry	29,000	*	282	*	1,452,700	1,026,900	20,282	18,715

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

July Farm Prices Received Index Advanced 3 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 161 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points from June. The Crop Index was up 3 points and the Livestock Index increased 1 point. Producers received higher prices for cattle, soybeans, broilers, sweet corn and lower prices for eggs, wheat, tomatoes and cucumbers. In addition to prices, the overall index was affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, grapes, hay and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupes, potatoes and apples.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 22 points from July 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 157, increased 2 points from last month and increased 17 points from July 2007.

Prices Paid Index Up 2 Points

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates was 191 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 2 points from June and 29 points above July 2007. Higher prices in July for potash & phosphate materials, nitrogen fertilizers, mixed fertilizers and diesel fuel more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, feeder pigs, trucks and other machinery.

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Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2007	June 2008	July 2008 ¹	July 2007	June 2008	July 2008 ¹
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	7.25	n/a	13.00	7.56	13.20	14.20
Rice, per cwt	10.30	17.80	17.80	10.10	16.80	16.70
Upland cotton, per pound	.468	.567	.567 ²	.452	.604	.603 ²
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	131.00	161.00	164.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt ³	67.50	64.10	66.60	89.00	92.00	95.70
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	101.00	89.60	91.00	93.00	96.40	100.00
Cows, per cwt ⁴	50.30	52.70	54.00	51.50	54.30	56.40
Calves, per cwt	116.00	97.40	98.00	126.00	118.00	115.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.470	.480	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.945	1.060	.841
Milk, all, per cwt ⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.60	19.30	19.40

¹Mid-month.

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

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

⁴Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

⁵Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. n/a = not available.

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