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Louisiana Field Office · 5825 Florida Blvd · Baton Rouge, LA 70806  
(225) 922-1362 · (225)922-0744 FAX www.nass.usda.gov/la

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

July Livestock Slaughter  
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates  
Average Prices Received by Farmers  
U.S. Rice Stocks

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 500,000 pounds, unchanged from June but 17 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, unchanged from June but down 200 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 739 pounds, down 21 pounds from the previous month and 38 pounds below July 2006. Total live weight, at 462,000 pounds, was virtually unchanged from the previous month but 27 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during July totaled 100 head, down 100 head from June and the previous year. Live weight averaged 469 pounds, up 2 pounds from June but 25 pounds below July 2006. Total live weight, at 65,000 pounds, was down 8 percent from June and 43 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from both the previous month and the previous year. Average live weight was 193 pounds, down 1 pound from June but 3 pounds above the previous year. Total live weight was 187,000 pounds, down 13 percent from June and 8 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during July was 200 head, unchanged from June but 100 head above the previous year. Live weight averaged 91 pounds, up 7 pounds from the previous month and 12 pounds above the previous year.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in July, up 4 percent from the 3.8 billion pounds produced in July 2006.

July 2007 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2006 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.3 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.9 million head, up 2 percent from July 2006. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,269 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 10.7 million pounds, 5 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 62,600 head, up 8 percent from July 2006. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 289 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.7 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.4 million head, 7 percent above July 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 264 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.5 million pounds, was up 2 percent from July 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,700 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 1 pound from July a year ago.

**January to July 2007 commercial red meat production** was 27.5 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year; veal was up 4 percent; pork was up 2 percent from last year, but lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June	July		January - July		July		January - July	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	----- Number, thousand head -----					----- Number, thousand head -----			
Cattle	0.6	0.8	0.6	5.5	4.7	2,834.0	2,901.6	19,484.2	19,885.6
Calves	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.8	1.8	57.9	62.6	388.5	451.7
Hogs	1.1	1.1	1.0	10.4	9.8	7,882.0	8,396.6	58,928.5	60,606.5
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.7	202.4	204.7	1,563.9	1,539.9
	----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----					----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----			
Cattle	461	629	462	4,589	3,953	3,598,226	3,672,121	24,560,984	24,929,491
Calves	71	115	65	949	927	18,674	17,910	136,717	143,579
Hogs	215	204	187	2,092	1,981	2,074,519	2,216,567	15,879,326	16,268,049
Sheep & Lambs	17	10	21	95	164	26,303	26,821	217,933	213,019
	----- Average live weight, pounds -----					----- Average live weight, pounds -----			
Cattle	760	777	739	834	841	1,273	1,269	1,265	1,258
Calves	467	494	469	527	515	325	289	354	320
Hogs	194	190	193	201	202	263	264	270	269
Sheep & Lambs	84	79	91	106	96	130	131	140	138
	----- Million pounds -----					----- Million pounds -----			
Red Meat	0.5	0.6	0.5	5.0	4.5	3,790.6	3,938.9	27,105.9	27,514.4

## Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 25,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2007, down 17 percent from July 9-15, 2006. Of the 25,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 72 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 28 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$9.07 per hour compared to \$8.52 per hour in July 2006. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$0.97 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$9.78 per hour compared to \$9.03 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.14, or 8 cents more per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 38.1 hours per week, was 3.5 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 41.6 hours per week.

## United States Farm Labor

There were 1,205,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of July 8-14, 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 847,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 358,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.04 per hour during the July 2007 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.31 per hour, up 38 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.80 per hour compared with \$9.49 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.44 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	July 2006	April 2007	July 2007	July 2006	April <sup>2</sup> 2007	July 2007
	----- Thousand Workers -----			----- Thousand Workers -----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,196</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1,205</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	320	253	358
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>847</b>
150 Days or More	24	24	18	630	593	600
149 Days or Less	6	7	7	245	143	247
	----- Per Week -----			----- Per Week -----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>41.6</b>
	----- Per Hour -----			----- Per Hour -----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>\$8.52</b>	<b>\$8.80</b>	<b>\$9.07</b>	<b>\$9.72</b>	<b>\$10.20</b>	<b>\$10.04</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$8.06	\$8.54	\$8.14	\$8.93	\$9.35	\$9.31
Livestock	\$9.03	\$8.00	\$9.78	\$9.49	\$9.59	\$9.80

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

--- Data not published.

## Prices Received Index Down 2 Points

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 139 percent based on 1990-92=100, decreased 2 points from July. The Crop Index was down 2 points and the Livestock Index decreased 1 point. Producers received lower commodity prices for onions, corn, broilers and eggs. Higher commodity prices were received for wheat, cattle, strawberries and broccoli. The overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, calves and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk and broilers.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 20 points from August 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 142, decreased 1 point from last month but increased 19 points from August 2006.

## Prices Paid Index is Unchanged

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 158 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from July but 9 points above August 2006. Higher prices for complete feeds, feed concentrates, feeder cattle and feeder pigs offset lower prices in August for gasoline, feed grains, feed supplements and mixed fertilizers.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers: Louisiana and United States

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August 2006	July 2007	August 2007 <sup>1</sup>	August 2006	July 2007	August 2007 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.68	7.25	7.50	5.23	7.56	7.49
Rice, per cwt	9.14	10.30	9.66	8.81	9.84	9.89
Upland cotton, per pound	.457	.468	.443 <sup>2</sup>	.458	.465	.449 <sup>2</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	106.00	131.00	132.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	65.30	67.50	69.90	87.20	89.20	90.50
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	102.00	101.00	102.00	91.50	93.10	94.40
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	43.80	50.30	51.00	46.80	51.40	51.50
Calves, per cwt	118.00	116.00	118.00	136.00	127.00	129.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.420	.510	.500
Eggs, all, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.550	.945	.863
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.00	21.70	21.70

<sup>1</sup> Mid-month.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

<sup>3</sup> "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

<sup>4</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

## United States Rice Stocks Up

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2007, totaled 34.9 million hundred weight (cwt), down 7 percent from the total on August 1, 2006. Stocks held on farms totaled 1.2 million cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 33.7 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for nearly 74 percent of the total rough rice; medium grain accounted for 24 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 2 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 3.1 million cwt, 21 percent below a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 2.6 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 538,000 cwt of second heads, screenings and brewers rice.

### United States Rice Stocks

	On Farm	Off Farm <sup>1</sup> Farm	Total All Positions
	(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)		
Date	-----Rough Rice-----		
August 1, 2006	1,553	35,825	37,378
March 1, 2007	28,015	76,145	104,160
August 1, 2007	1,220	33,713	34,933
	-----Milled Rice-----		
August 1, 2006	---	4,572	4,572
March 1, 2007	---	4,560	4,560
August 1, 2007	---	3,111	3,111

<sup>1</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, ports and in transit.

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USDA-NASS Louisiana Field Office  
(225) 922-1362  
5825 Florida Blvd., P O Box 65038  
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038