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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

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

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during October totaled 600,000 pounds, up 20 percent from September but 33 percent below the previous year.

There were 600 head of **cattle** slaughtered during October, unchanged from September but down 500 head from the previous year. Average live weight was 774 pounds, down 48 pounds from the previous month and 73 pounds below October 2006. Total live weight, at 468,000 pounds, was 1 percent below the previous month and 51 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during October totaled 400 head, up 100 head from September and the previous year. Live weight averaged 501 pounds, down 13 pounds from September but 4 pounds above October 2006. Total live weight, at 185,000 pounds, was up 31 percent from September and 12 percent above the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during October totaled 1,600 head, up 600 head from the previous month but the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 178 pounds, down 16 pounds from September and 2 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 279,000 pounds, up 42 percent from September but 2 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during October was 300 head, unchanged from September but up 100 head from the previous year. Live weight averaged 74 pounds, down 7 pounds from last month and 8 pounds below October 2006.

**United States Livestock Slaughter**

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.6 billion pounds in October, up 10 percent from the 4.2 billion pounds produced in October 2006.

October 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

**Beef production**, at 2.4 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.1 million head, up 8 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,300 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 11.1 million pounds, 16 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,200 head, up 3 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was down 59 pounds from last year, at 288 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.1 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.7 million head, up 11 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 16.4 million pounds, was up 5 percent from October 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from October a year ago.

**January to October 2007 commercial red meat production** was 40.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	Sept	October		Jan. – Oct.		October		January – October	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	----- Number, thousand head -----					----- Number, thousand head -----			
Cattle	0.6	1.1	0.6	8.4	6.5	2,858.1	3,099.6	28,243.3	28,782.1
Calves	0.3	0.3	0.4	2.7	2.7	63.6	65.2	576.3	638.3
Hogs	1.0	1.6	1.6	14.4	13.5	9,632.0	10,654.4	86,488.9	89,429.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.3	2.7	237.3	248.0	2,247.3	2,226.1
	----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----					----- Total live weight, thousand pounds -----			
Cattle	475	950	468	6,963	5,410	3,676,944	4,015,128	35,766,152	36,364,838
Calves	141	165	185	1,381	1,366	21,900	18,559	200,017	195,278
Hogs	197	285	279	2,864	2,681	2,589,179	2,870,108	23,197,997	23,943,892
Sheep & Lambs	28	14	24	128	243	31,139	32,710	306,552	301,977
	----- Average live weight, pounds -----					----- Average live weight, pounds -----			
Cattle	822	847	774	829	832	1,291	1,300	1,271	1,268
Calves	514	497	501	511	506	347	288	349	308
Hogs	194	180	178	199	199	269	270	269	268
Sheep & Lambs	81	82	74	98	90	131	132	137	136
	----- Million pounds -----					----- Million pounds -----			
Red Meat	0.5	0.9	0.6	7.2	6.2	4,197.2	4,613.5	39,511.1	40,318.1

## Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 30,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, down 12 percent from October 8-14, 2006. Of the 30,000 hired workers, those that work 150 days or more per year accounted for 67 percent of the total, and workers that work 149 days or fewer accounted for the remaining 33 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$8.53 per hour compared to \$8.32 per hour in October 2006. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.80 per hour less than the average wage rate at the U.S. level. Livestock workers earned \$8.24 per hour compared to \$8.09 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$8.26, or 43 cents more this October than last October.

The average number of hours worked, at 43.0 hours per week, was 0.9 hour more per week than the current U.S. average of 42.6 hours per week.

## United States Farm Labor

There were 1,122,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 806,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up fractionally from a year ago.

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

Item	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	October 2006	July 2007	October 2007	October 2006	July <sup>2</sup> 2007	October 2007
	-----Thousand Workers-----			-----Thousand Workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,122</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	286	363	316
<b>Hired Farm Workers</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>806</b>
150 Days or More	24	18	20	595	596	590
149 Days or Less	10	7	10	205	247	216
	-----Per Week-----			-----Per Week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>42.1</b>
	-----Per Hour-----			-----Per Hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>\$8.32</b>	<b>\$9.07</b>	<b>\$8.53</b>	<b>\$9.96</b>	<b>\$9.99</b>	<b>\$10.33</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$7.83	\$8.14	\$8.26	\$9.26	\$9.24	\$9.62
Livestock	\$8.09	\$9.78	\$8.24	\$9.42	\$9.73	\$9.98

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

<sup>2/</sup> Revised

--- Data not published.

## November Farm Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by farmers in November, at 143 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points from October. The Crop Index was up 2 points and the Livestock Index increased 3 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, eggs, corn and broilers and lower prices were received for lettuce, hogs, cattle and broccoli. 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 milk, cattle, cotton and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 24 points from November 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 147, increased 2 points from last month and increased 27 points from November 2006.

## Prices Paid Index Up 1 Point

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates was 161 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was up 1 point from October and 13 points above November 2006. Higher prices in November for diesel fuel, complete feeds and gasoline offset lower prices for feeder cattle, potash & phosphate materials and hay & forages.

### Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007 <sup>1</sup>	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	6.21	8.34	8.88	6.08	8.36	9.48
Rice, per cwt	10.30	10.90	11.00	10.10	10.70	11.00
Upland Cotton, per pound	.474	.558	.532 <sup>2</sup>	.474	.552	.540 <sup>2</sup>
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	109.00	133.00	131.00
Beef Cattle, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	56.80	61.60	58.60	84.40	90.60	89.30
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	84.90	92.50	88.00	90.00	96.40	95.40
Cows, per cwt <sup>4</sup>	41.00	43.40	42.00	43.60	46.60	43.60
Calves, per cwt	105.00	106.00	101.00	119.00	122.00	118.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.400	.430	.450
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.812	.935	1.260
Milk, All, per cwt <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.40	20.70	20.70

<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.

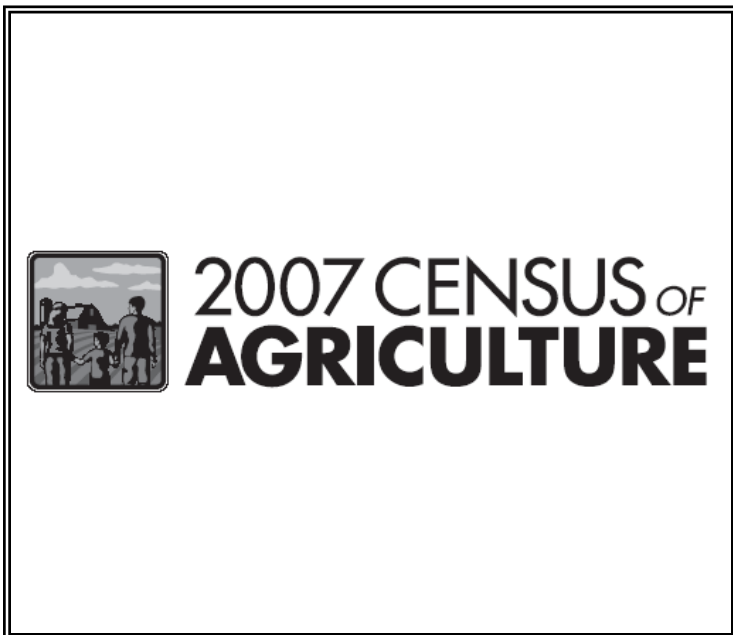
<sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = Not Available.

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