



ARIZONA LIVESTOCK

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Arizona Cattle on Feed Inventory Down 2 Percent From Last Year

On December 1, 2008, Arizona had 359,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down 8,000 head from a year ago and 3,000 head from last month. Placements totaled 26,000 head during November, 11,000 head less than a year ago. During November, 28,000 head were marketed, an increase of 1,000 head from last year.

On December 1, 2008, California had 495,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, down 60,000 head from last year and down 5,000 head from last month. Placements totaled 48,000 head during November, 25,000 head less than last year. During November, 50,000 head were marketed, down 11,000 head from last year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2008. The inventory was 6 percent below December 1, 2007 and 5 percent below December 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.02 million, 5 percent below 2007 but 7 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.95 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 630,000, 700-799 pounds were 450,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 370,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.58 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 12 percent below 2006. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during November, 18 percent above 2007 and 19 percent below 2006.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Number Placed on Feed, Number Marketed, and Other Disappearance, 1000+ Capacity Feedlots, By Month, State, and United States 2007-2008

State	Number on Feed 1/					Number Placed on Feed			Number Marketed			Other Disappearance		
	Dec 1, 2007	Nov 1, 2008	Dec 1, 2008			During November			During November			During November 2/		
			Number	as % of 2007	as % of Nov	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>			<i>1,000 Head</i>			<i>Percent</i>			<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	367	362	359	98	99	37	26	70	27	28	104	3	1	33
CA	555	500	495	89	99	73	48	66	61	50	82	2	3	150
CO	1,070	960	1,010	94	105	190	185	97	145	130	90	5	5	100
ID	240	210	225	94	107	48	65	135	42	49	117	1	1	100
IA	570	485	500	88	103	96	92	96	75	75	100	1	2	200
KS	2,500	2,230	2,310	92	104	450	405	90	355	310	87	15	15	100
NE	2,520	2,310	2,380	94	103	485	440	91	355	355	100	10	15	150
NM	149	172	167	112	97	31	20	65	23	23	100	2	2	100
OK	345	320	335	97	105	62	69	111	50	52	104	2	2	100
SD	215	200	220	102	110	50	57	114	38	35	92	2	2	100
TX	3,010	2,710	2,810	93	104	510	510	100	490	395	81	10	15	150
WA	168	163	169	101	104	31	36	116	27	29	107	2	1	50
Other Sts	390	350	365	94	104	62	62	100	50	44	88	2	3	150
US	12,099	10,972	11,345	94	103	2,125	2,015	95	1,738	1,575	91	57	67	118

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

November Total Red Meat Production Below Previous Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.87 billion pounds in November, down 10 percent from the 4.30 billion pounds produced in November 2007.

Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.52 million head, down 11 percent from November 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,302 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.3 million pounds, 13 percent above November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 81,400 head, up 38 percent from November 2007. The average live weight was down 51 pounds from last year, at 240 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.89 billion pounds, down 8 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.32 million head, down 7 percent

from November 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.9 million pounds, was down 20 percent from November 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 193,700 head, 18 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, down 3 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2008 commercial red meat production was 46.1 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2007. Cumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By Arizona and United States 1/

Class	November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	November 2008 as % of 2/	
				November 2007	October 2008
Arizona 3/ Total Red Meat	34,100	32,600	29,600	87	91
United States	<i>Million Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Beef	2,228.8	2,342.0	1,960.9	88	84
Veal	10.1	13.6	11.3	113	83
Pork	2,045.2	*2,160.1	1,886.5	92	87
Lamb and Mutton	16.1	15.0	12.9	80	86
Total Red Meat	4,300.2	*4,530.7	3,871.6	90	85

* Revised

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Percentages based on unrounded data.

3/ Breakdown by class not available, includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter: Arizona and U.S., January - November 2008 1/

Species	Arizona			United States		
	January - November			January - November		
	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight
Cattle	1,000 Head 492.2	1,000 Pounds 670,002	Pounds 1,368	1,000 Head 31,698.2	1,000 Pounds 40,436,806	Pounds 1,280
Hogs	2.2	452	231	106,312.9	28,459,077	268

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2008 was 66.7 million head. This was down 2 percent from both December 1, 2007 and September 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was down 2 percent from last year but up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 60.6 million head, was down 2 percent from both last year and last quarter.

The September-November 2008 pig crop, at 28.4 million head, was down 4 percent from 2007 but up 6 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.99 million head, down 6 percent from 2007 but up 1 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The

average pigs saved per litter was 9.50 for the September-November 2008 period, compared to 9.28 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.60 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.97 million sows farrow during the December 2008-February 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 but up 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for March-May 2009, at 3.01 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2008 and down 1 percent from 2007. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 43 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

November Milk Production Up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from November 2007. October revised production at 14.4 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from October 2007. The October revision represented an increase of 16 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,657 pounds for November, 3 pounds above November 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 99,000 head more than November 2007, and 6,000 head more than October 2008.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, November 2007-2008

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		Percent change from 2007
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	185	187	1,830	1,850	339	346	2.1
CA	1,830	1,840	1,810	1,795	3,312	3,303	-0.3
CO	120	130	1,900	1,845	228	240	5.3
FL	125	119	1,200	1,300	150	155	3.3
ID	525	554	1,810	1,800	950	997	4.9
IL	103	102	1,470	1,470	151	150	-0.7
IN	166	167	1,650	1,580	274	264	-3.6
IA	215	215	1,590	1,630	342	350	2.3
KS	108	118	1,640	1,720	177	203	14.7
KY	88	87	1,100	1,100	97	96	-1.0
MI	343	352	1,825	1,755	626	618	-1.3
MN	463	465	1,500	1,525	695	709	2.0
MO	109	110	1,190	1,175	130	129	-0.8
NM	337	333	1,780	1,900	600	633	5.5
NY	626	624	1,575	1,580	986	986	
OH	277	278	1,430	1,450	396	403	1.8
OR	115	114	1,490	1,570	171	179	4.7
PA	550	548	1,580	1,510	869	827	-4.8
TX	351	390	1,760	1,765	618	688	11.3
VT	140	139	1,465	1,460	205	203	-1.0
VA	100	97	1,400	1,410	140	137	-2.1
WA	244	245	1,850	1,850	451	453	0.4
WI	1,249	1,254	1,550	1,565	1,936	1,963	1.4
23-State Total	8,369	8,468	1,654	1,657	13,843	14,032	1.4

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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Release Dates For Upcoming National Reports

January 5 Dairy Products
January 16 Milk Production
January 23 Cattle on Feed
January 23 Livestock Slaughter
January 30 Agricultural Prices
January 30 Cattle
January 30 Sheep and Goats
February 12 Farms Numbers and Livestock Operations

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December Farm Prices Received Index Declined 8 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December, at 133 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 8 points (5.7 percent) from November. The Crop Index is down 11 points (7.1 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.2 percent). Producers received lower prices for cattle, corn, milk, and soybeans and higher prices for broilers, strawberries, lettuce, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of

commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, milk, broilers, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, cattle, and grapes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 9 points (6.3 percent) from December 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 132, decreased 7 points (5.0 percent) from last month and decreased 14 points (9.6 percent) from December 2007.

Prices Paid Index Down 4 Points

The December Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 177 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is down 4 points (2.2 percent) from

November but 11 points (6.6 percent) above December 2007. Prices in December are lower for fuels, fertilizer, feed, and livestock & poultry.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, December 2007 and 2008 and November 2008

Commodity	Unit	Arizona			United States		
		December 2007 Entire Month	November 2008 Entire Month	December 2008 Mid-Month	December 2007 Entire Month	November 2008 Entire Month	December 2008 Mid-Month
Upland Cotton	¢ Lb	1/	1/	1/	59.60	53.10	53.90
Cottonseed 2/	\$ Ton	192.00	290.00	272.00	169.00	223.00	220.00
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Ton	---	---	---	383.30	289.30	284.00
Alfalfa Hay Baled 4/	\$ Ton	153.00	185.00	188.00	135.00	163.00	155.00
Lemons 5/	\$ Box	57.70	39.20	31.00	58.50	37.00	21.67
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	47.00	45.00	41.00	45.00	43.10	39.80
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	97.00	94.00	91.00	95.30	91.00	85.70
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	77.00	62.60	59.00	89.20	84.90	79.90
Calves	\$ Cwt	112.00	97.00	92.00	120.00	106.00	101.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	21.20	16.10	14.90	21.50	17.10	15.90

- 1/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or insufficient sales.
 2/ Marketing year August – February.
 3/ Not available for Arizona.
 4/ Mid-month.
 5/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Lemons 76 lbs., Oranges 75 lbs., Tangerines 75 lbs., Grapefruit 67 lbs.
 6/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
 7/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.
 8/ Preliminary; before for hauling. Includes quality and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2007		2008	
	November	December	November	December
Prices Received	141	142	141	133
Prices Paid	165	166	181	177
Ratio 1/	85	86	78	75

1/ Ratio of index prices received by farmers to index of prices paid by farmers.