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Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 1,405,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on February 1, 2010, up 3 percent from January 1, 2010 and up 6 percent from February 1, 2009. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 600,000 head on feed, up 5 percent from last month and up 15 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 805,000 head on feed, up 2 percent from last month, but down 1 percent from last year.

Placements during January totaled 195,000 head, down 7 percent from last month, but up 25 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 95,000 head, up 12 percent from last month and up 17 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 100,000 head. This is down 20 percent from last month, but up 33 percent from last year.

Marketings for January were 142,000 head, down 5 percent from last month, but up 17 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 62,000 head, down 15 percent from last month, but up 5 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 80,000 head, up 4 percent from last month and up 29 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 8,000 head.

All Cattle on Feed, Iowa

Item	Lots 1,000+ Head	Lots Less than 1,000 Head	All Lots
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*
Cattle on Feed, January 1, 2010	570	790	1,360
January Placements	95	100	195
January Marketings	62	80	142
January Other Disappearance	3	5	8
Cattle on Feed, February 1, 2010	600	805	1,405

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements and Marketings by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots [1]

State	Cattle on Feed February 1			Placements during January			Marketings during January			January Disappearance other than Slaughter [2]		
	2009	2010	'10 as % of '09	2009	2010	'10 as % of '09	2009	2010	'10 as % of '09	2009	2010	'10 as % of '09
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*
AZ	349	290	83	27	28	104	35	24	69	1	1	100
CA	480	455	95	51	54	106	59	57	97	2	7	350
CO	1,020	960	94	200	130	65	170	170	100	10	10	100
ID	215	205	95	37	30	81	41	39	95	1	1	100
IA	**520**	**600**	**115**	**81**	**95**	**117**	**59**	**62**	**105**	**2**	**3**	**150**
KS	2,260	2,240	99	435	475	109	430	475	110	15	10	67
NE	2,400	2,370	99	400	410	103	360	380	106	10	20	200
NM	158	(D)	(D)	9	(D)	(D)	13	(D)	(D)	2	(D)	(D)
OK	330	365	111	54	60	111	57	58	102	2	2	100
SD	225	235	104	43	35	81	35	34	97	3	1	33
TX	2,810	2,700	96	440	420	95	405	390	96	15	10	67
WA	151	166	110	30	29	97	35	28	80	1	1	100
Oth Sts	370	403	(X)	51	59	(X)	38	57	(X)	3	4	(X)
US	11,288	10,989	97	1,858	1,825	98	1,737	1,774	102	67	70	104

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(X) Comparison to past year is not applicable.
[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 loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations

The number of farms in Iowa remains unchanged from 2008, estimated at 92,600 in 2009. Total land in farms is estimated at 30.8 million acres, and the average farm size is 333 acres.

January 1 Cattle Inventory

Iowa: All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2010 totaled 3.85 million head, 2.5 percent below the 3.95 million head on January 1, 2009. Beef cows, at 885,000 head, were 4.3 percent below last year. Milk cows, at 215,000 were unchanged from last year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, at 900,000 head, were up 3.4 percent from last year. Heifers for beef cow replacement were down 7.1 percent to 130,000 head; heifers for milk cow replacement at 130,000 head were unchanged from the previous year; and all other heifers were up 6.7 percent to 640,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were down 4.3percent from last year at 1,330,000 head. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over were down 14.3 from a year ago at 60,000 head. Calves under 500 pounds on January 1 totaled 460,000 in 2010, down 4.2 percent from last year.

The 2010 calf crop was estimated at 1.03 million head, down 3.7 percent from the 1.07 million born in 2009. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2010 was at 1,360,000 head up 4.6 percent from one year ago.

United States: All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2010, totaled 93.7 million head, 1 percent below the 94.5 million on January 1, 2009. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.5 million, were down 1 percent from the 41.0 million on January 1, 2009. Beef cows, at 31.4 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 2009.
Milk cows, at 9.1 million, were down 3 percent from January 1, 2009. Other class estimates on January 1, 2010, and the change from January 1, 2009, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, up slightly.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.4 million, down 2 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.5 million, up 2 percent.
- Other heifers, 9.7 million, up 1 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.4 million, down 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.2 million, up slightly.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 14.9 million, up slightly.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.6 million, down 2 percent.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 27.5 million, down slightly.

The 2009 calf crop was estimated at 35.8 million head, down 1 percent from 2008. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 26.0 million, down 1 percent from 2008.

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop, Iowa and United States, January 1, 2009-2010

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2009	2010	2010 as % of 2009	2009	2010	2010 as % of 2009
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*
All Cattle and Calves	3,950	3,850	97	94,521	93,701	99
All Cows That Have Calved	1,140	1,100	96	41,045	40,456	99
Beef Cows	925	885	96	31,712	31,376	99
Milk Cows	215	215	100	9,333	9,081	97
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	870	900	103	19,576	19,666	100
For Beef Cow Replacement	140	130	93	5,531	5,436	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	130	130	100	4,410	4,516	102
Other Heifers	600	640	107	9,635	9,714	101
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	1,390	1,330	96	16,769	16,440	98
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	70	60	86	2,184	2,190	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	480	460	96	14,948	14,949	100
Cattle on Feed [1]	1,300	1,360	105	13,856	13,642	98
	2008	2009	2009 as % of 2008	2008	2009	2009 as % of 2008
Calf Crop	1,070	1,030	96	36,153	35,819	99

[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. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

ECONOMIST CORNER

By Shane Ellis, Livestock Economist, and Chad Hart, Grain Marketing Specialist, Iowa Cooperative Extension Service – Ames

Conditions continue to improve for profitability in the swine industry, but producers may be getting too optimistic too quick. There has been a steady improvement in projected returns for swine producers in 2010 for the past five months. Based on those projects 7 out of the next 10 months are expected to show black ink and the remaining 3 months should see near breakeven returns. (source: www.iowabeefcenter.org/margins/) Of course this is a welcome change for producers, and with good news comes a rush to be a part of it. Sow slaughter in January was down 9.4% from 2009 and down 20.4 percent from 2008. The industry had been at on a good start to reducing breed herd numbers and hog supplies. Part of that supply reduction has helped to bolster prices in the near future. Part of the problem with producers increasing production now is that it will hamper the degree and longevity of the up cycle we are currently entering. Even with a change in production, the current year will likely be profitable, but are we diminishing our prospects for 2011?

Cattle on feed numbers suggest tighter beef supplies during the grilling season. Feedlot inventories at the first of February were down 3 percent nationally, on lower placements and larger marketings. While national cattle numbers were down, Iowa cattle on feed inventories were up 6 percent from a year ago. Cattle feeders may see their first significant black ink in three years from March to June. While margins will remain tight through the second half the year, the cattle feeding sector should be able to avoid the triple digit looses seen in the 2008 and 2009. As breeding cow numbers continue to decline beef supplies will shorten and continue to improve prices.

USDA released its early thoughts on the 2010 crop year at its annual Agricultural Outlook Forum. The projections are unofficial, but they do highlight current issues to monitor as the 2010 crop season progresses. Their projections show a shift to plant more corn in 2010 with 2.5 million more acres coming into corn production. A drop in winter wheat plantings this fall and the expiration of some CRP contracts has opened up some additional land for corn plantings. With a trend yield of 160.9 bushels per acre, the 2010 corn crop would be on pace to set another production record, following the records set in 2007 and 2009. Total supplies for the 2010 marketing year come in just under 15 billion bushels. On the demand side, feed demand is projected to fall as the livestock industry is still under contraction and distillers grains continue to fill part of overall feed needs. Corn demand via ethanol is projected to grow to 4.5 billion bushels, roughly 100 million bushels over the target from the Renewable Fuels Standard. Returns to the ethanol industry have improved in the last year, prompting continued growth in the industry. Food, seed, and other use is expected to rebound slightly. Exports are projected to continue to work slowly up as well as the global economic recovery continues and the projections for the U.S. dollar are basically flat for 2010. With the drop in feed use being more than offset the ethanol and export growth, total use is projected a record 13.24 billion bushels.

Following the record 2009 soybean crop, USDA is looking at another strong production year in 2010. Soybean acreage is projected to decline slightly, to 77 million acres. Relative crop prices and generally lower input costs are seen as favoring corn over soybeans for planted area. Given a trend yield of 42.9 bushels per acre, 2010 projected production comes in at 3.26 billion bushels, 100 million bushels shy of 2009's record production. Domestic soybean crush is projected to decline to 1.655 billion bushels, as the livestock and biodiesel industries struggle. The export demand for soybean meal and oil that has supported the 2009/10 crush is expected to retreat as South American soybean production fills some of that demand. Soybean exports are also expected to fall, but will remain at historically high levels.

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA Feb [1] 2009	IOWA Jan [1] 2010	IOWA Feb [2] 2010	U.S. Jan [1] 2010	U.S. Feb [2] 2010
		---------------Dollars---------------				
Corn	Bu	3.96	3.76	3.50	3.66	3.45
Oats	Bu	2.78	2.08	2.15	2.18	2.13
Soybeans	Bu	9.47	9.68	9.20	9.79	9.40
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	132.00	124.00	128.00	113.00	111.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	124.00	119.00	119.00	109.00	107.00
Hogs, all	Cwt	44.40	48.80	47.90	48.40	48.10
Sows	Cwt	41.20	38.50	45.50	38.50	45.30
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	44.50	49.00	48.00	48.90	48.20
Beef Cattle	Cwt	83.30	87.70	88.20	82.10	84.40
Cows	Cwt	46.50	48.00	51.00	47.90	50.50
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	84.00	88.50	89.00	87.50	89.40
Calves	Cwt	101.00	104.00	110.00	109.00	111.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	-	1,200.00	-	1,340.00	-
Milk (whls)	Cwt	12.10	16.60	16.50	16.10	15.90
Sheep	Cwt	27.00	45.50	-	52.40	-
Lambs	Cwt	95.50	95.00	-	102.00	-
Eggs (mkt)[4]	Doz	0.605	-	-	0.905	0.775

[1] Corn, oats, soybeans, all hogs, all cattle, all sheep, and milk are whole-month prices. All hay and eggs are mid-month prices. [2] All prices are mid-month. [3] Prices published January, April, July, and October. [4] State level egg prices were discontinued in Jan 2010.

Prices Received Index Summary Table

Prices Received	IOWA Feb 2009	IOWA Jan 2010	IOWA Feb [1] 2010	UNITED STATES Feb 2009	UNITED STATES Jan 2010	UNITED STATES Feb [1] 2010
	1990-92=100					
Prices rec'd	139	142	136	126	139	133
Crops	174	169	159	146	152	145
Oil Bearing	170	174	165	172	174	167
Feed Grains	176	167	156	169	158	149
Lvstk	100	109	108	109	122	122
Meat Anim	98	106	105	105	110	112
Dairy Prod.	108	130	129	89	123	122
	1910-14=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	798	884	846
Crops	-	-	-	724	753	718
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	945	953	917
Feed Grains	-	-	-	604	565	532
Lvstk	-	-	-	836	939	937
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,066	1,122	1,144
Dairy Prod.	-	-	-	714	991	978

[1] Preliminary [2] Iowa figures for 1910-14=100 base not available.

U.S. Prices Paid Index Summary

Prices Paid	Feb 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Feb 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2010
	1910-14=100			1990-92=100		
Prices Paid [1]	2,382	2,452	2,460	179	184	185
Feed	911	905	910	187	185	186
Fertilizer	1,191	962	979	325	262	267
Fuels	1,526	2,177	2,136	198	282	277
Chemicals	915	926	922	148	150	149
Lvstk/Poultry	1,513	1,542	1,588	118	121	124
Ratio [2]	-	-	-	70	76	72
Parity Ratio [3]	34	36	34	-	-	-

[1] Prices paid by farmers for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates. [2] Received/Paid [3]Ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.

Iowa Milk Production

Milk production in Iowa in January 2010 totaled 373 million pounds, up 1.9 percent from January 2009. The average number of milk cows, 215,000 head, was unchanged from January 2009. Production per cow averaged 1,735 pounds, up 35 pounds from January 2009.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, January 2009-2010

State	Milk Cows [1]		Milk Per Cow [2]		Milk Production [2]		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Percent*
Illinois	102	101	1,610	1,615	164	163	-0.6
Indiana	167	169	1,695	1,675	283	283	
Iowa	**215**	**215**	**1,700**	**1,735**	**366**	**373**	**1.9**
Kansas	125	116	1,800	1,785	225	207	-8.0
Michigan	354	353	1,865	1,915	660	676	2.4
Minnesota	468	470	1,620	1,670	758	785	3.6
Missouri	108	102	1,270	1,220	137	124	-9.5
Ohio	277	272	1,550	1,600	429	435	1.4
Wisconsin	1,255	1,260	1,645	1,715	2,064	2,161	4.7
23-State Total [3]	8,506	8,315	1,752	1,782	14,902	14,817	-0.6

[1] Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. [2] Excludes milk sucked by calves. [3] As of February 2009, the 23 States are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Egg Production

Egg production in Iowa for January 2010 was 1.23 billion eggs, up slightly from January 2009. The total number of layers on hand during January 2010 was 54.6 million, up from 53.8 million layers in January 2009. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of January was 2,256 eggs, down from 2,275 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, January 2009 and 2010

[2010 preliminary, 2009 revised. Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 & Above		All layers on hand [1]		Eggs per 100 layers		Egg production by type					
							Total production[1]		Table eggs [2]		Hatching eggs [2]	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Number*	*Number*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*
Indiana	23,521	22,995	24,219	23,712	2,279	2,324	552	551	539	538	13	13
Iowa	**52,819**	**53,688**	**53,753**	**54,558**	**2,275**	**2,256**	**1,223**	**1,231**	**1,208**	**1,217**	**15**	**14**
Minnesota	9,621	9,811	10,127	10,295	2,311	2,351	234	242	225	233	9	9
Nebraska	9,623	9,473	9,673	9,523	2,409	2,426	233	231	233	231		
N Carolina	5,461	6,067	12,638	13,183	2,089	2,101	264	277	134	144	130	133
Ohio	27,102	26,554	27,527	27,045	2,300	2,292	633	620				
US	280,006	277,547	341,400	339,173	2,249	2,268	7,678	7,692	6,603	6,610	1,075	1,082

[1] Totals may not add due to rounding. [2] Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in US totals. [3] Included in Oth Sts in 2009.
[4] Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.