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Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 806,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on May 1, 2008, down 2 percent from April 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from May 1, 2007. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 530,000 head on feed, down 4 percent from last month, but unchanged from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 276,000 head on feed, unchanged from last month, but down 15 percent from last year.

Placements during April totaled 95,000 head, an increase of 14 percent from last month and 2 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 59,000 head, unchanged from last month, but down 3 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 36,000 head. This is up 50 percent from last month and 13 percent from last year.

Marketings for April were 108,000 head, up 16 percent from last month and 17 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 77,000 head, up 13 percent from last month and 31 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 31,000 head, up 24 percent from last month, but down 6 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 7,000 head.

United States: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on May 1, 2008. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2007 and 4 percent below May 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.54 million, 2 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.46 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315,000, 600-699 pounds were 278,000, 700-799 pounds were 428,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 2.01 million, 11 percent above 2007 and 13 percent above 2006. This is the highest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during April, 24 percent below 2007 and 14 percent below 2006.

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, April 1, 2008	550	276	826
April Placements	59	36	95
April Marketings	77	31	108
April Other Disappearance	2	5	7
Cattle on Feed, May 1, 2008	530	276	806

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

State	Cattle on Feed May 1			Placements during April			Marketings during April			April Disappearance other than Slaughter [2]		
	2007	2008	'08 as % of '07	2007	2008	'08 as % of '07	2007	2008	'08 as % of '07	2007	2008	'08 as % of '07
	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	340	370	109	31	34	110	30	37	123	1	1	100
CA	550	520	95	85	64	75	61	70	115	4	4	100
CO	1,020	950	93	150	115	77	130	165	127	20	20	100
ID	235	225	96	35	28	80	40	32	80	5	1	20
IA	**530**	**530**	**100**	**61**	**59**	**97**	**59**	**77**	**131**	**2**	**2**	**100**
KS	2,350	2,290	97	355	360	101	445	470	106	40	20	50
NE	2,420	2,380	98	290	340	117	340	400	118	10	10	100
NM	118	150	127	12	9	75	24	16	67	1	1	100
OK	335	305	91	54	40	74	68	74	109	1	1	100
SD	230	220	96	36	33	92	34	37	109	2	1	50
TX	2,680	2,690	100	380	360	95	490	540	110	10	10	100
WA	154	155	101	22	33	150	30	29	97	1	1	100
Oth Sts	335	350	104	57	61	107	65	63	97	2	3	150
US	11,297	11,135	99	1,568	1,536	98	1,816	2,010	111	99	75	76

[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.

Chickens: Production and Income, Iowa

Year	Pounds Sold	Price per Pound	Value Of Sales
	1,000 pounds	*Dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
1997	44,600	0.031	1,383
2003	36,839	0.001	37
2004	38,029	0.002	76
2005	34,112	0.003	102
2006	32,708	0.003	98
2007	17,561	0.006	105

Eggs: Production and Income, Iowa

Year	Eggs Produced	Price per Dozen	Value of Sales
	Million eggs	*Cents*	*1,000 dollars*
1997	5,527	52.6	242,267
2003	10,446	52.9	460,648
2004	11,615	50.8	491,656
2005	12,978	31.0	335,318
2006	13,811	35.4	406,865
2007	13,868	71.4	824,806

Dairy Products: Quantity Manufactured by Month, Iowa

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	----------------------------						*1,000 pounds*						----------------------------
Total Cheese (Excluding Cottage Cheese)													
1997	19,156	18,410	19,345	17,533	20,750	20,685	19,930	19,382	19,326	20,344	18,868	20,523	234,252
2003	15,944	14,365	15,180	14,944	15,316	12,449	12,274	12,024	12,177	12,888	11,752	13,399	162,712
2004	13,257	11,812	13,123	13,397	13,890	12,968	12,361	12,027	12,323	12,976	12,875	13,748	154,757
2005	12,812	11,826	13,236	13,018	13,581	12,890	12,285	12,813	11,979	12,113	12,654	13,420	152,627
2006	13,312	12,454	13,542	13,148	13,841	13,043	12,348	11,622	10,778	11,401	10,808	11,843	148,140
2007	12,193	11,348	12,342	11,723	12,204	11,349	11,753	12,175	12,208	13,039	13,357	13,550	147,241
Cottage Cheese Curd													
1997	984	985	998	1,143	1,059	1,071	1,072	1,118	1,121	1,037	841	904	12,333
2003	1,653	1,675	1,663	1,939	1,854	1,879	1,790	1,989	1,797	1,991	1,659	1,386	21,275
2004	1,695	1,664	1,985	1,846	1,710	1,917	1,833	1,942	1,870	1,868	1,757	1,794	21,881
2005	1,917	1,663	1,823	1,784	1,947	2,016	2,144	2,020	2,286	1,896	1,832	1,925	23,253
2006	2,122	1,961	2,413	2,069	2,363	2,375	2,185	2,576	2,248	2,252	2,264	1,968	26,796
2007	2,250	2,252	2,389	2,442	2,553	2,515	2,299	2,222	2,992	1,843	1,853	1,855	27,465
Creamed Cottage Cheese													
1997	888	872	916	1,058	1,014	1,011	1,048	1,099	1,020	950	761	842	11,479
2003	1,546	1,459	1,343	1,682	1,565	1,620	1,616	1,669	1,668	1,521	1,486	1,323	18,498
2004	1,480	1,390	1,743	1,606	1,418	1,622	1,591	1,650	1,493	1,567	1,471	1,649	18,680
2005	1,442	1,375	1,549	1,467	1,689	1,644	1,667	1,601	1,829	1,582	1,523	1,500	18,868
2006	1,636	1,505	1,909	1,583	1,918	1,849	1,658	1,963	1,708	1,674	1,754	1,523	20,680
2007	1,632	1,643	1,740	1,841	1,902	1,852	1,815	1,206	1,571	823	852	957	17,834
Total American-type Cheese													
1997	8,847	8,074	8,732	8,354	8,851	8,390	8,661	8,352	8,040	9,145	8,006	9,029	102,481
2003	12,275	10,945	12,027	11,667	11,969	10,300	9,911	9,638	9,833	9,935	9,200	10,745	128,445
2004	10,620	9,315	10,299	10,674	11,205	10,232	9,840	9,458	9,980	10,176	10,088	10,808	122,695
2005[1]													
2006[1]													
2007	9,708	8,992	9,689	9,041	9,755	9,186	10,049	10,240	9,929	10,665	10,799	11,139	119,192

[1] Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

ECONOMIST CORNER

By Shane Ellis, Extension Economist, Iowa Cooperative Extension Service – Ames

The month of May brought considerable reprieve to many Iowa producers. Hog producers are moving into the realm of profitability after eight months of perpetual losses. Iowa Estimated Returns place farrow to finish profits at just under $5 per hog sold, while feeder pig finishers benefitted from lower feeder pig prices and made around $10/ hog marketed. The rally in hog prices is primarily demand driven as both supplies and prices are higher than a year ago. Domestically consumers are looking for cheaper meat for the grilling season as the cost of food and fuel has eroded household disposable income. Foreign markets have an increased appetite for pork, as the falling value of the dollar makes U.S. commodities more of a bargain. Strong demand is expected to keep hog prices fairly strong well into next year. The hurdle that hog producers still face is the cost of corn and other feeds. Long term profitability is not likely to return to hog producers until corn prices moderate.

Fed cattle prices have also increased in the past month, although not to the same extent as hog values. Usually cattle prices peak at the beginning of the grilling season, but weaker demand took some of the steam out of any significant price rallies. Cattle on feed numbers dropped in May as cattle placement in April were lower from a year ago while marketings were higher. With the higher cost of gain in the feedlots and substantial losses since last fall, more cattle are going to pasture as stockers. Although the higher prices in May did help to tighten the shortfall between cost and revenues, losses still occurred in what is usually the most profitable time of the year. Increasing corn and distiller grain prices are taking a toll on all livestock feeders. Despite the higher cost of feed and lack luster trends in the fed cattle market, feeder cattle prices have shown surprising strength. Cattle feeders, especially in the Southern plains states, may be working to cover just variable costs as they continue pay more for feeder cattle than is feasible to cover long run total cost. Fed cattle prices are expected to be higher in the fall, even exceeding $105/cwt, which will be a welcome change for cattle feeders. Despite prospects of high sale prices, producers should still examine their strategies for managing the costs preserving a profitable margin.

Iowa corn producers have faced a season of adverse weather planting conditions. The cold wet spring followed by continued heavy precipitation delayed plantings in most locations around the state. There is concern that delayed corn planting, late emergence and slow early growth due to the cooler weather will reduce this season's harvest. Some producers stalled by perpetually wet fields will be planting soybeans rather than corn, adding to the numbers of soybean acres expected to be planted this season. Demand for corn has grown with the increasing value of petroleum fuels. The ethanol market has trended higher with the price of other fuels, more than offsetting the increased cost of corn and natural gas that ethanol plants are paying. Foreign demand for corn has been 17 percent above those of a year ago, following very close with USDA expectations. Foreign demand for US soybeans, particularly in China, has shown continued strength for the year. Soybean acres in South America are expected to increase only moderately, adding to the likely hood that soybean exports will remain strong for the rest of the year and into 2009.

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA May [1] 2007	IOWA Apr [1] 2008	IOWA May [2] 2008	U.S. Apr [1] 2008	U.S. May [2] 2008
		--------------Dollars--------------				
Corn	Bu	3.52	5.01	5.00	5.15	5.12
Oats	Bu	2.79	3.98	3.85	3.48	3.46
Soybeans	Bu	7.11	11.60	12.00	12.00	12.30
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	106.00	134.00	137.00	157.00	177.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	105.00	129.00	129.00	152.00	166.00
Hogs, all	Cwt	54.80	46.20	54.70	44.10	54.10
Sows	Cwt	34.00	18.00	23.00	17.20	23.00
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	55.00	46.50	55.00	45.30	55.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.80	91.10	92.20	86.60	90.50
Cows	Cwt	54.50	52.50	55.00	50.50	53.10
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	94.60	91.10	92.20	91.60	95.40
Calves	Cwt	119.00	106.00	111.00	116.00	116.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	-	1,980.00	-	1,940.00	-
Milk (whls)	Cwt	18.00	18.30	18.00	18.00	18.20
Sheep, All	Cwt	31.80	30.50	-	28.80	-
Lambs	Cwt	92.00	90.50	-	99.40	-
Eggs (mkt)	Doz	0.568	0.820	0.634	0.884	0.698

[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.

Prices Received Index Summary Table

Prices Received	IOWA May 2007	IOWA Apr 2008	IOWA May [1] 2008	UNITED STATES May 2007	UNITED STATES Apr 2008	UNITED STATES May [1] 2008
	1990-92=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	132	163	169	136	145	150
Crops	145	216	219	140	168	172
Oil Bearing	127	208	215	128	215	221
Feed Grains	156	221	221	158	220	222
Lvstk	120	112	119	132	127	132
Meat Anim	118	105	117	124	113	122
Poult & Eggs	119	167	129	141	148	147
	1910-14=100 [3]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	861	924	954
Crops	-	-	-	691	831	846
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	698	1,179	1,207
Feed Grains	-	-	-	567	786	794
Lvstk	-	-	-	1,010	976	1,014
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,260	1,152	1,238
Poult & Eggs	-	-	-	398	416	413

[1] Preliminary [2] 1990-92=100 reference replaced 1997=100 in January 1995. [3] Iowa figures for 1910-14=100 base not available.

U.S. Prices Paid Index Summary

Prices Paid	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008
	1990-92=100			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid [1]	161	181	184	2,144	2,418	2,449
Feed	146	188	188	714	916	919
Fertilizer	215	344	364	787	1,260	1,333
Fuels	263	369	392	2,033	2,847	3,027
Chemicals	130	135	139	802	833	858
Lvstk/Poultry	132	122	126	1,691	1,557	1,611
Ratio [2]	84	80	82	-	-	-
Parity Ratio [3]	-	-	-	40	38	39

[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 during April 2008 totalled 361 million pounds, unchanged from April 2007. The average number of milk cows, 216,000 head, was 5,000 head more than April 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,670 pounds, down 40 pounds from a year ago.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, April 2007-2008

State	Milk Cows [1]		Milk Per Cow [2]		Milk Production [2]		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	Change from 2007
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Percent*
IL	103	102	1,645	1,615	169	165	-2.4
IN	168	168	1,725	1,690	290	284	-2.1
IA	**211**	**216**	**1,710**	**1,670**	**361**	**361**	
KS	110	110	1,680	1,820	185	200	8.1
MI	331	345	1,915	1,825	634	630	-0.6
MN	455	463	1,610	1,570	733	727	-0.8
MO	114	111	1,395	1,325	159	147	-7.5
OH	275	280	1,550	1,540	426	431	1.2
WI	1,246	1,251	1,615	1,630	2,012	2,039	1.3
23-State Total [3]	8,292	8,444	1,745	1,757	14,470	14,833	2.5

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

Iowa Egg Production

Egg production in Iowa during April 2008 was 1.18 billion eggs, up 3 percent from April 2007. The total number of layers on hand during April 2008 was 53.7 million, up from 52.5 million layers in April 2007. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of April was 2,196, up from 2,180 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, April 2007 and 2008 [1]

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 & Above		All layers on hand [2]		Eggs per 100 layers		Egg production by type: Total production		Table eggs [3]		Hatching eggs [3]	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Number*	*Number*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*
IN	24,225	23,569	24,878	24,280	2,215	2,224	551	540	539	528	12	12
IA	51,534	52,783	52,475	53,727	2,180	2,196	1,144	1,180	1,128	1,164	16	16
MN	10,146	9,648	10,641	10,142	2,255	2,218	240	225	232	217	8	8
NE	11,033	9,666	11,108	9,741	2,152	2,341	239	228	239	228	0	0
NC	4,182	5,000	12,075	12,700	1,988	2,024	240	257	101	120	139	137
OH	26,705	25,184	27,274	25,790	2,196	2,292	599	591				
29 Sts[4]	264,520	260,819	321,716	318,168	2,164	2,169	6,962	6,902	5,986	5,924	976	978
US	280,185	275,466	345,578	341,159	2,162	2,164	7,472	7,384	6,367	6,278	1,105	1,106

[1] 2008 preliminary, 2007 revised [2] Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size [3] Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations [4] The 29 states are AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IN, IL, IA, ME, MD, MN, MI, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI.

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