Agri-News

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October 1 Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 775,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on October 1, 2007, up 3 percent from September 1, 2007, but down 3 percent from October 1, 2006. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 510,000 head on feed, up 4 percent from last month and up 11 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 265,000 head on feed, up 2 percent from last month, but down 22 percent from last year.

Placements during September totaled 136,000 head, an increase of 35 percent from last month but a decrease of 10 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 100,000 head, up 41 percent from last month and 23 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 36,000 head. This is up 20 percent from last month but down 29 percent from last year.

Marketings for September were 108,000 head, down 10 percent from last month and 8 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 79,000 head, down 1 percent from last month but up 8 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 29,000 head, down 27 from last month and 36 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 3,000 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 11.0 million head on October 1, 2007. The inventory was 4 percent below October 1, 2006 but 5 percent above October 1, 2005. The inventory included 6.83 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.07 million head, down 1 percent from 2006.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.43 million, 9 percent above 2006 and 3 percent above 2005. Net placements were 2.37 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 610,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 570,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 740,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.71 million, 3 percent below 2006 and 6 percent below 2005. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of September since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 54,000 during September, 21 percent below 2006 and 5 percent below 2005.

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, September 1, 2007	490	260	750
September Placements	100	36	136
September Marketings	79	29	108
September Other Disappearance	1	2	3
Cattle on Feed, October 1, 2007	510	265	775

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

State	Cattle on Feed October 1			Placements during September			Marketings during September			September Disappearance other than Slaughter [2]		
	2006	2007	'07 as % of '06	2006	2007	'07 as % of '06	2006	2007	'07 as % of '06	2006	2007	'07 as % of '06
	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	336	350	104	28	28	100	26	24	92	2	2	100
CA	525	540	103	72	60	83	64	47	73	3	3	100
CO	1,060	940	89	240	265	110	135	170	126	5	5	100
ID	265	210	79	72	48	67	41	41	100	1	2	200
IA	**460**	**510**	**111**	**81**	**100**	**123**	**73**	**79**	**108**	**3**	**1**	**33**
KS	2,450	2,310	94	500	540	108	420	355	85	20	15	75
NE	2,220	2,140	96	500	540	108	320	320	100	10	10	100
NM	143	133	93	21	17	81	16	13	81	4	2	50
OK	355	325	92	71	72	101	59	56	95	2	1	50
SD	170	180	106	50	43	86	34	37	109	1	1	100
TX	2,930	2,840	97	495	590	119	510	480	94	15	10	67
WA	171	154	90	37	36	97	23	29	126	1	1	100
Oth Sts	300	335	112	60	86	143	39	55	141	1	1	100
US	11,385	10,967	96	2,227	2,425	109	1,760	1,706	97	68	54	79

[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.

Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

High-speed Internet access methods, such as DSL, cable, satellite, and wireless, have become much more available to Internet users in the farm sector since 2005. The proportion of operators using DSL doubled in 2007, at 27 percent, compared with the 2005 level of 13 percent. Cable, satellite, and wireless were each reported as the primary access methods on 7 percent of those U.S. farms with Internet access; with satellite and wireless methods both at virtually double their 2005 levels. Dialup was again the most common method of accessing the Internet, with nearly half (47 percent) of U.S. farms still using it, down from 69 percent in 2005.

A total of 55 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared with 51 percent in 2005. Sixty-three percent of farms have access to a computer in 2007, compared with the 2005 level of 59 percent. The proportion of U.S. farms owning or leasing a computer in 2007, at 59 percent, is up slightly from 55 percent in 2005. Farms using computers for their farm business increased 3 percentage points from 2005 to 35 percent in 2007.

In 2007, 80 percent of U.S. farms with sales and government payments of $250,000 or more have access to a computer, 78 percent own or lease a computer, 66 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 75 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between $100,000 and $249,999, the figures are: 70 percent have access to a computer, 66 percent own or lease a computer, 51 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 61 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between $10,000 and $99,999, 62 percent reported having computer access, 57 percent own or lease a computer, 36 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 53 percent have Internet access.

Farm Computer Usage

State	Farms with Computer Access			Farms that Own or Lease Computers			Farms Using Computer for Farm Business			Farms with Internet Access		
	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007	2003	2005	2007
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
IA	63	64	66	59	61	64	40	42	42	49	55	56
IL	63	64	64	59	60	61	39	40	40	53	56	55
MN	64	65	71	60	60	68	34	35	38	52	56	64
MO	56	55	56	51	50	54	30	30	29	48	45	50
NE	61	65	66	59	62	62	38	41	44	48	52	55
SD	61	66	65	54	62	60	33	40	40	45	55	55
U.S.	58	59	63	54	55	59	30	32	35	48	51	55

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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ECONOMIST CORNER

Livestock by Shane Ellis and Grains by Robert Wisner
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Grain: News from USDA's U.S. and World Grain Supply-Demand Reports should be at least slightly supportive to corn and soybean prices into early winter. While corn supplies are indicated to be slightly more adequate than thought last month, the grain trade had been expecting a larger crop than is shown by official forecasts. U.S. soybean supplies in the next 10 months will be much tighter than in recent years. In contrast, U.S. corn supplies appear almost certain to be more than adequate for the year ahead. However, corn prices will be supported into spring by extremely tight global wheat supplies and tightening soybean supplies. Tightness in wheat supplies has been caused by U.S. and foreign weather problems, but tightness in soybeans is being caused by the 15% reduction in soybean acreage in 2007 as farmers shifted land from beans to corn. Both the wheat and soybean markets are attempting to buy acres back from corn for the 2008 production season. Reduced corn plantings next year and increased corn processing for ethanol are expected to tighten 2008-09 corn supplies. Very high wheat prices are shifting foreign feed wheat demand to export demand for U.S. corn.

Livestock: Hog market prices will be lower in the fourth quarter of this year and into the first quarter of 2008. A major portion of the price decline is the result of a record number of finished hogs coming to slaughter. Hog slaughter in the first four weeks of October was up 7.2 percent from a year ago, a trend that is expected to continue into the holiday season. Thus far, slaughter capacity has been able to keep up with the tide of hogs reaching finish weight. Although any backlogs of hogs have been minimal, this has produced the expected downward pressure on hog prices. Producers should consider their market risk management alternatives, particularly put options and livestock insurance produces, from now into the first quarter of next year. Current indications are that farrow to finish breakeven costs will exceed market sale values for the next four to five months. This will be the first significant period of red ink in almost 4 years.

Cattle placements in feedlots are again following the more traditional pattern. Last year drought conditions in the Southern Plains sent feeder cattle to the feedlot earlier and at a lighter weight. This year grazing conditions in key cow-calf states are much better and feed costs are significantly higher. Cow-calf and stocker cattle prodders have been able to hold their animals on pasture longer, while feedlots are showing more interest in heavier yearling cattle. September cattle placements for the weight groups of 700-799 lbs and 800 lbs plus were up 27% and 15%, respectively. Currently there are fewer cattle on feed than a year ago, a fact that may help the beef market remain above last year's prices and well above the six year average. Boxed beef prices, on the other hand, are softening with the increased supply of competing meats, pork and poultry.

Average Prices Received
By Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA Oct [1] 2006	IOWA Sep [1] 2007	IOWA Oct [2] 2007	U.S. Sep [1] 2007	U.S. Oct [2] 2007
		---Dollars---				
Corn	Bu	2.42	3.23	3.25	3.29	3.29
Oats	Bu	1.76	2.62	2.45	2.47	2.35
Soybeans	Bu	5.49	8.23	8.65	8.18	8.58
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	83.00	111.00	99.00	135.00	137.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	82.00	107.00	95.00	132.00	133.00
All Hogs	Cwt	48.30	48.40	44.50	46.60	42.60
Sows	Cwt	38.00	37.00	29.50	36.90	28.60
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	48.50	48.50	45.00	47.00	43.30
Beef Cattle	Cwt	86.80	91.80	88.70	92.90	90.80
Cows	Cwt	48.50	51.40	48.00	49.10	46.80
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	87.60	92.60	89.50	98.10	96.70
Calves	Cwt	115.00	128.00	120.00	127.00	125.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	1,640.00	-	1,970.00	-	2,020.00
Milk (whls)	Cwt	14.00	21.60	21.20	21.70	21.20
Sheep	Cwt	40.90	31.80	-	26.20	-
Lambs	Cwt	91.50	101.00	-	99.10	-
Eggs (mkt)	Doz	0.322	0.918	0.753	0.960	0.803

[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 Oct 2006	IOWA Sep 2007	IOWA Oct [1] 2007	UNITED STATES Oct 2006	UNITED STATES Sep 2007	UNITED STATES Oct [1] 2007
	1990-92=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	115	141	142
Crops	104	145	149	114	142	149
Oil Bearing	99	148	155	95	132	147
Feed Grains	108	144	144	116	151	149
Lvstk	104	117	111	116	139	132
Meat Anim	106	108	101	118	121	118
Poult & Eggs	79	168	168	123	155	141
	1910-14=100 [3]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	729	893	901
Crops	-	-	-	560	700	736
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	822	720	803
Feed Grains	-	-	-	416	542	533
Lvstk	-	-	-	892	1,067	1,013
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,197	1,230	1,203
Poult & Eggs	-	-	-	345	436	396

[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	Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2007	Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2007
	1990-92=100			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid [1]	148	159	159	1,972	2,115	2,117
Feed	125	151	152	609	736	742
Fertilizer	170	214	212	623	485	777
Fuels	219	270	279	1,693	2,084	2,155
Chemicals	129	130	129	797	805	799
Lvstk/Poultry	133	135	133	1,694	1,721	1,700
Ratio [2]	78	89	89	-	-	-
Parity Ratio [3]	-	-	-	37	42	43

[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 Up 5.6 Percent

Milk production in Iowa in September totaled 342 million pounds, up 5.6 percent from September 2006. The average number of milk cows, 215,000 head, was 7,000 head higher than September 2006. Production per cow averaged 1,590 pounds, up 30 pounds from last year.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, September 2006-2007

State	Milk Cows [1]		Milk Per Cow [2]		Milk Production [2]		
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	Change from 2006
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Percent*
IL	103	103	1,485	1,440	153	148	-3.3
IN	165	166	1,595	1,635	263	271	3.0
IA	**208**	**215**	**1,560**	**1,590**	**324**	**342**	**5.6**
KS	113	108	1,630	1,665	184	180	-2.2
MI	320	340	1,800	1,830	576	622	8.0
MN	450	463	1,470	1,470	662	681	2.9
MO	115	109	1,180	1,140	136	124	-8.8
OH	274	277	1,430	1,440	392	399	1.8
WI	1,244	1,248	1,520	1,565	1,891	1,953	3.3
23-State Total [3]	8,251	8,342	1,613	1,644	13,307	13,715	3.1

[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.

Egg Production up from Last Year

Egg production in Iowa for September 2007 was 1.16 billion eggs, up 3.9 percent from September 2006. The total number of layers on hand during September 2007 was 52.3 million, up from 51.4 million layers in September 2006. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of September was 2,222, up from 2,178 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, September 2006 and 2007 [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		Egg production by type: Table eggs [3]		Egg production by type: Hatching eggs [3]	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Number*	*Number*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*
IN	23,670	23,460	24,373	24,127	2,220	2,205	541	532	529	520	12	12
IA	50,630	51,405	51,370	52,346	2,178	2,222	1,119	1,163	1,107	1,148	12	15
MN	10,373	9,870	10,838	10,334	2,178	2,235	236	231	228	223	8	8
NE	11,481	10,526	11,556	10,601	2,241	2,302	259	244	259	244	0	0
NC	3,576	4,731	11,157	12,324	1,954	2,053	218	253	85	113	133	140
OH	27,479	25,479	28,003	26,055	2,196	2,226	615	580				
29 Sts[4]	264,915	260,077	319,582	316,526	2,168	2,168	6,930	6,863	6,001	5,896	929	967
US	280,547	275,202	343,147	339,841	2,165	2,169	7,430	7,370	6,379	6,273	1,051	1,097

[1] 2007 preliminary, 2006 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 those listed as well as AL, CO, CT, FL, HI, IL, ME, MD, MI, MS, MO, NY, OR, SC, SD, VA, WA, and WI.

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