Agri-News

USDA – National Agricultural Statistical Service
Iowa Field Office

210 Walnut, Room 833 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2195
515-284-4340 • 1-800-772-0825 • FAX 515-284-4342 • nass-ia@nass.usda.gov

To access NASS reports - http://www.usda.gov/nass/

Issued April 10, 2009 Vol 09-05

Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 1,340,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on March 1, 2009, up 1 percent from February 1, 2009, but down 1 percent from March 1, 2008. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 520,000 head on feed, up from 4 percent from last month but down 9 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 820,000 head on feed, up 1 percent from last month and up 3 percent from last year.

Placements during February totaled 134,000 head, down 14 percent from last month and 12 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 62,000 head, down 23 percent from last month but unchanged from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 72,000 head. This is down 4 percent from last month and 21 percent from last year.

Marketings for February were 120,000 head, down 1 percent from last month and down 19 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 61,000 head, up 3 percent from last month but down 12 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 59,000 head, down 5 percent from last month and down 25 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 4,000 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 11.2 million head on March 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below March 1, 2008.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million, 3 percent below 2008. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 538,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 435,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million, 5 percent below 2008.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 during February, 7 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

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, February 1, 2009	520	810	1,330
February Placements	62	72	134
February Marketings	61	59	120
February Other Disappearance	1	3	4
Cattle on Feed, March 1, 2009	520	820	1,340

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

State	Cattle on Feed March 1			Placements during February			Marketings during February			February Disappearance other than Slaughter [2]		
	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08
	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	377	342	91	36	26	72	30	32	107	2	1	50
CA	545	460	84	60	36	60	63	54	86	7	2	29
CO	1,050	1,040	99	155	190	123	190	165	87	5	5	100
ID	235	215	91	39	38	97	38	37	97	1	1	100
IA	**560**	**520**	**93**	**62**	**62**	**100**	**69**	**61**	**88**	**3**	**1**	**33**
KS	2,410	2,290	95	390	420	108	400	375	94	10	15	150
NE	2,490	2,330	94	350	310	89	360	370	103	10	10	100
NM	160	148	93	15	9	60	14	18	129	1	1	100
OK	350	330	94	45	51	113	48	49	102	2	2	100
SD	235	225	96	47	43	91	40	39	98	2	4	200
TX	2,920	2,820	97	440	430	98	440	410	93	10	10	100
WA	151	153	101	30	28	93	30	25	83	2	1	50
Oth Sts	370	355	96	54	35	65	54	47	87	5	3	60
US	11,853	11,228	95	1,723	1,678	97	1,776	1,682	95	60	56	93

[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.

Hogs & Pigs Inventory

Iowa: On March 1, there were 19.3 million hogs and pigs on Iowa farms. The March 1 inventory was up 1 percent from a year ago, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2008.

The December 2008-February 2009 pig crop was 4.70 million head. A total of 490,000 sows farrowed with an average litter size of 9.60 pigs per sow.

As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 490,000 head of sows and gilts in the March-May 2009 quarter. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 2009 period were estimated at 480,000 as of March 1, 2009.

United States: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2009 was 65.4 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2008 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2008.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.4 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2008-February 2009 pig crop, at 28.2 million head, was down 1 percent from 2008 but up 7 percent from 2007. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.98 million head, down 3 percent from 2008 but up 3 percent from 2007. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.48 for the December 2008-February 2009 period, compared to 9.24 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.50 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.96 million sows farrow during the March-May 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 and down 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for June-August 2009, at 2.95 million sows, are down 4 percent from 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 45 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 40 percent last year.

Hogs and Pigs: Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory By Selected States and United States, March 1, 2008-2009 [1]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08	2008	2009	'09 as % of '08
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*
IL	490	480	98	3,960	3,770	95	4,450	4,250	96
IA	**1,080**	**1,040**	**96**	**18,020**	**18,260**	**101**	**19,100**	**19,300**	**101**
MN	590	580	98	6,910	6,720	97	7,500	7,300	97
MO	380	365	96	2,720	2,585	95	3,100	2,950	95
NE	370	375	101	2,930	2,775	95	3,300	3,150	95
NC	1,010	980	97	9,090	8,420	93	10,100	9,400	93
US	6,200	6,011	97	61,018	59,378	97	67,218	65,389	97

[1] May not add due to rounding.

Market Hogs and Pigs: Inventory Number by Weight Group, Selected States, and United States, March 1, 2008-2009 [1]

State	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs.		120-179 lbs.		180 lbs. and over	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*
IL	1,440	1,440	900	930	900	790	720	610
IA	**5,450**	**5,150**	**4,680**	**5,030**	**4,440**	**4,690**	**3,450**	**3,390**
MN	2,690	2,620	1,650	1,620	1,460	1,430	1,110	1,050
MO	1,245	1,250	520	460	530	475	425	400
NE	1,080	1,030	760	700	660	610	430	435
NC	3,580	3,400	2,100	1,800	1,890	1,750	1,520	1,470
US	22,137	21,458	14,490	14,126	13,193	12,862	11,199	10,932

[1] Weight groups may not add to Market due to rounding.

ECONOMIST CORNER

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

Cattle on feed numbers continue to be lower, down 5.3 percent in the March USDA report. Such a dramatic change in the potential supply of fed beef would usually have a bullish impact on fed cattle prices, but the weakness in demand for high end beef cuts and finished beef continues to sap the strength of any rally in the cattle market. Consumers continue to side with lower cost protein sources such as pork and poultry. Expect some live cattle price recovery during April and through May, but a dramatic price rally is not likely. Cattle feeders are in need of a break from the three digit losses they have experienced for the past two quarters. Although some relief will come, a full recovery and return to profitability may not happen until fall or winter.

March US swine inventories were down 2.7 percent nationally, but in Iowa swine numbers were up 1 percent due to a 1.3 percent increase in market hog numbers. Retraction in the industry continues as sow numbers fell 3 percent nationally. The year over year retraction will continue through the year. The losses experienced by pork producers in the last four months have been some of the largest seen in the past decade. A combination of record hog supplies and declining demand in foreign markets drove down prices and increased cold storage stocks. Despite continued strength in the domestic pork market, supplies were great enough to drive down prices, and in turn drive down production.

The futures markets responded favorably to the USDA planting projection and stock reports. The new information in the reports, combined with higher stock prices and a drop in the U.S. dollar, led to immediate increase in the commodity markets. Both corn and soybeans saw double-digit gains on the day. And the funds joined in the market rally. The drought situation in South American is still providing support for prices in the near term as producers there begin to work through their harvest and see how widespread and significant drought damage is in their crops. The farmer strike in Argentina has ended, but there is no agreement between farmers and the Argentine government in their dispute over export taxes.

Agricultural fundamentals were the major market maker after the reports. But in the days ahead, the general economy will continue to lead the agricultural markets. One key question as we look forward to the 2009 crop is when will the general economy turn around. At the Ag Outlook conference in February, USDA put out unofficial season-average price estimates for 2009, $3.60 for corn and $8.00 for soybeans. Based on the futures prices at the end of March, the trade is pointing to 2009 season-average prices around $4.10 for corn and $8.50 for soybeans. Does the trade see a light at the end of the tunnel?

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA Mar [1] 2008	IOWA Feb [1] 2009	IOWA Mar [2] 2009	U.S. Feb [1] 2009	U.S. Mar [2] 2009
		--------------Dollars--------------				
Corn	Bu	4.61	3.97	4.00	3.87	3.96
Oats	Bu	3.70	2.78	2.80	2.76	2.11
Soybeans	Bu	11.10	9.48	9.10	9.55	9.13
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	130.00	132.00	122.00	143.00	137.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	126.00	124.00	116.00	132.00	129.00
Hogs, all	Cwt	42.10	44.40	44.90	43.90	44.20
Sows	Cwt	21.80	41.20	39.00	43.40	42.00
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	42.50	44.50	45.00	43.90	44.30
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.20	83.30	82.80	78.80	78.50
Cows	Cwt	53.00	46.50	47.00	43.90	44.00
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	92.00	84.00	83.50	83.80	83.50
Calves	Cwt	111.00	101.00	101.00	105.00	104.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	-	-	-	-	-
Milk (whls)	Cwt	18.20	12.10	11.50	11.60	11.50
Sheep	Cwt	30.20	27.00	-	31.90	-
Lambs	Cwt	89.00	95.50	-	100.00	-
Eggs (mkt)	Doz	1.250	0.605	0.600	0.639	0.643

[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 Mar 2008	IOWA Feb 2009	IOWA Mar [1] 2009	UNITED STATES Mar 2008	UNITED STATES Feb 2009	UNITED STATES Mar [1] 2009
	1990-92=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	158	137	136	146	126	126
Crops	202	174	172	167	146	147
Oil Bearing	199	170	163	205	173	164
Feed Grains	204	176	177	200	170	172
Lvstk	113	100	100	129	109	108
Meat Anim	99	99	99	112	105	104
Poult & Eggs	254	123	122	159	141	137
	1910-14=100 [3]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	928	797	798
Crops	-	-	-	828	721	730
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	1,125	947	900
Feed Grains	-	-	-	713	605	614
Lvstk	-	-	-	991	836	827
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,143	1,066	1,061
Poult & Eggs	-	-	-	445	395	384

[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	Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009	Mar 2008	Feb 2009	Mar 2009
	1990-92=100			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid [1]	174	174	174	2,322	2,321	2,316
Feed	183	166	166	891	811	809
Fertilizer	315	324	315	1,155	1,186	1,156
Fuels	349	196	187	2,690	1,513	1,439
Chemicals	134	153	160	827	945	989
Lvstk/Poultry	125	118	117	1,595	1,509	1,492
Ratio [2]	84	72	72	-	-	-
Parity Ratio [3]	-	-	-	40	34	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 February 2009 totaled 333 million pounds, down 3.8 percent from February 2008. The average number of milk cows, 215,000 head, was down from 216,000 head in February2008. Production per cow averaged 1,550 pounds, down 50 pounds from last year.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, February 2008-2009

State	Milk Cows [1]		Milk Per Cow [2]		Milk Production [2]		
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	Change from 2008
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Million Pounds*	*Percent*
IL	102	102	1,515	1,510	155	154	-0.6
IN	167	167	1,600	1,560	267	261	-2.2
IA	**216**	**215**	**1,600**	**1,550**	**346**	**333**	**-3.8**
KS	115	124	1,645	1,615	189	200	5.8
MI	344	354	1,760	1,695	605	600	-0.8
MN	463	468	1,520	1,490	704	697	-1.0
MO	110	107	1,170	1,150	129	123	-4.7
OH	280	277	1,445	1,445	405	400	-1.2
UT							
WI	1,250	1,255	1,545	1,500	1,931	1,883	-2.5
23-State Total [3]	8,457	8,488	1,656	1,608	14,007	13,650	-2.5

[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 February 2009 was 1.10 billion eggs, down slightly from February 2008. The total number of layers on hand during February 2009 was 53.8 million, up from 53.6 million layers in February 2008. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of February was 2,051, down from 2,068 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, February 2008 and 2009 [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]	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Number*	*Number*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*	*Million eggs*
IN	23,751	23,655	24,474	24,399	2,112	2,029	517	495	505	483	12	12
IA	**52,651**	**52,898**	**53,624**	**53,839**	**2,068**	**2,051**	**1,109**	**1,104**	**1,094**	**1,090**	**15**	**14**
MN	9,726	9,677	10,199	10,176	2,167	2,113	221	215	213	207	8	8
NE	9,904	9,623	9,954	9,673	2,230	2,161	222	209	222	209	0	0
NC	4,830	5,279	12,717	12,454	1,942	1,951	247	243	113	123	134	120
OH	25,587	26,856	26,040	27,300	2,093	2,018	545	551				
29 Sts[4]	262,979	263,973	319,452	317,316	2,074	2,027	6,627	6,432	5,682	5,570	945	861
US	278,021	278,876	343,299	340,752	2,072	2,023	7,114	6,893	6,034	5,907	1,080	985

[1] 2009 preliminary, 2008 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.

AGRI NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY USDA NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IOWA FIELS OFFICE, 210 WALNUT ST. RM 833, DES MOINES IA 50309. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO AGRI-NEWS, C/O SD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS, PO BOX 5068 SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117.

PRESRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38