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Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 842,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on March 1, 2008, down 1 percent from February 1, 2008, and down 3 percent from March 1, 2007. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 560,000 head on feed, down 2 percent from last month but up 6 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 282,000 head on feed, down 1 percent from last month, and down 16 percent from last year.

Placements during February totaled 86,000 head, a decrease of 16 percent from last month but up 10 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 62,000 head, down 14 percent from last month and 3 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 24,000 head. This is down 20 percent from last month but up 71 percent from last year.

Marketings for February were 93,000 head, down 8 percent from last month and 3 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 69,000 head, unchanged from last month but up 10 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 24,000 head, down 25 percent from last month and down 27 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 5,000 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 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 533,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 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, February 1, 2008	570	284	854
February Placements	62	24	86
February Marketings	69	24	93
February Other Disappearance	3	2	5
Cattle on Feed, March 1, 2008	560	282	842

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]		
	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	329	377	115	24	36	150	28	30	107	1	2	200
CA	530	545	103	60	60	100	67	63	94	3	7	233
CO	1,010	1,050	104	140	155	111	160	190	119	10	5	50
ID	250	235	94	39	39	100	43	38	88	1	1	100
IA	**530**	**560**	**106**	**64**	**62**	**97**	**63**	**69**	**110**	**1**	**3**	**300**
KS	2,420	2,410	100	395	390	99	380	400	105	25	10	40
NE	2,510	2,490	99	360	350	97	380	360	95	10	10	100
NM	130	160	123	14	15	107	18	14	78	1	1	100
OK	350	350	100	59	45	76	58	48	83	1	2	200
SD	230	235	102	43	47	109	41	40	98	2	2	100
TX	2,790	2,920	105	390	440	113	385	440	114	15	10	67
WA	170	151	89	25	30	120	31	30	97	1	2	200
Oth Sts	350	370	106	46	54	117	57	54	95	4	5	125
US	11,599	11,853	102	1,659	1,723	104	1,711	1,776	104	75	60	80

[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 18.7 million hogs and pigs on Iowa farms. The March 1 inventory was up 1.8 million from a year ago.

The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop was 4.58 million head. A total of 500,000 sows farrowed with an average litter size of 9.15 pigs per sow.

As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 490,000 head of sows and gilts in the March-May 2008 quarter. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 2008 period were estimated at 490,000 as of March 1, 2008.

United States: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007.

Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

Hogs and Pigs: Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory
By Selected States and United States, March 1, 2007-2008 [1]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	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*
IL	440	450	102	3,660	3,850	105	4,100	4,300	105
IA	**1,090**	**1,100**	**101**	**15,810**	**17,600**	**111**	**16,900**	**18,700**	**111**
MN	600	590	98	6,300	6,710	107	6,900	7,300	106
MO	365	380	104	2,485	2,670	107	2,850	3,050	107
NE	360	360	100	2,740	2,840	104	3,100	3,200	103
NC	1,030	1,020	99	8,370	8,980	107	9,400	10,000	106
US	6,110	6,138	100	55,749	59,770	107	61,860	65,909	107

[1] May not add due to rounding.

Market Hogs and Pigs: Inventory Number by Weight Group,
Selected States, and United States, March 1, 2007-2008 [1]

State	Under 60 lbs.		60-119 lbs.		120-179 lbs.		180 lbs. and over	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	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	1,310	1,390	890	920	790	830	670	710
IA	**4,650**	**5,420**	**4,210**	**4,600**	**3,780**	**4,130**	**3,170**	**3,450**
MN	2,400	2,640	1,540	1,610	1,330	1,360	1,030	1,100
MO	1,160	1,240	485	495	500	510	340	425
NE	1,050	1,040	730	770	530	600	430	430
NC	3,430	3,570	1,850	2,070	1,670	1,820	1,420	1,520
US	20,381	21,897	13,356	14,291	11,679	12,443	10,334	11,140

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

ECONOMIST CORNER

By John Lawrence, Shane Ellis, and Steve Johnson
Iowa Cooperative Extension Service – Ames

Hog producers are expected to continue in red ink for the remainder of 2008. The March Hogs and Pigs report estimated approximately 7% more market hogs than a year ago. This increase will keep weekly slaughter levels at 2.1 million head through the third quarter. Fourth quarter supplies will have a smaller year-over-year increase but will be over 2.3 million head for most of the quarter. Supplies are forecast to moderate in the first quarter of 2009. Domestic and export demand should be supportive of prices. Iowa barrow and gilt quarterly average prices are forecast to be in the low to mid $40s for the next year and losses will be significant.

Cattle feeders are also losing money at current prices. Seasonally, we expect prices to be higher in the spring and move lower through the summer. It now appears that the highest prices of the first six months of 2008 occurred in early January. Futures prices are higher in the second half of the year than the first half indicating some optimism. March cattle on feed inventories were higher than the year before as are recent carcass weights. There is concern that the large supplies of beef and pork will pressure beef prices through the summer and beyond. While a late spring rally is possible, fed cattle prices are expected to weaken into summer before recovering in early fall.

Planting intentions for this year appear to have shifted what they were a year ago. Iowa's corn planting intentions are at 13.2 million acres, down about 7% or 1 million acres from 2007. Nationally corn plantings are expected to be down nearly 8%. While corn acres are on the decrease soybean and wheat acreage will increase by about 18% and 6% respectively. Record high corn prices combined with the sustaining support of ethanol production has still kept corn acreage at historically high levels. Globally all grain prices are higher.

In Iowa the soybean-to-corn price ratio has averaged 2.31 over the past 34 years. The 2007 ratio declined to 1.95 to buy additional corn acres. The 2008 ratio climbed above 2.31 in order to buy soybean acres. Following the March 31st Report, this ratio is below 1.9 in an attempt to buy more planted corn acres nationwide. Expect the report to trigger an increase in corn acres, especially on well-drained productive land that was tilled last fall.

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA Mar [1] 2007	IOWA Feb [1] 2008	IOWA Mar [2] 2008	U.S. Feb [1] 2008	U.S. Mar [2] 2008
		--------------Dollars--------------				
Corn	Bu	3.34	4.50	4.75	4.53	4.83
Oats	Bu	2.72	3.98	3.50	3.20	3.38
Soybeans	Bu	6.89	11.80	12.00	11.70	11.90
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	104.00	121.00	130.00	138.00	143.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	101.00	115.00	123.00	133.00	139.00
Hogs, all	Cwt	46.30	43.20	42.60	42.20	41.20
Sows	Cwt	31.50	23.00	25.00	22.90	25.10
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	46.60	44.00	43.00	43.20	41.90
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.40	92.70	91.10	89.00	88.70
Cows	Cwt	48.70	52.00	53.50	51.40	52.20
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	94.30	93.50	91.90	94.20	93.80
Calves	Cwt	114.00	112.00	111.00	120.00	120.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	-	-	-	-	-
Milk (whls)	Cwt	15.90	19.40	18.00	19.10	18.30
Sheep	Cwt	32.00	30.50	-	29.90	-
Lambs	Cwt	89.00	88.50	-	96.80	-
Eggs (mkt)	Doz	0.650	1.180	1.250	1.220	1.300

[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 2007	IOWA Feb 2008	IOWA Mar [1] 2008	UNITED STATES Mar 2007	UNITED STATES Feb 2008	UNITED STATES Mar [1] 2008
	1990-92=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	125	195	155	133	147	150
Crops	141	177	195	142	163	171
Oil Bearing	122	179	206	125	210	214
Feed Grains	153	176	188	151	194	206
Lvstk	109	212	116	125	133	133
Meat Anim	108	98	102	118	115	114
Poult & Eggs	119	239	241	148	163	170
	1910-14=100 [3]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	843	931	953
Crops	-	-	-	700	804	842
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	683	1,147	1,169
Feed Grains	-	-	-	540	693	737
Lvstk	-	-	-	962	1,019	1,020
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,203	1,169	1,155
Poult & Eggs	-	-	-	415	459	477

[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 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008
	1990-92=100			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid [1]	159	173	176	2,114	2,302	2,341
Feed	150	186	197	731	910	962
Fertilizer	202	259	277	740	950	1,016
Fuels	240	306	338	1,855	2,364	2,609
Chemicals	130	138	139	803	851	861
Lvstk/Poultry	130	127	125	1,662	1,623	1,599
Ratio [2]	84	85	85	-	-	-
Parity Ratio [3]	-	-	-	40	40	41

[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 from Last Year

Milk production in Iowa in February 2008 totaled 346 million pounds, up 1.2 percent from February 2007. The average number of milk cows, 216,000 head, was 5,000 head higher than February 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,600 pounds, down 20 pounds from last year.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, February 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	1,460	1,515	150	155	3.3
IN	165	167	1,580	1,600	261	267	2.3
IA	**211**	**216**	**1,620**	**1,600**	**342**	**346**	**1.2**
KS	110	109	1,510	1,660	166	181	9.0
MI	328	344	1,750	1,760	574	605	5.4
MN	455	463	1,485	1,525	676	706	4.4
MO	115	110	1,180	1,170	136	129	-5.1
OH	275	279	1,380	1,440	380	402	5.8
WI	1,246	1,250	1,470	1,530	1,832	1,913	4.4
23-State Total [3]	8,286	8,422	1,584	1,653	13,125	13,919	6.0

[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 February 2008 was 1.12 billion eggs, up 10 percent from February 2007. The total number of layers on hand during February 2008 was 53.6 million, up from 51.7 million layers in February 2007. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of February was 2,081, up from 1,959 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, February 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	24,419	23,751	25,114	24,474	2,015	2,112	506	517	494	505	12	12
IA	50,764	52,598	51,672	53,570	1,959	2,081	1,012	1,115	999	1,099	13	16
MN	10,481	9,726	10,943	10,199	2,047	2,167	224	221	217	213	7	8
NE	11,294	9,904	11,369	9,979	2,102	2,235	239	223	239	223	0	0
NC	4,071	4,830	11,902	12,757	1,815	1,944	216	248	88	114	128	134
OH	26,610	25,587	27,152	26,190	2,059	2,092	559	548				
29 Sts[4]	267,669	262,517	324,557	320,172	1,995	2,077	6,474	6,651	5,581	5,701	893	950
US	283,763	277,480	348,843	343,366	1,993	2,075	6,951	7,125	5,943	6,053	1,008	1,072

[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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