Agri-News

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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
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Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 1,395,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on March 1, 2010, down 1 percent from February 1, 2010, but up 4 percent from March 1, 2009. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 600,000 head on feed, unchanged from last month, but up 15 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 795,000 head on feed, down 1 percent from last month and down 3 percent from last year.

Placements during February totaled 140,000 head, down 28 percent from last month, but up 4 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 69,000 head, down 27 percent from last month, but up 11 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 71,000 head. This is down 29 percent from last month and down 1 percent from last year.

Marketings for February were 144,000 head, up 1 percent from last month and up 20 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 66,000 head, up 6 percent from last month and up 8 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 78,000 head, down 2 percent from last month, but up 32 percent from last year. Other disappearance totaled 6,000 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 10.9 million head on March 1, 2010. The inventory was 3 percent below March 1, 2009.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.67 million, 1 percent below 2009. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 520,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 460,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.72 million, 2 percent above 2009.

Other disappearance totaled 68,000 during February, 21 percent above 2009.

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, 2010	600	805	1,405
February Placements	69	71	140
February Marketings	66	78	144
February Other Disappearance	3	3	6
Cattle on Feed, March 1, 2010	600	795	1,395

Hogs & Pigs Inventory

Iowa: On March 1, 2010 there were 18.9 million hogs and pigs on Iowa farms. The March 1 inventory was down 3 percent from a year ago, and down 2 percent from December 1, 2009.

The December 2009-February 2010 pig crop was 4.63 million head. A total of 475,000 sows farrowed with an average litter size of 9.75 pigs per sow. As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 480,000 head of sows and gilts in the March-May 2010 quarter. Farrowing intentions for the June-August 2010 period were estimated at 480,000 as of March 1, 2010.

United States: U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2010 was 64.0 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2009 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2009. Breeding inventory, at 5.76 million head, was down 4 percent from last year and down 2 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.2 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2009-February 2010 pig crop, at 27.9 million head, was down 2 percent from 2009 and down 2 percent from 2008. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, down 4 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.61 for the December 2009-February 2010 period, compared to 9.48 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.70 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2010 quarter, down 4 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2009 and down 5 percent from 2008. Intended farrowings for June-August 2010, at 2.89 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 44 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 45 percent last year.

Hogs and Pigs: Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory By Selected States and United States, March 1, 2009-2010

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	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)
Illinois	480	480	100	3,820	3,920	103	4,300	4,400	102
Iowa	**1,040**	**1,010**	**97**	**18,460**	**17,890**	**97**	**19,500**	**18,900**	**97**
Minnesota	580	550	95	6,820	6,650	98	7,400	7,200	97
Missouri	365	355	97	2,585	2,645	102	2,950	3,000	102
Nebraska	385	365	95	2,815	2,635	94	3,200	3,000	94
North Carolina	980	880	90	8,420	8,220	98	9,400	9,100	97
United States	5,992	5,760	96	59,828	58,228	97	65,819	63,988	97

Market Hogs and Pigs: Inventory Number by Weight Group, Selected States, and United States, March 1, 2009-2010

[Data may not add to totals due to rounding]

State	Under 50 lbs.		50-119 lbs.		120-179 lbs.		180 lbs. and over	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Illinois	1,350	1,240	1,100	1,200	770	790	600	690
Iowa	**4,840**	**4,550**	**5,560**	**5,470**	**4,690**	**4,510**	**3,370**	**3,360**
Minnesota	2,460	2,320	1,930	2,010	1,390	1,330	1,040	990
Missouri	1,135	1,180	585	590	465	465	400	410
Nebraska	960	900	820	800	610	560	425	375
North Carolina	3,080	3,070	2,160	1,900	1,710	1,750	1,470	1,500
United States	19,809	19,017	16,426	15,993	12,732	12,477	10,862	10,742

ECONOMIST CORNER

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

Conditions for livestock profitability continue to improve. Cattle prices continue to run significantly higher than a year ago. Declining cattle supplies are helping to support cattle prices which have climbed more than $6/cwt since the end of January. Demand for beef has regained footing in the past two months. A combination of consumer confidence in the economy and steady exports has added steam to the bullish market created by declining beef supplies. The restaurant industry, a primary utilization sector of high quality fed beef, is expecting business to improve for the next six months. March was the best month for the restaurant industry is the past 27 months.

March swine inventories are out and breeding swine now number 5.76 million head, down 3.9 percent from a year ago, and a record low inventory for recent history. Market hog numbers are down 2.7 percent at 58.23 million head, which is still the third largest March inventory, bested by only the previous two years. Based on pig crop and farrowing intentions, pork production will be down 2-3 percent for the last three quarters of 2010. Iowa lean hog prices for the next two quarters are expected to range $74-82. The general trend is for lean hog weights to continue to increase and that will offset some of the reduction in market hog availability. The prospects of tightening hog supplies and growing exports will improve prices and further firm up the prospects of profitability for the duration of the year. In March, two large population markets, mainland China and Russia, both established new pork importation agreements with the US essentially reopening those markets to US pork. While the total impact of these markets reopening will not be world altering, it will create additional demand. In 2008, the last time China was a significant customer of US pork it accounted for 6 percent of US exports and consumed 1 percent of the US production that year.

At the end of March, USDA released its *Grain Stocks* and *Prospective Plantings* reports. Last year, these reports spurred prices higher in the corn and soybean markets. This year, the early reaction has been negative. Crop stock levels were at or above trade expectations for corn, soybeans, and wheat. Crop acreage estimates were also lower than trade expectations for corn and soybeans, with wheat acreage coming in slightly above expectations. The higher than expected stocks pressured old crop futures, while the increased acreage numbers and the current favorable weather pressured new crop futures. Any sort of weather premium has been minimized in the market for now. Nearby prices were off 9 cents for corn and over 30 cents for soybeans. New crop futures were down 6 to 8 cents for both crops. Looking forward, we could see a weather premium build back in if rainfall increases across the Corn Belt. Remember the soggy planting problems of 2008 and 2009 were brought on by springtime rainfall, not a large snowpack like we had this year. And with subsoil moisture being more than adequate across most of the major corn and soybean lands, it would not take much additional moisture to have an impact on planting. But for right now, the market is dealing with information pointing to supply growth outpacing demand growth. Last year's record U.S. corn and soybean crops, the projected record South American soybean harvest, and the outlook for big crops again in 2010 are weighing down on prices. At the Ag Outlook conference in February, USDA put out unofficial season-average price estimates for 2010, $3.60 for corn and $8.80 for soybeans. At the time, futures prices pointed to 2010 season-average prices around $3.80 for corn and $8.95 for soybeans. Following the March reports, futures prices are pointing to 2010 season-average prices around $3.61 for corn and $8.85 for soybeans.

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	IOWA			U.S.	
	March 2009[1]	February 2010[1]	March 2010[2]	February 2010[1]	March 2010[2]
	--------------Dollars--------------				
Corn .... Bu	3.98	3.66	3.50	3.55	3.49
Oats .... Bu	3.07	2.48	2.00	2.28	2.12
Soybeans .... Bu	9.05	9.30	9.10	9.41	9.16
Alfalfa, baled ... Ton	122.00	128.00	132.00	111.00	111.00
All Hay, baled .. Ton	117.00	119.00	126.00	107.00	108.00
Hogs, all .... Cwt	44.70	49.00	53.00	48.80	52.80
Sows .... Cwt	39.00	48.50	51.00	48.90	51.30
Brw & Gilts ...... Cwt	44.80	49.00	53.00	48.80	52.80
Beef Cattle ...... Cwt	83.80	90.70	92.20	85.50	88.80
Cows .... Cwt	47.00	52.00	53.00	51.60	52.40
Strs & Hfrs .... Cwt	84.50	91.50	93.00	90.50	93.90
Calves .... Cwt	104.00	111.00	112.00	112.00	113.00
Milk Cows [3] .... Hd	-	-	-	-	-
Milk (whls) .... Cwt	12.20	16.40	16.00	15.90	15.10
Sheep .... Cwt	25.00	51.00	-	55.00	-
Lambs .... Cwt	94.50	103.00	-	106.00	-
Eggs (mkt)[4] ..... Doz	0.600	-	-	0.775	1.060

- Represents zero.
[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 January 2010.

Prices Received Index Summary Table

Prices Received	IOWA			UNITED STATES		
	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010[1]	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010[1]
	1990-92=100					
Prices rec'd	138	140	139	126	135	141
Crops	171	164	159	147	147	155
Oil Bearing	162	167	163	164	168	163
Feed Grains	176	163	156	169	153	151
Lvstk	101	110	115	109	123	128
Meat Anim	99	108	114	105	114	119
Dairy Prod.	96	129	125	90	122	116
	1910-14=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	800	855	897
Crops	-	-	-	729	727	770
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	899	921	896
Feed Grains	-	-	-	602	546	537
Lvstk	-	-	-	833	943	980
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,067	1,159	1,210
Dairy Prod.	-	-	-	726	978	929

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

U.S. Prices Paid Index Summary

Prices Paid	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010
	1910-14=100			1990-92=100		
Prices Paid [1]	2,391	2,447	2,448	180	184	184
Feed	903	865	832	185	177	170
Fertilizer	1,173	1,017	1,081	320	278	295
Fuels	1,476	2,130	2,141	191	276	277
Chemicals	931	844	769	151	136	124
Lvstk/Poultry ..	1,515	1,606	1,638	119	126	128
Ratio [2]	-	-	-	70	73	77
Parity Ratio [3] ..	33	35	37	-	-	-

- Represents zero.
[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.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, February 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	1,510	1,530	154	155	0.6
Indiana	167	169	1,560	1,560	261	264	1.1
Iowa	**215**	**213**	**1,550**	**1,575**	**333**	**335**	**0.6**
Kansas	124	116	1,655	1,645	205	191	-6.8
Michigan	354	355	1,700	1,755	602	623	3.5
Minnesota	468	470	1,475	1,490	690	700	1.4
Missouri	107	101	1,150	1,100	123	111	-9.8
Ohio	277	272	1,430	1,500	396	408	3.0
Wisconsin	1,255	1,260	1,505	1,585	1,889	1,997	5.7
23-State Total [3]	8,486	8,318	1,605	1,640	13,624	13,643	0.1

[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.

All Layers and Egg Production, February 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		Total Egg Production		Table Egg Production [1]	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Thousands)	(Number)	(Number)	(Million eggs)	(Million eggs)	(Million eggs)	(Million eggs)
Indiana	23,655	23,074	24,399	23,822	2,029	2,091	495	498	483	485
Iowa	**52,855**	**53,223**	**53,796**	**54,103**	**2,050**	**2,026**	**1,103**	**1,096**	**1,089**	**1,083**
Minnesota	9,677	9,902	10,176	10,383	2,113	2,119	215	220	207	212
Nebraska	9,623	9,329	9,673	9,379	2,161	2,186	209	205	209	205
North Carolina	5,279	6,043	12,454	13,274	1,951	1,876	243	249	123	130
Ohio	26,856	26,634	27,300	27,133	2,018	2,038	551	553		
United States	279,219	276,462	341,068	338,697	2,024	2,038	6,903	6,902	5,917	5,919

[1] Data by type of flock not shown for some states to avoid disclosing individual operations, data included in United States totals. [2] Included in Other States in 2009. [3] Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

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