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 May 8, 2009 Vol 09-07

Cattle on Feed

Iowa: There were 1,320,000 cattle on feed for the slaughter market in all feedlots in Iowa on April 1, 2009, down 1 percent from March 1, 2009, but up 1 percent from April 1, 2008. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head had 520,000 head on feed, up 4 percent from last month but down 9 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head had 800,000 head on feed, down 2 percent from last month but up 5 percent from last year.

Placements during March totaled 126,000 head, down 6 percent from last month but up 13 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head placed 71,000 head, up 15 percent from last month and up 20 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head placed 55,000 head. This is down 24 percent from last month but up 4 percent from last year.

Marketings for March were 142,000 head, up 18 percent from last month but down 9 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head marketed 70,000 head, up 15 percent from last month and up 3 percent from last year. Feedlots with a capacity less than 1,000 head marketed 72,000 head, up 22 percent from last month but down 18 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 April 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below April 1, 2008. The inventory included 6.98 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.12 million head, down 4 percent from 2008.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 4 percent above 2008. Net placements were 1.75 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 300,000, 600-699 pounds were 340,000, 700-799 pounds were 592,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 570,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.83 million, 1 percent below 2008.

Other disappearance totaled 50,000 during March, 21 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of March 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, March 1, 2009	520	820	1,340
March Placements	71	55	126
March Marketings	70	72	142
March Other Disappearance	1	3	4
Cattle on Feed, April 1, 2009	520	800	1,320

All Hay: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, Iowa by County, 2008

County and District	Area Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	*Tons*	*Tons*
Clay	6,200	2.95	18,300
Emmet	3,100	3.25	10,100
Lyon	12,100	4.00	48,600
O'Brien	5,500	3.35	18,400
Plymouth	14,600	3.95	57,800
Sioux	13,900	4.00	55,300
Other counties	33,600	3.40	114,500
Northwest	**89,000**	**3.65**	**323,000**
Butler	8,900	3.80	33,600
Floyd	7,100	3.75	26,500
Franklin	5,500	3.55	19,400
Humboldt	2,800	2.95	8,300
Mitchell	6,800	4.25	28,800
Other counties	23,900	3.55	84,400
North Central	**55,000**	**3.65**	**201,000**
Allamakee	43,200	4.05	175,900
Black Hawk	7,300	3.30	24,100
Bremer	10,100	3.65	36,900
Buchanan	12,500	4.35	54,400
Chickasaw	11,000	4.05	44,300
Clayton	50,500	3.95	199,900
Delaware	24,200	3.90	93,900
Dubuque	49,000	4.00	197,000
Fayette	28,500	4.10	116,800
Howard	12,900	3.70	47,900
Winneshiek	37,800	4.10	155,900
Northeast	**287,000**	**4.00**	**1,147,000**
Audubon	9,700	3.60	35,100
Carroll	11,800	4.10	48,600
Crawford	13,300	4.10	54,400
Greene	6,600	3.60	23,800
Guthrie	21,000	2.85	59,700
Sac	8,400	4.00	33,800
Shelby	9,600	3.90	37,200
Woodbury	13,800	4.10	56,600
Other counties	27,800	3.75	104,800
West Central	**122,000**	**3.70**	**454,000**
Boone	6,400	3.40	21,800
Dallas	8,100	3.25	26,300
Hamilton	3,600	2.60	9,400
Jasper	22,400	3.75	84,300
Marshall	9,300	3.30	30,900
Poweshiek	22,800	3.85	88,300
Tama	17,800	3.85	68,600
Other counties	27,600	3.35	92,400
Central	**118,000**	**3.60**	**422,000**

County and District	Area Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	*Tons*	*Tons*
Benton	13,900	3.70	51,400
Cedar	10,500	3.90	41,000
Clinton	13,900	4.05	56,300
Iowa	20,500	3.50	72,200
Jackson	43,200	3.80	163,800
Johnson	23,100	3.65	84,400
Jones	20,700	3.60	74,900
Linn	16,900	3.65	62,100
Other counties	14,300	4.25	60,900
East Central	**177,000**	**3.75**	**667,000**
Adair	28,500	3.70	106,000
Adams	14,400	3.10	44,700
Cass	16,500	3.50	57,500
Montgomery	11,100	2.90	32,300
Page	17,900	2.75	49,200
Pottawattamie	14,900	3.55	52,900
Taylor	27,300	2.55	69,100
Other counties	11,400	2.85	32,300
Southwest	**142,000**	**3.15**	**444,000**
Appanoose	45,100	2.75	123,900
Clarke	32,800	2.75	90,900
Decatur	35,900	2.55	90,800
Lucas	30,700	2.45	75,300
Madison	26,800	3.40	90,500
Marion	21,800	3.05	67,000
Monroe	37,900	2.75	104,600
Ringgold	37,700	2.65	100,500
Union	29,700	3.05	89,900
Warren	26,200	2.95	77,700
Wayne	34,400	2.70	92,900
South Central	**359,000**	**2.80**	**1,004,000**
Davis	53,200	3.20	170,000
Henry	13,600	3.60	48,900
Jefferson	15,100	3.15	47,600
Keokuk	16,400	3.75	61,600
Lee	16,600	3.30	54,900
Mahaska	12,600	3.85	48,400
Van Buren	25,500	3.00	76,000
Wapello	21,500	3.00	64,000
Washington	13,900	3.65	50,800
Other counties	12,600	3.65	45,800
Southeast	**201,000**	**3.30**	**668,000**
State	**1,550,000**	**3.44**	**5,330,000**

ECONOMIST CORNER

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

The new strain of influenza with the viral characteristics of the "swine flu" has received significant attention from the media, government health officials and the general public. With this being referred to as swine flu there will be some ill-conceived notions that the infection can be contracted from pork. Although this is not possible, the anticipated demand for pork in the short run has been diminished. An illustration of market reaction was the down turn in nearby futures contracts during the last week of April after the virus was discovered in the US. A seasonal increase in hog prices was anticipated with a wide $6 basis spread between the Iowa cash and May futures price on April 24th. One week later that basis spread had narrowed to about a dollar after May futures fell by nearly $12.

Beef may be affected by the direction the pork market and reaction to the "swine flu". Several countries have blocked the importation of all US meats along with pork. While these blocks in trade will likely be short lived, it may push some meat supplies back onto the domestic market impacting all meat prices. For now beef industry is looking forward to the start of the grilling season. Demand for steaks and high end cuts appears to be recovering as beef loins are bring about $7/cwt more than they did a year ago. If consumer confidence continues to improve beef prices will increase on shorter supplies of fed cattle.

USDA's Crop Progress report on April 27 showed a significant jump in Iowa crop plantings in comparison to the previous week and year. Iowa corn plantings jumped to 47 percent, the highest percentage recorded at this time of year since before 1981. Soybean planting is underway as well, with 2 percent planted as of April 26. For the nation, corn planting is 6 percent below the 5-year average pace, but 13 percent ahead of last year.

On April 23rd, California's Air Resources Board adopted a regulation to implement the state's low carbon fuel standard. The regulation establishes greenhouse gas (GHG) performance levels California fuel suppliers must meet, starting in 2011. On the heels of the California decision, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to issue its proposed rules for the federal Renewable Fuels Standard. The federal Renewable Fuels Standard targets 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022, with specific requirements on the GHG emissions for the fuels. With both of these rules, the issue of indirect impacts will receive close scrutiny.

Throughout early 2009, corn export sales pace was significantly behind the average pace. But as of April 23rd, cumulative corn export sales were at 86.5% of the USDA forecast, higher than the 5-year average. Soybean exports also continue to outpace the 5-year average, as over 96% of the USDA forecast as been met. Drought impacts in South America, combined with Chinese demand, have boosted U.S. export prospects. With the latest WASDE report, USDA raised its 08/09 price projections to $4.20/bushel for corn and $9.65/bushel for soybeans. Forward sales by producers during last spring and summer continue to support the prices received by farmers. For 2009, the futures markets are currently projecting $4.00/bushel for corn and roughly $9.00/bushel for soybeans. Weather and planting conditions will be key feature to watch in next weeks.

Average Prices Received by Farmers for Farm Products

Item	Unit	IOWA Apr [1] 2008	IOWA Mar [1] 2009	IOWA Apr [2] 2009	U.S. Mar [1] 2009	U.S. Apr [2] 2009
		Dollars				
Corn	Bu	4.98	3.98	3.95	3.86	3.87
Oats	Bu	3.97	3.07	3.00	2.77	2.16
Soybeans	Bu	11.70	9.05	9.80	9.12	9.89
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	134.00	122.00	117.00	137.00	133.00
All Hay, baled	Ton	131.00	116.00	112.00	129.00	129.00
Hogs, all	Cwt	46.20	44.70	44.60	43.80	43.40
Sows	Cwt	18.00	39.00	38.00	41.60	41.00
Brw & Gilts	Cwt	46.50	44.80	44.70	43.90	43.50
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.10	83.80	86.60	79.00	82.80
Cows	Cwt	52.50	47.00	50.00	44.60	47.50
Strs & Hfrs	Cwt	91.50	84.50	87.00	84.00	87.70
Calves	Cwt	106.00	104.00	106.00	107.00	109.00
Milk Cows [3]	Hd	1,980.00	-	1,400.00	-	1,390.00
Milk (whls)	Cwt	18.30	12.20	12.50	11.80	12.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.50	25.00	-	33.10	-
Lambs	Cwt	90.50	94.50	-	100.00	-
Eggs (mkt)	Doz	0.820	0.600	0.720	0.643	0.771

[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 Apr 2008	IOWA Mar 2009	IOWA Apr [1] 2009	UNITED STATES Apr 2008	UNITED STATES Mar 2009	UNITED STATES Apr [1] 2009
	1990-92=100 [2]					
Prices rec'd	164	136	139	146	126	131
Crops	216	171	175	169	146	155
Oil Bearing	208	162	176	215	164	177
Feed Grains	220	176	175	218	169	169
Lvstk	112	100	103	127	109	112
Meat Anim	105	99	100	114	105	109
Poult & Eggs	167	122	146	148	137	140
	1910-14=100 [3]					
Prices rec'd	-	-	-	926	798	831
Crops	-	-	-	840	726	769
Oil Bearing	-	-	-	1,180	900	972
Feed Grains	-	-	-	778	602	603
Lvstk	-	-	-	977	833	857
Meat Anim	-	-	-	1,157	1,066	1,106
Poult & Eggs	-	-	-	415	385	394

[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	Apr 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009	Apr 2008	Mar 2009	Apr 2009
	1990-92=100			1910-14=100		
Prices Paid [1]	179	178	178	2,386	2,364	2,366
Feed	186	185	182	910	902	887
Fertilizer	344	320	316	1,260	1,173	1,159
Fuels	369	191	201	2,847	1,476	1,549
Chemicals	135	151	154	833	931	950
Lvstk/Poultry	122	119	121	1,562	1,515	1,551
Ratio [2]	82	71	74	-	-	-
Parity Ratio [3]	-	-	-	39	34	35

[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 March 2009 totaled 372 million pounds, down 0.5 percent from March 2008. The average number of milk cows, 215,000 head, was down from 216,000 head in March 2008. Production per cow averaged 1,730 pounds, unchanged from last year.

Milk Cows and Production: By Selected States, March 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	1,640	1,675	167	171	2.4
IN	166	167	1,700	1,750	282	292	3.5
IA	**216**	**215**	**1,730**	**1,730**	**374**	**372**	**-0.5**
KS	115	122	1,790	1,820	206	222	7.8
MI	345	354	1,870	1,890	645	669	3.7
MN	463	468	1,630	1,645	755	770	2.0
MO	110	108	1,300	1,320	143	143	
OH	280	277	1,560	1,590	437	440	0.7
WI	1,251	1,256	1,660	1,685	2,077	2,116	1.9
23-State Total [3]	8,467	8,482	1,788	1,794	15,191	15,164	-0.2

[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 March 2009 was 1.22 billion eggs, up 2.5 percent from March 2008. The total number of layers on hand during March 2009 was 53.9 million, up from 53.4 million layers in March 2008. Eggs per 100 layers for the month of March was 2,272, up from 2,236 eggs the previous year.

All Layers and Egg Production, March 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	23,722	23,507	24,415	24,315	2,306	2,311	563	562	551	547	12	15
IA	**52,416**	**52,936**	**53,390**	**53,883**	**2,236**	**2,272**	**1,194**	**1,224**	**1,177**	**1,208**	**17**	**16**
MN	9,643	9,721	10,108	10,235	2,285	2,374	231	243	223	234	8	9
NE	9,691	9,697	9,741	9,747	2,392	2,360	233	230	233	230	0	0
NC	4,869	5,304	12,666	12,504	2,108	2,127	267	266	121	134	146	132
OH	25,479	26,906	25,930	27,349	2,352	2,300	610	629				
29 Sts[4]	262,238	263,876	318,438	317,169	2,248	2,274	7,160	7,212	6,147	6,258	1,013	954
US	276,989	278,597	342,017	340,451	2,244	2,269	7,675	7,724	6,517	6,632	1,159	1,093

[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 FIELD 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