# Livestock Monitor

## A Newsletter for Extension Staff

## Livestock Marketing Information Center

State Extension Services in Cooperation with the USDA

## Market Indicators . . . February 11, 2022

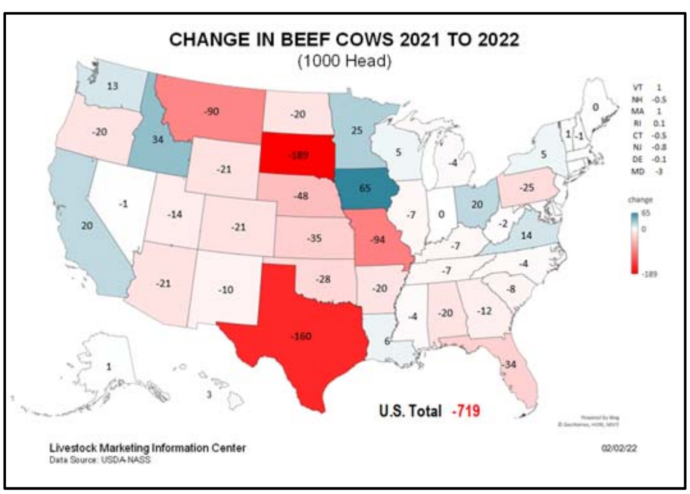
| Production | Last | Year Ago | Prices | Last | Week Ago | Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Week Ending 2/12/2022** | Last | Year Ago | **Weekly Average ($/Cwt)** | Last | Week Ago | Year Ago |
| Fl Cattle Slaughter (Thou Hd) | 659 | 606 | Live Steer | 140.35 | 139.76 | 113.83 |
| Fl Hog Slaughter (Thou Hd) | 2516 | 2643 | Dressed Steer | 224.04 | 221.79 | 180.10 |
| Fl Sheep Slaughter (Thou Hd) | 27 | 37 | Choice Beef Cutout | 276.31 | 284.05 | 233.77 |
| Young Chicken Sltr. (Mil Hd) | 154.7 | 167.9 | USDA Hide/Offal | 13.99 | 13.76 | 9.61 |
| | | | OK City Fdr. Str. (6-7 Cwt.) | 178.41 | 164.16 | 141.81 |
| Slaughter Cattle Live Weight | 1402 | 1399 | | | | |
| Slaughter Hog Live Weight | 294 | 290 | National Negotiated Hogs | 82.75 | 81.63 | 64.59 |
| Slaughter Lamb/Sheep Live Wt. | 131 | 135 | Natl. Net Hog Carcass | 88.06 | 85.17 | 74.00 |
| | | | Feeder Pigs (40 Lbs) ($/Head) | 112.10 | 104.31 | 77.78 |
| Beef Production (Mil Pounds) | 554.3 | 510.1 | Pork Cutout | 102.35 | 95.71 | 86.87 |
| Pork Production (Mil Pounds) | 551.6 | 573.6 | | | | |
| Lamb, Mutton Prod. (Mil Lbs.) | 1.8 | 2.5 | Lamb Cutout | 605.52 | 614.59 | 398.62 |
| | | | | | | |
| **Previous 6 Wk. Moving Avg.** | | | Cheddar, 40 lb Block($/lb) | 1.94 | 2.00 | 1.76 |
| Total Beef (Mil Lbs) | 536.6 | 545.5 | | | | |
| Total Pork (Mil Lbs) | 542.5 | 591.4 | Corn, Omaha ($/Bu) | 6.35 | 6.12 | 5.23 |
| Total Lamb, Mutton (Mil Lbs) | 2.0 | 2.4 | Soybeans, Cntrl IL ($/Bu) | 15.81 | 15.49 | 13.80 |

*Source: Various USDA-AMS reports. Data are preliminary.*

## Trends. . . CATTLE INVENTORY

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the January 1 Cattle Inventory report last week, detailing beef cow herd size and changes at the state level. The U.S. beef cow herd declined 719,000 head from a year ago, and saw substantial changes in key states. Among the largest declines in beef cows were South Dakota, down 189 thousand head; Texas, 160 thousand head smaller, Missouri 94 thousand head lower; and Montana, down 90 thousand head. There were also some surprises in states that gained cow numbers after a year of significant drought: Idaho increased 34 thousand head, Washington up 13 thousand head, and California increased 20 thousand head.

The calf crop for 2021 was reported at 35 million head, down 1.2%, with significant declines in Montana, California, and Florida. Interestingly, inventories of calves under 500 pounds was down significantly more, decreasing 2.6%. Recall, significant weather events in the winter of 2021 that likely led to losses. The calf crop and the under 500-pound calf category on January 1 are usually significantly correlated, but the long term trend is for calves to be weaned at heavier weights skewing more cattle to appear in categories over 500 pounds.




Other highlights from the cattle inventory report include supplies of cattle outside of feedlots shrank by more than 600 thousand head, with concentrated losses through most of the Great Plains states, with Nebraska and Missouri losing more than 100 thousand head each.

The cattle inventory was slightly lower than analyst's expectations on the breeding herd and indicated tighter cattle supplies through smaller numbers of under 500 pounds and those outside of feedlots. This will be supportive of feeder cattle prices in 2022. LMIC revised its cattle price forecasts to reflect tighter feeder cattle supplies in 2022 and smaller production in 2023. LMIC has 2022 annual fed cattle prices $135-137 in the five-state area, 700-800 pound feeders in the Southern Plains $164-166, and 500-600 pound calves $189-193 per cwt.

## SHEEP AND GOAT INVENTORY

At the end of January, USDA NASS released the annual inventory statistics for sheep and lambs as well as goats and kids. All sheep and lamb inventory continued its downward trend falling 2.0% (105,000 head) to 5.065 million head as of January 1, 2022, the lowest on record. Breeding sheep and lambs were 3.710 million head, down 1.9% or 70,000 head from the prior year. Ewes one year and older decreased 20,000 head (less than 1.0%) to 2.960 million. The lower number of ewes led to a 1.6% (50,000 head) decline in the lamb crop from a year ago to 3.160 million head, the lowest on record. Lower lamb crop levels in Montana (-6.5%), Colorado (-5.3%), Texas (-4.1%), and Utah (-2.2%) more than offset increases in California and Wyoming which both rose 4.3%. The lambing percentage for 2021 was 106.8%, down slightly from the prior year's 107.7%.

Total market sheep and lambs fell 35,000 head (2.5%) to 1.355 million head. The last time total market sheep and lambs were lower was 2014 and 2015 when inventory levels were 1.345 million head for both years. Market lambs fell 2.4% to 1.277 million head on declines in the 65-84 (-4.1%), 85-105 (-8.6%), and 105 pounds and over (-1.2%) categories while lambs under 65 pounds rose 2.1% from a year earlier.

The January 1, 2022, all goats and kids inventory was 2.550 million head, down 1.4% or 36,000 head from a year ago. Breeding goat inventories declined 1.3% to 2.093 million head as does and bucks both fell 1.3% and replacement kids were 1.0% lower than a year earlier. The lower breeding inventories led to a 3.3% decrease in the kid crop to 1.301 million head along with a 1.9% decline in all market goats and kids. The meat goats and kids inventory was down less than 1% to 2.030 million head, milk goats declined 2.4% to 410,000 head, and angora goats and kids were down 1.0% to 110,000 head.

## 2021 TRADE DATA

Final trade data for the 2021 calendar year was recently released by USDA which showed both beef and broiler exports posted gains over the prior year while pork exports fell slightly. With the year rounded out, total beef exports were a record at 3.4 billion pounds, a 16.8% increase over 2020. Japan was the top destination at 826.4 million pounds (down 0.1%) followed by South Korea at 785.8 million pounds (up 17.9%). China took third place at 541.1 million pounds with a more than four-fold increase over 2020. Beef imports also posted their highest level in six years with an annual total of 3.3 billion pounds, up marginally (0.2%) from 2020. Canada was the primary source at 942.3 million pounds (up 14.2%) followed by Mexico with 674.8 million pounds (up 3.6%). Shipments from Australia and New Zealand declined 37.7% and 2.4%, respectively, which were partially offset by higher levels from Brazil (up 67.1%) and Nicaragua (up 2.1%).

Pork exports posted the second highest level on record with annual exports at 7.0 billion pounds, a 3.4% decrease from the previous year's record level of nearly 7.3 billion pounds. A 44.4% decline in shipments to China to nearly 1.2 billion pounds were partially offset by higher exports to Mexico (up 31.4%), Japan (up 2.0%), and South Korea (up 5.2%). Mexico easily captured the top destination for pork exports at a record 2.1 billion pounds while exports of 1.2 billion and 511.0 million pounds were shipped to Japan and South Korea, respectively. Pork imports jumped 30.5% to 1.2 billion pounds, the highest level since 2003. Gains in pork imports were seen from Canada (736.6 million up 28.8%), Mexico (104.1 million up 43.1%), Poland (85.4 million up 10.1%), and Denmark (83.0 million up 33.1%).

Lamb imports hit a new record high of 264.2 million pounds in 2021, up 23.7%. Strong shipments were seen from both Australia and New Zealand at 195.6 and 64.4 million pounds, respectively, each up 20.7% and 32.9%. Mutton imports were also a record, up 13.5% to 99.8 million pounds as volumes from Australia and New Zealand rose 11.5% and 22.7%, respectively. Broiler exports reached a record level in 2021 to 7.4 billion pounds, a slight increase over 2020 on gains to Angola (up 25.1%), Mexico (up 2.7%), and the Caribbean (up 58.7%).