



Hawaii Monthly Livestock Review

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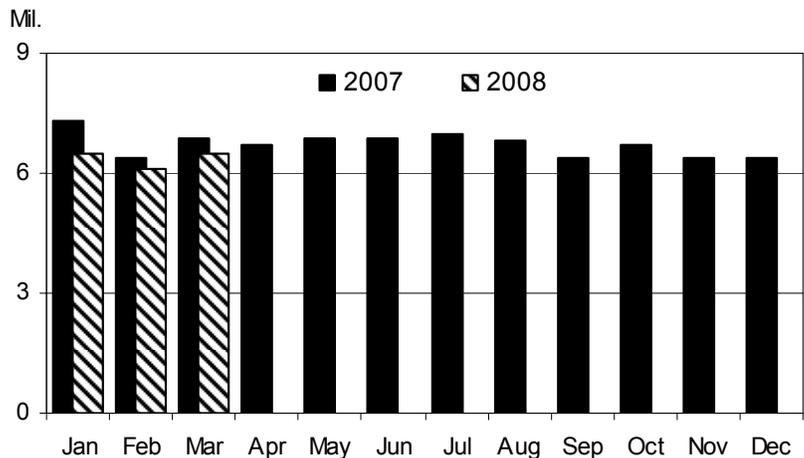
In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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March Egg Production Down 6 Percent From A Year Ago

Hawaii egg production totaled 6.50 million (18,056 cases) in March 2008, down 6 percent from March 2007. The average number of layers on hand during March 2008 was estimated at 352,000, down slightly from February 2008 and down 9 percent from March 2007. The average rate of lay during March 2008 was 1,847 per 100 layers (59.6 percent rate of lay), up 4 percent from March 2007. ■

Monthly Eggs: Total eggs produced, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008



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EGGS: Number of layers, rate of lay, and production, State of Hawaii, March 2008 and year-to-date totals with comparisons.

County	Number of layers on hand during month			Rate of lay per 100 layers		Total eggs produced			
	Mar. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008	Year-to-date	
								2007	2008
State ^{1/}	388.0	353.0	352.0	1,778	1,847	6.90	6.50	20.60	19.10

-----thousands----- -----eggs----- -----millions-----

^{1/} County data series discontinued.

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Total Cattle Marketings and Exports

March Cattle Marketings Down 36 Percent From 2007

Total cattle marketings for March 2008 is estimated at 2,700 head, down 36 percent from March 2007. The entire decline in marketings during March 2008 occurred in exports of cattle and calves as commercial slaughter remained unchanged. ■

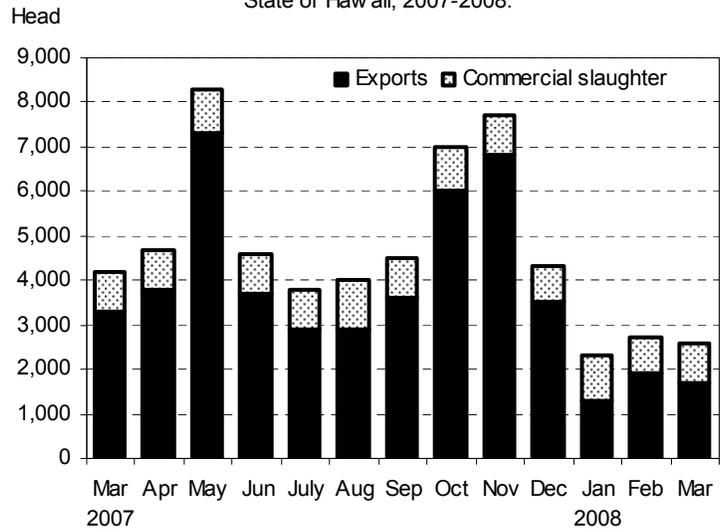
March exports down from a year ago

Exports of steers and heifers totaled 1,700 head in March 2008, down 48 percent from a year ago. Out-shipments of steers totaled 1,000 head in March 2008, down 38 percent compared to a year ago. Exports of heifers totaled 700 head, down 50 percent from March 2007. ■

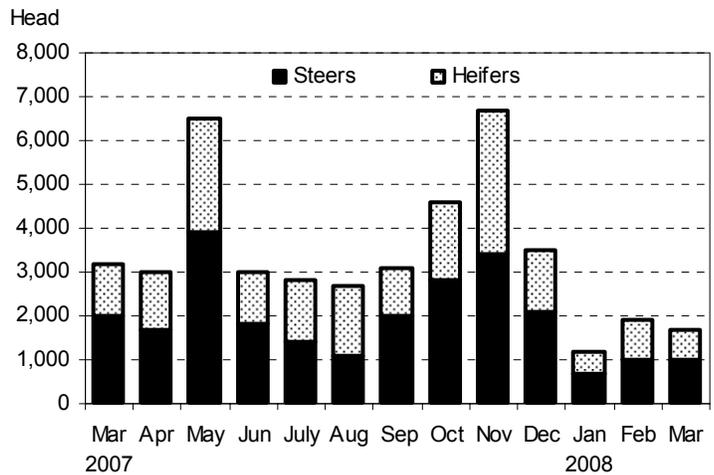
Average live weight up 18 percent

The average live weight of steers and heifers exported from Hawaii in March 2008 was 471 pounds, up 18 percent from March 2007's average live weight of 398 pounds. ■

Monthly Cattle Marketings: Number of head by type,
State of Hawaii, 2007-2008.



Monthly Cattle Exports: Number of head by type,
State of Hawaii, 2007-2008.



Cattle: Total marketings, exports by type, and average live weight of exports,
State of Hawaii, March 2008 and year-to-date comparison.

Month	Total marketings ^{1/}		Exports by type						Average live weight	
			Steers		Heifers		Total ^{2/}			
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
March	4,200	2,700	1,600	1,000	1,400	700	3,300	1,700	398	471
Year-to-date ^{3/}	13,100	8,700	5,300	3,200	4,300	2,500	10,500	5,800	396	458

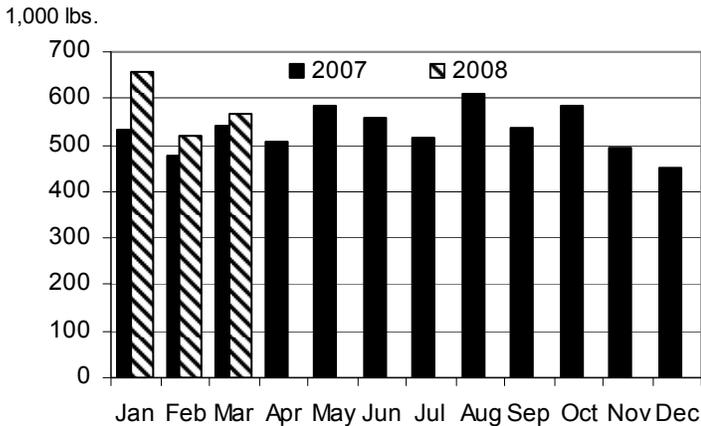
^{1/} Sum of commercial slaughter and exports. Total may not add due to rounding.

^{2/} Cattle and calves shipped out-of-State include: steers, heifers and all other classes. All other classes of animals not shown separately but included in total.

^{3/} Includes any revisions made to previous months.

Cattle and Hogs Commercial Slaughter

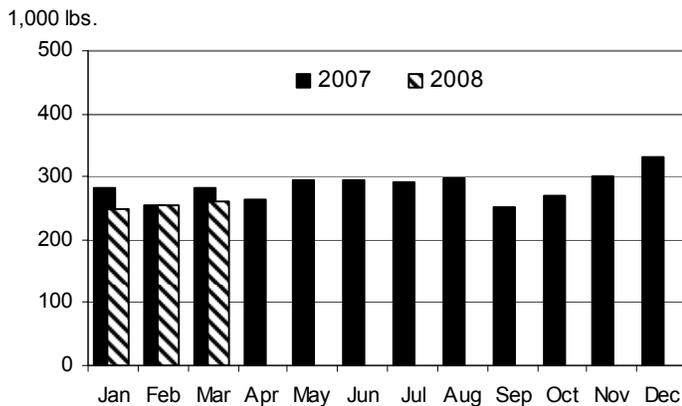
Monthly Commercial Beef Production:
Total Dress Weight, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008



Commercial Beef Production Up 5 Percent From Year Ago

Hawaii commercial beef production (local slaughter) during March 2008 totaled 569,000 pounds, up 5 percent from March 2007. Commercial kill totaled 900 head in March 2008, unchanged from March 2007. Average live weight per head increased 3 percent from a year ago to 1,096 pounds in March 2008. ■

Monthly Commercial Pork Production:
Total Dress Weight, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008



Commercial Pork Production Down 8 Percent From Year Ago

Hawaii commercial pork production during March 2008 totaled 260,000 pounds, down 8 percent from March 2007. Total hog kill was 1,500 head in March 2008, down 200 head or 12 percent from a year ago. Average live weight per head was 231 pounds in March 2008, up 3 percent from the 224-pound average of a year ago. ■

Cattle and Hogs: Total commercial slaughter, average live weight, total live weight, and total dressed weight, State of Hawaii, March 2008 and year-to-date with comparison. ^{1/}

Month	Total commercial slaughter		Average live weight		Total live weight		Total dressed weight ^{2/}	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Cattle	----- number of head-----		----- Pounds -----		----- 1,000 pounds -----			
March	900	900	1,062	1,096	984	1,037	540	569
Year-to-date	2,600	2,800	--	--	2,821	3,178	1,549	1,745
Hogs ^{3/}								
March	1,700	1,500	224	231	377	346	283	260
Year-to-date	5,000	4,500	--	--	1,090	1,016	818	762

-- Not estimated.

^{1/} Excludes non-inspected farm slaughter and live cattle and calves shipped out-of-State; includes custom slaughter.

^{2/} Estimates based on 54.9 dressing percentage for cattle and 75.0 dressing percentage for hogs.

^{3/} Excludes non-inspected farm slaughter; includes custom slaughter and live hog shipments from the mainland for slaughter.



Pasture and Livestock Conditions, April 1, 2008

Hawaii County

March Rainfall ^{1/}		
Station	2008	Normal
Honokaa	0.91"	9.90"
Kamuela upper	1.09"	6.70"
Kahuku Ranch	0.18"	4.90"
Puu Waawaa	0.03"	3.10"
Waikii	0.53"	2.90"

North Hilo, South Hilo, and Puna district pastures were in good condition. Most days were sunny and pastures grew steadily throughout the month. Cooler temperatures and shorter days slowed growth, but good soil moisture prevailed all month long. Stock water and streams were adequately supplied.

Ka`u district pastures are in fair to good condition. Southerly rain showers helped pastures, but more rain is needed. Upper elevations were fairly green although growth was slowed by cooler temperatures and low soil moisture. Lower elevations also had very little rain, but were still fairly green. The coastal regions of South Point and Kahuku Ranch continued to be the driest areas and pastures there were browning in some areas.

North and South Kohala district pasture conditions ranged from poor to good. Soil moisture was adequate in most windward areas. However, very low rainfall in all areas did not replenish soils and new grass growth was very slow. Green pastures were slowly drying out. Those in leeward and coastal areas were beginning to brown. Adequate feed was still available from winter growth in most regions.

North and South Kona district pastures were in mostly fair condition. New grass growth has been very slow in the cooler, higher elevations of South Kona. Almost no new growth was evident in the driest areas of leeward North Kona.

Coastal regions were also very dry. Some soil moisture remained, but sunny days and lack of rain were slowly browning the pastures. Stock water ponds declined during the month.

Hamakua district pasture conditions worsened as the month progressed. Grass growth slowed and stock water continued to decline due to a lack of significant rain.

Maui County

March Rainfall ^{1/}		
Station	2008	Normal
Hana	1.65"	9.10"
Pukalani	0.85"	3.30"
Ulupalakua	0.11"	3.40"
Molokai Airport	0.03"	3.70"

Pastures throughout the county continued to provide adequate dry forage. Some pastures along the south-facing areas showed some re-growth due to light passing showers and high humidity early in the morning. Frequent cloud cover in the upper elevations helped to minimize drying-out of ground moisture. Maintaining pastures quality has become a major concern during this dry spell. Some pastures with vegetation of marginal quality will have more difficulty maintaining preferred forage during the forthcoming drier times. Some of this effect has been noted with increased amounts of Fireweed and other undesirable vegetation. Generally, pastures along the windward facing sections of the island showed steady re-growth, while the southwest facing pastures were dry. Pastures in Hana toward Haiku have decreased in condition, but are still able to provide some green forage. Pastures in Makawao over to Kula have some green forage, but have also decreased in condition. Central area pastures were only providing dry forage with the exception of some irrigated pastures in Maalaea.

Moloka'i pastures have generally decreased in condition. A lack of consistent rainfall forced most pastures to rely on ground moisture to sustain and continued re-growth. Windward pastures were still able to provide some green forage, but less than the previous month. South central pastures were able to provide some dry forage and westside pastures in Maunaloa had mainly dry forage with some re-growth.

Honolulu County

March Rainfall ^{1/}		
Station	2008	Normal
Hakipuu Mauka	0.89"	9.10"
Lualualei	0.30"	3.00"
Waimanalo	0.18"	3.60"

Weather conditions remained generally fair for pastures during March. No rain station recorded more than 50 percent of normal.

Kauai County

March Rainfall ^{1/}		
Station	2008	Normal
Kalaheo	3.46"	5.60"
Kapahi	2.65"	8.20"
Princeville Airport	1.50"	6.40"

Pastures remained in mostly good condition despite lower than normal rainfall during the month. Cattle and calves were in mostly good condition. ■

^{1/} Rainfall stations were selected from the National Weather Service's Hydronet system of automated rain gauges. Featured stations may vary each month. All rainfall data has not been quality controlled, and therefore is not certified by the National Weather Service. A complete listing of Hydronet stations, rainfall gauge location maps, and other rainfall data may be found at the National Weather Service's hydrology homepage:

<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/pages/hydrology.php>



March Milk Production

Down 62 Percent From Year Ago

Hawaii's dairy cows produced 1.5 million pounds of milk in March 2008, down 62 percent from a year ago. ■

March's Cow Herd

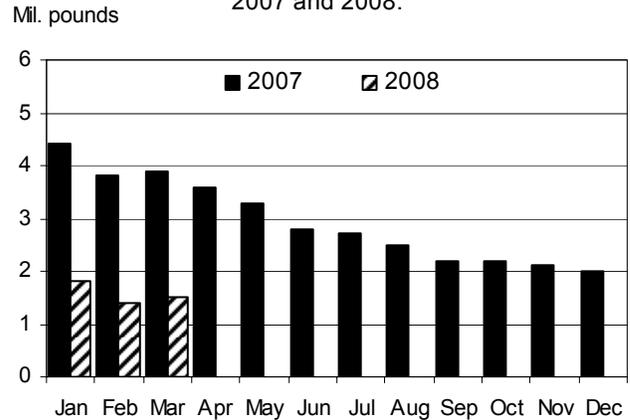
Down 45 Percent From Year Ago

Hawaii's cow herd, both dry and milking, numbered 1,800 head in March 2008, down 5 percent from February 2008 and down 45 percent from a year ago. ■

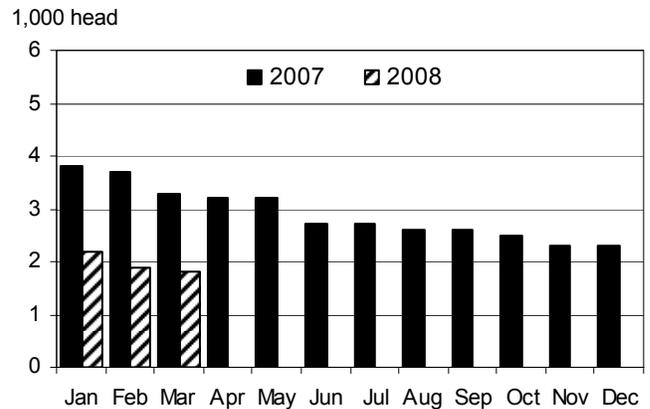
Milk Per Cow Decreases

Average milk per cow is estimated at 860 pounds for March 2008, down 28 percent from March 2007's average of 1,200 pounds per cow. ■

Milk: Monthly production, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008.



Milk: Average number of cows on hand during month, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008.



Milk: All milk cows, milk per cow, and total milk production, State of Hawaii, March 2008 and year-to-date with comparisons. ^{1/}

Area	All milk cows ^{2/}			Milk per cow		Milk production			
	Mar. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	Mar. 2008	Year-to-date	
	----- number of head -----			----- pounds -----		----- 1,000 pounds -----			
State	3,300	1,900	1,800	1,200	860	3,900	1,500	12,100	4,700

^{1/} Figures for 2008 are preliminary.

^{2/} Includes dry cows and cows on non-commercial dairy farms.

Average Farm Prices

Farm Prices Mostly Higher Than A Year Ago

Steers and heifers

The average dress weight farm price for steers and heifers is estimated at 105.0 cents per pound for March 2008, up 6.0 cents from February 2008 and 7.0 cents per pound higher than a year ago.

Cows

The average dress weight farm price for cows is estimated at 50.0 cents per pound in March 2008, down 3.0 cents from February 2008 and a year ago.

Market hogs

The average dress weight farm price for market hogs is estimated at \$1.50 per pound for March 2008, 28.0 cents higher than February 2008 and 30.0 cents per pound higher than a year ago.

Milk

The average farm price for milk was \$29.30 per hundredweight during March 2008, down 20.0 cents per hundredweight from February 2008, but \$2.30 per hundredweight higher than March 2007.

Eggs

The average farm price for a dozen eggs was \$1.42 in March 2008, up 3 cents per dozen from February 2008. Compared to a year ago, the average farm price for a dozen eggs was up 32.0 cents in March 2008. ■

Livestock Commodity Farm Prices: Average farm prices for steers and heifers, cows, market hogs, milk, and eggs, State of Hawaii, March 2008 with comparisons.

Commodity	March 2007	February 2008	March 2008
----- cents per pound -----			
Steers and heifers ^{1/}			
Dressed weight	98.0	99.0	105.0
Live weight ^{2/}	53.8	54.4	57.6
Cows ^{1/}			
Dressed weight	53.0	53.0	50.0
Live weight ^{2/}	29.1	29.1	27.5
Market hogs ^{1/}			
Dressed weight	120.0	122.0	150.0
Live weight ^{3/}	90.0	91.5	112.5
----- dollars per 100 pounds -----			
Milk.....	27.00	29.50	29.30
----- cents per dozen -----			
Eggs ^{4/}	110.0	139.0	142.0

^{1/} Equivalent delivered slaughterhouse for sales in county of production and delivered shipper's dock for off-island sales.

^{2/} The average live weight price for range steers, heifers, and cows is equal to the dressed weight price multiplied by a factor of 0.549.

^{3/} The average live weight price for market hogs (includes roasters) is equal to the dressed weight price multiplied by a factor of 0.75.

^{4/} Prices are for all eggs, equivalent delivered processing plant. Preliminary prices are based on processor reports from the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. Final prices are based on processor reports from all counties.



Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.09 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in March 2007.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, down 2 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 17 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up slightly from March 2007. The average live weight was down 48 pounds from last year, at 273 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.96 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.66 million head, up 5 percent from March 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.0 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 17 percent below last year. The

average live weight was 139 pounds, down 1 pound from March a year ago.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.68 billion during March 2008, down 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.53 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.08 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2008 averaged 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,244 eggs, up slightly from March 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2008 totaled 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2008, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from April 1, 2007. ■

Excerpts from *Livestock Slaughter* (April 25, 2008) and *Chickens and Eggs* (April 22, 2008) releases.



The Economics of Food, Farming, Natural Resources, and Rural America

Cattle/Beef trade: Beef imports are expected to fall for the fourth straight year. Exports will continue to expand, but at a more moderate pace than previous years. Live cattle imports and exports are both projected to increase in 2008.

Pork/Hogs: The Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report released March 28 set out revisions to inventories, farrowings, and litter rates, which go a long way toward explaining recent significant year-over-year slaughter increases. Farrowing intentions published in the report suggest production slowdowns for late this year and into 2009. U.S. commercial pork production in 2008 is expected to be 23.5 billion pounds, a year-over-year increase of 7.3 percent. Prices for 51-52 percent live equivalent lean hogs are expected to range between \$42 and \$44 in the second quarter and between \$40 and \$42 for the year. With production costs estimated to be in the low \$50 range, many hog

operations presently lose between \$25 and \$35 for each farrow-to-finish hog produced and sold. Large pork supplies appear to be containing retail and wholesale pork prices increases, which in turn, likely buttress both domestic and foreign pork demand. Pork exports in February were 391 million pounds, almost 57 percent above a year ago.

Dairy: Feed prices are higher thus far in 2008 and are expected to remain so for the rest of 2008. Milk production will continue to rise slightly this year, as exports buoy demand and price declines from 2007 are moderate.

Poultry: U.S. broiler meat production is forecast to total 36.9 billion pounds in 2008, a 2.1-percent increase from 2007. Broiler exports are expected to expand to 6 billion pounds, which would be the second consecutive year of record exports. Broiler production has been strong over the first 2 months of 2008, but



U.S. Livestock Roundup (continued)

production is expected to slow in the second half of the year as producers reduce production due to rising feed and energy costs. Turkey production during January and February was 1.05 billion pounds, up 13 percent from the same period in 2007. Even with this increase, prices for whole turkeys were 82 cents per pound in March, up 15 percent from the previous year.

Lamb/Sheep: Lamb demand exhibits some seasonality and is highest during the religious holidays. However, a protracted holiday season, coupled with a slight dip in demand for high-end meats, dampened the customary seasonal spike. As a result, the expected production increases in the weeks leading up to the holiday season did not materialize. Production for the first quarter 2008 was 6 percent lower than for the same period last year. Choice Slaughter lamb prices at San Angelo have not seen significant increases despite lower supplies. Lamb

and mutton imports are expected to remain strong and to continue to offset production shortfalls.

Aquaculture: Catfish sales by growers to processors are expected to decline again in 2008, marking the fourth consecutive year of declining sales. Grower estimates of catfish in inventory at the beginning of 2008 showed declines in almost all categories, despite relatively strong prices through much of 2007. The lower inventories point strongly toward lower sales of foodsize fish to processors in 2008. The quantity of processed catfish sales fell by 11.1 percent in 2007, and while prices were relatively strong through the first half of 2007, they fell during the second half of the year.

Excerpt from *Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry Outlook/LDP-M-166/* April 17, 2008 Economic Research Service, USDA.