

Mineral Wells Livestock Exchange

Mineral Wells, W.V.
Report Supplied by Auction
December 20, 2003

STOCK STEERS GRADE M-1
300-UNDER, NONE 300-500 85-89 500-700
72 800-OVER 69 75

STOCK HEIFERS GRADE M-1
300-UNDER 83 300-500 68-86 500-700
61 76, 800-OVER 54-67

STOCK BULLS GRADE M-1 300-UNDER
NONE, 300-500 68 75, 500-700 64 71

SLAUGHTER BULLS 46-60
BRED COWS 420 00-730 00 HEAD
SLAUGHTER COWS HIGH DRESS
45 53, UTILITY 38 48, CANNER 19-31

HOGS 200-250 LBS 34 34, 300-500
LBS 33-37

MAIF HOGS 12
GOATS 36 00-60 00 HEAD
MARKET CLOSED DEC 27 REGULAR
SALE ON JAN 3

Livestock Cooperative Auction Market Of North Jersey

Hackettstown, N.J.
Report Supplied by Auction
Tuesday, December 23, 2003

CALVES 02-84
COWS 30 69

EASY COWS 29 41
HEIFERS 300-600 LBS 32-89
HEIFERS 47 79

BULLS 51 77
STEERS 52-91
HOGS 41

ROASTING PIGS EACH 29 00-39 00
BOARS 27
SOWS 24 26

SHFEP 47-86
LAMBS FA 39 00-95 00
LAMBS PER LB 66-114
GOATS FA 32 50-162 50
KIDS EA 15 00-107 50
HIDES 1 00-20 00
TOTAL 384

Cattle On Feed 4 Percent Higher Than Year Ago

Washington, D.C.
December 19, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA/NASS
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002 but 5 percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002 but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million.

During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 578,000, 700-799 pounds were 379,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.

Staunton Weekly Feeder Cattle Sale

Richmond, Va.
December 22, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA
Staunton Weekly Auction for Dec. 19. Prices Based on In Weights. Feeder steers, Feeder heifers and Feeder bulls steady. Feeder Cattle 397 (Steers 175, Holstein Steers 12, Heifers 170 Bulls 40)

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1 200-300 lbs 100 00-119 00, 300-400 lbs 100 00-119 00 400-500 lbs 96 00-113 00 500-600 lbs 95 00-103 00, 600-700 lbs 89 00- 99 00, 700-800 lbs 89 00 97 10, 800-900 lbs few 85 00- 87 25 900-1000 lbs few 85 00- 86 50 Medium and Large 2 400-500 lbs 95 00-105 00 500-600 lbs 90 00-100 00 600-700 lbs 85 00- 95 00, 700-800 lbs 82 00- 85 00 Small 1 400-500 lbs 90 00-100 00, 500 600 lbs 90 00 99 00 600-700 lbs 85 00- 92 00

Holstein Steers Large 2-3 300-400 lbs 75 50, 400-500 lbs 73 00- 75 50, 600-700 lbs 65 00

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1 200-300 lbs 80 00- 85 00, 300-400 lbs 85 00 96 00, 400-500 lbs 82 00- 90 00, 500-600 lbs

85 00 97 00 600-700 lbs 82 00 87 00 Medium and Large 2 300-400 lbs 80 00- 90 00 400 500 lbs 80 00- 88 00, 500-600 lbs 78 00- 88 00 Small 1 300-400 lbs 75 00- 82 00 400-500 lbs 70 00 73 00 500-600 lbs 70 00- 75 00, 600 700 lbs 68 00 72 00

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1, 300 400 lbs 95 00-109 00, 400-500 lbs 90 00-102 00 500 600 lbs 85 00- 95 00 600-700 lbs 80 00 85 00

Beef Production Down 18% In November

Washington, D.C.
December 19, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA/NASS
Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.53 billion pounds in November down 10 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in November 2002.

November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two

holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

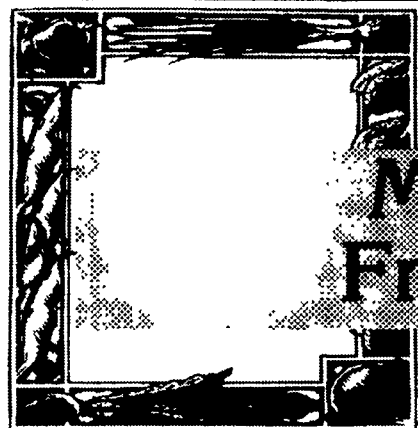
BFHF production, at 1.78 billion pounds, was 18 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head down 15 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from the previous year at 1,236 pounds.

VEAL production totaled 152 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 78,000 head down 14 percent from November 2002. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year at 321 pounds.

PORK production totaled 1.71 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 858 million head, 1 percent below November 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

LAMB AND MUTTON production, at 163 million pounds, was down 8 percent from November 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,300 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2003 commercial red meat production was 42.7 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.



Charting Your Course for 2004

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention

January 27-29, 2004
Hershey Lodge and Convention Center
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Educational Sessions - Expert Speakers from Across the Nation
Trade Show - Over 130 Suppliers for Fruit and Vegetable Growers

Tree Fruit

January 27, 2004

- Technology Road Map for the Fruit Industry
- George Gooding Memorial Lecture - Integrated Ground Cover Management - Dr. Ian Merwin, Cornell Univ.
- Apple Cultivars for the Mid-Atlantic Industry
- The Impact of Current EPA Issues on the Future of the Hort Industry - Nancy Foster, U.S. Apple Association
- Growing and Selling Sweet Cherries
- New Sweet Cherry Cultivars
- Virus Diseases in Stone Fruit

January 28, 2004

Tree Fruit - Aztec Room

- Host Preferences of Oriental Fruit Moth
- Weed Control in Apples and Pears
- Designing an Irrigation System
- Frost Protection in Tree
- Pruning and Training Systems Impact on Processing Apples
- Cost of Orchard Removal/Replacement

January 29, 2004

- Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program for Apples and Peaches
- Reduced Risk Pest Management Programs for Apple and Peaches
- Integrating Mating Disruption into Insect Pest Control
- Management of Non-Lepidopteran Insect Pests with Reduced Risk Insecticides
- Role of Biological Control Agents in Reduced Risk Programs
- Economics of New Insect Pest Management Programs

National Peach Council

January 27, 2003

- Ernie Christ Memorial Lecture - Peach Tree Training Systems - Dr. Scott Johnson, Univ. of California
- Plum Pox Virus Projects

January 28, 2003

- High Density Peach Plantings
- MCP/Retain on Stone Fruit
- Peach Tree Nutrition
- Insecticide Resistance in Oriental Fruit Moth
- Peach Market Perspective 2003 Season
- Problems with Controlling Insect Pests on Peach Rootstock Evaluations in the NC-140
- Phytotoxicity of Copper Bactericides

Small Fruit

January 28, 2004

- A Visit to Our Farm - Linville Orchards
- Organic Methods for Highbush Blueberries
- Strawberry Plasticulture Systems
- Economics of High Tunnel Bramble Production

January 29, 2004

- Methyl Bromide Alternatives
- Gray Mold and Anthracnose on Strawberries
- The Rutgers Strawberry Breeding Program
- Weed Management in Strawberries and Blueberries
- Matted-Row Strawberry Cultivar Trial Results
- Japanese Beetle Biology and Management
- Blueberry Diseases

Vegetables -

January 27, 2004

Season Extension - Nigerian Room

- Production and Marketing of High Tunnel Crops
- Use of BioControls in High Tunnels
- High Tunnel Production in England
- Growing Fruit and Flowers in High Tunnels

Basic Vegetable School

- Pest Control and Marketing
- Pollination and Cover Crops
- Soil and Tissue Analysis
- Plasticulture

Organic Production

- Insect Control in Sweet Corn
- Managing Grape Diseases
- Organic Certification
- Assembling the Nuts & Bolts to Put Together a Whole Farm System - Eero Ruuttila, Nesenkeag Farm

Vine Crops

- Insect, Weed and Disease Control
- Use of Pre-Sidedress Soil N Testing

Peppers

- Quality Pepper Transplants for Optimum Production
- Fertility Management on Plastic - Dr. Eric Simonne, Univ. of Florida
- Successful Red Bell Pepper Production

Asparagus

- Variety Availability
- Insect and Weed Control

Beans

- Fresh Market Bean Varieties
- Insect and Disease Control

January 28, 2004

Water and Irrigation

- Pond Construction and Maintenance
- Wells, Regs, Location and Management
- Drip vs. Overhead Irrigation
- Water Quality
- Automation and Uniformity of Irrigation Systems

Pumpkins

- Pumpkins and Virus Resistance
- No-Till Pumpkin Production - Steve Groff
- Varieties and Insect Control
- Competitive Pumpkin Projectiles

Tomatoes

- Heirloom Tomatoes and Profitability
- Weed, Insect, Disease Control
- Fertility

Processing Tomatoes

- New Crop Protection Product and Varieties
- What's New for Planting, Irrigation and Harvesting

January 29, 2004

Sweet Corn School

- Sweet Corn Breeding
- Early Sweet Corn Production Using Plasticulture
- Insect and Disease Control
- No-Till Sweet Corn Production - Steve Groff
- Bt Sweet Corn Acceptance in the Marketplace
- Irrigating Sweet Corn
- Commercial Sweet Corn Production in Florida - Dr. Eric Simonne, Univ. of Florida

Specialty Vegetables

- The World of Specialty Vegetables - Cris West, Frieda's Inc.
- Melons, Tomatoes, Sweet Potatoes

Value-Added Vegetables

- Generating More Dollars During Halloween
- Adding Value Through Food Preparation

Marketing -

January 27, 2004

- Factors in a Marketing Plan
- Making Quality Hard Cider
- Apple Wine from Oak to Ice

January 28, 2004

- Small Things That Improve Marketing Success
- Selling to Chefs - Robert Russell
- Marketing Organic Produce - Eero Ruuttila, Nesenkeag Farm
- Signs - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly
- Are There Profits in All 4 Seasons and Roadmap to Success - Frederick Funk
- Selling Your Produce For What's Worth

Wine Grapes

January 27, 2004

- Vineyard Nutrition Management
- Opportunities, Challenges and Problems
- Weed Management in New Vineyards
- Training Young Wine Grape Vines
- Canopy Management Systems for Yield and Wine Quality
- Disease Management Strategies

Potatoes

January 28, 2004

- *Ralstonia solanacearum* and Brown Rot of Potatoes - Proper Design and Differences Between Box and Bulk Storages
- Insect and Disease Control
- Potato Seedpiece Treatment Study
- Breeding Potatoes for Disease Resistance
- Monitoring Resistance in Colorado Potato Beetles

Labor/Legal Issues

January 27, 2004

- What are the National Labor Law Trends
- Civil Money Penalties - How to Avoid Them
- Creative Ways to Comply with a Labor Inspection
- Wage and Payroll Systems
- Changes in Penna. Labor Laws

Bedding Plants

January 29, 2004

- Color Bowls
- INSV and Thrips
- Managing pH, Fertility and Nutrition
- Pot Plant Culture
- Marketing—Principles and Practices
- Culture of Wax and Elator Begonias
- Bacterial Diseases of Geranium (*Ralstonia*)

Cut Flowers

January 29, 2004

- Getting Started in Cut Flowers
- Varieties and What Florists Want
- Fall-Winter-Spring Cut Flower Production and Marketing
- 2003 Pennsylvania Sunflower Trials
- Succession Planting and Growing/Marketing Experiences
- Woody Ornamentals - Variety Selection, Production, Harvesting, Post Harvest, and Marketing - Edward Pincus, Third Branch Flowers Co., Roxberry, VT

For fruit program and registration fee information, contact: **State Horticultural Ass'n. of Pennsylvania** - 717-677-4184 www.shonline.org
New Jersey State Horticultural Soc. - 908-475-6505 <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>
Maryland State Horticultural Soc. - 301-271-7491

For vegetable, potato & flower program registration fees information, contact: **Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association** - 717-694-3596 - www.pvga.org

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