

Daily Livestock Report

E-Livestock Volume	4/24/09	4/23/09	4/17/09
LE (E-Live Cattle):	10,267	13,765	12,984
GF (E-Feeder Cattle):	1,335	1,252	1,344
HE (E-Lean Hogs):	15,649	8,878	6,560

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PRODUCTION AND PRICE SUMMARY

Week Ending 4/25/2009

Item	Units	Current Week	Last Week	Pct. Change	Last Year	Pct. Change	YTD	Pct. Change
C FI Slaughter	Thou. Head	640	606	5.61%	702	-8.79%	10,031	-5.9%
A FI Beef Cow Slaughter	Thou. Head	55.8	54.4	2.72%	62.1	-10.10%	904	-3.8%
T Avg. Live Weight	Lbs.	1275	1289	-1.09%	1253	1.76%	1,305	1.8%
T Avg. Dressed Weight	Lbs.	789	778	1.41%	763	3.41%	788	1.9%
L Beef Production	Million Lbs.	500.4	476.6	4.99%	533.1	-6.13%	7,877	-4.1%
E Live Fed Steer	\$/cwt live wt.	87.92	88.21	-0.30%	92.11	-4.50%		
Dressed Steer	\$/cwt carcass	142.41	141.88	0.40%	149.44	-4.70%		
OKC Feeder Steer	600-700 Lbs.	107.83	110.95	-2.81%	105.86	3.41%		
Beef Cutout	600-750 Choice	152.83	145.37	5.10%	154.50	-1.10%		
Hide/Offal	\$/cwt live wt.	5.95	5.95	7.60%	10.81	-45.00%		
H FI Slaughter	Thou. Head	2145	2122	1.08%	2246	-4.49%	35,973	-5.4%
O FI Sow Slaughter	Thou. Head	57.4	61.1	-6.09%	71.9	-20.16%	901	-10.6%
G Avg. Dressed Weight	Lbs.	204	204	0.00%	202	0.99%	204	0.3%
S Pork Production	Million Lbs.	437.8	433.3	1.04%	452.6	-3.27%	7,345	-5.0%
Iowa-S. Minn. Direct	Avg.	61.08	57.39	6.40%	68.68	-11.10%		
Natl. Base Carcass Price	Weighted Avg.	60.91	58.40	4.30%	66.24	-8.00%		
Natl. Net Carcass Price	Weighted Avg.	63.04	60.48	4.20%	68.78	-8.30%		
Pork Cutout	185 Lbs.	59.70	60.94	-2.00%	70.71	-15.60%		
C Young Chicken Slaughter*	Million Head	155.01	148.48	4.39%	165.92	-6.58%	2,318	-6.3%
H Avg. Weight	Lbs.	5.54	5.49	0.91%	5.59	-0.89%	5.5	-0.6%
I Chicken Production	Million Lbs.	858.74	815.17	5.35%	927.48	-7.41%	9,479	-6.8%
C Eggs Set	Million	0.00	202.35	-100.00%	214.82	-100.00%	3,036	-12.7%
K Chicks Placed	Million Head	0.00	166.88	-100.00%	177.16	-100.00%	2,514	-12.0%
E 12-City Broiler	Composite	77.54	76.33	1.60%	78.9	-1.70%		
N Georgia Dock Broiler	2.5-3 Lbs.	85.05	84.69	0.40%	79.98	6.30%		
T Young Turkey Slaughter*	Million Head	4.06	4.06	0.10%	4.77	-14.86%	67.1	-5.0%
U Avg. Weight	Lbs.	28.32	29.53	-4.10%	29.14	-2.81%	29.7	-0.6%
R Turkey Production	Million Lbs.	115.0	119.8	-4.00%	139.0	-17.26%	1,588	-5.3%
K Eastern Region Hen	8-16 Lbs.	77.00	76.00	1.30%	86.25	-10.70%		
F Corn, Omaha	\$ per Bushel	3.71	3.67	1.00%	5.68	-34.80%		
E DDGS, Minnesota	\$ per ton	117.50	120.00	-2.08%	162.50	-27.69%		
E Wheat, Kansas City	\$ per Bushel	5.56	5.39	3.10%	8.95	-37.90%		
D Soybeans, S. Iowa	\$ per Bushel	10.35	NQ	NA	13.12	-21.20%		
S B Meal, 48% Central Illinois	\$ per Ton	332.90	335.90	-0.90%	335.70	-0.80%		

* Chicken & turkey slaughter & production are 1 week earlier than the date at the top of this table. Cow & sow slaughter are for 2 weeks ear

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The pork industry finds itself with a serious public relations problem that is not of its own making and, in reality has nothing to do with pigs — SWINE FLU IS A PIG/PORK PROBLEM IN NAME ONLY!

That is the emphatic word over the weekend from both the National Pork Board, the producer checkoff-funded group charged with promoting pork in the U.S. and U.S. pork abroad and conducting production and product research. Perhaps more important from the standpoint of an unbiased source, though, the same message is coming from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) which released the following statement:

“Swine influenza viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get swine influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.”

In addition, the CDC said it has found NO EVIDENCE to indicate that any of the illnesses resulted from contact with pigs.

The outbreak of swine flu is centered in Mexico where 22 deaths are confirmed to have been caused by the virus. Cases in Canada, New Zealand and New York City have been tied to travelers who have been in Mexico. Two cases were reported in Kansas but we could find no more information on these cases over the weekend. The outbreak has caused widespread concern because the virus in question is a unique strain of the H1N1 type of swine influenza. But this is a human disease whose source and spread have nothing to do with pigs. The CDC and other health organizations continue to caution the public that this is a contagious virus that is spread from humans to humans the way viruses are normally spread — primarily through direct contact.

The ironic fact is that, while the National Pork Board tries to protect its products from consumer fears, the more tangible threat is that the virus COULD infect pigs and cause serious production problems for U.S. producers. Swine influenza (a group of viruses that DO infect pigs) is not uncommon in the U.S. and producers vaccinate animals for the most troublesome strains. The Pork Board says in a news release “At this time, no pigs have been found to be infected or sick with the virus. It is unknown if this new strain causes any type of illness in swine. However, because it is novel, the National Pork Board is urging producers to take extra precaution to protect our industry’s workers and our animals.” The Board goes on to list a number of measures that producers can follow to protect their herds, including heightened biosecurity measures, strict enforcement of sick leave policies, careful management of workers reporting international travel and limiting visitors to swine facilities.

Smithfield Foods, which has extensive swine production joint ventures in Mexico, reported on Sunday evening that it “has found no clinical signs or symptoms of the presence of swine flu in the company’s swine herd or its employees [in Mexico].”

The big threat to the U.S. pork industry, of course, would be a disruption of exports. To this point, only Russia has mentioned that possibility but Russia has proven it will use about any reason to limit imports.