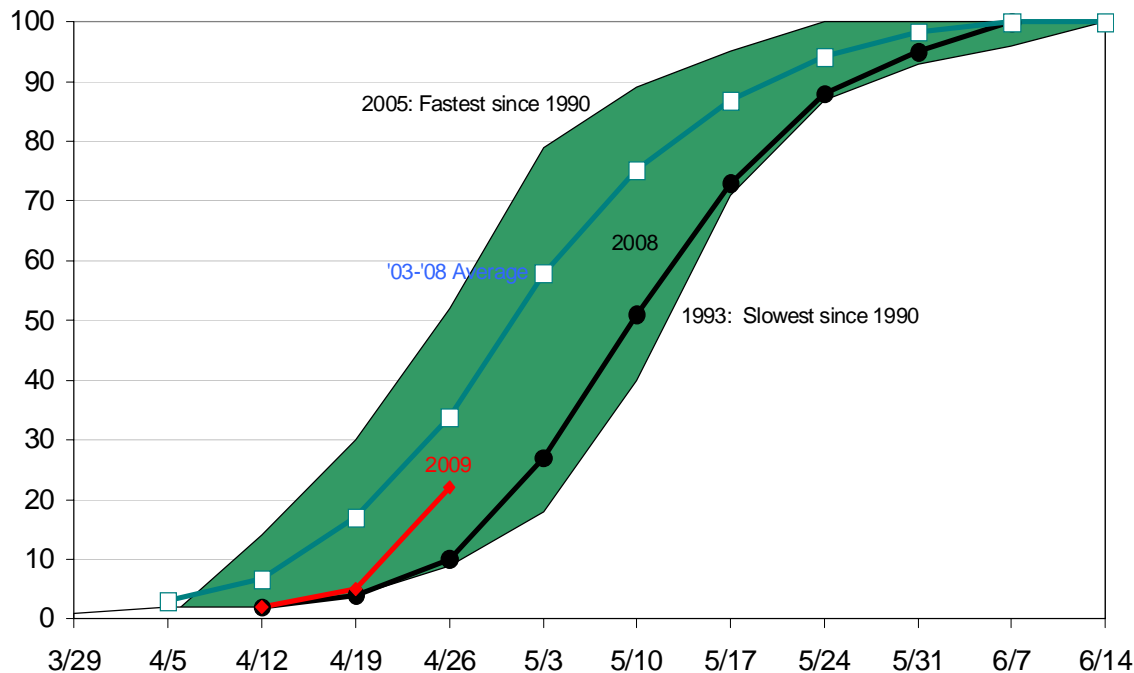


Daily Livestock Report

CORN CROP PROGRESS Percent Planted, 18 States



Please feel free to forward the Daily Livestock Report to others who you think will benefit from having this information. The DLR is published daily by **Steve Meyer and Len Steiner**, and distributed courtesy of Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Inc. You can **subscribe for free** by going to www.dailylivestockreport.com/subscribe.asp. send an e-mail to: feedback@dailylivestockreport.com if you would like to submit a comment or suggestion. To unsubscribe from the DLR newsletter, go to www.dailylivestockreport.com/unsubscribe.asp.

Disclaimer: The Daily Livestock Report is intended solely for information purposes and is not to be construed, under any circumstances, by implication or otherwise, as an offer to sell or a solicitation to buy or trade any commodities or securities whatsoever. Information is obtained from sources believed to be reliable, but is in no way guaranteed. No guarantee of any kind is implied or possible where projections of future conditions are attempted. Futures trading is not suitable for all investors, and involves the risk of loss. Past results are no indication of future performance. Futures are a leveraged investment, and because only a percentage of a contract's value is required to trade, it is possible to lose more than the amount of money initially deposited for a futures position. Therefore, traders should only use funds that they can afford to lose without affecting their lifestyle. And only a portion of those funds should be devoted to any one trade because a trader cannot expect to profit on every trade.

The Globe Logo and CME are trademarks of Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. Copyright © 2008 CME. All rights reserved.

E-Livestock Volume	4/27/09	4/24/09	4/20/09
LE (E-Live Cattle):	16,188	10,267	13,696
GF (E-Feeder Cattle):	1,418	1,335	1,543
HE (E-Lean Hogs):	14,980	15,649	9,678

Free real-time Globex quotes: www.cmegroup.com/elivestockquotes

No, the chicken industry did not cut egg sets and chick placements by 100% last week as was indicated in our weekly Production and Price Summary table in Friday's edition. Broiler egg sets numbers 202.69 million last week, virtually unchanged from the week before and 5.65% lower than one year ago. A total of 166.64 million chicks were placed, also unchanged from the week before and 5.9% lower than last year.

CME Group Lean Hogs Futures traders voted a resounding "SCARED" today over the spreading swine flu outbreak — which some are already referring to as a pandemic. The key issue, of course, is demand for pork when "swine flu" is making people sick in several countries and has now killed nearly 150 people in Mexico. U.S. pork and meat groups fought today to clear pigs' honorable name and appear to be making some headway. The World Health Organization issued a press release late in the day pointing out that the virus should not be called "swine flu" since it contains genetic material from swine, asian and avian (bird) flu strains. WHO recommended that it be called "North American influenza." We're not sure why it isn't "Mexico influenza" since virtually every case points to that country as the source of the virus. There has still been no documented case of the virus in pigs and it is still not known whether the virus will even infect pigs. WHO, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and most media reports point out that the virus is not spread through pork but that mention usually comes very late in the story.

The demand issues are three-fold. First, there is demand in the U.S. domestic market — where 80% of all U.S. production was sold last year and, very likely, a higher percentage will need to move this year. Continued repetition of the "it doesn't come from pigs or pork" message and the name change, if it is actually picked up, will help but some of our contacts fear that the damage may already be done. The second issue will be pork demand in Mexico — our second largest export market thus far in 2009. Closed businesses and schools and restrictions on movement will slow Mexico's economy and the pig and flu connection may be more difficult to break there, especially with press reports that the flu may have started in a small boy who lived near a pig farm in Veracruz state. Finally, there are other export markets. Russia banned all meat imports from Kansas, Texas and California today and banned pork imports from those states plus Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Oklahoma. As we pointed out yesterday, Russia has a long history of blocking meat imports for about any reason, so this is no surprise. There are reports that China will officially ban pork imports from some states as well and other Southeast Asia countries have announced bans — pretty understandable given their past experience with bird flu.

There was some good news for livestock producers today—the pace of U.S. corn planting grew sharply last week. USDA reported that 22% of acres are now planted. That compares to only 10% last year but an average of 34% over the past 5 years. The big catch-up state was an important one — Iowa, where 47% of the corn acres are now planted.