

Livestock Review 1997

BY

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Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from farm marketings increased 23 percent from 1996 to \$353.0 million. There was a 14 percent decrease in the number of cattle and calves marketed. Prices received by Alabama producers during 1997 rose to \$57.60 per hundredweight for cattle and 79.10 for calves. Cattle prices were \$16.30 per cwt above 1996 and calf prices were up \$29.90. On January 1, 1998, 1.53 million head of cattle and calves were on farms in Alabama, a decrease of 4 percent from a year earlier. Beef cow inventory was down 1 percent to 822 head and beef cow replacement heifers, at 127,000 head, were down 8 percent from the previous year. There were 28,000 milk cows in Alabama dairy herds, down 3,000 head from January 1, 1997.

Hogs and Pigs: All hogs and pigs on hand December 1, 1997 numbered 190,000 head, a decrease of 5 percent from 1996. The number of breeding hogs, at 20,000, was down 20 percent and total market hogs, at 170,000, were down 3 percent. Thirty seven thousand sows farrowed 287,000 pigs in 1997. The average number of pigs per litter was 7.76, compared with 7.78 in 1996. Cash receipts from hogs and pigs were \$59.9 million and the average price received per cwt was \$48.70.

Milk Production: Dairy operations in Alabama continue to decline. The number of operations with milk cows during 1997 was estimated at 280. There were 198 commercial dairies as of January 1, 1998 according to the State Department of Agriculture and Industries. Milk produced in the State totaled 418 million pounds in 1997, 4 percent less than the previous year. Milk per cow decreased 79 pounds to average 13,484 pounds. Prices received for milk decreased \$1.60 per cwt from \$16.40 in 1996 to \$14.80 in 1997. Alabama cash receipts from milk decreased 13 percent in 1997 to 61.3 million.

Catfish: Sales of catfish in Alabama increased 2 percent to \$53.7 million during 1997 from \$52.8 million during 1996. The average price received for foodsize catfish was 68 cents per pound, compared with 71 cents the year before. There were 235 operations in the State producing catfish on January 1, 1998.

Sheep and Lambs: On January 1, 1998, there were 8,500 sheep and lambs on Alabama farms, down 500 head from the previous year. Ewes at 5,100 head, increased 4 percent while rams, at 400 head were down. Replacement lamb numbers decreased to 1,500 head, a 6 percent decrease. The 1997 cash receipts for sheep and lambs totaled \$162,000.

