



EGG & POULTRY NATIONAL WEEKLY REVIEW

ISSN 1520-6114

THURSDAY
APRIL 01, 2004
VOL. 55 NO. 13

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL EGG REVIEW



Prices were sharply lower throughout the week. The market tone was mostly weak. Demand for the upcoming holiday improving and was noted as light to good. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate. Breaking stock prices with checks and undergrades were lower. Demand was light to fairly good with offerings fully adequate to mostly ample. With steadily declining prices many breakers were willing buyers of breaking stock. Schedules were full-time. Trade sentiment was barely steady to mostly weak. Light type fowl prices were unchanged to lower. Offerings were adequate while demand was mostly moderate. Removal prices were steady at 0 to 7 cents per head.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Prices to producers were 6 cents lower for the larger sizes and 2 cents lower for mediums. The balance of prices were unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to weak and varied from area to area. Retail demand was reported as improved in many locations as last minute Easter orders are quickly filled. Food service sales were moderate to fairly good. Supplies were adequate to ample. Central states breaking stock prices were lower. Demand was light to fairly good with offerings fully adequate to mostly ample. Trade sentiment barely steady to mostly weak.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	107-116	111-113
LARGE	107-115	109-112
MEDIUM	89-95	92-94

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV, Western NY, and Western PA

NORTHEAST REGIONAL Prices were unchanged, however all sizes continued to trend sharply lower. The market tone remained weak and highly unsettled. Demand ranged light to moderate. Supplies were adequate to ample for trade requirements. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to fully adequate for the light to moderate demand. Spent hens were fully sufficient processing needs.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	112-126	115-119
LARGE	109-123	114-118
MEDIUM	89-102	94-96

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

COMBINED REGIONAL

Mar 26, 2004

Average prices on sales to volume buyers, Grade A Large or better, White eggs in cartons, delivered warehouse, cents per dozen.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	124.50	122.00	107.00
SOUTHEAST	125.50	123.50	106.00
MIDWEST	119.00	117.50	104.00
SOUTH CENTRAL	123.50	122.50	106.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	123.11	121.40	105.90

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

IOWA-MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR LOOSE EGGS AT FARM, CASES EXCHANGED, GRADE YIELD BASIS, CENTS PER DOZEN

	03-30-04	03-23-04	04-01-03
Large	87-94	97-104	48-52
Medium	69-73	83-87	32-36

WEEKLY SHELL EGG INVENTORY REPORT-MAR 29, 2004

STOCKS ON HAND AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING 1/ 2/
(30 DOZEN CASES-IN THOUSANDS)

		Northeast	No Cent	So Cent	So Atl	Pacific	5-Area
Jumbo	Curr Wk	12.0	28.3	10.6	21.0	16.2	88.1
	Change	-1.1	2.9	1.3	3.0	1.7	10%
Ex Lge	Curr Wk	35.6	57.0	14.2	30.4	49.9	187.1
	Change	2.5	4.6	-0.5	3.4	4.0	8%
Large	Curr Wk	91.5	196.4	135.0	147.8	215.4	786.1
	Change	-1.0	38.7	18.2	6.7	55.5	18%
Medium	Curr Wk	15.7	59.0	15.7	24.7	38.9	154.0
	Change	0.0	16.8	1.3	0.7	-5.3	10%
Small	Curr Wk	3.6	8.2	3.4	4.8	5.6	25.6
	Change	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.1	-0.2	19%
Misc	Curr Wk	5.5	28.8	11.7	13.9	5.4	65.3
	Change	0.4	5.1	2.8	2.0	0.5	20%
Ungraded	Curr Wk	26.4	51.2	32.0	36.8	36.7	183.1
	Change	5.8	-0.9	6.7	-2.5	1.6	6%
Total	Curr Wk	190.3	428.9	222.6	279.4	368.1	1,489.3
	Percent Change	4%	19%	16%	5%	19%	14%

TOTAL	Number of Cases	Percent Change	Number of Cooperators
Shell Egg	1,489.3	14%	170
Shell Egg Breaking Stock 2/	231.0	3%	35
Total Shell Egg	1,720.3	12%	205

1/Information is supplied by a universe of 170 cooperators who normally have stocks on hand each Monday A.M. and is on the basis of matched plants reporting in both the current and previous weeks. Sample does not represent total U.S. inventory but includes eggs packed for export when in cooperator's coolers.

No valid comparison can be made with year ago or previous months figures due to changes in number of plants surveyed, holidays falling in different weeks or changes in size of plant operations.

Processed Eggs: Weekly Eggs Processed Under Federal Inspection**WEEK ENDING 27-MAR-04**

	(LBS IN THOUSANDS)		(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)			
	CASES	LIQUID	LIQUID	LIQUID	DRIED	INED
	BROKEN	WHOLE	WHITE	YOLK		
CW	1,188,239	29,064	11,047	5,897	2,138	4,113
PW	1,160,324	28,714	10,452	5,909	1,983	4,002
LY	1,089,488	27,576	9,447	5,345	1,868	4,080
% CHG PW	2	1	6	0	8	3
% CHG LY	9	5	17	10	14	1
2004	13,945,251	331,632	133,444	74,541	30,779	48,999
2003	13,376,776	325,641	121,180	67,279	28,762	49,543
% CHG YTD	4	2	10	11	7	-1

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	LAST YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.18	42.30	42.63
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.72	38.85	38.89

BROILER HATCHERY

STATE	Broiler Eggs Set in 19 Selected States		Broiler Chicks Placed in 19 Selected States	
	Mar 20	Mar 27	Mar 20	Mar 27
	Thousand			
AL	29,537	29,773	22,282	21,895
AR	31,636	31,331	*24,832	24,554
DE	3,611	3,834	5,372	4,928
FL	1,349	1,337	1,622	1,492
GA	32,201	32,685	26,106	25,892
KY	6,685	7,176	5,632	5,680
LA	3,742	3,787	3,957	3,870
MD	8,923	8,875	5,099	5,890
MS	19,113	19,179	16,208	16,428
NC	19,195	18,611	14,689	14,615
OK	*6,568	6,585	5,545	5,278
PA	*4,028	4,007	*2,778	2,884
SC	3,694	3,781	4,097	4,714
TX	15,109	15,397	12,428	12,438
VA	*6,734	6,834	*5,685	5,606
CA, MO, TN, & WV	*17,829	17,763	*15,308	16,276
19 State Total	*209,954	210,955	*171,640	172,440
Previous Year Total	206,460	205,168	169,125	169,325
Pct. of Prev. Year	102	103	101	102

* Revised

Broiler/Fryer: Weekly Fryers Available for Marketing Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 8-May-04 is estimated at 158.4 million head. This compares to 157.4 million head the previous week and to 159.2 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 157.5 million head and the composite weighted average price 57.89 cents per pound.

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES - WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CNTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR 03/25/04-03/31/04

	SE	NE	MW	LOADS			
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	84.00	98.00	87.25	87.00	—	—	13.00
GNR W 3	—	—	71.00	67.50	—	—	2.00
GL W J	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W XL	—	109.38	97.79	96.91	82.33	80.50	32.25
GL W LG	—	108.20	89.82	94.22	83.20	—	19.25
GL W MD	88.00	—	68.50	69.33	84.00	—	4.75
GL W SM	51.75	53.75	55.40	57.20	—	53.00	4.25
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	79.33	72.00	71.20	38.75
NRBS - 42	—	—	—	—	—	66.00	2.00
NRBS - 36	—	—	—	—	43.50	45.75	3.00

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS W/E 27-Mar-04

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW	PCT CHG PW	LY
ATLANTA	27.8	25.0	11	26
BOSTON	3.3	3.3	0	0
CHICAGO	75.4	71.4	6	40
DETROIT	29.5	27.1	9	-12
KANSAS CITY	3.1	3.0	3	-28
LOS ANGELES	86.4	86.6	0	2
NEW ORLEANS	8.3	8.4	-1	-41
NEW YORK	31.8	28.4	12	2
ST. LOUIS	17.4	15.7	11	-5
SAN FRANCISCO	17.2	20.1	-14	-21
TOTAL	300.2	289.0	4	4
4 WK MVG AVG	299.3			

LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED W/E 27-Mar-04

	YOUNG HENS		YOUNG TOMS		OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
	-----THOUSANDS-----					
HEAD	1,808	2,595	48	7		4,458
AVG WT	15.86	36.62	24.28	27.78		28.05
LAST WEEK	1,701	2,449	56	2		4,208
SAME WK YR AGO	1,592	2,920	37	28		4,577
AVG WT	16.22	36.68	26.89	27.90		29.43
TO-DATE/2004	20,352	29,624	527	97		50,600
TO-DATE/2003	20,558	31,946	700	202		53,406

NUMBER OF TURKEYS SLTRD IN FEDERALLY INSP PLANTS

Week ending W/E 27-Mar-04 (Preliminary) (Released 1:00 Eastern Time)						
--YOUNG TURKEYS--			OLD		TOTAL TURKEYS	
THOUSAND	PCT CHG	AVG	BANDED	HEAD-	LIVE WT	AVG
HEAD	PW	LIVE WT	-THOUSAND	HEAD-	LIVE WT	
NEAST	927	15	21.96	(A)	929	21.96
SATL	766	9	29.60	(A)	768	29.60
N CENT	1,898	1	32.90	(A)	1,899	32.90
S CENT	519	6	21.88	(A)	520	21.88
WEST	341	4	23.54	(A)	342	23.54
U.S. TOTAL	4,451 (B)	6	28.05	7	4,458	28.05
TO-DATE						
2004	50,503 (B)				97	50,600
TO-DATE						
2003	53,204 (B)				202	53,406

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

(B) Number of young banded breeder turks included: this week 48,000 for the year 527,000; last year to date 700,000.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 27-Mar-04

(PRELIMINARY)	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
-----THOUSANDS-----					
HEAD	152,749	1,254	1,222	2,476	481
AVG WT	5.16	3.24	8.00	5.59	6.76
LAST WEEK	153,006	1,283	1,338	2,621	463
SAME WK YR AGO	152,814	1,980	1,391	3,371	413
AVG WT	5.07	3.43	7.84	5.25	6.92
TO-DATE/2004	1,842,387	15,274	15,206	30,480	5,512
TO-DATE/2003	1,807,846	20,204	16,315	36,519	5,028

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.0 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.6 million head or 3.4 million head less than or 98% of estimated fryers available.

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 03-Apr-04

CLASS	Current Week	Previous Week
	04/03/04(1)	03/27/04
-----THOUSAND HEAD-----		
BRO-FRY	159,305(2)	156,496
LT HENS	1,298	1,345
HVY HENS	1,459	1,307
TOTAL	162,062	159,148

(1) ESTIMATED

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 03-Apr-04 is 156.9 million head compared to 158.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 159.6 million head or 2.7 million more than estimated available. For week of 10-Apr-04 the estimated available is 157.6 million head.

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO**ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
FEBRUARY 21	154.1	157.7	98%	5.05
28	154.6	156.8	99%	5.17
MARCH 6	155.3	156.2	99%	5.41
13	159.1	157.0	101%	5.06
20	154.9	158.6	98%	5.15
27	154.6	158.0	98%	5.16
YEAR TO DATE	1864.9	1885.1	99%	
APRIL 3		156.9		
10		157.6		

READY-TO-COOK POULTRY BROILER/FRYERS

Final report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers f.o.b. and Delivered to First Receivers at major market areas week of 3/29/04-04/02/04 (cents per lb.)

	U.S. GRADE A		COMPOSITE		
	MAJ	WTD AVG	LDS	WTD AVG	LDS
Chicago	71.00-74.00	73.82	38	76.04	75
Los Angeles	79.00	78.98	57	79.77	146
New York	75.00-77.00	76.33	24	76.28	44

COMPOSITE WTD AVG PRICES FOR RTC BROILER/FRYERS

	Change from		
	22-Mar-04	22-Mar-04	31-Mar-03
29-Mar-04	76.77	0.25	76.52
			57.71

NUMBER OF LOADS 588

MONTHLY WTD AVG PRICE FOR R.T.C. BROILER/FRYERS

MONTH	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	LOADS
MARCH	75.94	2767.80

QUARTERLY WTD AVG PRICE FOR R.T.C. BROILER/FRYERS

MONTHS	WEIGHTED AVERAGE	LOADS
JANUARY-MARCH	73.07	8074.20

WHOLE YOUNG TURKEYS, FROZEN 1/, CONSUMER SIZES, COMMODITY PACK OR EQUIVALENT, US GRADE A, CENTS PER LB, DELIVERED (MINIMUM 10,000 LB LOTS)

	OFFERS	SALES	WTD AVG	LBS (000)
CURRENT SHIPMENTS 2/				
8-16 LB HENS				
EASTERN REGION 3/	63-64	-	-	-
CENTRAL REGION 4/	62-64	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION 5/	63-66	-	-	-
16-24 LB TOMS				
EASTERN REGION	61-62	-	-	-
CENTRAL REGION	61-62	-	-	-
WESTERN REGION	61-63	-	-	-

1/ May include product stored at temperatures in range of 1 to 25 degrees F.

2/ Includes product priced for shipment within 14 days.

3/ Includes product with 3 percent broth basting.

4/ Includes product with 3-6 percent broth basting.

5/ Includes products with 6 percent broth basting.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)
SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)

		FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM	03/29/04	3,243	183,852	42,490
AM	03/01/04	3,548	169,441	39,330
CHG		-305	14411	3160
PCT CHG		-9%	9%	8%

HEN MARKETS

HEAVY TYPE Final Price, Generally for slaughter the week of 29-Mar-04

	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD. AVG
Southeast (1)	6-10.5 CENTS/LB.	8.75-9.25	8.92

	TFEWR	WTD. AVG
Southeast (2)		
South Central(1)	6.25-12 CENTS/LB.	8.75-9.25
		9.22

(1) At Farm Buyer Loading (2) At Farm Producer Loading

LIGHT TYPE 26-Mar-04 Cents per Head, generally for removal within the next 10 days (includes handling, freight and any other charges, weights average about 3.50 pounds)

REMOVAL COST

	RANGE	MAJORITY
Eastern	0-12	9-11
So. Central	Too Few To Report	
No. Central	0-7	4.5-5

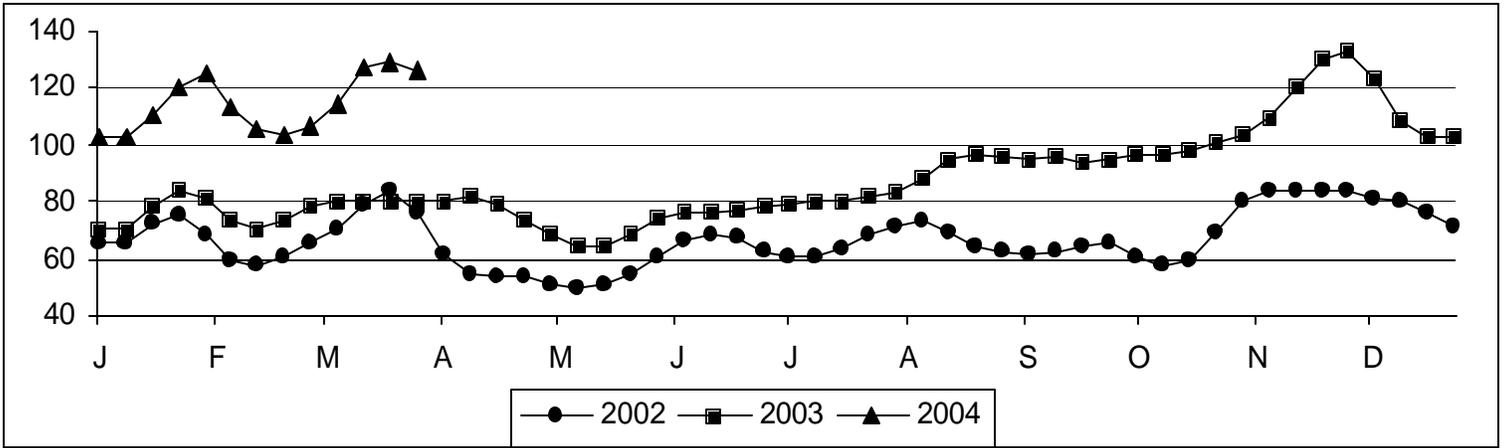
COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 27-Mar-04

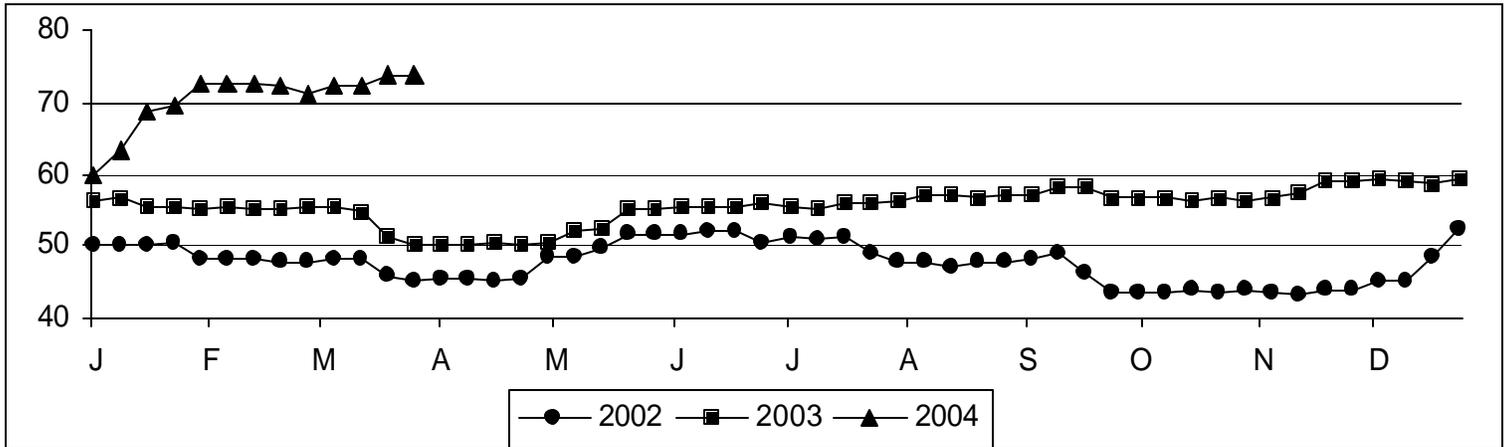
(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
		PW	LY
N. ATLANTIC	229.8	4	3
E.N. CENTRAL	588.5	1	7
W.N. CENTRAL	291.3	1	-2
S. ATLANTIC	189.7	2	1
S. CENTRAL	100.0	-4	0
WEST	168.3	-11	-14
TOTAL	1567.6	0	1
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85	85

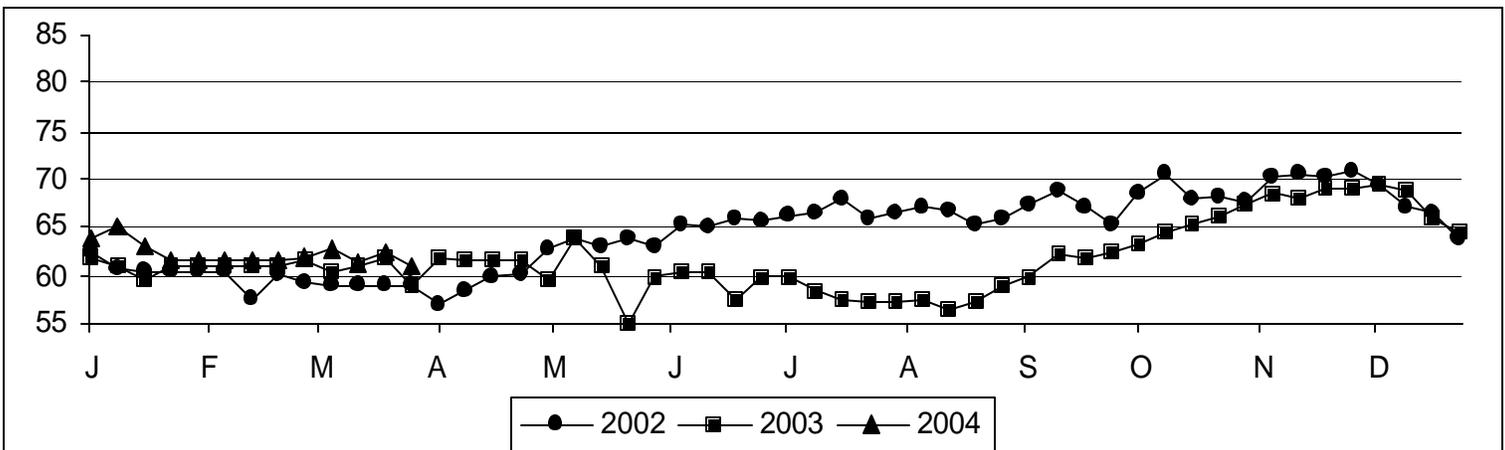
New York Large Weekly Average Price
Cents per Dozen



Chicago Broiler/Fryer Weighted Average Prices
Cents per Pound



Eastern Region Weekly Average Prices For 8-16 LB Hen Turkeys
Cents per Pound



Note: Some Weeks' Average Prices are Based on Offers Only

USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS, POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**Washington, DC**Mike Sheats
Branch ChiefVoice (202)720-6911
Fax (202)720-2403**Des Moines, IA**Mary L. Adkins,
(Officer-In-Charge)Voice (515)284-4471
Fax (515)284-4468
Recorded (515)284-4545**Atlanta, GA**Johnny Freeman,
Officer-in-ChargeVoice (404)562-5850
Fax (404)562-5875
Recorded (404)562-5856**Los Angeles, CA**Jim Derby,
Officer-in-ChargeVoice (213)534-1330
Fax (213)534-1333
Recorded (213)534-1335**Jackson, MS**Gary Brown,
(Southern States Area Supervisor)Voice (601)965-4662
Fax (601)965-4661