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AG UPDATE

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CHICKENS AND EGGS
JANUARY 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during January 2005 compared with 93 million one month earlier and 96 million during January 2004. The number of layers during January totaled just under 3.94 million, down 4 percent from 4.09 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for January 2005, at 2,338 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,349 eggs per 100 layers during January 2004.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.61 billion during January 2005, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2005 averaged 348 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,188 eggs, up slightly from January 2004. All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2005, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

TROUT PRODUCTION 2004

There were 9 operations in Colorado during 2004 which had trout sales totaling $870,000 and 21 operations that distributed trout valued at $5.39 million. The total value of the trout sold and distributed during 2004 totaled $6.23 million, down 21 percent from the comparable value of $7.92 million a year earlier. To avoid disclosure of individual operations, the detailed information on trout sales by size of fish is not published separately. There were just under 1.48 million pounds of fish of all sizes distributed which had an average value of $3.64 per pound compared with 1.36 million pounds distributed during 2003 which averaged $4.28 per pound.

The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States totaled 68.7 million dollars during 2004, an increase of 7 percent from 2003. For the Nation, sales of fish totaled 63.9 million dollars for 2004, while egg sales totaled 4.83 million dollars. The State of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold. **Trout egg** sales in 2004 totaled 290 million eggs, up 10 percent from the 264 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2004 was $16.70 up 90 cents from 2003. The total value of trout egg sales during 2004 was 4.83 million dollars, an increase of 16 percent from the 4.18 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 10.2 million 12" or longer fish, 39.8 million 6"-12", and 75.8 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 64.8 million dollars, up 6 percent from 2003.

BEES AND HONEY PRODUCTION
2004

The number of colonies in **Colorado** during 2004 was down 4 percent from a year earlier at 23,000. The total honey production of 1.84 million pounds for 2004 was 11 percent below than the 2.06 million pounds a year earlier. The yield per colony decreased from 86 pounds per colony in 2003 to 80 pounds per colony in 2004. The total value of the 2004 honey crop was $2.72 million, down 6 percent from $2.89 million the previous year. The average price received for the 2004 crop was $1.48 per pound, compared with $1.40 per pound received for the 2003 crop. December 15, 2004 honey stocks of 791,000 pounds were up 10 percent from 722,000 pounds a year earlier.

Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED
FEBRUARY 1, 2004

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in **Colorado** feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,060,000 head as of February 1, 2005. The latest inventory was 2 percent below January 1, 2005 but up 2 percent from the 1,040,000 on feed on February 1, 2004. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 185,000 head of fed cattle during January 2005. This was 28 percent above December 2004 marketings of 145,000 head and 16 percent above marketings one year ago. An estimated 175,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during January, 6 percent above a year ago and 30 percent above December 2004 placements of 135,000. Of the number placed in January, 14 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 26 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 40 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 20 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for January at 10,000 head, was unchanged from last month but up 5,000 from January 2004.

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 February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent above February 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004 but 10 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.81 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 458,000, 700-799 pounds were 628,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 419,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 10 percent from 2003. Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, February 1, 2004-2005

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head			
On Feed Jan. 1.	1,040	1,080	11,253	11,299
Placements During Jan.	165	175	1,754	1,885
< 600 pounds	25	25	367	380
600 - 699 Pounds	45	45	466	458
700 - 799 Pounds	61	70	579	628
800 Plus Pounds	34	35	342	419
Marketings During Jan.	160	185	1,775	1,776
Other Disap. During Jan.	5	10	94	74
On Feed Feb. 1	1,040	1,060	11,138	11,334

Number of Feedlots and Annual Fed Cattle Marketings 2003 - 2004

There were 260 feedlots in operation during 2004 that marketed 2,115,000 head of cattle for the slaughter market. Of the total, there were 96 feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head that marketed 35,000 head during 2004. There were 164 feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more that marketed 2,080,000 head for the slaughter market. The 11 feedlots having a capacity of 32,000 head or greater marketed 1,180,000 head of cattle during 2004, representing 56 percent of the state's total marketing from all feedlots.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 82.2 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2005, up from 81.5 percent on January 1, 2004. Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2004 represented 85.3 percent all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, up from 85.1 percent during 2003.

Number of Feedlots and Annual Fed Cattle Marketings by Size 2003-2004

Feedlot Capacity	Colorado					
	Feedlots		Fed Cattle Marketings		Percent of Total Mrktgs. 1/	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Number		1,000 Head		Percent	
Under 1,000	110	96	35	35	1.5	1.7
1,000 - 1,999	42	40	35	35	1.5	1.7
2,000 - 3,999	40	42	60	75	2.6	3.5
4,000 - 7,999	37	34	165	155	7.2	7.3
8,000 - 15,999	21	22	235	210	10.2	9.9
16,000 - 31,999	15	15	445	425	19.3	20.1
32,000 & over	10	11	1,330	1,180	57.7	55.8
Total	275	260	2,305	2,115	100.0	100.0

Feedlot Capacity	United States					
	Feedlots		Fed Cattle Marketings		Percent of Total Mrktgs. 1/	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Number		1,000 Head		Percent	
Under 1,000	91	88	4,100	3,850	14.9	14.7
1,000 - 1,999	852	835	925	823	3.4	3.1
2,000 - 3,999	552	549	1,403	1,261	5.1	4.8
4,000 - 7,999	347	338	1,915	1,787	6.9	6.8
8,000 - 15,999	195	190	2,920	2,615	10.6	10.0
16,000 - 31,999	139	140	4,795	4,679	17.3	17.9
32,000 & over	120	124	11,509	11,139	41.7	42.6
Total	93,205	90,176	27,567	26,154	100.0	100.0

1/ Percents may not total to 100 due to rounding.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers** in February at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Crop Index is up 5 points (5.0 percent) while the Livestock Index is down 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for tomatoes, oranges, broccoli, and celery. Lower prices were received for corn, dairy, hogs, and soybeans. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

The February **All Farm Products Index,** is 113 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 1.8 percent from the January index but 2.6 percent below the February 2004 index. The February all wheat price, at $3.38 per bushel, is down 4 cents from the January price and 39 cents below February 2004. The corn price, at $2.02 per bushel, is down 10 cents from January and 59 cents below February 2004. The all hay price, at $84.70 per ton, is up 50 cents from last month and $3.50 above February 2004. The soybean price, at $5.39 per bushel, decreased 18 cents from January and is $2.89 below February 2004. The all potato price, at $5.44 per cwt, is down 15 cents from the previous month and 43 cents below last February. The dry edible bean price, at $28.30 per cwt, is 90 cents above last month and $10.80 above a year ago.

The February **Livestock and Products Index**, is down 0.8 percent from last month but up 7.1 percent from February 2004. The February hog price of $50.40 per cwt is down $2.80 from January but up $7.80 from a year ago. The February beef cattle price of $89.60 is up $0.20 from last month and up $11.10 from February 2004. The February all milk price of $15.40 per cwt is down $0.50 from last month but up $1.80 from January 2004. The fluid grade milk price is down $0.50 and the manufactured grade milk price is down $0.10 from the previous month.

Prices Received and Paid Summary
United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004 Jan.	2004 Feb.	2005 Jan	2005 Feb.
	Percent			
Prices Received	112	116	111	113
Prices Paid	130	131	134	134
Ratio 1/	86	89	83	84

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Colorado prices for February 2005 were higher than a year earlier for all livestock items but lower for wheat, corn and potatoes. Compared with a month earlier, only barley, drybeans, calves and cows averaged higher. Mid-February 2005 wheat, at $3.15 per bushel, was 15 cents below the previous month and 47 cents below February a year ago. Corn prices decreased 12 cents from January to $2.10 per bushel and averaged 51 cents below February 2004. The all barley price was 21 cents above the previous month, at $3.18 per bushel and was 22 cents above a year ago. The mid-February potato price, at $4.65 per cwt, was 5 cents below last month and 20 cents per cwt below February a year ago. Dry bean prices, at $29.30 per cwt, averaged 30 cents per cwt above last month and were $13.00 per cwt above February 2004. Alfalfa hay, at $85.00 per ton, decreased $1.00 from January but averaged $1.00 above February 2004. The other hay price, at $73.00 per ton, was $8.00 below January but $3.00 per ton above February a year ago.

The mid-February steer and heifer price declined $3.00 per cwt from last month to $105.00 per cwt but averaged $15.10 above the $89.90 per cwt a year ago. Cow prices increased $3.60 from the previous month to $55.90 per cwt and were $9.20 per cwt above February 2004. The mid-February calf price of $129.00 per cwt was $1.00 above January and was $14.00 per cwt above a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2005	Feb. 2005
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.62	3.30	3.15
Corn	Bu.	2.61	2.22	2.10
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.96	2.97	3.18
Potatoes	Cwt	4.85	4.70	4.65
Dry edible beans	Cwt	16.30	29.00	29.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	84.00	86.00	85.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	70.00	81.00	73.00
Livestock & Products .				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	89.50	107.00	105.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	89.90	108.00	105.00
Cows	Cwt	46.70	52.30	55.90
Calves	Cwt	115.00	128.00	129.00
Sheep	Cwt	33.10	46.60	3/
Lambs	Cwt	107.00	114.00	3/
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.42	3.38
Corn	Bu.	2.61	2.12	2.02
Soybeans	Bu.	8.28	5.57	5.39
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.73	2.42	2.48
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.16	1.65	1.74
Sorghum	Cwt	4.76	2.95	2.98
Potatoes	Cwt	5.87	5.59	5.44
Dry edible beans	Cwt	17.50	27.40	28.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	85.10	90.90	91.90
Other hay (baled)	Ton	72.10	70.60	70.00
Onions	Cwt	21.30	8.65	7.43
Livestock & Products .				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	78.50	89.40	89.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	82.30	94.40	93.80
Cows	Cwt	46.00	50.50	52.80
Calves	Cwt	111.00	125.00	128.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.80	53.50	3/
Lambs	Cwt	106.00	114.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	42.60	53.20	50.40
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	13.60	15.90	15.40
Broilers	Lb.	0.470	0.430	0.430

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

2/ Monthly price discontinued. 3/ Mid-month price not estimated.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 2004

The number of farms in **Colorado**, at 30,900 for 2004, was down 500 from a year earlier. The percent change and the Colorado number of agricultural operations for each sales class was as follows: $1,000 - $9,999, up 2 percent to 17,400 farms; $10,000 - $99,999, down 1 percent to 9,600 farms; $100,000 - $249,000, down 5 percent to 2,000 farms; $250,000 - $499,999, unchanged at 900 farms; and $500,000 and over, Also unchanged at 1,000 farms. The total land in farms declined 100,000 acres from 2003 to 30.9 million acres and the average size of farm increased to 1,000 acres in 2004.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres, or 0.2 percent, from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and transfers of agricultural land to competing uses.

Farm numbers declined in the 2 smallest economic sales classes and rose in the 3 largest economic sales classes. Part of the reduction in the small economic sales classes was due to normal attrition, mostly retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger economic sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the economic sales classes were due to rising incomes. Many operations near the top of their economic sales class in 2003, moved into the next larger economic sales class in 2004.

As a result, the largest percent changes from 2003 occurred in the smallest and largest economic sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.6 percent, to 1.18 million farms, in the $1,000-$9,999 economic sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 4.7 percent, to 76,740 farms, in the $500,000 or more economic sales class. The number of farms with at least $10,000 in sales rose 0.6 percent from 2003 and the number of farms with at least $100,000 in sales rose 2.0 percent.

Land in farms also shifted from lower economic sales classes to higher economic sales classes. In the $1,000-$9,999 economic sales class, land in farms dropped 3.1 percent, to 120.8 million acres. Land operated by farms in the largest economic sales class, $500,000 or more in sales, increased 3.1 percent, to 203.8 million acres.

Farms and Land in Farms, Colorado and United States, 1999-2004

Year	Number of Farms 1/		Land in Farms 1/	
	Colorado	United States	Colorado	United States
	Number		Thousand Acres	
1999	30,000	2,187,280	31,900	948,460
2000	30,000	2,166,780	31,600	945,080
2001	30,900	2,148,630	31,400	942,070
2002	31,400	2,135,360	31,100	940,300
2003	31,400	2,126,860	31,000	938,650
2004	30,900	2,113,470	30,900	936,600

1/ A farm is any establishment from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

Percent of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class, Colorado, 2003-2004

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent of Total			
$ 1,000- $9,999	56.4	56.3	10.0	10.0
$ 10,000- $99,999	30.9	31.1	33.9	33.3
$100,000- $249,999	6.7	6.5	25.6	22.3
$250,000- $499,999	2.9	2.9	14.5	14.9
$500,000 & over	3.2	3.2	19.0	19.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Percents may not add due to rounding.

Percent of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class, United States, 2003-2004

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Percent of Total			
$ 1,000- $9,999	56.4	55.8	13.3	12.9
$ 10,000- $99,999	28.2	28.4	28.8	28.5
$100,000- $249,999	7.8	7.9	20.9	20.7
$250,000- $499,999	4.1	4.2	15.9	16.2
$500,000 & over	3.4	3.6	21.1	21.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Percents may not add due to rounding.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: **http://www.usda.gov/nass/**

Mar. 4 - Livestock Slaughter - Annual
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