



AG UPDATE

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last year. California's stocks are unchanged from a year ago. Central States accounted for 40.0 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, down 6 percent from last year but 12 percent above two years ago. Michigan's potato stocks are down 24 percent, Minnesota potato sheds stored 8 percent less than last year, and Wisconsin's stocks decreased 2 percent. Nebraska and Ohio potato stocks combined decreased 15 percent from last year. North Dakota's sheds are the only sheds in the Central States storing more potatoes than last year, with an increase of 1 percent. Eastern States stored 10.8 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 5 percent from last year and 19 percent above two years ago. Maine's potato sheds hold 6 percent more than last year, while New York and Pennsylvania's sheds remain unchanged from a year ago.

POTATO STOCKS

MARCH 1, 2005

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 11.1 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2005 compared with 10.7 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 48 percent of the 23.15 million cwt produced in 2004. The March 1, 2004 stocks represented 45 percent of the 26.65 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2003. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for **table stock** accounted for 69 percent of the total production during the 1999-2003 period. The remaining 31 percent of the production is utilized for seed, processing, and home use or is lost through shrinkage.

The **15 major potato States** held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2005, up 1 percent from last year and 2 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 42 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year.

Disappearance of 235 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, is up 9 percent from last year and 10 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors used 119 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. February usage, at 18.4 million cwt, is 2 percent below both last year and two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 1 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 15 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 118 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 4 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Montana's potato stocks are up 14 percent from last year, Idaho's storages hold 10 percent more, and Colorado's potato sheds stored 4 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 18 percent and Washington's sheds hold 2 percent less than

CATTLE ON FEED

MARCH 1, 2005

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 1,040,000 head as of March 1, 2005. The latest inventory was down 2 percent from February 1, 2005, but increased 2 percent from the 1,020,000 on feed on March 1, 2004. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 185,000 head of fed cattle during February 2005. This was unchanged from January 2005 marketings but 12 percent above February marketings one year earlier. An estimated 175,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, 13 percent above a year ago but unchanged from January 2005 placements. Of the number placed in February, 9 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 26 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 40 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 26 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 10,000 head, was the same as the previous month and February 2005.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2004 and 6 percent above March 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.52 million, 6 percent below 2004 and 8 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.45 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 277,000, 600-699 pounds were 308,000, 700-799 pounds were 526,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 412,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.63 million,

4 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during February, 10 percent above 2004 and 7 percent above 2003.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States 1,000+ Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2004-2005

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head			
On Feed Feb. 1	1,040	1,060	11,138	11,339
Placements During Feb.	155	175	1,612	1,523
< 600 pounds	13	15	319	277
600 - 699 Pounds	38	45	351	308
700 - 799 Pounds	58	70	548	526
800 Plus Pounds	46	45	394	412
Marketings During Feb.	165	185	1,694	1,634
Other Disap. During Feb.	10	10	69	76
On Feed Mar. 1	1,020	1,040	10,987	11,152

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
FEBRUARY 2005**

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2005 totaled 128.6 million pounds, down 11 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter declined 15 percent to 150,300 head and the average live weight of 1,285 pounds per head was 22 pounds heavier than February 2004. Hog slaughter, at 800 head, was 11 percent below a year earlier and the average live weight of 269 pounds was 25 pounds above the February 2004 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2004 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 265.1 million pounds, down 10 percent from the 296.0 million pounds produced during January and February of 2004.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.42 billion pounds in February, up 1 percent from the 3.40 billion pounds produced in February 2004. **Beef production**, at 1.77 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.34 million head, down 4 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,254 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 12.1 million pounds, 16 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61,900 head, down 13 percent from February 2004. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, 3 percent above February 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 270 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 3 percent from February 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 215,000 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 1 pound from February a year ago.

January to February 2005 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

**Red Meat Production
Colorado and United States**

Area and Specie	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2005	Feb. 2005	Jan-Feb	
				2004	2005
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	145.0	136.5	128.6	296.0	265.1
United States 1/:	3,405.0	3,648.0	3,423.0	7,120.0	7,071.0
Beef	1,804.0	1,917.0	1,767.0	3,730.0	3,684.0
Veal	14.5	13.3	12.1	30.5	25.4
Pork	1,571.0	1,704.0	1,629.0	3,330.0	3,333.0
Lamb & Mutton	14.8	14.4	15.2	30.3	29.6

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**MILK PRODUCTION
FEBRUARY 2005 - 23 STATES**

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 0.7 percent from February 2004. However, production was 2.8 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 1.5 percent from January 2004. The January revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 29 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,516 pounds for February, 15 pounds below February 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.07 million head, 23,000 head more than February 2004, but 9,000 head less than January 2005.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, 23 States

Item	Feb. 2004	Jan. 2005	Feb. 2005
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/ . .	8,051	8,083	8,074
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/	1,531	1,640	1,516
Production (mil. lbs.) 2/	12,329	13,258	12,240

1/ Average number during year, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**COUNTY ESTIMATES
CORN FOR GRAIN - 2004 CROP**

Colorado corn production for 2004 reached the highest level since the 2002-2003 drought, but was 6 percent below the 2001 pre-drought level. Weather conditions improved in the 2004 growing season, but irrigation water continued below normal supply levels. While the total production of 140,400,000 bushels was 17 percent above the previous year's crop of 120,150,000 bushels, it was still below historic average output. While the 1,200,000 acres planted for all purposes was up 120,000 acres from the previous year, the 1,040,000 acres harvested for grain increased 17 percent from 890,000 acres harvested in 2003. Average per acre yield on irrigated acres reached a record high of 178.0 bushels per acre, however, the average dryland yield of

40.0 did not reach pre-drought levels. An increase in dryland harvested acres from 23 percent to 31 percent of harvested area kept the state's overall average yield of 135.0 bushels per acre equal to a year earlier.

Yuma County continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 43,640,000 bushels of corn for grain in 2004. The latest crop was just slightly larger than the 42,075,000 bushels produced in 2003 and represented 31 percent of the state's total output of 140,400,000 bushels. Producers in Yuma County planted 247,200 acres of corn for all purposes in 2004 and harvested 236,700 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres continued to be the highest in the state. The average yield of 184.5 bushels per acre from the 2004 crop was 1.5 bushels per acre above the previous year.

Kit Carson County remained in the second place ranking for the 2004 crop with a total output of 24,300,000 bushels. The latest crop was 26 percent larger than the 19,250,000 bushels produced in 2003. Kit Carson County growers planted 240,800 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn for all purposes in the state. The 213,200 acres harvested for grain represented a 47 percent increase from the 145,000 acres harvested in 2003. This was the second highest corn for grain acres harvested in the state. Producers averaged 114.0 bushels per acre from the 2004 crop compared with a 133.0 bushel average yield from the 2003 crop. A large increase in dryland harvested area lowered average yield from last year.

Phillips County was again the third largest corn producing area of the state in 2004 with a total output of 13,470,000 bushels. The 2004 crop was 6 percent smaller than the 14,300,000 bushels produced in 2003. Producers harvested 106,000 acres of corn for grain in 2004, down 8 percent from the 115,000 acres harvested a year earlier. However, the average yield of 127.0 bushels per acre for the 2004 crop was 2.5 bushels per acre higher than the 2003 crop average of 124.5 bushels per acre.

Morgan County maintained a fourth place ranking in corn production for 2004 with a total output of 9,670,000 bushels, up 11 percent from the 8,740,000 bushels produced in 2003. The harvested area of 55,000 acres was the same as the previous year. The average yield of 176.0 bushels per acre was 17.0 bushels above a year earlier due mostly to a higher ratio of irrigated to dryland harvested acreage.

Weld County stayed in the list of the top five producing counties for the 2004 crop with a total output of 8,988,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 24 percent larger than the 2003 output of 7,242,000 bushels. The 101,000 acres planted in the county was 2,800 acres above the previous year and remained the fifth largest in the state. The 56,000 acres harvested for grain represented an increase of 1,000 from the 55,000 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 160.5 bushels per acre was 29.0 bushels per acre above the 2003 crop average of 131.5 bushels.---

The **top five counties** produced 100,068,000 bushels of grain corn in 2004, representing 71 percent of the state's total corn for grain crop. Those same counties also produced 76 percent of the 2003 crop. The next five leading counties of **Logan, Cheyenne,**

Sedgwick, Baca, and Washington had a combined output of 31,602,000 bushels, bringing the top ten county total to 131,670,000 bushels or 94 percent of the state's total corn for grain production in 2004. There were thirteen counties in the state that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2004.

SORGHUM FOR GRAIN - 2004 CROP

Colorado sorghum production in 2004 improved from 2003, and significantly rebounded from the near record-setting lows of the drought affected crop of 2002. Colorado producers harvested 5,400,000 bushels of sorghum in 2004, 25 percent above 2003 production and 300 percent above 2002 production, which was the smallest crop since 1952. Growers were still contending with water shortages and lower than normal soil moisture conditions at planting, but planted acres at 280,000, were up 4 percent from the 2003 planted acres of 270,000, but down 20 percent from the 350,000 acres planted in 2002. Some timely rains during the growing season contributed to an increase in sorghum harvested acres for 2004. Harvested acres at 180,000, were up 13 percent from the 160,000 harvested acres in 2003 and up 200 percent from the 90,000 acres harvested in 2002. The average yield for the 2004 crop was 30.0 bushels per acre compared to the average of 27.0 bushels per acre in 2003 and 20.0 bushels per acre from the 2002 crop.

Baca County continued to lead all counties as the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado with 2,155,000 bushels. This production accounted for 40 percent of the state's total sorghum production and was 21 percent higher than the 1,787,000 bushel crop produced in Baca County in 2003. The 76,000 acres harvested in 2004 reflected a 13 percent increase from the 67,000 acres harvested for grain the previous year. In addition, the average yield of 28.5 bushels per acre for the 2004 crop was 2 bushels per acre above the 26.5 bushel average realized from the 2003 crop.

Kiowa County ranks a distant second in grain sorghum production with a total of 1,535,000 bushels in 2004. However, the 2004 production was over two and a half times the production of 574,000 bushels produced in Kiowa County in 2003. Producers harvested 58,000 acres for grain in 2004 compared with 30,200 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 26.5 bushels per acre for the 2004 crop was 7.5 bushels above the 2003 crop average of 19.0 bushels.

Prowers County had the third largest production in the state in 2004 with a total crop of 680,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2004 crop was 55 percent larger than the 2003 crop of 440,000 bushels. Producers harvested 14,700 acres of grain sorghum in 2004 compared with 12,300 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 46.5 bushels per acre was 10.5 bushels above the 2003 crop average of 36.0 bushels per acre.

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Cheyenne County was a close fourth behind Prowers County with a total production of 625,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2004. This was four times more than the 151,000 bushels produced in Cheyenne County in 2003. Producers harvested 15,000 acres of grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 41.5 bushels per acre from the 2004 crop. That compares with 7,000 acres harvested and an average yield of 21.5 bushels per acre for the previous year's crop.

Lincoln County moved up to a fifth place ranking of the state's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 75,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2004, which is down significantly from the 120,000 bushel crop produced in Lincoln County in 2003. Producers harvested 3,500 acres in 2004 compared with 5,700 acres the previous year. The average yield for the 2004 crop was 21.5 bushels per acre compared to the average yield to 21.0 bushels per acre in 2003.

The **top five producing counties** produced 94 percent of the state's total grain sorghum crop of 5,400,000 bushels in 2004 compared with 73 percent of the total output of 4,320,000 bushels for the 2003 crop. The production for each of the next top five producing counties was as follows: **Pueblo County**, 43,000 bushels; **Yuma County**, 42,000 bushels; **Bent County**, 40,000 bushels; **Logan County**, 28,000 bushels; **Kit Carson**, 21,000 bushels. The combined output from these counties totaled 174,000 bushels, bringing the total production from the **top ten counties** to 5,244,000 bushels, which represents 97 percent of the state's total output. There were only 10 other counties which produced grain sorghum in 2004 which accounted for the remaining 3 percent of the total production.

NOTE: More detailed reports are available upon request from this office. The reports are also available at the Internet address listed on the front page of this report.

COLD STORAGE FEBRUARY 28, 2005

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, pork, vegetables, and fruit. Butter stocks were up 44 percent from last month, but down 30 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 1 percent from last month, but up 4 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 9 percent from last month and up 14 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 19 percent from last month and up 32 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on February 28, 2005 were 3 percent above the previous month and up slightly from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month, but up 16 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 15 percent from last month, but down 18 percent from February 29, 2004.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Feb. 29, 2004	Jan. 31, 2005	Feb. 28, 2005
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	159,066	77,215	111,239
Cheese, total natural . . .	766,090	708,811	716,669
Eggs, frozen	21,138	18,577	17,865
Poultry, total frozen . . .	1,015,800	982,642	1,016,902
Chicken	542,790	646,843	629,993
Turkey	471,682	335,398	386,434
Fruits, frozen	803,321	989,394	873,960
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,976,760	1,830,265	1,889,148
Vegetables, total frozen	1,761,031	2,101,596	1,979,159
Potatoes, total frozen . .	1,207,358	1,168,801	1,152,905
Meats, total red	926,888	966,877	959,419
Beef, total frozen	435,033	457,273	403,815
Pork, total frozen	477,119	498,619	544,521

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

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. 24 - Hogs and Pigs
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- Apr. 14 - Turkey Hatchery
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- Apr. 22 - Cattle on Feed

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