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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
MARCH 1, 2005

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,200,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, unchanged from the actual acreage planted to corn a year earlier. Sorghum intentions are 260,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2005 remain at 2,650,000 acres, unchanged from January's report, but up 350,000 from the 2004 crop. Growers intend to plant 20,000 acres of spring wheat this year, up 5,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 100,000 acres, is up 10,000 acres from actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are down 15,000 acres to 65,000. Growers intend to plant 190,000 acres of sunflowers this year, up 55,000 acres from what they planted in 2004. The acreage of oil varieties is expected total 130,000 acres, up 40,000 from last year's plantings of 90,000. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to increase 15,000 acres to 60,000 acres this year. The state's dry bean growers indicate they plan to plant 90,000 acres of that crop this year, up 15,000 acres from last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 2,000 acres from last year to 38,000 acres. Hay producers in the state intend to harvest 1.60 million acres this year, up 80,000 acres from the number of acres cut for hay in 2004.

Northeastern Colorado producers who irrigate from wells face uncertain pumping restrictions this spring while growers in the southern regions of the state enjoy above average, mountain snowpack and better soil moisture than recent planting seasons. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects at planting time, changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting, and the impact of this report.

Growers in the **United States** intend to plant 81.4 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2005, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be largest corn acreage since 1985 when 83.4 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains. However, growers in most States in the Delta, Southeast, and northern Great Plains intend to decrease their corn acreage as producers are switching to other more profitable crops due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

The 2005 intended sorghum area planted for all purposes is estimated at 7.40 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. Sorghum acres declined from last year in seven States, but increased in ten States. The largest acreage declines are expected by growers in Kansas and Nebraska, which will combine for a decrease of 460,000 acres. Parts of Kansas that had been in very dry conditions for several years received ample moisture this last fall and winter.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2004-2005

Crop	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,200	1,200	80,930	81,413
Sorghum, all	280	260	7,486	7,400
Oats	90	100	4,085	4,267
Wheat, all 1/	2,315	2,670	59,674	58,592
Winter	2,300	2,650	43,350	41,613
Spring	15	20	13,763	14,371
Barley	80	65	4,527	3,974
Soybeans	...	...	75,208	73,910
Sunflower, all	135	190	1,873	2,750
Oil	90	130	1,533	2,185
Non-oil	45	60	340	565
Dry beans	75.0	90.0	1,354.3	1,663.5
Sugar beets	36.0	38.0	1,346.0	1,299.0
Hay, all 2/	1,520	1,600	61,916	62,940

1/ Includes Durum for U.S.
2/ Harvested acres 2004, intentions to harvest in 2005.

Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2005 crop year are expected to total 4.27 million acres, up 4 percent from last year's planted area. Barley growers intend to plant 3.97 million acres for 2005, down 12 percent from last year and, if realized, the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Expected acreage declined from last year in the 4 largest barley-producing States. Producers expect to harvest 62.9 million acres of all hay in 2005, up 2 percent from last year. The two States with the largest expected increases are New York, which is up 470,000 acres from last year, and South Dakota, which is up 300,000 acres.

Winter wheat planted area for the 2005 crop is 41.6 million acres, down 4 percent from 2004, but virtually unchanged from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Changes from the previous report were minor and mostly offsetting. Of the total, about 30.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.6 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.5 million acres are White Winter. Area seeded to Durum wheat is expected to total 2.61 million acres, up 2 percent from 2004. Other spring wheat growers intend to plant 14.4 million acres this year, up 4 percent from 2004. Of the total, about 13.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

GRAIN STOCKS MARCH 1, 2005

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2005 totaled 21.91 million bushels, down 31 percent from 31.84 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 6.5 million bushels, were down 7 percent from the previous year and off-farm stocks were down 38 percent to 15.41 million bushels. **Corn** stocks, at 67.43 million bushels, were up 51 percent. Farm stocks were up 59 percent to 35.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks were up 44 percent to 32.43 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were up 4 percent to 75,000 bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 6.75 billion bushels, up 28 percent from March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 stocks level since 1988. Of the total stocks, 4.14 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 37 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.62 billion bushels, are up 17 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 2.70 billion bushels, compared with 2.68 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 1.38 billion bushels, up 52 percent from March 1, 2004. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 795 million bushels, up 123 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 586 million bushels, are up 7 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter totaled 924 million bushels, up 18 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 981 million bushels, down 4 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 305 million bushels, up 18 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 676 million bushels, are down 11 percent from a year ago. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance is 449 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 191 million bushels, up 25 percent from March 1, 2004. On-farm stocks are estimated at 79.7 million bushels, 54 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 111 million bushels, are 10 percent above March 1, 2004. Indicated disappearance during the December 2004 - February 2005 quarter totaled 55.3 million bushels, up 23 percent from the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 82.5 million bushels, 13 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2004. Of the total stocks on hand, 43.5 million bushels are stored on farms, 5 percent lower than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 39.0 million bushels, 21 percent below a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during December 2004 - February 2005 totaled 22.4 million bushels, compared with24.3 million bushels from the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2005 totaled 203 million bushels, up 28 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 33.4 million bushels, are up 59 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 170 million bushels, are up 23 percent from March 1, 2004. The December 2004 - February 2005 indicated disappearance from all positions is 78.8 million bushels, up 2 percent from the same period a year ago.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2004-2005

Grain	Colorado		United States	
and Position 1/	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	7,000	6,500	257,890	304,710
Off farms	24,845	15,410	762,727	676,304
Total	31,845	21,910	1,020,617	981,014
Corn				
On farms	22,000	35,000	3,030,000	4,137,000
Off farms	22,540	32,430	2,241,459	2,616,738
Total	44,540	67,430	5,271,459	6,753,738
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	51,700	79,680
Off farms	8,565	2/	101,186	111,001
Total	2/	2/	152,886	190,681
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	45,600	43,500
Off farms	72	75	49,414	39,026
Total	2/	2/	95,014	82,526
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	21,000	33,400
Off farms	1,540	2/	137,652	169,989
Total	2/	2/	158,652	203,389
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	355,900	795,000
Off farms	2/	2/	549,947	585,974
Total	2/	2/	905,847	1,380,974

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
2/ Minor states are not published separately, but are included in US total.
3/ Not estimated.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 82 million eggs during February 2005, down 4 percent from 85 million eggs the same month a year earlier and 10 percent below the 91 million eggs produced during January 2005. The average number of layers during February 2005 totaled 3.81 million, down 5 percent from 3.99 million a year earlier and 2 percent below the 3.89 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2005, at 2,151 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,126 eggs per 100 layers during February 2004 and 2,339 for January 2005.

United States egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 5.90 billion table eggs, and 1.01 billion hatching eggs, of which 956 million were broiler-type and 58 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2005 averaged 349 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,980 eggs, down 3 percent from February 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2005, totaled 349 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2005, averaged 71.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 15, 2005

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** by Farmers in March, at 118, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.5 percent) above the February Index. The Crop Index is up 7 points (6.6 percent) while the Livestock Index is up 3 points (2.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, lettuce, and corn. Lower prices were received for strawberries, grapefruit, apples, and eggs. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (2.5 percent) from March 2004.

The March **All Crops Index** is 113, up 6.6 percent from February but 6.6 percent below March 2004. The March all wheat price, at $3.53 per bushel, is up 17 cents from the February price but 30 cents below March 2004. The corn price, at $2.03 per bushel, is up 8 cents from February but 72 cents below March 2004. The all hay price, at $89.10 per ton, is up $4.40 from last month and $7.30 above March 2004. Grain sorghum, at $3.17 per cwt, is up 22 cents from February but $1.67 below March last year. The soybean price, at $6.28 per bushel, increased 86 cents from February but is $3.00 below March 2004. The all potato price, at $6.16 per cwt, is up 40 cents from the previous month and 7 cents above last March. The dry edible bean price, at $27.40 per cwt, is 40 cents below last month but $7.20 above a year ago.

The March **Livestock and Products Index**, at 122, is up 2.5 percent from last month but unchanged from March 2004. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, hogs, calves, turkeys, and dairy but lower for broilers and eggs. The March hog price, at $51.50 per cwt, is up $0.80 from February and up $4.30 from a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $91.90 is up $2.90 from last month and up $8.20 from March 2004. The March all milk price of $15.60 is up $0.10 from last month and up $0.20 from February 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004 Feb.	2004 Mar.	2005 Feb.	2005 Mar.
	Percent			
Prices Received	116	121	114	118
Prices Paid	131	132	135	135
Ratio 1/	89	92	84	87

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

Compared with March 2004, **Colorado** crop prices were unchanged or lower than last year except for other hay and dry beans , while all livestock prices averaged higher. Mid-March 2005 wheat, at $3.32 per bushel, was down 42 cents from a year ago but was 7 cents above last month. Corn prices increased 5 cents from February to $2.08 per bushel but averaged 63 cents above March 2004. The mid-March potato price, at $4.95 per cwt, increased 55 cents from last month but decreased 5 cents from March a year ago. Dry bean prices decreased 60 cents from February to $29.20 per cwt, but increased $11.50 from March 2004. Alfalfa hay, at $84.00 per ton, was unchanged from February 2005 and March 2004. The other hay price, at $90.00 per ton, was unchanged from February but was $11.00 above March a year ago. The mid-March steer and heifer price, at $109.00 per cwt, increased $4.00 from last month and averaged $17.00 above a year ago. Cow prices increased $0.80 from the previous month to $56.90 per cwt and were $10.50 per cwt above March 2004. The mid-March calf price of $134.00 per cwt was up $3.00 from last month and $17.00 above a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2004	Feb. 2005	Mar. 2005
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.74	3.25	3.32
Corn	Bu.	2.71	2.03	2.08
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.82	2.34	2.55
Potatoes	Cwt	5.00	4.40	4.95
Dry edible beans	Cwt	17.70	29.80	29.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	84.00	84.00	84.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	79.00	90.00	90.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.50	105.00	108.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	92.00	105.00	109.00
Cows	Cwt	46.40	56.10	56.90
Calves	Cwt	117.00	131.00	134.00
Sheep	Cwt	33.10	43.50	2/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	115.00	2/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	3/	15.00	15.50
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.83	3.36	3.53
Corn	Bu.	2.75	1.95	2.03
Soybeans	Bu.	9.28	5.42	6.28
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.77	2.37	2.48
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.19	1.62	1.77
Sorghum	Cwt	4.84	2.95	3.17
Potatoes	Cwt	6.09	5.76	6.16
Dry edible beans	Cwt	20.20	27.80	27.40
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	86.20	91.90	96.40
Other hay (baled)	Ton	72.00	70.00	70.40
Onions	Cwt	12.80	7.29	6.47
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	83.70	89.00	91.90
Steers & heifers	Cwt	88.00	93.30	96.30
Cows	Cwt	46.50	52.40	53.60
Calves	Cwt	115.00	128.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.70	51.30	2/
Lambs	Cwt	103.00	114.00	2/
Hogs	Cwt	47.20	50.70	51.50
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.40	15.50	15.60
Broilers	Lb.	0.470	0.430	0.440

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/ Discontinued.
3/ Not available

HOGS AND PIGS MARCH 1, 2005

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2005 totaled 810,000 head, up 17 percent from March 1, 2004. The breeding hog inventory was unchanged from a year earlier at 140,000 head but the market hog inventory was up 22 percent to 670,000 head. Colorado's December 2004 - February 2005 pig crop of 650,000 head was up 7 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. There were 76,000 sows farrowed during the December 2004 - February 2005 time period compared with 73,000 sows farrowed during the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 78,000 sows during the March - May 2005 period and 78,000 sows during the June - August 2005 period.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2005 was 59.9 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Breeding inventory, at 5.94 million head, was down slightly from both March 1, 2004 and last quarter. **Market hog inventory,** at 54.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The December 2004 - February 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 25.5 million head, was up 2 percent from 2004 and up 4 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, up 1 percent from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.94 for the December 2004 - February 2005 period, compared to 8.85 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrowed during the March-May 2005 quarter, unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2004, but 1 percent below 2003. Intended farrowings for June-August 2005, at 2.88 million sows, are down 1 percent from the same period in both 2004 and 2003. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 37 percent last year.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2004-2005

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	690	810	59,520	59,899
Kept for breeding	140	140	5,961	5,941
Market	550	670	53,558	53,957
Under 60 lbs	315	365	19,823	19,817
60-119 lbs	60	115	12,954	13,087
120-179 lbs	65	85	11,205	11,430
180 lbs. & over	110	105	9,578	9,624
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec - Feb	73	76	2,836	2,851
March - May 1/	72	78	2,886	2,870
June - Aug 1/	70	78	2,918	2,880
Pig Crop:				
Dec - Feb	606	650	25,105	25,489
March - May	583	2/	25,633	2/
June - Aug	588	2/	26,162	2/

1/ Actual for 2004; intentions for 2005. 2/ Not estimated.

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 Internet at:

http://www.usda.gov/nass/

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April 8 - Crop Production
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