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CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION
MARCH 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during March 2005 compared with 91 million in March 2004 and 82 million in February 2005. The average number of layers during March of this year was 3.77 million, down from 3.95 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,440 for March 2005 compared with 2,304 for March 2004.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.73 billion during March 2005, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2005 averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2005, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing states produced 7.23 billion eggs during March 2005, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 325 million, was up slightly from a year earlier. The 30 States account for approximately 93.6 percent of the total U.S. egg production.

MEAT ANIMALS: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME
2004 SUMMARY

Colorado Highlights

The total gross income to Colorado producers from beef, pork, and sheep and lambs during 2004 totaled $3.67 billion, 13 percent above the $3.24 billion for the previous year. Gross income from cattle and calves during 2004 increased 14 percent from the previous year to $3.35 billion and represented 91 percent of the total income from the three species. The gross income from hogs and pigs increased 10 percent from 2003 to $206.3 million. Gross income from sheep and lambs increased 15 percent to $111.2 million. The beginning year inventory value per head for each of the three meat animals compared with a year earlier was as follows: cattle and calves, $1,000 (up $80); hogs and pigs, $95 (up $31); and sheep and lambs, $127 (up $11).

Total marketings of meat animals during 2004 totaled 3.71 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 3.89 billion pounds marketed in 2003. Marketings of cattle and calves, at 3.21 billion pounds, represented 86 percent of the total but were down 4 percent from a year earlier. The 2004 marketings of hogs and pigs, at 386.6 million pounds, declined 15 percent from 452.9 million pounds in 2003. Sheep and lamb marketings, at 114.5. million pounds, rose 9 percent from a year earlier.

United States Highlights

The 2004 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled $62.6 billion, up 11 percent from 2003. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 5 percent, hogs and pigs increased 35 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 3 percent.

Total 2004 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 11 percent to $62.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs but increased hogs and pigs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from $45.1 billion in 2003 to $47.3 in 2004, a 5 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.8 billion pounds in 2004, down 5 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was $85.90, an increase of $6.20 from 2003. For calves, the annual average price increased $17.00 to $119.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $14.3 billion during 2004, up 35 percent from 2003. Marketings totaled 27.8 billion pounds in 2004, up 2 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from $37.20 in 2003 to $49.30 in 2004.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were $521 million, up 3 percent from 2003. Marketings decreased 6 percent to 572 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from $34.90 in 2003 to $38.80 in 2004 while for lambs, the annual average price increased $94.40 to $101.00.

POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

2004 SUMMARY

Colorado Highlights

The combined value of egg production and value of sales from chickens in Colorado during 2004 totaled $60.5 million, up 8 percent from the comparable value of $56.2 million in 2003. A record high 1.10 billion eggs were produced during 2004, up 3 percent from the 1.07 billion produced the previous year. The average price per dozen eggs declined from 67.0 cents in 2003 to 65.3 cents in 2004.

During 2004, there were 10.5 million pounds of chicken sold at an average price of 3.4 cents per pound for a total value of sales at $357,000. A year earlier, 8.7 million pounds of chicken were sold at an average price of 3.5 cents per pound for a total value of sales of $304,000 A majority of the chickens sold are non-producing egg-type layers which have a low value. Colorado data for turkeys is combined with other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

United States Highlights

The combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2004, was $28.9 billion, up 24 percent from the $23.3 billion in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2004 was $20.4 billion, up 34 percent from 2003. The total number of broilers produced in 2004 was 8.74 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2004 was 45.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 44.6 cents per pound, compared with 34.6 cents in 2003.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2004 was $58.0 million, up 21 percent from the $47.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 4.9 cents in 2003. The number of chickens sold in 2004 totaled 192 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2004 was $5.30 billion, down 1 percent from the $5.33 billion in 2003. Egg production totaled 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 87.5 billion eggs produced in 2003. In 2004, all eggs averaged 71.4 cents per dozen, compared with 73.2 cents in 2003.

The value of turkeys produced during 2004 was $3.07 billion, up 14 percent from the $2.70 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2004 totaled 7.30 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the 7.49 billion pounds produced in 2003. The average price received by producers during 2004 was 42.0 cents per pound, compared with 36.1 cents in 2003.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME 2004 SUMMARY

The total value of milk produced in **Colorado** during 2004 totaled $347.3 million, up 30 percent from $267.0 million in 2003. In 2004, the 2.18 billion pounds of milk produced was 1 percent higher than the 2.15 billion pounds produced the previous year. The average price of $15.90 per hundredweight was $4.60 above the 2003 average of $12.40.

Milk production in the **United States** increased 0.2 percent in 2004 to 170.8 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,957 pounds, was 197 pounds above 2003. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.01 million head, was 73,000 head less than 2003.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2004 totaled $27.4 billion, 29 percent above 2003. Producer returns averaged $16.13 per hundredweight, 29 percent above 2003. Marketings totaled 170 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2003. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers. An estimated 1.11 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.3 percent less than 2003. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

APRIL 15, 2005

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers** in April, at 120, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above the March Index. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.7 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, asparagus, broccoli, and hay. Lower prices were received for lettuce, corn, celery, and eggs. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 5 points (4.0 percent) from April 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 124, is 1 point (0.8 percent) above last month but down 3 points (2.4 percent) from April 2004.

The **April All Crops Index** is 118, up 1.7 percent from March but 4.1 percent below April 2004. From March, index increases for commercial vegetables and cotton more than offset the index decreases for fruits and nuts, food grains, and potatoes and dry beans. The April all wheat price, at $3.27 per bushel, is down 14 cents from March and 61 cents from April 2004. The corn price, at $1.94 per bushel, is down 8 cents from last month and 95 cents below April 2004. The all hay price, at $96.90 per ton, is $7.80 above March and up $8.00 from last April. Grain sorghum, at $2.88 per cwt, is down 16 cents from March and $2.21 below April last year. The soybean price, at $5.96 per bushel, increased 1 cent from March but is $3.66 below April 2004. The all potato price, at $6.08 per cwt, is down 13 cents from March and 54 cents below last April. The all dry bean price, at $27.20 per cwt, is up 60 cents from the previous month and $7.60 above April 2004.

The April **Livestock and Products Index**, at 121, is unchanged from last month but down 4.0 percent from April 2004. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, calves, hogs, and turkeys but lower for dairy, broilers, and eggs. The April hog price, at $50.20 per cwt, is down $1.00 from March but up $2.80 from a year ago. The April beef cattle price of $91.60 is up $0.30 from last month and $6.60 from April 2004. The April all milk price of $15.40 is down $0.20 from last month and $2.70 from March 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary
United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004 Mar.	2004 Apr.	2005 Mar.	2005 Apr.
	Percent			
Prices Received . . .	121	125	119	120
Prices Paid	132	133	139	140
Ratio 1/	92	94	86	86

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

Compared with April 2004, all **Colorado** crop prices except wheat and corn averaged higher while all livestock prices averaged higher. Mid-April 2005 wheat, at $3.05 per bushel, was 26 cents lower than the previous month and 74 cents below April a year ago. Corn, at $1.94 per bushel, was 27 cents below the previous month and 91 cents below April 2004. The all barley price of $2.50 per bushel was 1 cent below the previous month. The mid-April potato price, at $4.70 per cwt, increased 20 cents from last month and was 5 cents above April a year ago. Dry bean prices were unchanged from March at $29.20 per cwt but were $11.00 above the April 2004 price of $18.20 per cwt. Alfalfa hay, at $84.00 per ton, was unchanged from March but $3.00 above April 2004. The other hay price, at $90.00 per ton, was unchanged from March but $12.00 above April a year ago. The mid-April steer and heifer price, at $110.00 per cwt, unchanged from last month but was $14.80 above the previous year average of $95.20 per cwt. Cow prices decreased 10 cents from the previous month to $57.70 per cwt but averaged $6.00 cents above April 2004. The mid-April calf price of $137.00 per cwt averaged $2.00 higher than the previous month and $20.00 above the April 2004 average of $117.00 per cwt. The April all milk price of $14.90 was down $0.50 from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Apr. 2004	Mar. 2005	Apr. 2005
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.79	3.31	3.05
Corn	Bu.	2.85	2.21	1.94
Barley (All)	Bu.	2/	2.51	2.50
Potatoes	Cwt	4.65	4.50	4.70
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.20	29.20	29.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	81.00	84.00	84.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	78.00	90.00	90.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	94.80	109.00	109.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	95.20	110.00	110.00
Cows	Cwt	51.70	57.80	57.70
Calves	Cwt	117.00	135.00	137.00
Sheep	Cwt	37.30	40.40	2/
Lambs	Cwt	101.00	116.00	2/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	3/	15.40	14.90
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.88	3.41	3.27
Corn	Bu.	2.89	2.02	1.94
Soybeans	Bu.	9.62	5.95	5.96
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.78	2.46	2.48
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.17	1.68	1.76
Sorghum	Cwt	5.09	3.04	2.88
Potatoes	Cwt	6.62	6.21	6.08
Dry edible beans	Cwt	19.60	26.60	27.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	93.00	96.40	103.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	75.50	70.40	75.40
Onions	Cwt	20.80	7.62	10.20
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	85.00	91.30	91.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	88.90	95.50	95.60
Cows	Cwt	50.60	55.00	57.10
Calves	Cwt	117.00	135.00	139.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.70	48.20	2/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	114.00	2/
Hogs	Cwt	47.40	51.20	50.20
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	18.10	15.60	15.40
Broilers	Lb.	0.480	0.440	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.

FLORICULTURE CROPS 2004 SUMMARY

Colorado Highlights

The wholesale value of sales from 123 floriculture producers in Colorado with $10,000 or more in sales during 2004 totaled $96.4 million, up 3 percent from $94.0 million in sales by 132 producers during 2003. There were 64 producers in 2004 that had a sales volume of $100,000 or more and the total value of sales from that group, at $74.1 million, represented 77 percent of the total. In 2003, 58 producers in this group had $71.1 million in sales which represented 76 percent of the total.

Value of sales for bedding and garden plants in 2004 by producers with $100,000 or more in sales totaled $61.8 million, up 8 percent from $57.3 million in 2003. Value of sales of potted flowering plants, at $8.9 million, was down 16 percent from $10.6 million the previous year. The value of sales for cut flowers remained at 2.8 million in 2004. Sales of foliage for indoor or patio use totaled $523 thousand in 2004, up from $481 thousand a year earlier.

The total covered growing area for all producers in 2004 was 10.3 million square feet, down 1 percent from 10.4 million square feet of covered area in 2003. The production area for glass greenhouses decreased 10 percent to 653,000 square feet; fiberglass and other rigid greenhouse area declined 2 percent to 6.5 million square feet; and film plastic greenhouse area increased 2 percent to 3.1 million square feet. The acreage of open ground dropped to 47 acres from 59 acres in 2003.

United States Highlights

The United States 2004 wholesale value of floriculture crops is up 2 percent from the revised 2003 valuation. The total crop value at wholesale for all growers with $10,000 or more in sales is estimated at $5.18 billion for 2004, compared with $5.08 billion for 2003. California is again the leading State with crops valued at $1.02 billion, up less than 1 percent from the previous year. Florida, the next largest producer, is down 1 percent from 2003 with $826 million in wholesale value. These two States account for 36 percent of the total value. The top 5 States are California, Florida, Michigan, Texas, and New York which account for $2.71 billion, 52 percent of the total value.

The number of growers for 2004, at 11,099, is down 7 percent compared with the revised 2003 count of 11,996. The number of growers with sales of $100,000 or more dropped to 4,579 for 2004 from 4,732 in 2003. The number of growers in all size-groups experienced decreases from the previous year.

Total covered area for floriculture crop production is recorded at 926 million square feet, 1 percent less than the revised 2003 estimate. Greenhouse space for 2004, at 542 million square feet, is down 1 percent from 2003. This accounts for 59 percent of the total covered area. Film plastic structures are also down 1 percent, to 386 million square feet. Fiberglass and other rigid plastic covers are down 3 percent for the year, while glass greenhouse area is down 2 percent compared to the previous year. Shade and temporary cover constitute the remaining 383 million square feet of covered area, virtually unchanged from 2003. Open ground usage totals 38,593 acres, down 6 percent from the revised 2003 total.

The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the $100,000 sales level is $4.89 billion for 2004, up 2 percent from the revised 2003 total. These operations account for 94 percent of the total value of floriculture crops, but comprise only 41 percent of all growers. California contributes 21 percent of the total wholesale value for the 36 States surveyed. Florida ranks second with 16 percent. Michigan, Texas, and Ohio round out the top 5 States with 7 percent, 6 percent, and 4 percent, respectively.

Note: The National Floriculture Report contains considerably more information than can be included in this AG UPDATE. For the complete report, please access the Internet address listed below in the UPCOMING REPORTS portion of this report.

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/**

May 12 - Crop Production
May 13 - Turkey Hatchery
May 16 - Potato Stocks
May 17 - Milk Production
May 18 - Ag Chemical Usage - Field Crops
May 20 - Cattle on Feed
May 20 - Cold Storage

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