



AG UPDATE

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER SEPTEMBER 2005

Red meat production in **Colorado** during September 2005 totaled 149.9 million pounds, down 15 percent from 176.2 million pounds a year earlier and 10 percent below a month ago. **Cattle** kill during September was down 17 percent from a year earlier to 174,200 head but the average live weight increased 27 pounds to 1,297 per head. **Hog** slaughter, at 1,500 head, was down 300 head from a year earlier but the average live weight of 259 pounds was 24 pounds above the previous year. **Accumulated red meat production** for the January-September period this year, at 1.49 billion pounds, is 15 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in September, up 1 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in September 2004. **Beef production**, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.78 million head, up 1 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.2 million pounds, 2 percent above September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,700 head, down 10 percent from September 2004. The average live weight was 43 pounds above last year, at 363 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.74 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.87 million head, 1 percent below September 2004. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.6 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 231,300 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2005 commercial red meat production was 33.9 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. **Accumulated beef production** was up slightly from last year,

veal was down 7 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Sept. 2004	Aug. 2005	Sept. 2005	January-September	
				2004	2005
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	176.2	167.3	149.9	1,513.0	1,337.2
United States:	3,906	4,099	3,933	33,796	33,897
Beef.....	2,105	2,320	2,161	18,451	18,484
Veal.....	12.9	13.7	13.2	125.8	117.4
Pork.....	1,772	1,751	1,743	15,076	15,157
Lamb & Mutton ..	16.3	15.4	15.6	144.3	139.1

CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 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 900,000 head as of October 1, 2005. The latest inventory was up 17 percent from September 1, 2005 but down 12 percent from the 1,020,000 on feed on October 1, 2004. The inventory included 585,000 steers and steer calves, down 3 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 310,000 head, was down 24 percent while cows and bulls were unchanged at 5,000 head. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 145,000 head of fed cattle during September 2005. This was 27 percent below August 2005 marketings of 200,000 head and 15 percent below a year ago. An estimated 280,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September, up 6 percent from a year ago and 81 percent above August 2005 placements of 155,000. Of the number placed in September, 11 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 16 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 25 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 48 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from September 2004 and August 2005.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on October 1, 2005. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2004 but up 3 percent from October 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.87 million steers and steer calves, up 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 11

percent from 2004. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.36 million, 1 percent below 2004 and 5 percent below 2003. Net placements were 2.30 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 565,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 550,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 735,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.82 million, 1 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Other disappearance totaled 57,000 during September, 7 percent below 2004 and 10 percent below 2003.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000 Plus Capacity, Sept. 1 to Oct 1, 2004-2005**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head			
On Feed Sept. 1	930	770	9,988	10,000
Placements During Sept.	265	280	2,375	2,355
< 600 pounds	30	30	628	565
600 - 699 Pounds	50	45	475	505
700 - 799 Pounds	60	70	552	550
800 Plus Pounds	125	135	720	735
Marketings During Sept.	170	145	1,800	1,816
Other Disap. During Sept.	5	5	61	57
On Feed Oct 1.	1,020	900	10,502	10,482
Steers & Steer Calves	605	585	6,468	6,872
Heifers & Heifer Calves	410	310	3,974	3,553
Cows & Bulls	5	5	60	57

CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION SEPTEMBER 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 87 million eggs during September 2005 compared with 92 million during the same month a year earlier and 91 million during August of this year. The average number of layers for the month, at 3.86 million, was 2 percent below September 2004 and nearly unchanged from August 2005. The rate of lay for September 2005 was 2,251 eggs per 100 layers compared with 2,336 during September 2004 and 2,368 in August 2005.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during September 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 59 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2005 averaged 342 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,155 eggs, up 1 percent from September 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2005, totaled 343 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2005, averaged

71.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from October 1, 2004.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.92 billion eggs during September 2005, up nearly 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during September, at 321 million, was unchanged from a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Field crop data on restricted use pesticides were compiled from two surveys, the Agricultural Resource Management Survey and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project. Data collection occurred primarily during the months of September to December of 2004. Targeted crops included peanuts, soybeans, other spring wheat, and winter wheat.

Paraquat was the most widely used restricted active ingredient, covering 36 percent of the peanut acres. The next most utilized herbicides were imazaquin and atrazine, both applied to 1 percent of the acreage and used on soybeans and winter wheat, respectively.

Aldicarb was the most commonly used restricted insecticide, applied to 27 percent of the acreage; followed by phorate, applied to 24 percent; and lambda-cyhalothrin and methomyl, both applied to 9 percent of the acreage. With the exception of chlorpyrifos, which was used to treat 3 percent of the winter wheat acreage, all other active ingredients were applied to 1 percent or less for the other program commodities.

Atrazine was used on 69 percent of the processed sweet corn acreage and on 67 percent of the fresh market sweet corn acreage. Pronamide was the next most utilized restricted herbicide, applied to 35 percent of the other lettuce acreage and 25 percent of the head lettuce acreage. Paraquat was applied to 31 percent of the fresh market tomato acres, followed by applications of 10 percent for both asparagus and fresh market cucumbers.

Other restricted use insecticides applied to 20 percent or more of planted acres were lambda-cyhalothrin on cauliflower and fresh market tomatoes, permethrin on head lettuce, methomyl on strawberries, alachlor on processed sweet corn, and cyfluthrin on fresh market tomatoes.

Several restricted use insecticides were used extensively on vegetable crops in the Program States. Lambda-cyhalothrin was applied to 65 percent of processed lima beans, 59 percent of fresh market sweet corn, and 46 percent of bulb onions, while 37 percent of the processed sweet corn, 34 percent of the head lettuce, and 32 percent of the other lettuce acreage were also reported as treated with this restricted active ingredient. Methomyl was used on 46 percent of the fresh market sweet corn acreage, as well as on 33 percent of the bulb onion acres, 32 percent of the head lettuce, 31 percent of the bell pepper acres, and 30 percent of the other lettuce acres.

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES OCTOBER 15, 2005

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** in October, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 7 points (6.0 percent) from September. The Crop Index is down 11 points (9.8 percent) while the Livestock Index is unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for broilers, corn, eggs, and soybeans. Higher prices were received for cattle, sweet corn, wheat, and turkeys. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Decreased average marketings of dairy, sweet corn, grapes, and wheat offset increased marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and cottonseed. Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 4 points (3.5 percent) from October 2004.

The October **All Crops Index** 101, down 9.8 percent from September and 9.0 percent below October 2004. The October all wheat price, at \$3.54 per bushel, is up 19 cents from September and up 11 cents from October 2004. The corn price, at \$1.74 per bushel, is down 16 cents from last month and 40 cents below October 2004. The soybean price, at \$5.44 per bushel, decreased 33 cents from September and is 12 cents below October 2004. The all potato price, at \$5.62 per cwt, is down 54 cents from September but up 92 cents from last October. The all dry bean price, at \$17.00 per cwt, is down \$1.00 from the previous month and \$7.50 below October 2004.

The October **Livestock & Products Index**, at 122, is unchanged from last month but up 3.4 percent above October 2004. The October hog price, at \$48.80 per cwt, is down 70 cents from September and \$3.40 lower than a year ago. The October beef cattle price of \$90.80 is up \$2.60 from last month and \$4.30 higher than October 2004. The October all milk price of \$15.40 is up 10 cents from last month but down 20 cents from October 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
	Percent			
Prices Received	116	114	117	110
Prices Paid	135	136	142	143
Ratio 1/	86	84	82	77

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

Colorado's mid-October prices for most crop items averaged higher than a year ago except for corn. All livestock items averaged higher than a year ago. Wheat, at \$3.50 per bushel, averaged 33 cents above October 2004 and 4 cents above September of this year. Corn averaged \$2.00 per bushel in mid-October this year, down 36 cents from the previous year and down 21 cents from last month. Potato prices decreased 35 cents per cwt from last month to \$9.65 per cwt but averaged \$4.25 above the October 2004 average of \$5.40 per cwt.

Alfalfa hay prices at \$104.00 per ton, decreased \$2.00 from last month but were \$18.00 above a year ago. Other hay prices, at \$100.00 per ton, decreased \$5.00 per ton from September 2005 but were up \$20.00 from October 2004. Steer and heifer prices were up \$4.00 from September at \$116.00 per cwt and averaged \$5.00 per cwt above last year. Cows, at \$51.10 per cwt, were down \$1.30 from last month but averaged 10 cents above October 2004. Calves averaged \$133.00 for mid-October, unchanged from last month but up \$5.00 per cwt from a year ago. The October all milk price of \$15.20 is unchanged from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Oct. 2004	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005
		Dollars		
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	3.17	3.46	3.50
Corn	Bu.	2.36	2.21	2.00
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.14	3.12	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	5.40	10.00	9.65
Dry edible beans	Cwt	2/	19.70	18.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	86.00	106.00	104.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	80.00	105.00	100.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	110.00	111.00	115.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	111.00	112.00	116.00
Cows	Cwt	51.00	52.40	51.10
Calves	Cwt	128.00	133.00	133.00
Sheep	Cwt	39.90	42.20	3/
Lambs	Cwt	95.20	109.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	4/	15.20	15.20
		United States		
		Dollars		
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	3.43	3.35	3.54
Corn	Bu.	2.14	1.90	1.74
Soybeans	Bu.	5.56	5.77	5.44
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.29	2.36	2.43
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.58	1.82	1.86
Sorghum	Cwt	3.17	3.41	2.98
Potatoes	Cwt	4.70	6.16	5.62
Dry edible beans	Cwt	24.50	18.00	17.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	100.00	107.00	106.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	73.80	74.60	76.50
Onions	Cwt	9.22	11.60	11.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	86.50	88.20	90.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	91.10	92.30	96.00
Cows	Cwt	49.80	49.80	47.70
Calves	Cwt	126.00	133.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.40	43.30	3/
Lambs	Cwt	97.70	110.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	52.20	49.50	48.80
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.60	15.30	15.40
Broilers	Lb.	.390	.460	.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/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. 3/ Mid-month prices discontinued. 4/ Discontinued.

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The only restricted use fungicides was chlorothalonil, applied to 2 percent of strawberries. Restricted use pesticides used as "other chemicals" included methyl bromide and chloropicrin. Methyl bromide was used on 42 percent of the fresh market tomato acreage, 33 percent of the strawberry acres, and 31 percent of the bell pepper acreage. Chloropicrin was used on 48 percent of the fresh market tomato acreage, 32 percent of the strawberry acres, and 21 percent of the bell pepper acreage.

COLD STORAGE SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork and eggs. Butter stocks were down 18 percent from last month, and down 8 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 5 percent from last month and up 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 3 percent from last month and up 3 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 37 percent from last month, but up 23 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2005 were up slightly from the previous month, but down 6 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 4 percent from the previous month, but down 5 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 6 percent from last month and down 6 percent from September 30, 2004.

Public cooler occupancy on September 31, 2005, was at 51 percent of capacity, was unchanged from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 67 percent, up 3 points from last year.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Sept. 31, 2004	Aug. 31, 2005	Sept. 30, 2005
	1,000 Pounds		
Butter	133,008	149,623	122,988
Cheese, total natural.....	790,717	804,139	765,938
Eggs, frozen	18,720	19,920	19,184
Poultry, total frozen	1,306,180	1,232,943	1,233,460
Chicken.....	777,874	705,719	737,121
Turkey.....	527,388	526,602	493,887
Fruits, frozen.....	1,036,710	1,067,640	1,001,037
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,920,185	1,647,179	1,488,741
Vegetables, total frozen ...	2,439,646	2,001,054	2,390,068
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,178,648	1,121,332	1,179,459
Meats, total red	886,104	848,840	893,239
Beef, total frozen.....	457,244	410,592	443,741
Pork, total frozen.....	413,823	414,414	427,011

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

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/>

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