AG UPDATE

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Released: March 3, 2006 Vol. 25 No. 5

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CHICKENS AND EGGS
JANUARY 2006

Colorado laying flocks produced 94 million eggs during January 2006 unchanged from one month earlier but up from 91 million eggs produced in January last year. The number of layers during January totaled just under 3.82 million, down 2 percent from 3.89 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for January 2006, at 2,462 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,339 eggs per 100 layers during January 2005.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.72 billion during January 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The number of layers during January 2006 averaged 349 million, up slightly from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,211 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2006, totaled 349 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 349 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2006, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from February 1, 2005.

TROUT PRODUCTION 2005

There were 8 operations in Colorado during 2005 which had trout sales totaling $1,480,000 and 19 operations that distributed trout valued at $5.22 million. The total value of the trout sold and distributed during 2005 totaled $6.70 million, up 5 percent from the comparable value of $6.38 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 1.47 million pounds of fish of all sizes distributed which had an average value of $3.54 per pound compared with 1.48 million pounds distributed during 2004 which averaged $3.64 per pound.

The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States totaled 74.2 million dollars during 2005, an increase of 4 percent from 2004. For the Nation, sales of fish totaled 69.1 million dollars for 2005, while egg sales totaled 5.14 million dollars. The State of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold.

Trout egg sales in 2005 totaled 307 million eggs, up 6 percent from the 290 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2005 was $16.70, unchanged from 2004. The total value of trout egg sales during 2005 was 5.14 million dollars, an increase of 6 percent from the 4.83 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 6.34 million 12" or longer fish, 52.0 million 6"-12", and 52.6 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 74.3 million dollars, up 19 percent from 2004.

BEES AND HONEY PRODUCTION
2005

The number of colonies in **Colorado** during 2005 was up 13 percent from a year earlier at 26,000. The total honey production of 1.82 million pounds for 2005 was 1 percent below than the 1.84 million pounds a year earlier. The yield per colony decreased from 80 pounds per colony in 2004 to 70 pounds per colony in 2005. The total value of the 2005 honey crop was $1.89 million, down 24 percent from $2.48 million the previous year. The average price received for the 2005 crop was $1.04 per pound, compared with $1.35 per pound received for the 2004 crop. December 15, 2005 honey stocks of 837,000 pounds were up 6 percent from 791,000 pounds a year earlier.

Honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Producer honey stocks were 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Honey prices decreased during 2005 to 90.4 cents, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED
FEBRUARY 1, 2006

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 1,110,000 head as of February 1, 2006. The latest inventory was 3 percent above January 1, 2006 and up 5 percent from the 1,060,000 on feed on February 1, 2005. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 185,000 head of fed cattle during January 2006. This was 32 percent above December 2005 marketings of 140,000 head but no change from the marketings one year ago. An estimated 225,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during January, 29 percent above a year ago and 45 percent above December 2005 placements of 155,000. Of the number placed in January, 16 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 38 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 27 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for January at 10,000 head, was 5,000 head above last month but unchanged from a year ago.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on February 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above February 1, 2005 and 9 percent above February 1, 2004. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.20 million, 16 percent above 2005 and 25 percent above 2004. Net placements were 2.12 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 530,000, 600-699 pounds were 447,000, 700-799 pounds were 702,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 520,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.81 million, up 2 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Other disappearance totaled 83,000 during January, 14 percent above 2005 but 12 percent below 2004.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, February 1, 2005-2006

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head			
On Feed Jan. 1.	1,080	1,080	11,299	11,804
Placements During Jan.	175	225	1,888	2,199
< 600 pounds	25	35	380	530
600 - 699 Pounds	45	45	458	447
700 - 799 Pounds	70	85	631	702
800 Plus Pounds	35	60	419	520
Marketings During Jan.	185	185	1,772	1,810
Other Disap. During Jan.	10	10	73	83
On Feed Feb. 1	1,060	1,110	11,342	12,110

Number of Feedlots and Annual Fed Cattle Marketings 2004 - 2005

There were 260 feedlots in operation during 2005 in **Colorado** and they marketed 2,015,000 head of cattle for the slaughter market. Of the total, there were 105 feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head that marketed 30,000 head during 2005. There were 155 feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more that marketed 1,985,000 head for the slaughter market. The 12 feedlots that have a capacity of 32,000 head or greater marketed 1,140,000 head of cattle during 2005, representing 57 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 83.5 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2006, up from 82.2 percent on January 1, 2005. Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2005 represented 86.0 percent of all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, up from 85.3 percent during 2004.

Number of Feedlots and Annual Fed Cattle Marketings by Size 2004-2005

Feedlot Capacity	Feedlots		Fed Cattle Marketings		Percent of Total Mrktgs. 1/	
	Colorado					
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Number		1,000 Head		Percent	
Under 1,000	96	105	35	30	1.7	1.5
1,000 – 3,999	82	76	110	90	5.2	4.5
4,000 – 15,999	56	52	365	335	17.3	16.6
16,000 – 31,999	15	15	425	420	20.1	20.8
32,000 & over	11	12	1,180	1,140	55.8	56.6
Total	260	260	2,115	2,015	100.0	100.0
	United States					
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Number		1,000 Head		Percent	
Under 1,000	88,000	86,000	3,850	3,620	14.7	14.0
1,000 - 1,999	835	855	823	811	3.1	3.1
2,000 - 3,999	548	547	1,256	1,307	4.8	5.1
4,000 - 7,999	340	350	1,788	1,780	6.8	6.9
8,000 - 15,999	189	184	2,607	2,609	10.0	10.1
16,000 – 31,999	141	137	4,715	4,574	18.0	17.7
32,000 & over	123	126	11,115	11,091	42.5	43.0
Total	90,176	88,199	26,154	25,792	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 unchanged from January. The Crop Index is up 5 points (4.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3.4 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, wheat, hay, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, milk, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

The February **All Farm Products Index,** is 113, up 4.6 percent from January and 5.6 percent above February 2005. From January, index increases for fruits & nuts, feed grains & hay, and food grains more than offset index decreases for vegetables and oil-bearing crops. The February all wheat price, at $3.66 per bushel, is up 14 cents from January and up 30 cents from February 2005. The corn price, at $2.01 per bushel, is up 1 cent from last month and 6 cents above February 2005. The all hay price, at $95.00 per ton, is up $3.80 from January and $6.80 above last February. The soybean price, at $5.68 per bushel, decreased 20 cents from January but is 26 cents above February 2005. The all potato price, at $6.97 per cwt, is down 10 cents from January but up $1.18 from last February. The all dry bean price, at $19.70 per cwt, is up 40 cents from the previous month but $8.10 below February 2005. The February all milk price of $13.80 per cwt is down 40cents from last month and $1.20 below February 2005.

The February **Livestock and Products Index**, at 114, is 3.4 percent below last month and down 4.2 percent from February 2005. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, broilers, hogs, and eggs but higher for cattle, calves, and turkeys. The February hog price, at $41.20 per cwt, is up 50 cents from January but $9.50 lower than a year ago. The February beef cattle price of $92.60 per cwt is down $2.50 from last month but $3.80 higher than February 2005. The February all milk price of $13.80 per cwt is down 70 cents from last month and $1.70 below February 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005 Jan.	2005 Feb.	2006 Jan	2006 Feb.
	Percent			
Prices Received	111	114	113	113
Prices Paid	137	137	146	146
Ratio 1/	81	83	77	77

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

Colorado prices for February 2006 were higher than a year earlier for all crops and livestock items except cows and drybeans. Compared with a month earlier, only wheat, potatoes, other hay and cows averaged higher. Mid-February 2006 wheat, at $3.86 per bushel, was 38 cents above the previous month and 61 cents above February a year ago. Corn prices decreased 1 cent from January to $2.15 per bushel but averaged 12 cents above February 2005. The mid-February potato price, at $9.00 per cwt, was 25 cents above last month and $4.60 per cwt above February a year ago. Dry bean prices, at $17.50 per cwt, averaged $1.70 per cwt below last month and were $12.30 per cwt below February 2005. Alfalfa hay, at $103.00 per ton, was unchanged January but averaged $18.00 above February 2005. The other hay price, at $101.00 per ton, was $2.00 above January and $28.00 per ton above February a year ago. The mid-February steer and heifer price declined $4.00 per cwt from last month to $115.00 per cwt but averaged $10.00 above the $105.00 per cwt a year ago. Cow prices increased $2.20 from the previous month to $50.90 per cwt but were $5.20 per cwt below February 2005. The mid-February calf price of $142.00 per cwt was $2.00 below January but was $11.00 per cwt above a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Feb. 2005	Jan. 2006	Feb. 2006
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.25	3.48	3.86
Corn	Bu.	2.03	2.16	2.15
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.34	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	4.40	8.75	9.00
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.80	19.20	17.50
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	85.00	103.00	103.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	73.00	99.00	101.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	105.00	118.00	114.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	105.00	119.00	115.00
Cows	Cwt	56.10	48.70	50.90
Calves	Cwt	131.00	144.00	142.00
Sheep	Cwt	43.50	46.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	115.00	103.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.00	14.20	13.80
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.36	3.52	3.66
Corn	Bu.	1.95	2.00	2.01
Soybeans	Bu.	5.42	5.88	5.68
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.31	2.47	2.55
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.60	1.93	1.90
Sorghum	Cwt	2.96	3.15	3.27
Potatoes	Cwt	5.79	7.07	6.97
Dry edible beans	Cwt	27.80	19.30	19.70
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	94.00	95.60	99.20
Other hay (baled)	Ton	74.20	79.30	83.20
Onions	Cwt	5.61	11.70	11.50
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	88.80	95.10	92.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	93.10	102.00	98.10
Cows	Cwt	52.50	47.30	48.50
Calves	Cwt	129.00	141.00	142.00
Sheep	Cwt	52.40	47.70	3/
Lambs	Cwt	114.00	96.10	3/
Hogs	Cwt	50.70	40.70	41.20
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.50	14.50	13.80
Broilers	Lb.	0.430	0.380	0.380

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 farms.
3/ Mid-month price not est.

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS 2005

The number of farms in **Colorado**, at 30,500 for 2005, was down 400 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, down 2 percent to 17,100 farms; $10,000 - $99,999, down 3 percent to 9,300 farms; $100,000 - $249,000, up 5 percent to 2,100 farms; $250,000 - $499,999, unchanged at 900 farms; and $500,000 and over, up 10 percent to 1,100 farms. The total land in farms declined 200,000 acres from 2004 to 30.7 million acres and the average size of farm increased 7 acres from last year to 1,007 acres in 2005.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Farm numbers declined in the three smallest sales classes and rose in the two largest sales classes. Part of the decline in the smaller sales classes was due to normal attrition, such as retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the sales classes were likely due to rising incomes. The largest percentage changes from 2004 occurred in the smallest and largest sales classes. Farm numbers declined 1.1 percent, to 1.17 million farms, in the $1,000 - $9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 3.8 percent, to 79,410 farms, in the $500,000 or more sales class. The number of farms with less than $250,000 in sales fell 0.8 percent from 2004 and the number of farms with $250,000 or more in sales rose 2.4 percent.

Land in farms also shifted from lower sales classes to higher sales classes. In the $1,000-$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped 2.1 percent, to 118.4 million acres, while land operated by farms in the largest sales class, $500,000 or more in sales, increased 3.0 percent, to 209.9 million acres. Farms with under $250,000 in sales operated 571.3 million acres, or 1.7 percent fewer acres than 2004.

Farms and Land in Farms, Colorado and United States, 2000-2005

Year	Number of Farms 1/		Land in Farms 1/	
	Colorado	United States	Colorado	United States
	Number		Thousand Acres	
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	2,112,970	30,900	936,295
2005.........	30,500	2,100,990	30,700	933,400

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, 2004-2005

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Percent of Total			
$ 1,000- $9,999	56.3	56.0	10.0	9.4
$ 10,000- $99,999	31.1	30.5	33.3	33.2
$100,000- $249,999	6.5	6.9	22.3	22.1
$250,000- $499,999	2.9	3.0	14.9	15.0
$500,000 & over	3.2	3.6	19.4	20.2
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, 2004-2005

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Percent of Total			
$ 1,000- $9,999	55.9	55.6	12.9	12.7
$ 10,000- $99,999	28.4	28.4	28.5	27.9
$100,000- $249,999	7.9	7.9	20.7	20.6
$250,000- $499,999	4.2	4.3	16.2	16.3
$500,000 & over	3.6	3.8	21.7	22.5
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. 3 - Livestock Slaughter - Annual
Mar. 15 - Potato Stocks
Mar. 17 - Milk Production
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