



**Contents of This Issue**

- ▶Potato Stocks
- ▶Cattle on Feed
- ▶Livestock Slaughter
- ▶Milk Production
- ▶County Estimates - Corn For Grain - 2005 Crop
- ▶County Estimates - Sorghum For Grain - 2005 Crop
- ▶Cold Storage

**POTATO STOCKS MARCH 1, 2006**

**Colorado** growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 10.2 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2006 compared with 11.9 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 46 percent of the 22.29 million cwt produced in 2005. The March 1, 2005 stocks represented 50 percent of the 23.79 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2004. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for **table stock** accounted for 69 percent of the total production during the 2000-2004 period. The remaining 31 percent of the production is utilized for seed, processing, and home use or is lost through shrinkage.

The 13 major potato States held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 219 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors have used 115 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 4 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 5 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

Western States held 113 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 4 percent from last year. Both Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are down 14 percent from last year. California's stocks decreased 40 percent from 2005. Oregon's potato stocks are up 28 percent from last year, Montana's potato sheds stored 21 percent more than in 2005, and Washington's stocks increased 10 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 31.2 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, down 21 percent from last year for comparable States. Wisconsin's potato stocks decreased 2 percent from last year, Minnesota's stocks are down 19 percent from 2005, and stocks in North Dakota are 49 percent below last season. Michigan potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2005.

Eastern States stored 10.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. Maine's potato sheds held 7 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 86 percent from a year ago.

**CATTLE ON FEED**

**MARCH 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 1,090,000 head as of March 1, 2006. The latest inventory was down 2 percent from February 1, 2006, but increased 5 percent from the 1,040,000 on feed on March 1, 2005. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 165,000 head of fed cattle during February 2006. This was down 11 percent from both January 2006 and February 2005 marketings. An estimated 150,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, 14 percent below a year ago and 33 below January 2006 placements. Of the number placed in February, 13 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 37 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 30 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 5,000 head, was 5,000 below 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 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61

million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2005-2006**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Feb. 1	1,060	1,110	11,342	12,110
Placements During Feb.	175	150	1,523	1,598
< 600 pounds	15	20	277	355
600 – 699 Pounds	45	30	308	300
700 – 799 Pounds	70	55	526	510
800 Plus Pounds	45	45	412	433
Marketings During Feb.	185	165	1,634	1,612
Other Disap. During Feb.	10	5	77	73
On Feed Mar. 1	1,040	1,090	11,154	12,023

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
FEBRUARY 2006**

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2006 totaled 137.9 million pounds, up 7 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter increased nearly 5 percent to 157,100 head and the average live weight of 1,325 pounds per head was 40 pounds heavier than February 2005. Hog slaughter, at 900 head, was 12 percent above a year earlier and the average live weight of 270 pounds was 1 pound above the February 2005 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2006 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 286.8 million pounds, up 8 percent from the 265.1 million pounds produced during January and February of 2005.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 42 billion pounds produced in February 2005. **Beef production**, at 82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 11.7 million pounds, 3 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,000 head, down 14 percent from February 2005. The average live weight was 35 pounds above last year, at 362 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

**January to February 2006 commercial red meat production** was 7.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

**Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States**

Area And Specie	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan-Feb	
	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado:</b>	128.6	148.9	137.9	265.1	286.8
<b>United States 1/:</b>	3,424	3,890	3,484	7,072	7,374
Beef	1,767	2,044	1,825	3,683	3,869
Veal	12.0	12.5	11.7	25.4	24.2
Pork	1,629	1,817	1,633	3,334	3,450
Lamb & Mutton	15.1	16.2	14.7	29.6	30.9

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**MILK PRODUCTION  
FEBRUARY 2006 - 23 STATES**

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2006 totaled 190 million pounds, up 10.5 percent from last month. The average number of cows for February at 106,000 head, increased 6 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,795 pounds for the month of February, 4 percent above February 2005.

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2005.

**Milk Production, February, 2005-2006**

Item	Unit	2005	2006
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/ .....	1,000 Head	100	106
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,720	1,795
Production 2/ .....	Mil. Lbs.	172	190
<b>United States:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/ .....	1,000 Head	8,084	8,205
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,522	1,588
Production 2/ .....	Mil. Lbs.	12,301	13,029

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## COUNTY ESTIMATES CORN FOR GRAIN - 2005 CROP

Colorado corn production for 2005 was up slightly from 2004 and at the highest level since 2001. While the total production of 140,600,000 bushels was a slight increase above the previous year's crop of 140,400,000 bushels, this was accomplished with a decrease in planted and harvested acreage. While the 1,100,000 acres planted for all purposes was down 100,000 acres from the previous year, the 950,000 acres harvested for grain decreased 9 percent from 1,040,000 acres harvested in 2004. Average per acre yield on irrigated acres reached a record high of 184.0 bushels per acre, however, the average dryland yield of 38.5 was down from 40.0 bushels per acre in 2004. A decrease in dryland harvested acres from 31 percent to 25 percent of harvested area increased the state's overall average yield to 148.0 bushels per acre equal compared to 135.0 bushels per harvested acre a year earlier.

**Yuma County** continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 40,213,000 bushels of corn in 2005. The latest crop was down 8 percent from the 43,640,000 bushels produced in 2004 and represented 29 percent of the state's total output. Producers in Yuma County planted 225,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2005 and harvested 207,400 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres continued to be the highest in the state. The average yield of 194.0 bushels per acre from the 2005 crop was 9.5 bushels per acre above the previous year.

**Kit Carson County** remained in the second place ranking for the 2005 crop with a total output of 22,380,000 bushels. The latest crop was 8 percent below the 24,300,000 bushels produced in 2004. Kit Carson County growers planted 177,000 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn for all purposes in the state. The 167,300 acres harvested for grain represented a 22 percent decrease from the 213,200 acres harvested in 2004. This was the second highest corn for grain acres harvested in the state. Producers averaged 134.0 bushels per acre from the 2005 crop compared with a 114.0 bushel average yield from the 2004 crop. A large decrease in dryland harvested area raised the average yield from last year.

**Phillips County** was again the third largest corn producing area of the state in 2005 with a total output of 14,840,000 bushels. The 2005 crop was 10 percent larger than the 13,470,000 bushels produced in 2004. Producers harvested 103,100 acres of corn for grain in 2005, down 3 percent from the 106,000 acres harvested a year earlier. However, the average yield of 144.0 bushels per acre for the 2005 crop was 17.0 bushels per acre higher than the 2004 crop average of 127.0 bushels per acre.

**Morgan County** maintained a fourth place ranking in corn production for 2005 with a total output of 9,682,000 bushels, up slightly from the 9,670,000 bushels produced in 2004. The harvested area of 52,600 acres was down 4 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 184.0 bushels per acre was 8.0 bushels above a year earlier.

**Weld County** stayed in the list of the top five producing counties for the 2005 crop with a total output of 9,600,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 7 percent larger than the 2004 output of 8,988,000 bushels. The 107,200 acres planted in the county was 6,200 acres above the previous year and the third largest in the state. The 55,900 acres harvested for grain represented a decrease of 100 from the 56,000 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 171.5 bushels per acre was 11.0 bushels per acre above the 2004 crop average of 160.5 bushels.

The **top five counties** produced 96,715,000 bushels of grain corn in 2005, representing 69 percent of the state's total corn for grain crop. Those same counties also produced 71 percent of the 2004 crop. The next five leading counties of **Logan, Sedgwick, Baca, Cheyenne,** and **Washington** had a combined output of 30,681,500 bushels, bringing the top ten county total to 127,396,500 bushels or 91 percent of the state's total corn for grain production in 2005. There were fifteen counties in the state that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2005.

## SORGHUM FOR GRAIN - 2005 CROP

Colorado sorghum production in 2005 declined from 2004, to the lowest level since the near record-setting lows of the drought affected crop of 2002. Colorado producers harvested 3,410,000 bushels of sorghum in 2005, 37 percent below 2004 production and 21 percent below 2003 production. Planted acres at 160,000, were down 43 percent from the 2004 planted acres of 280,000, and down 41 percent from the 270,000 acres planted in 2003. Harvested acres at 110,000, were down 39 percent from the 180,000 harvested acres in 2004 and down 31 percent from the 160,000 acres harvested in 2003. The average yield for the 2005 crop was 31.0 bushels per acre compared to the average of 30.0 bushels per acre in 2004 and 27.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop.

**Baca County** continued to lead all counties as the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado with 1,410,000 bushels. This production accounted for 41 percent of the state's total sorghum production but was 35 percent below the 2,155,000 bushel crop produced in Baca County in 2004. The 45,400 acres harvested in 2005 reflected a 40 percent decrease from the 76,000 acres harvested for grain the previous year. However, the average yield of 31.0 bushels per acre for the 2005 crop was 2.5 bushels per acre above the 28.5 bushel average realized from the 2004 crop.

**Prowers County** overtook Kiowa County to rank second in grain sorghum production with a total of 840,000 bushels in 2005. This was an increase in production of 24 percent from the 680,000 bushels produced in Prowers County in 2004. Producers harvested 19,000 acres for grain in 2005 compared with 14,700 acres harvested the

previous year. The average yield of 44.0 bushels per acre for the 2005 crop was 2.5 bushels below the 2004 crop average of 46.5 bushels.

**Kiowa County** had the third largest production in the state in 2005 with a total crop of 575,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2005 crop was 63 percent smaller than the 2004 crop of 1,535,000 bushels. Producers harvested 22,300 acres of grain sorghum in 2005 compared with 58,000 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 26.0 bushels per acre was 0.5 bushels below the 2004 crop average of 26.5 bushels per acre.

**Cheyenne County** was ranked fourth with a total production of 147,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2005. This was 24 percent of the 625,000 bushels produced in Cheyenne County in 2004. Producers harvested 7,300 acres of grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 20.0 bushels per acre from the 2005 crop. That compares with 15,000 acres harvested and an average yield of 41.5 bushels per acre for the previous year's crop.

**Bent County** moved up to a fifth place ranking of the state's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 74,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2005, which is up from the 40,000 bushel crop produced in Bent County in 2004. Producers harvested 2,000 acres in 2005 compared with 1,000 acres the previous year. The average yield for the 2005 crop was 37.0 bushels per acre compared to the average yield of 40.0 bushels per acre in 2004.

The **top five producing counties** produced 89 percent of the state's total grain sorghum crop of 3,410,000 bushels in 2005 compared with 94 percent of the total output of 5,400,000 bushels for the 2004 crop. The production for each of the next top five producing counties was as follows: **Kit Carson County**, 61,000 bushels; **Adams County**, 60,000 bushels; **Morgan and Lincoln Counties**, 31,000 bushels each; **Arapahoe County**, 29,000 bushels. The combined output from these counties totaled 212,000 bushels, bringing the total production from the **top ten counties** to 3,258,000 bushels, which represents 96 percent of the state's total output.

**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, 2006**

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, cheese, and eggs. Butter stocks were up 38 percent from last month and up 37 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were down 3 percent from last month, but up 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 1 percent from last month and down 4 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 6 percent from last month, but down 14 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on February 28, 2006 were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 22 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down slightly from the previous month, but up 45 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 19 percent from last month, but down 17 percent from February 28, 2005.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2005	Jan. 31, 2006	Feb. 28, 2006
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	110,876	110,072	151,678
Cheese, total natural.....	723,681	750,470	775,028
Eggs, frozen .....	17,865	22,549	24,184
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,017,422	1,186,357	1,237,966
Chicken .....	634,778	920,749	920,028
Turkey .....	379,408	262,335	313,337
Fruits, frozen.....	874,252	972,081	874,169
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,888,636	1,366,269	1,363,224
Vegetables, total frozen ..	1,994,041	2,048,395	1,873,851
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,152,818	1,076,226	1,156,096
Meats, total red .....	956,171	997,158	968,536
Beef, total frozen.....	400,240	452,470	429,248
Pork, total frozen.....	541,218	524,424	518,925

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. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- Mar. 31 - Hogs and Pigs
- Mar. 31 - Grain Stocks
- Mar. 31 - Prospective Plantings
- Apr. 10 - Crop Production
- Apr. 13 - Potato Stocks
- Apr. 13 - Turkey Hatchery
- Apr. 18 - Milk Production
- Apr. 21 - Cattle on Feed

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