NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
MARCH 1, 2006

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,100,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, unchanged from the actual acreage planted to corn a year earlier. Sorghum intentions are 230,000 acres, up 70,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2006 remain at 2,400,000 acres, unchanged from January's report, but down 150,000 from the 2005 crop. Growers intend to plant 20,000 acres of spring wheat this year, unchanged from last year's plantings. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 75,000 acres, is also unchanged from the actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are down 5,000 acres to 55,000. Growers intend to plant 150,000 acres of sunflowers this year, down 65,000 acres from what they planted in 2005. The acreage of oil varieties is expected total 105,000 acres, down 45,000 from last year's plantings. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to decrease 20,000 acres to 45,000 acres this year. The state's dry bean growers indicate they plan to plant 100,000 acres of that crop this year, down 25,000 acres from last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 10,000 acres from last year to 46,000 acres. Hay producers in the state intend to harvest 1.60 million acres this year, up 50,000 acres from the number of acres cut for hay in 2005.

Northeastern Colorado producers who irrigate from surface water sources enjoy above average, mountain snowpack this year while snowpack in the southern mountains is significantly below average. 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 intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this will be the lowest corn acreage since 2001 when 75.7 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as producers intend to switch to other less input intensive crops due to high fertilizer and fuel costs. Dry conditions also contributed to lower planting intentions in the southern Great Plains.

The 2006 sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 6.48 million acres, up fractionally from 2005. Sorghum acres are expected to increase from last year in 8 States, but decrease in 9 States. The largest increase is expected in Colorado, where growers intend to plant 70,000 acres more than the previous year. Kansas continues to have the largest area of sorghum planted at 2.80 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2005-2006

Crop	Colorado 2005	Colorado 2006	United States 2005	United States 2006
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,100	1,100	81,759	78,019
Sorghum, all	160	230	6,454	6,483
Oats	75	75	4,246	4,324
Wheat, all 1/	2,570	2,420	57,229	57,128
Winter	2,550	2,400	40,433	41,404
Spring	20	20	14,036	13,899
Barley	60	55	3,875	3,667
Soybeans	…	…	72,142	76,895
Sunflower, all	215	150	2,709	2,196
Oil	150	105	2,104	1,845
Non-oil	65	45	605	351
Dry beans	125.0	100.0	1,665.0	1,710.3
Sugar beets	36.4	46.0	1,294.8	1,371.8
Hay, all 2/	1,550	1,600	61,649	61,478

1/ Includes Durum for U.S.
2/ Harvested acres 2005, intentions to harvest in 2006.

Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2006 crop year are expected to total 4.32 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. Barley growers intend to plant 3.67 million acres for 2006, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record. Producers expect to harvest 61.5 million acres of all hay in 2006, down fractionally from 2005. With the exception of Oklahoma, harvested acres are expected to decline or remain unchanged from last year throughout the Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt.

Winter Wheat planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2005, and virtually unchanged from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Acreage increases from the previous report in many Soft Red Winter growing States were offset by a decrease in Texas. States with the most notable acreage increases were Illinois and North Carolina. Texas and Florida were the only States to show an acreage decrease. Of the total acreage, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.22 million acres are White Winter.

GRAIN STOCKS MARCH 1, 2006

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2006 totaled 20.54 million bushels, down 6 percent from 21.91 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 5.0 million bushels, were down 23 percent from the previous year but off-farm stocks were up 1 percent to 15.54 million bushels. **Corn** stocks, at 62.41 million bushels, were down 7 percent. Farm stocks were down 3 percent to 34.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks were down 12 percent to 28.41 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were down 7 percent to 70,000 bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 2.83 billion bushels, compared with 2.70 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2005. This is the largest March 1 stocks level on record, exceeding the previous record set in 1999 by 1 percent. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at a record high 872 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 797 million bushels, are up 36 percent from last March and are also at a record high level. Indicated disappearance for the December 2005 - February 2006 quarter totaled 834 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 457 million bushels, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 167 million bushels, down 13 percent from March 1, 2005. On-farm stocks are estimated at 68.4 million bushels, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 98.2 million bushels, are 12 percent below March 2005. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance totaled 41.4 million bushels, 25 percent below the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 74.7 million bushels, 9 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks on hand, 41.9 million bushels are stored on farms, down 4 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 32.8 million bushels, down 16 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2005 - February 2006 totaled 21.0 million bushels, down 7 percent from the same period a year ago. **Grain sorghum** stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 193 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 25.9 million bushels, are down 22 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 167 million bushels, are down 2 percent from a year earlier. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance from all positions is 97.5 million bushels, up 24 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2005-2006

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado 2005	Colorado 2006	United States 2005	United States 2006
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	6,500	5,000	304,710	256,000
Off farms	15,410	15,540	679,681	716,240
Total	21,910	20,540	984,391	972,240
Corn				
On farms	35,000	34,000	4,137,000	4,055,000
Off farms	32,430	28,410	2,619,334	2,932,178
Total	67,430	62,410	6,756,334	6,987,178
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	79,680	68,400
Off farms	2/	2/	111,001	98,164
Total	2/	2/	190,681	166,564
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	43,500	41,900
Off farms	75	70	38,946	32,812
Total	2/	2/	82,446	74,712
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	33,400	25,900
Off farms	2/	1,900	170,122	166,939
Total	2/	2/	203,522	192,839
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	795,000	872,000
Off farms	2/	2/	586,364	796,555
Total	2/	2/	1,381,364	1,668,555

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.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 15, 2006

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. The March all crops index is 117, up 2.6 percent from February and 0.9 percent above March 2005. From February, index increases for commercial vegetables, potatoes & dry beans, and cotton more than offset the index decreases for fruits & nuts and oil-bearing crops. The corn price, at $2.01 per bushel, is down 1 cent from last month and 1 cent below March 2005. The all hay price, at $97.10 per ton, is up $2.10 from February and $4.50 higher than last March. Grain sorghum, at $3.29 per cwt, is 11 cents below February but 25 cents above March last year. The soybean price, at $5.55 per bushel, decreased 12 cents from February and is 40 cents below March 2005. The all potato price, at $8.31 per cwt, is up 87 cents from February and up $1.87 from last March. The all dry bean price, at $19.50 per cwt, is up $2.10 from the previous month but $7.10 below March 2005.

The March **Livestock and Products Index**, at 111, is 2.6 percent below last month and down 8.3 percent from March 2005. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, broilers, hogs, and cattle but higher for eggs, calves, and turkeys. The March hog price, at $42.40 per cwt, is down 20 cents from February and $8.80 lower than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $89.20 per cwt is down $3.20 from last month and $1.80 lower than March 2005. The March all milk price of $12.80 per cwt is down 70 cents from last month and $2.80 below March 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005 Feb.	2005 Mar.	2006 Feb.	2006 Mar.
	Percent			
Prices Received	114	119	114	113
Prices Paid	137	139	145	144
Ratio 1/	83	86	79	78

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

Compared with March 2005, **Colorado** crop prices were higher than last year except for corn and dry beans, while livestock prices all averaged lower. Mid-March 2006 wheat, at $3.79 per bushel, was up 48 cents from a year ago and was 2 cents above last month. Corn prices increased 2 cents from February to $2.20 per bushel but averaged 1 cent lower than March 2005. The mid-March potato price, at $9.00 per cwt, increased 10 cents from last month and increased $4.50 from March a year ago. Dry bean prices increased 60 cents from February to $18.20 per cwt, but decreased $11.00 from March 2005. Alfalfa hay, at $102.00 per ton, was $1.00 lower than February 2006 but $18.00 per ton above March 2005. The other hay price, at $97.00 per ton, was $4.00 below February but was $7.00 above March a year ago. The mid-March steer and heifer price, at $108.00 per cwt, decreased $7.00 from last month and averaged $2.00 below a year ago. Cow prices decreased $1.00 from the previous month to $51.40 per cwt and were $6.40 per cwt below March 2005. The mid-March calf price of $133.00 per cwt was down $8.00 from last month and $2.00 below a year ago. The March all milk price of $12.70 per cwt is down $1.30 from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2005	Feb. 2006	Mar. 2006
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.31	3.77	3.79
Corn	Bu.	2.21	2.18	2.20
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.21	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	4.50	8.90	9.00
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.20	17.60	18.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	84.00	103.00	102.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	90.00	101.00	97.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	109.00	114.00	107.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	110.00	115.00	108.00
Cows	Cwt	57.80	52.40	51.40
Calves	Cwt	135.00	141.00	133.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.40	43.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	116.00	105.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	4/	14.00	12.70
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.42	3.66	3.71
Corn	Bu.	2.02	2.02	2.01
Soybeans	Bu.	5.95	5.67	5.55
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.49	2.57	2.55
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.67	1.83	1.85
Sorghum	Cwt	3.04	3.40	3.29
Potatoes	Cwt	6.44	7.44	8.31
Dry edible beans	Cwt	26.60	17.40	19.50
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	98.60	99.20	100.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	77.80	83.20	86.60
Onions	Cwt	6.13	10.70	9.72
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.00	92.40	89.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt	95.20	97.80	94.10
Cows	Cwt	55.00	49.70	49.90
Calves	Cwt	136.00	142.00	138.00
Sheep	Cwt	49.00	46.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	114.00	96.80	3/
Hogs	Cwt	51.20	42.60	42.40
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.60	13.50	12.80
Broilers	Lb.	0.440	0.380	0.370

1/Prices rec'd by farmers refers to prices at the point of first sale out of farmers hands.
2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.
3/ Not available
4/ Discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS MARCH 1, 2006

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2006 totaled 820,000 head, up 1 percent from March 1, 2005. The breeding hog inventory was up 7 percent from a year earlier at 150,000 head but the market hog inventory was unchanged at 670,000 head. Colorado's December 2005 - February 2006 pig crop of 695,000 head was up 8 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. There were 79,000 sows farrowed during the December 2005 - February 2006 time period compared with 75,000 sows farrowed during the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 83,000 sows during the March - May 2006 period and 84,000 sows during the June - August 2006 period.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006 was 60.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005. **Breeding Inventory,** at 6.03 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory,** at 54.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2005-February 2006 pig crop, at 25.7 million head, up 1 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004. 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, unchanged from last year.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2005-2006

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	810	820	59,699	60,104
Kept for breeding	140	150	5,941	6,025
Market	670	670	53,757	54,079
Under 60 lbs	365	350	19,667	19,838
60-119 lbs	115	90	13,087	13,114
120-179 lbs	85	80	11,360	11,317
180 lbs. & over	105	150	9,644	9,811
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec – Feb	75	79	2,835	2,840
March - May 1/	77	83	2,882	2,896
June – Aug 1/	81	84	2,918	2,923
Pig Crop:				
Dec – Feb	641	695	25,343	25,654
March - May	678	2/	25,986	2/
June – Aug	713	2/	26,449	2/

1/ Actual for 2005; intentions for 2006. 2/ Not estimated.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2006

Colorado laying flocks produced 82 million eggs during February 2006, unchanged from the same month a year earlier but 13 percent below the 94 million eggs produced during January 2006. The average number of layers during February 2006 totaled 3.73 million, down 2 percent from 3.81 million a year earlier and 2 percent below the 3.82 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2006, at 2,198 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,151 eggs per 100 layers during February 2005 and 2,462 for January 2006.

United States egg production totaled 6.97 billion during February 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.99 billion table eggs, and 989 million hatching eggs, of which 927 million were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The number of layers during February 2006 averaged 350 million, up slightly from a year earlier. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,995 eggs, also up slightly from February 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up slightly from a year ago. The 350 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 56 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.91 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2006, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from March 1, 2005.

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/**

April 3 - Vegetables
April 10 - Crop Production
April 13 - Turkey Hatchery
April 13 - Potato Stocks
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April 21 - Cattle on Feed
April 21 - Cold Storage
April 21 - Chickens and Eggs
April 21 - Livestock Slaughter

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