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CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION
MARCH 2006

Colorado laying flocks produced 89 million eggs during March 2006 compared with 92 million in March 2005 and 82 million in February 2006. The average number of layers during March of this year was 3.63 million, down from 3.77 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,450 for March 2006 compared with 2,440 for March 2005.

United States egg production totaled 7.84 billion during March 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.73 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 69 million were egg-type. The number of layers during March 2006 averaged 350 million, up 1 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up slightly from March 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2006, totaled 350 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 350 million layers consisted of 292 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2006, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2006 totaled 38.9 million, down 7 percent from March 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on April 1, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 286,000 during March 2006, down 9 percent from March 2005.

MEAT ANIMALS: PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME
2005 SUMMARY

Colorado Highlights

The total gross income to Colorado producers from beef, pork, and sheep and lambs during 2005 totaled $3.50 billion, 5 percent below the $3.67 billion for the previous year. Gross income from cattle and calves during 2005 decreased 6 percent from the previous year to $3.15 billion and represented 90 percent of the total income from the three species. The gross income from hogs and pigs increased 7 percent from 2004 to $222.2 million. Gross income from sheep and lambs increased 14 percent to $126.9 million. The beginning year inventory value per head for each of the three meat animals compared with a year earlier were as follows: cattle and calves, $1,100 (up $100); hogs and pigs, $84 (down $12); and sheep and lambs, $136 (up $9).

Marketings of meat animals during 2005 represented 3.36 billion pounds, down 10 percent from 3.71 billion pounds marketed in 2004. Marketings of cattle and calves, at 2.84 billion pounds, represented 86 percent of the total but were down 12 percent from a year earlier. The 2005 marketings of hogs and pigs, at 396.2 million pounds, increased 2 percent from 388.9 million pounds in 2004. Sheep and lamb marketings, at 117.2 million pounds, rose 2 percent from a year earlier.

United States Highlights

The 2005 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled $65.3 billion, up 4 percent from 2004. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 4 percent, hogs and pigs increased 5 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 10 percent.

Total 2005 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 4 percent to $64.8 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for all cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from $47.5 billion in 2004 to $49.2 in 2005, a 4 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.1 billion pounds in 2005, down 2 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was

$89.70, an increase of $3.90 from 2004. For calves, the annual average price increased from $119.00 to $135.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled $15.0 billion during 2005, up 5 percent from 2004. Marketings totaled 28.5 billion pounds in 2005, up 3 percent from 2004. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from $49.30 in 2004 to $50.20 in 2005.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2005 were $570 million, up 10 percent from 2004. Marketings increased slightly to 571 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from $38.80 in 2004 to $45.10 in 2005 while for lambs, the annual average price increased from $101.00 to $110.00.

POULTRY PRODUCTION & VALUE
2005 SUMMARY

Colorado Highlights

The value of egg production in Colorado during 2005 totaled $42.1 million, down 30 percent from the value of $60.1 million in 2004. A total of 1.07 billion eggs were produced during 2005, down 3 percent from the record high of 1.11 billion produced the previous year. The average price per dozen eggs declined from 65.3 cents in 2004 to 47.2 cents in 2005.

During 2005, there were 12.1 million pounds of chicken sold at an average price of 4.9 cents per pound for a total value of sales at $591,000. A year earlier, 10.5 million pounds of chicken were sold at an average price of 3.4 cents per pound for a total value of sales of $357,000. 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 2005, was $28.2 billion, down 2 percent from the $28.9 billion in 2004. Of the combined total, 74 percent was from broilers, 14 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2005 was $20.9 billion, up 2 percent from 2004. The total number of broilers produced in 2005 was 8.87 billion, up 1 percent from 2004. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2005 was 47.9 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2004. The 2005 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 43.6 cents per pound, compared with 44.6 cents in 2004.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2005 was $64.6 million, up 12 percent from the $57.6 million a year ago. Prices averaged 6.5 cents per pound, compared with 5.8 cents in 2004. The number of chickens sold in 2005 totaled 193 million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2005 was $4.04 billion, down 24 percent from the $5.30 billion in 2004. Egg production totaled 90.0 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 89.1 billion eggs produced in 2004. In 2005, all eggs averaged 53.9 cents per dozen, compared with 71.4 cents in 2004.

The value of turkeys produced during 2005 was $3.23 billion, up 5 percent from the $3.07 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2005 totaled 7.21 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the 7.30 billion pounds produced in 2004. The average price received by producers during 2005 was 44.9 cents per pound, compared with 42.0 cents in 2004.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME
2005 SUMMARY

The total value of milk produced in **Colorado** during 2005 totaled $349.9 million, up slightly from $347.3 million in 2004. In 2005, the 2.35 billion pounds of milk produced was 8 percent higher than the 2.18 billion pounds produced the previous year. The average price of $14.90 per hundredweight was $1.00 below the 2004 average of $15.90.

Milk production in the **United States** increased 3.5 percent in 2005 to 177 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 19,576 pounds, was 609 pounds above 2004. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.04 million head, up 29,000 head from 2004.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2005 totaled $26.7 billion, 2.4 percent lower than 2004. Producer returns averaged $15.20 per hundredweight, 5.8 percent below 2004. Marketings totaled 176 billion pounds, 3.6 percent above 2004. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.08 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 2.4 percent less than 2004. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
APRIL 15, 2006

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 115, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 11 points (9.3 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 6 points (5.5 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, onions and strawberries. Lower prices were received for broilers, cattle, eggs, and hogs. 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 strawberries, cattle, sweet corn, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs.

The **April All Crops Index** is 129, up 9.3 percent from March and 7.5 percent above April 2005. From March, index increases for commercial vegetables, cotton, potatoes & dry beans, food grains, and feed grains & hay more than offset an index decrease for oil-bearing crops. The April all wheat price, at $3.90 per bushel, is up 11 cents from March and 55 cents higher than April 2005. The corn price, at $2.11 per bushel, is up 5 cents from last month and 11 cents above April 2005. The all hay price, at $106.00 per ton, increased $8.90 from March and $6.60 from last April. Grain sorghum, at $3.53 per cwt, is unchanged from March but 57 cents higher than April last year. The soybean price, at $5.39 per bushel, decreased 18 cents from March and is 64 cents below April 2005. The all potato price, at $8.66 per cwt, is up 45 cents from March and $2.46 from last April. The all dry bean price, at $19.40 per cwt, is up $2.30 from the previous month but $9.30 below April 2005.

The April **Livestock and Products Index**, at 104, is 5.5 percent below last month and down 15 percent from April 2005. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, broilers, cattle, hogs, and calves while higher for eggs and turkeys. The April hog price, at $39.10 per cwt, is down $3.70 from March and $12.00 lower than a year ago. The April beef cattle price of $85.20 per cwt is down $2.90 from last month and $8.50 lower than April 2005. The April all milk price of $12.10 per cwt is down 50 cents from last month and $3.10 from April 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary
United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005 Mar.	2005 Apr.	2006 Mar.	2006 Apr.
		Percent		
Prices Received	119	121	114	115
Prices Paid	139	140	146	147
Ratio 1/	86	86	78	78

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

Compared with April 2005, all **Colorado** crop prices except dry beans averaged higher while all livestock prices averaged lower. Mid-April 2006 wheat, at $4.20 per bushel, was 38 cents higher than the previous month and $1.01 above April a year ago. Corn, at $2.25 per bushel, was 6 cents above the previous month and 14 cents above April 2005. The mid-April potato price, at $8.85 per cwt, decreased 5 cents from last month but was $4.25 above April a year ago. Dry bean prices were 80 cents above March at $18.90 per cwt but were $8.70 below the April 2005 price of $27.60 per cwt. Alfalfa hay, at $102.00 per ton, was unchanged from March but $18.00 above April 2005. The other hay price, at $98.00 per ton, was $1.00 above March and $8.00 above April a year ago. The mid-April steer and heifer price, at $103.00 per cwt, $3.00 below last month and was $9.00 below the previous year average of $112.00 per cwt. Cow prices decreased $1.10 from the previous month to $49.90 per cwt and averaged $7.90 below April 2005. The mid-April calf price of $130.00 per cwt averaged $2.00 lower than the previous month and $9.00 below the April 2005 average of $139.00 per cwt. The April all milk price of $12.10 was down $0.80 from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.19	3.82	4.20
Corn	Bu.	2.11	2.19	2.25
Potatoes	Cwt	4.60	8.90	8.85
Dry edible beans	Cwt	27.60	18.10	18.90
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	84.00	102.00	102.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	90.00	97.00	98.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	111.00	105.00	102.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	112.00	106.00	103.00
Cows	Cwt	57.80	51.00	49.90
Calves	Cwt	139.00	132.00	130.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.80	38.00	2/
Lambs	Cwt	120.00	98.00	2/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	3/	12.90	12.10
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.79	3.90
Corn	Bu.	2.00	2.06	2.11
Soybeans	Bu.	6.03	5.57	5.39
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.26	2.71	2.67
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.56	1.80	1.74
Sorghum	Cwt	2.96	3.53	3.53
Potatoes	Cwt	6.20	8.21	8.66
Dry edible beans	Cwt	28.70	17.10	19.40
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	105.00	100.00	110.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	81.60	86.60	93.20
Onions	Cwt	18.20	9.89	16.70
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.70	88.10	85.20
Steers & heifers	Cwt	98.10	93.00	89.70
Cows	Cwt	57.00	49.50	48.70
Calves	Cwt	141.00	138.00	136.00
Sheep	Cwt	45.10	39.50	2/
Lambs	Cwt	114.00	91.10	2/
Hogs	Cwt	51.10	42.80	39.10
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.20	12.60	12.10
Broilers	Lb.	0.440	0.370	0.340

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/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.
3/ Mid-month price not est.

FLORICULTURE CROPS 2005 SUMMARY
Colorado Highlights

The wholesale value of sales from 112 floriculture producers in Colorado with $10,000 or more in sales during 2005 totaled $115.4 million, down 5 percent from $119.0 million in sales by 122 producers during 2004. There were 59 producers in 2005 that had a sales volume of $100,000 or more and the total value of sales from that group, at $85.8 million, represented 74 percent of the total. In 2004, 63 producers in this group had $95.0 million in sales which represented 80 percent of the total.

Value of sales for bedding and garden plants in 2005 by producers with $100,000 or more in sales totaled $69.6 million, down 11 percent from $77.8 million in 2004. Value of sales of potted flowering plants, at $11.5 million, was down 7 percent from $12.3 million the previous year. The value of sales for cut flowers at 2.6 million was down 19 percent from the previous year. Sales of foliage for indoor or patio use totaled $2,062 thousand in 2005, up from $1,650 thousand a year earlier.

The total covered growing area for all producers in 2005 was 10.2 million square feet, down 7 percent from 11.0 million square feet of covered area in 2004. The production area for film plastic greenhouse area decreased 10 percent to 2.3 million square feet. The acreage of open ground decreased slightly to 74 acres from 75 acres in 2004.

United States Highlights

The 2005 wholesale value of floriculture crops is up 1 percent from the revised 2004 valuation. The total crop value at wholesale for all growers with $10,000 or more in sales is estimated at $5.36 billion for 2005, compared with $5.28 billion for 2004. California is again the leading State with crops valued at $1.02 billion, down 3 percent from the previous year. Florida, the next largest producer, is up 10 percent from 2004 to $976 million in wholesale value. These two States account for 37 percent of the 36-State total value. For 2005, the top 5 States are California, Florida, Michigan, Texas, and New York which account for $2.86 billion or 53 percent of the total value.

The number of growers for 2005, at 10,563, is down 7 percent compared with the revised 2004 count of 11,385. The number of growers with sales of $100,000 or more dropped 4 percent to 4,412 for 2005 from 4,612 in 2004. The number of growers in all size-categories decreased from the previous year.

Total covered area for floriculture crop production was 916 million square feet, 3 percent less than the revised 2004 figure. Greenhouse space for 2005, at 550 million square feet, is down less than 1 percent from 2004. This accounts for 60 percent of the total covered area. Area covered by film plastic structures is virtually unchanged at 393 million square feet. Area under fiberglass and other rigid plastic covers is up less than 1 percent for the year, while glass greenhouse area is down 4 percent compared to the previous year. Shade and temporary cover constitute the remaining 366 million square feet of covered area, down 7 percent from 2004. Open ground usage totaled 41,350 acres, virtually unchanged from the revised 2004 total.

The total wholesale value of floriculture crops grown by operations exceeding the $100,000 sales level is $5.08 billion for 2005, up 2 percent from the revised 2004 total. These operations account for 95 percent of the total value of floriculture crops, but comprise only 42 percent of all growers. California contributed 19 percent of the total wholesale value for the 36 States surveyed. Florida ranks second also with 19 percent. Michigan, Texas, and New York round out the top 5 States accounting for 7 percent, 5 percent, and 3 percent of the total, 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.nass.usda.gov/**

May 12 - Crop Production
May 12 - Turkey Hatchery
May 16 - Potato Stocks
May 17 - Milk Production
May 17 - Ag Chemical Usage - Field Crops
May 19 - Cattle on Feed
May 19 - Cold Storage

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