



**NATIONAL
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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER APRIL 2006

Red meat production in **Colorado** during April 2006 totaled 142.8 million pounds, 10 percent above 130.2 million pounds produced during April 2005 but 5 percent below March 2006. The accumulated production for the first four months of this year now totals 580.5 million pounds, up 8 percent from the 537.2 million pounds produced during the comparable period last year. Cattle kill in Colorado during April increased 6 percent from the previous year to 170,800 head. The average live weight of 1,256 pounds was 47 pounds above the average for April 2005. Hog slaughter increased 13 percent from a year ago to 900 head but the average live weight decreased 11 pounds to 272. Sheep and lamb kill during April totaled 93,300 head, up 6 percent from the previous year. The average live weight of 159 pounds decreased 3 pounds from April 2005.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005. Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.9 million pounds, 16 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 47,500 head, down 23 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 379 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from April 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,500 head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2006 commercial red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States ^{1/}

Area and Specie	Apr. 2005	Mar. 2006	Apr. 2006	January-April	
				2005	2006
Million Pounds					
Colorado	130.2	150.9	142.8	537.2	580.5
United States	3,620	4,112	3,614	14,570	15,100
Beef.....	1,888	2,209	1,973	7,612	8,051
Veal.....	13.0	13.3	10.9	51.6	48.4
Pork.....	1,703	1,871	1,613	6,841	6,935
Lamb & Mutton	15.5	18.2	17.0	64.6	66.1

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding.

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION APRIL 2006

Colorado laying flocks produced 86 million eggs during April 2006, down 3 percent from the 89 million produced during the same month last year and March of this year. During April, the average number of layers was 3.64 million compared with 3.75 million in April 2005 and 3.63 during March of this year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 layers was 2,366 this April compared with 2,371 last April and 2,450 for March of this year.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during April 2006, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 998 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The number of layers during April 2006 averaged 348 million, up 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, up slightly from April 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2006, totaled 347 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table-type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2006, averaged 71.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from May 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2006 totaled 34.6 million, down 9 percent from April 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.0 million on May 1, 2006, down 1 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 255,000 during April 2006, down 17 percent from April 2005.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE FIELD CROPS

The agricultural chemical use estimates in this report refer to on-farm use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on targeted field crops for the 2005 crop year. Field crops include corn, upland cotton, oats, fall potatoes, and soybeans. Farm and ranch operators were enumerated late in the growing season after the farm operator had indicated that planned applications were completed. The chemical use data were not summarized for geographical areas other than by those States published in this report. The data were compiled from 2 surveys, the Agricultural Resources Management Survey (ARMS) and Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP). Data collection occurred primarily during the months of September to December of 2005. An example of the survey instrument used in data collection is included in the back of this publication.

Highlights:

Corn: Nitrogen was applied to 96 percent of the 2005 corn planted acreage in the 19 Program States: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. Corn growers applied an average of 138 pounds of nitrogen per acre per crop year. Phosphate was applied to 81 percent of the corn acreage in the Program States at an average rate of 58 pounds per acre per crop year. Potash, applied at 84 pounds per acre per crop year, was applied to 65 percent of the acreage planted to corn. For the first time, sulfur use was included in the survey and 13 percent of the acres planted received an application at an average rate of 12 pounds per acre per crop year.

In 2005, 23 percent of the corn planted acreage was treated with insecticides in the Program States. Tefluthrin, Cyfluthrin, and Tebupirimphos were the most widely applied insecticides, at 7, 7, and 6 percent, respectively, to the acres planted to corn in the States surveyed. Chlorpyrifos was only applied to 2 percent of the acres, but total applied is more than 3 times greater than next highest at 2.0 million pounds.

Soybeans: This year, soybeans were included in this report to capture farmers' reactions to Asian Soybean Rust. However, data were only available from the CEAP survey for 17 states (Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia), because soybeans were not selected as a target crop for ARMS.

Asian Soybean Rust is a fungus, therefore, we focused on farmers' use of fungicides. For 2005, farm operations reported 6 active ingredients applied to 2 percent of the

planted soybean acreage, versus 4 active ingredients reported on 1 percent of the planted acreage in 2004. In the Agricultural Chemical Usage 2004 Field Crops Summary, Azoxystrobin was the only publishable fungicide at the Program State level. All 6 of the active ingredients reported for 2005 are recommended for Asian Soybean Rust.

Fall Potatoes: Eight fall producing States were included in the 2005 survey: Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin. Nitrogen averaged 4.1 applications per field with a total of 180.3 million pounds applied to 99 percent of the fall potato acreage. Phosphate was applied to 98 percent of the fall potato acres, with a total of 132.5 millions pounds applied. A total of 145.4 million pounds of Potash were applied to 92 percent of the planted acreage. Sulfur recorded 41.3 million pounds applied to 72 percent of the acres planted.

The total pounds of all pesticides were down for fall potatoes in 2005 compared to 2003. Herbicides were applied to 92 percent of the fall potato acreage in 2005 in the 8 Program States. Metribuzin was the most widely applied herbicide, applied to 74 percent of the planted acreage treated, at a rate of 0.441 pounds per acre per crop year. The next three most widely applied herbicides applied to fall potatoes, Pendimethalin, Rimsulfuron, EPTC, were applied to 31, 27, and 24 percent of the acres planted, respectively.

Oats: Fifteen States were included in the 2005 survey: California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. This compares to 1998 when oats were last surveyed in which an area survey was conducted drawing possible samples from any of the 48 states. Nitrogen recorded 107.4 million pounds applied to 56 percent of the oats acreage in these States. Approximately 50 million pounds each of Phosphate and Potash were applied to 40 and 28 percent, respectively, of the oats acreage in the States surveyed. For the first time, sulfur usage data were collected and 3.2 million pounds were applied to 9 percent of the acres planted. Herbicides were applied to 31 percent of the oat acreage in 2005 with 2,4-D dimethylamine salt being the most widely applied herbicide on 9 percent of the planted acreage for a total of 147 thousand pounds. It was followed by Glyphosate isopropylamine salt (formerly recorded as Glyphosate) and 2,4-D, 2-EHE (formerly recorded as Acetic Acid), at 117 and 79 thousand pounds, respectively, to 5 percent of the planted acreage.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES MAY 15, 2006

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.4 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (1.0 percent). Producers received higher prices for

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lettuce, hogs, onions, and grapefruit. Lower prices were received for cattle, asparagus, tomatoes, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of grapes, sweet corn, cantaloup, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, calves, and apples.

The May **All Crops Index** is 126, up 2.4 percent from April and 8.6 percent above May 2005. From April, index increases for food grains, potatoes & dry beans, and feed grains & hay more than offset the index decreases for commercial vegetables and cotton. The May all wheat price, at \$4.07 per bushel, is up 26 cents from April and 76 cents from May 2005.

The corn price, at \$2.17 per bushel, is up 6 cents from last month and 19 cents above May 2005. The all hay price, at \$114.00 per ton, is up \$8.00 from April and \$7.00 from last May. Grain sorghum, at \$3.84 per cwt, is 14 cents above April and 79 cents above May last year. The soybean price, at \$5.62 per bushel, increased 10 cents from April but is 59 cents below May 2005. The all potato price, at \$8.29 per cwt, is up 32 cents from April and up \$2.06 from last May. The all dry bean price, at \$22.80 per cwt, is up \$3.80 from the previous month but \$8.30 below May 2005.

The May **Livestock and Products Index**, at 104, is 1.0 percent below last month and down 14 percent from May 2005. The May hog price, at \$47.20 per cwt, is up \$5.90 from April but \$7.70 lower than a year ago. The May beef cattle price of \$81.80 per cwt is down \$3.00 from last month and \$10.30 lower than May 2005. The May all milk price of \$12.00 per cwt is down 10 cents from last month and \$2.70 from May 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005		2006	
	April	May	April	May
	Percent			
Prices Received.....	121	119	113	114
Prices Paid	140	140	146	146
Ratio 1/	86	85	77	78

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

All mid-May 2006 **Colorado** commodity prices except dry beans averaged higher than the previous year. All prices for livestock items decreased from May 2005. Wheat, at \$4.43 per bushel, was 34 cents above the previous month and \$1.31 cents higher than May a year ago. Corn prices increased 12 cents from April to \$2.38 per bushel and averaged 22 cents above May 2005. Potatoes declined 15 cents per cwt from the previous month to \$8.55 per cwt but were \$4.30 per cwt higher than the \$4.25 per cwt received in May 2005. Alfalfa hay averaged \$102.00 per ton in mid-May of this year, unchanged from the previous month but \$24.00 per ton above May 2005. Other hay was also unchanged from the previous

month, at \$98.00 per ton, but averaged \$23.00 per ton above May 2005. Steers and heifers, at \$100.00 per cwt, down \$2.00 from April and averaged \$11.00 per cwt below May 2005. Calves decreased \$11.00 per cwt from the previous month to \$119.00 and were \$22.00 per cwt below the May 2005 average of \$141.00 per cwt. April sheep prices, at \$38.00 per cwt averaged \$1.20 per cwt above the previous year. Lamb prices for April of this year averaged \$97.00 per cwt, down \$1.00 from April 2005.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		May 2005	April 2006	May 2006
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.12	4.09	4.43
Corn	Bu.	2.16	2.26	2.38
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2/	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	4.25	8.70	8.55
Dry edible beans	Cwt	28.70	18.20	18.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	78.00	102.00	102.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	75.00	98.00	98.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	110.00	101.00	99.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	111.00	102.00	100.00
Cows	Cwt	59.60	49.70	48.40
Calves	Cwt	141.00	130.00	119.00
Sheep	Cwt	38.40	38.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	115.00	97.00	3/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	4/	12.00	11.70
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.31	3.81	4.07
Corn	Bu.	1.98	2.11	2.17
Soybeans	Bu.	6.21	5.52	5.62
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2.46	2.67	2.70
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	1.71	1.83	1.78
Sorghum	Cwt	3.05	3.70	3.84
Potatoes	Cwt	6.23	7.97	8.29
Dry edible beans	Cwt	31.10	19.00	22.80
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	116.00	110.00	118.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	75.40	93.20	96.80
Onions	Cwt	19.70	9.81	16.40
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	92.10	84.80	81.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	96.10	89.30	85.80
Cows	Cwt	58.30	48.50	48.00
Calves	Cwt	143.00	135.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt	43.70	34.90	3/
Lambs	Cwt	114.00	86.80	3/
Hogs.....	Cwt	54.90	41.30	47.20
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.70	12.10	12.00
Broilers.....	Lb.	.440	.340	.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/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual farms.

3/ Discontinued.

4/ Price not estimated

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Pest Management Practices – Highlights

Producers of corn, upland cotton, and fall potatoes were last asked about their pest management practices in 2003. Oats were last surveyed in 1998, but pest management practices were not captured at that time.

Corn: No-till or minimum tillage practices were incorporated on 62 percent of the corn acreage in the prevention of pests, while 80 percent of the planted acreage was rotated with some other crop(s) over the past 3 years to avoid pests. Scouting for weeds was used on 86 percent of the farms growing corn and on 90 percent of the corn acres.

Fall Potatoes: To prevent pests, 69 percent of the farms chopped, sprayed, mowed, plowed, or burned field edges, lanes, ditches, roadways, or fence lines. In addition, 91 percent the potato acreage had been rotated with some other crop over the past 3 to control pests. Ninety-eight percent of the potato acreage was scouted for weeds, insects or mites, and diseases, and the scouting was performed by the operator, partner, or family member on at least 53 percent of the farms.

Oats: Over the past 3 years, 62 percent of oats planted acreage was rotated with some other crop(s). Just 59 percent of the farms scouted for weeds, with 53 percent of the farms using weather data to monitor pests as well.

Upland Cotton: To aid in the prevention of pests, 64 percent of the farms chopped, sprayed, mowed, plowed, or burned field edges, lanes, ditches, roadways, or fence lines. In addition, 52 of percent upland cotton acres were planted to a crop variety that was resistant to pests. Scouting for weeds, insects, and diseases took place on 89, 94 and 83 percent, respectively, of the cotton acres.

Note: There is not sufficient space in this AG UPDATE to cover all details of the Agricultural Chemicals Usage report. The full report is available on the internet at the address specified in the UPCOMING REPORTS area.

COLD STORAGE

APRIL 30, 2006

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for beef, eggs, chicken, butter, and cheese. Butter stocks were up 16 percent from last month and up 20 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from last month and up 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 3 percent from last month, but down 8 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 1 percent from last month and down 25 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2006 were up 2 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month, but up 22 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 13 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from April 30, 2005.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	April 30, 2005	Mar. 31, 2006	April 30, 2006
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	164,501	172,257	197,439
Cheese, total natural.....	780,809	799,156	814,873
Eggs, frozen	18,903	20,757	23,291
Poultry, total frozen	1,133,474	1,258,017	1,279,256
Chicken.....	692,153	869,654	841,131
Turkey.....	440,122	380,440	430,123
Fruits, frozen.....	708,061	747,015	720,837
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,965,968	1,319,484	1,401,877
Vegetables, total frozen	1,603,483	1,711,322	1,564,060
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,174,326	1,158,998	1,177,055
Meats, total red	909,513	946,009	963,614
Beef, total frozen.....	329,425	423,963	429,066
Pork, total frozen.....	563,803	502,588	516,260

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

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>

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