NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
PO Box 150969 Lakewood, CO 80215 **Phone:** (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 **FAX:** (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2006

Red meat production in Colorado during October 2006 totaled 151.8 million pounds, up 9 percent from a year earlier and 14 percent above the previous month. Cattle kill during October was up 8 percent from a year earlier to 173,200 head and the average live weight increased 22 pounds to 1,329 pounds per head. Hog slaughter was down 8 percent to 1,100 head and the average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 262. Accumulated production for the January-October period this year, at 1.55 billion pounds, is 5 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.18 billion pounds in October, up 7 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in October 2005. Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, up 7 percent from October 2005. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,288 pounds. Veal production totaled 14.1 million pounds, 12 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 63,500 head, up 13 percent from October 2005. The average live weight was 8 pounds below last year, at 362 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.92 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 6 percent above October 2005. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.6 million pounds, was down 1 percent from October 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 236,000 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 6 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2006 commercial red meat production was 39.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States 1/

Area And Specie	Oct. 2005	Sept. 2006	Oct. 2006	January-October 2005	January-October 2006
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	138.8	132.9	151.8	1,476.0	1,549.3
United States:	3,925	3,933	4,182	37,814	39,410
Beef................	2,081	2,162	2,228	20,554	21,813
Veal................	12.6	12.8	14.1	129.9	127.5
Pork................	1,816	1,744	1,924	16,976	17,315
Lamb & Mutton	15.8	14.2	15.6	154.8	154.4

1/ US totals may not add due to rounding.

FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 9-15, 2006

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 797,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 280,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.95 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $9.25 per hour, up 35 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $9.41 per hour compared with $9.15 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.29 per hour, was up 33 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures in the Lake region slowed progress of field activities considerably, decreasing the need for hired workers. In the Southern Plains region, cool, wet weather in Texas caused most field work to be delayed, lowering the demand for hired workers. Drought conditions through most of the Southeast region curtailed hay growth and postponed small grain seeding which led to a minimized demand for field workers. In the Mountain I region, rain and wet fields slowed progress of winter wheat seeding and lessened the need for hired workers.

(Continued on next page)

U.S. and Region [2]	Type of Worker			All Hired Workers		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	Wage Rates	Number of Workers	Number of Hours Worked
	Dollars per Hour	*Dollars per Hour*	*Dollars per Hour*	*Dollars per Hour*	*1,000*	*Hours per Week*
Northeast I	9.80	8.62	9.42	10.20	37	40.9
Northeast II	9.17	7.91	8.86	9.65	42	38.0
Appalachian I	9.15	8.26	8.90	9.35	32	36.8
Appalachian II	8.66	9.22	8.85	9.30	27	35.7
Southeast	8.76	8.65	8.72	9.10	29	39.1
FL	8.50	9.10	8.58	9.42	44	41.1
Lake	9.89	9.61	9.80	10.35	57	39.4
Cornbelt I	10.12	9.04	9.75	10.63	48	40.5
Cornbelt II	9.70	10.26	9.95	10.65	25	43.1
Delta	7.83	8.09	7.90	8.32	34	44.0
Northern Plains	10.13	9.59	9.95	10.20	34	42.0
Southern Plains	8.14	10.09	9.02	9.60	49	39.7
Mountain I	8.87	9.24	9.00	9.55	24	47.6
Mountain II	8.86	9.32	9.05	9.80	19	38.7
Mountain III	7.56	8.86	8.05	8.50	21	45.1
Pacific	10.25	11.00	10.31	10.85	85	41.9
CA	9.13	10.40	9.31	10.10	183	44.6
HI [4]	10.61		10.69	12.47	7	37.9
US [3]	9.25	9.41	9.29	9.95	797	41.6

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Number of Workers, and Number of Hours Worked by Region and United States, October 8-14, 2006 [1]

1 Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. [2] Regions consist of the following States. Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. [3] Excludes AK. [4] Insufficient data for livestock.

Farm Labor-continued

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions, and Florida. In the Pacific region, ideal weather allowed winter wheat seeding and fall crop harvests to progress rapidly, increasing the demand for hired workers. Field activities in the Northeast II region were accelerating due to the drier conditions compared with last year's very wet reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the Appalachian II region, cotton and soybean harvests in Tennessee continued to make excellent progress and remained ahead of normal, necessitating more field workers. In Florida, drier conditions compared with the previous year's deluge of tropical storms led to more normal progress of field activities and caused stronger demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Southern Plains, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain I, and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger percentage of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. The higher wages in the Southern Plains region were due to the wet conditions which kept hours worked down and drove the wage rates up. In the Mountain I region, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. The higher wages in the Delta region were due to a greater percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force.

The 2006 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $9.87, up 4 percent from the 2005 annual average wage rate of $9.51. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $9.06, up 36 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $9.15, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $8.84.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
NOVEMBER 15, 2006

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 121 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (4.3 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 10 points (8.7 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and milk. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, oranges, and hogs. 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 milk, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

The November All Crops Index is 125, up 8.7 percent from October and 19 percent above November 2005. From October, index increases for feed grains & hay, oil-bearing crops, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for fruits & nuts and commercial vegetables. The November all wheat price, at $4.62 per bushel, is up 3 cents from October and $1.17 above November 2005. The corn price, at $3.12 per bushel, is up 58 cents from last month and $1.35 above November 2005. The all hay price, at $106 per ton, is $1.00 below October but up $14.30 from last November. The soybean price, at $6.15 per bushel, increased 63 cents from October and 53 cents from November 2005. The all potato price, at $6.43 per cwt, is up 46 cents from October and 17 cents above last November. The all dry bean price, at $21.00 per cwt, is up $1.30 from the previous month and $3.00 above November 2005.

The November Livestock & Products Index, at 116, is 0.9 percent below last month and down 4.1 percent from November 2005. The November hog price, at $44.50 per cwt, is down $2.00 from October but $1.00 higher than a year ago. The November beef cattle price of $84.40 per cwt is down $4.10 from last month and $6.40 lower than November 2005. The November all milk price of $13.80 per cwt is up 30 cents from last month but down $1.30 from November 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005 Oct.	2005 Nov.	2006 Oct.	2006 Nov.
	Percent			
Prices Received	111	112	116	121
Prices Paid	144	142	146	146
Ratio 1/	77	79	79	83

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged higher than a year ago. Compared with October 2006, no decreases were recorded for all crop items except for wheat and other hay which remained unchanged. All livestock items averaged lower than a year ago. Wheat, at $4.82 per bushel was unchanged from the previous month and averaged $1.53 above November 2005. Corn was up 69 cents from October to $3.37 per bushel and averaged $1.18 above November 2005. Potato prices, at $8.40 per cwt, increased 5 cents from October and increased 35 cents from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices increased $3.00 from October to $138.00 per ton and other hay remained unchanged at $124.00 per ton. Steers and heifers were down $8.00 to $101.00 per cwt from October and were $18.00 lower than November 2005. Cow prices decreased $4.30 to $43.40 per cwt and were $4.80 below a year earlier. Calves were down $12.00 to $112.00 per cwt and were $25.00 below November 2005. The all milk price, at $14.00, was up 10 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2005	Oct. 2006	Nov. 2006
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.29	4.82	4.82
Corn	Bu.	2.19	2.68	3.37
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.15	2.47	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	8.05	8.35	8.40
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.10	19.70	20.70
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	101.00	135.00	138.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	95.00	124.00	124.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	118.00	108.00	100.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	119.00	109.00	101.00
Cows	Cwt	48.20	47.70	43.40
Calves	Cwt	137.00	124.00	112.00
Sheep	Cwt	43.60	32.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	105.00	95.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.80	13.90	14.00
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.45	4.59	4.62
Corn	Bu.	1.77	2.54	3.12
Soybeans	Bu.	5.62	5.52	6.15
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.58	2.76	3.14
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.91	2.68	3.07
Sorghum	Cwt	2.82	5.17	5.88
Potatoes	Cwt	6.26	5.97	6.43
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.00	19.70	21.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	98.30	112.00	109.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	80.00	93.80	98.10
Onions	Cwt	14.00	12.20	12.20
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	90.80	88.50	84.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	97.10	94.00	90.00
Cows	Cwt	45.90	45.90	43.70
Calves	Cwt	137.00	127.00	119.00
Sheep	Cwt	46.20	31.10	3/
Lambs	Cwt	107.00	98.10	3/
Hogs	Cwt	43.50	46.50	44.50
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.10	13.50	13.80
Broilers	Lb.	.420	.400	.400

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/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. 3/ Mid- Month prices discontinued.

CATTLE ON FEED
NOVEMBER 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 1,120,000 head as of November 1, 2006. The latest inventory was up 6 percent from October 1, 2006 and up 9 percent from the 1,030,000 on feed on November 1, 2005. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 140,000 head of fed cattle during October 2006. This was 4 percent above the revised September 2006 marketings of 135,000 head, but 7 percent below a year ago. An estimated 210,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, 12 percent below the revised September 2006 placements, and 26 percent below last year's placements of 285,000. Of the October placements, 26 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 21 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 29 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 10,000 head, is 5,000 head more than last month and last year.

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 November 1, 2006. The inventory was 4 percent above November 1, 2005 and 6 percent above November 1, 2004. This is the highest November 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.43 million, 13 percent below 2005 and 10 percent below 2004. Net placements were 2.34 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 840,000, 600-699 pounds were 645,000, 700-799 pounds were 485,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 455,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.77 million, 2 percent above 2005 but 2 percent below 2004. Other disappearance totaled 81,000 during October, 40 percent above 2005 and 23 percent above 2004.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots
October 1 to November 1, 2005-2006

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	900	1,060	10,482	11,385
Placements During Oct.	285	210	2,788	2,425
< 600 pounds	75	55	880	840
600 - 699 Pounds	65	50	790	645
700 - 799 Pounds	60	45	593	485
800 Plus Pounds	85	60	525	455
Marketings During Oct.	150	140	1,739	1,770
Other Disap. During Oct.	5	10	58	81
On Feed November 1	1,030	1,120	11,473	11,959

CHICKENS AND EGGS
OCTOBER 2006

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during October 2006, unchanged from the previous month but up 2 percent from October 2005. The average number of layers during October 2006 totaled 3.79 million, down 2 percent from the previous month but 2 percent above October 2005. The rate of lay, at 2,427 eggs per 100 layers increased 2 percent from a month earlier and up 1 percent during October a year ago.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.67 billion during October 2006, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2006 averaged 344 million, up slightly from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,231 eggs, down slightly from October 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2006 totaled 344 million, up slightly from last year. The 344 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.79 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2006, averaged 72.2 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from November 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 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

Dec.	11	-	Crop Production
Dec.	15	-	Potato Stocks
Dec.	18	-	Milk Production
Dec.	21	-	Cold Storage
Dec.	22	-	Cattle on Feed
Dec.	22	-	Chickens and Eggs
Dec.	22	-	Livestock Slaughter
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Jan.	8	-	Vegetables
Jan.	12	-	Crop Production - Annual
Jan.	12	-	Grain Stocks
Jan.	12	-	Winter Wheat Seedings

R. Reneé Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director