



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
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# AG UPDATE

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## POTATO STOCKS

**MARCH 1, 2007**

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 11.3 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2007 compared with 11.2 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 50 percent of the 22.7 million cwt produced in 2006. The March 1, 2006 stocks represented 49 percent of the 22.9 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2005. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for **table stock** accounted for 70 percent of the total production during the 2001-2005 period. The remaining 30 percent of the production is utilized for seed, processing, and home use or is lost through shrinkage.

The 13 major potato States held 153 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2007, down 1 percent from last year and 8 percent below March 1, 2005, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 40 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 2.20 million cwt on March 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 229 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is up 5 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt, is up 9 percent from the previous year. Processors have used 125 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 5 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 10 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 12 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 25.6 million cwt of the total processing, up 12 percent from last year but 2 percent below the same date in 2005.

Western States held 107 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 7 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 4 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds

held 12 percent less than last year, Oregon's stocks declined 16 percent from last season, and potato stocks in Montana are down 6 percent from 2006. Colorado potato sheds held 1 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 33 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 35.2 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, up 15 percent from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks increased 11 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 32 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 11 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 13 percent above last season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 10.8 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 13 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 19 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 33 percent from a year ago.

## CATTLE ON FEED

**MARCH 1, 2007**

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 1,010,000 head as of March 1, 2007. The latest inventory was down 3 percent from February 1, 2007, and down 7 percent from the 1,090,000 on feed on March 1, 2006. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 160,000 head of fed cattle during February 2007. This was down 20 percent from January 2007 but up 3 percent from February 2006 marketings. An estimated 140,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, 10 percent below January 2007 placements but no change from a year ago. Of the number placed in February, 11 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 21 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 32 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 36 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 10,000 head, was 5,000 head below the previous month but 5,000 head above February 2006.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on March 1, 2007. The inventory was 4 percent below March 1, 2006 but 4 percent above March 1, 2005. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2006 and 9 percent above 2005. Net placements were 1.58

million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 325,000, 600-699 pounds were 334,000, 700-799 pounds were 505,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 495,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.71 million, 7 percent above 2006 and 5 percent above 2005. Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during February, 3 percent above 2006 but 3 percent below 2005.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2006-2007**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Feb. 1	1,110	1,040	12,110	11,726
Placements During Feb.	140	140	1,598	1,659
< 600 pounds	20	15	355	325
600 – 699 Pounds	30	30	300	334
700 – 799 Pounds	50	45	505	505
800 Plus Pounds	40	50	428	495
Marketings During Feb.	155	160	1,602	1,711
Other Disap. During Feb.	5	10	73	75
On Feed Mar. 1	1,090	1,010	12,023	11,599

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
FEBRUARY 2007**

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2007 totaled 141.5 million pounds, up 3 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter increased nearly 5 percent to 165,300 head and the average live weight of 1,302 pounds per head was 18 pounds lighter than February 2006. Hog slaughter, at 800 head, was down 11 percent from a year earlier and the average live weight of 245 pounds was down 29 pounds from the February 2006 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2007 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 289.2 million pounds, up 1 percent from the 286.8 million pounds produced during January and February of 2006.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in February, up 4 percent from the 3.49 billion pounds produced in February 2006. **Beef production**, at 1.95 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, up 9 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,274 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 12.2 million pounds, 7 percent above February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,900 head, up 27 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 50 pounds from last year, at 307 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.64 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, down slightly February 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,400 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

**January to February 2007 commercial red meat production** was 7.7 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was up 14 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

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

Area And Specie	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan-Feb	
	2006	2007	2007	2006	2007
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado:</b>	137.7	147.7	141.5	286.8	289.2
<b>United States <sup>1/</sup>:</b>	3,489.9	4,092.3	3,615.6	7,389.4	7,707.8
Beef	1,826.9	2,164.4	1,952.8	3,877.8	4,117.3
Veal	11.3	14.3	12.2	23.1	26.4
Pork	1,637.0	1,898.4	1,636.2	3,457.5	3,534.7
Lamb & Mutton	14.7	15.1	14.4	30.9	29.5

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**MILK PRODUCTION  
FEBRUARY 2007 - 23 STATES**

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2007 totaled 191 million pounds, down 10 percent from last month. The average number of cows for February at 115,000 head, increased 8 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,660 pounds for the month of February, 6 percent below February 2006.

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.1 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from February 2006. January revised production, at 14.3 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2006. The January revision represented an increase of 48 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,586 pounds for February, no change from February 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 71,000 head more than February 2006, but 3,000 head less than January 2007.

**Milk Production, February, 2006-2007**

Item	Unit	2006	2007
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <sup>1/</sup> .....	1,000 Head	106	115
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,775	1,660
Production <sup>2/</sup> .....	Mil. Lbs.	188	191
<b>United States:</b>			
Milk Cows <sup>1/</sup> .....	1,000 Head	8,206	8,277
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,586	1,586
Production <sup>2/</sup> .....	Mil. Lbs.	13,018	13,129

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

## COUNTY ESTIMATES - CORN FOR GRAIN 2006 CROP

Colorado corn production for 2006 was down from 2005. The total production of 134,160,000 bushels was a decrease compared to the previous year's crop of 140,600,000 bushels which was due to a decrease in planted and harvested acreage. While the 1,000,000 acres planted for all purposes was down 100,000 acres from the previous year, the 860,000 acres harvested for grain decreased 9 percent from 950,000 acres harvested in 2005. Average per acre yield on irrigated acres reached a record high of 202.5 bushels per acre, however, the average dryland yield of 32.0 was down from 38.5 bushels per acre in 2005. Dryland harvested acres remained unchanged from the previous year, but dryland harvested acres as a percent of total harvested acres increased from 25 to 27 percent.

**Yuma County** continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 47,217,000 bushels of corn in 2006. The latest crop was up 17 percent from the 40,213,000 bushels produced in 2005 and represented 35 percent of the state's total output. Producers in Yuma County planted 223,200 acres of corn for all purposes in 2006 and harvested 216,000 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres continued to be the highest in the state. The average yield of 218.5 bushels per acre from the 2006 crop was 24.5 bushels per acre above the previous year.

**Kit Carson County** remained in the second place ranking for the 2006 crop with a total output of 18,725,000 bushels. The latest crop was 16 percent below the 22,380,000 bushels produced in 2005. Kit Carson County growers planted 167,000 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn for all purposes in the state. The 154,500 acres harvested for grain represented a 7 percent decrease from the 167,300 acres harvested in 2005. This was the second highest corn for grain acres harvested in the state. Producers averaged 121.0 bushels per acre from the 2006 crop compared with a 134.0 bushel average yield from the 2005 crop.

**Phillips County** was again the third largest corn producing area of the state in 2006 with a total output of 13,095,000 bushels. The 2006 crop was 12 percent less than the 14,840,000 bushels produced in 2005. Producers harvested 93,000 acres of corn for grain in 2006, down 10 percent from the 103,100 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 141.0 bushels per acre for the 2006 crop was 3.0 bushels per acre lower than the 2005 crop average of 144.0 bushels per acre.

**Weld County** moved up to fourth place in the top producing counties for the 2006 crop with a total output of 11,332,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 18 percent larger than the 2005 output of 9,600,000 bushels. The 104,100 acres planted in the county was 3,100 acres below the previous year and the third largest in the state. The 65,700 acres harvested for grain represented an increase of 9,800 from the 55,900 acres harvested for grain a year earlier. The average yield of 172.5 bushels per acre was 1.0 bushels per acre above the 2005 crop average of 171.5 bushels.

**Morgan County** stayed in the list of the top five producing

counties for the 2006 crop with a total output of 9,360,000 bushels. The harvested area of 47,300 acres was down 10 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 198 bushels per acre was 14.0 bushels above a year earlier.

The **top five counties** produced 99,729,000 bushels of grain corn in 2006, representing 74 percent of the state's total corn for grain crop. Those same five counties also produced 69 percent of the 2005 crop. The next five leading counties of **Logan, Sedgwick, Baca, Washington,** and **Cheyenne** had a combined output of 26,613,000 bushels, bringing the **top ten county** total to 126,342,000 bushels or 94 percent of the state's total corn for grain production in 2006. There were eleven counties in the state that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2006.

## COUNTY ESTIMATES - SORGHUM FOR GRAIN 2006 CROP

Colorado sorghum production in 2006 declined one percent from 2005 to the lowest level since the near record-setting lows of the drought affected crop of 2002. Colorado producers harvested 3,380,000 bushels of sorghum in 2006, down 30,000 bushels from 2005. Planted acres, at 280,000, were up 75 percent from the 160,000 planted acres last year and equaled the area planted to sorghum in 2004. Harvested acres, at 130,000, were up 18 percent from the 110,000 harvested acres in 2005 but down 28 percent from the 180,000 acres harvested in 2004. The average yield for the 2006 crop was 26.0 bushels per acre compared with the average of 31.0 bushels per acre in 2005 and 30.0 bushels per acre from the 2004 crop.

**Baca County** continued to lead all counties as the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado with 1,198,000 bushels. This production accounted for 35 percent of the state's total sorghum production but was 15 percent below the 1,410,000 bushel crop produced in Baca County in 2005. The 45,900 acres harvested in 2006 reflected a 500 acre increase from the 45,400 acres harvested for grain the previous year. The average yield of 26.0 bushels per acre for the 2006 crop was 5.0 bushels per acre below the 31.0 bushel average realized from the 2005 crop.

**Prowers County** remained second in grain sorghum production with a total of 815,000 bushels in 2006. This was a decrease in production of 3 percent from the 840,000 bushels produced in Prowers County in 2005. Producers harvested 24,500 acres for grain in 2006 compared with 19,000 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 33.5 bushels per acre for the 2006 crop was 10.5 bushels below the 2005 crop average of 44.0 bushels.

**Kiowa County** had the third largest production in the state in 2006 with a total crop of 809,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2006 crop was 41 percent larger than the 2005 crop of 575,000 bushels. Producers harvested 35,000

acres of grain sorghum in 2006 compared with 22,300 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 23.0 bushels per acre was 3.0 bushels below the 2005 crop average of 26.0 bushels per acre.

**Cheyenne County** kept the fourth place ranking of the state's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 112,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2006, which is down 24 percent from the 147,000 bushel crop produced in 2005. Producers harvested 6,200 acres in 2006 compared with 7,300 acres the previous year. The average yield for the 2006 crop was 18.0 bushels per acre compared to the average yield of 20.0 bushels per acre in 2005.

**Kit Carson County** was ranked fifth with a total production of 77,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2006. This was 26 percent higher than the 61,000 bushels produced in Kit Carson County in 2005. Producers harvested 2,400 acres of grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 32.0 bushels per acre from the 2006 crop. That compares with 1,900 acres harvested and an average yield of 32.0 bushels per acre for the previous year's crop.

**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, 2007**

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, cheese and beef. Butter stocks were up 25 percent from last month and up 10 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were down 2 percent from last month and down 3 percent from the previous year. Frozen pork supplies were down slightly from last month and down 8 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down slightly from last month and down 22 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on February 28, 2007 were down 3 percent from the previous month and down 24 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 7 percent from the previous month and down 32 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 8 percent from last month and up 1 percent from February 28, 2006.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2006	Jan. 31, 2007	Feb. 28, 2007
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	169,136	148,703	186,560
Cheese, total natural.....	782,778	832,755	852,761
Eggs, frozen .....	24,468	17,207	15,706
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,243,996	974,684	949,199
Chicken .....	923,718	676,562	626,408
Turkey .....	315,679	293,352	318,021
Fruits, frozen.....	863,494	1,010,777	940,754
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,363,483	1,085,587	1,085,682
Vegetables, total frozen ..	1,869,722	1,963,929	1,762,231
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,147,016	1,041,333	1,067,755
Meats, total red .....	987,344	976,077	956,138
Beef, total frozen.....	440,564	469,345	451,271
Pork, total frozen.....	528,251	484,302	483,558

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.nass.usda.gov>

- Mar. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- Mar. 30 - Hogs and Pigs
- Mar. 30 - Grain Stocks
- Mar. 30 - Prospective Plantings
- Apr. 10 - Crop Production
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