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AG UPDATE

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CATTLE ON FEED - APRIL 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 1,020,000 head as of April 1, 2007. The latest inventory was 1 percent above last month's inventory but down 5 percent from a year ago. The inventory included 660,000 steers and steer calves, down 11 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 355,000 head, was up 11 percent from last year. The number of cows and bulls in the feedlot inventory, at 5,000 head, was down 50 percent from last year. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 145,000 head of fed cattle during March 2007. This was 9 percent below the previous month's marketings and 12 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 165,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, up 18 percent from February 2007 placements and up 6 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 12 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 30 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 39 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 10,000 head, was unchanged from both February 2007 and a year ago.

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 April 1, 2007. The inventory was 1 percent below April 1, 2006 but 7 percent above April 1, 2005. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.43 million steers and steer calves, down 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.14 million head, up 4 percent from 2006. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.97 million, 7 percent above 2006 and 12 percent above 2005. Net placements were 1.89 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 350,000, 600-699 pounds were 375,000, 700-799 pounds were 640,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 600,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.85 million, down 6 percent from 2006 and 6 percent below 2005.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2006-2007

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 head			
On Feed March 1	1,090	1,010	12,023	11,599
Placements During Mar.	155	165	1,837	1,965
< 600 pounds	25	20	380	350
600 - 699 pounds	30	30	342	375
700 - 799 pounds	60	50	565	640
800 plus pounds	40	65	550	600
Marketings During Mar.	165	145	1,958	1,848
Other Disap. During Mar.	10	10	90	72
On Feed April 1	1,070	1,020	11,812	11,644
Steers & Steer Calves	740	660	7,740	7,433
Heifers & Heifer Calves	320	355	3,997	4,142
Cows & Bulls	10	5	75	69

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - MARCH 2007

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2007 totaled 148.1 million pounds, 2 percent below the same month a year earlier and 5 percent below February 2007. Beef slaughter decreased 2 percent from March 2006 to 169,300 head, and the average live weight of 1,295 pounds was unchanged from a year ago. Hog slaughter was decreased 10 percent to 900 head, but the average live weight decreased 8 pounds to 260. Accumulated red meat production for the first three months of 2007 totaled 437.3 million pounds, down slightly from the 437.7 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.01 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 4.11 billion pounds produced in March 2006. **Beef production,** at 2.12 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 2 percent from March 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.5 million pounds, 7 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 70,800 head, up 20 percent from March 2006. The average live weight was down 38 pounds from last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.20 million head, down slightly from March 2006. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.6 million pounds, was up 7 percent from March 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled

278,600 head, 12 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2007 commercial red meat production was 11.7 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was up 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Mar. 2006	Feb. 2007	Mar. 2007	January-March 2006	January-March 2007
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	150.6	141.5	148.1	437.7	437.3
United States:	4,112	3,615	4,011	11,501	11,719
Beef..........................	2,203	1,952	2,117	6,081	6,235
Veal..........................	12.7	12.2	13.5	35.9	40.0
Pork..........................	1,877	1,636	1,860	5,335	5,395
Lamb & Mutton	18.3	14.4	19.6	49.2	49.1

MILK PRODUCTION - MARCH 2007 - 23 STATES

Colorado's dairy industry has experienced growth in the number of pounds produced from March 2006 to March 2007. On the April 2007 survey, Colorado producers reported 115 thousand milk cows that produced an average of 61 pounds per day per cow for a total of 217 million pounds during the month of March. This year Colorado dairymen reported a 2% growth in milk production from a year ago. Reported milk cow numbers include dry cows, milk per cow excludes heifers not yet fresh, and total milk production excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from March 2006. February revised production, at 13.1 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from February 2006. The February revision represented a decrease of 31 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. **Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 2006. **The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.28 million head, 58,000 head more than March 2006, and 5,000 head more than February 2007.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States

Item	March 2006	Feb. 2007	March 2007
Colorado			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/	107	115	115
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/	1,980	1,660	1,890
Production (mil. lbs.) 2/	212	191	217
23 States			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/	8,224	8,277	8,282
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/	1,775	1,582	1,782
Production (mil. lbs.) 2/	14,599	13,098	14,760

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

MILK PRODUCTION – JANUARY – MARCH 2007

Colorado dairy herds produced 620 million pounds of milk during the first three months of 2007, up 15 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. The average number of cows for the first quarter was 115,000, up 8 percent from the first quarter average the previous year.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 46.0 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.13 million head, 36,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Production - January - March, 2006-2007

Item	Unit	2006	2007
Colorado:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 head	106	115
Production 2/...................................	mil. lbs.	605	620
United States:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 head	9,092	9,128
Production 2/...................................	mil. lbs.	45,547	45,999

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2007

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 9.0 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2007, up 2 percent from the 8.80 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 40 percent of the 22.69 million cwt produced in 2006. 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 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2007, down 2 percent from last year and 12 percent below April 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 30 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 1.40 million cwt on April 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 269 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 21.9 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 9 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 10 percent above the same date in 2006, and

Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.2 million cwt of the total processing, up 13 percent from last year and 1 percent above the same date in 2005.

Western States held 81.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 8 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 16 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 11 percent from last season. Colorado potato sheds held 2 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 14 percent from last season. Montana's potato stocks are unchanged from last year.

Central States accounted for 24.0 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 18 percent from last year. North Dakota's potato stocks increased 36 percent from last year, Wisconsin's sheds held 6 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 24 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 18 percent above last season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 8.30 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 19 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 22 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 20 percent from a year ago.

ONIONS - 2007 CROPS

Colorado producers intend to plant 10,000 acres of summer storage onions in 2007, unchanged from last year. Above average winter moisture left muddy fields causing delayed planting in the northern and southeastern areas. West Slope snow pack was below average, but growing areas should meet irrigation needs this spring and summer. Labor shortage is a major concern.

Total planted onion area in the United States for all seasons in 2007 is forecast at 166,800 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Spring onions are expected to be harvested from 31,600 acres in 2007, down 9 percent from 2006. Summer non-storage onion planted area, at 20,900 acres, is unchanged from a year ago. Total summer onion area, at 132,800 acres, is down 1 percent from the previous year.

Spring Onions: Producers intend to harvest 31,600 acres, down 9 percent from last year. California's planting began in most areas by early November under good conditions. Above normal temperatures stimulated early development, but a frost in January caused damage to some fields. Crop development progress is behind normal in some areas. Growers reported good stands and growth in many areas following recent rains. In Georgia, rainfall during the winter months was near normal. The crop is doing well and disease problems are minimal. In Texas, onion planting for the spring harvest is down significantly due to heavy rainfall in the Lower Valley. Despite the heavy rains, the crop is making excellent progress.

Summer Non-Storage Onions: Non-storage planted area is 20,900 acres, unchanged from last year. The California summer onion crop was planted with some delays due to rain and cold temperatures. Good growing conditions are currently being reported. Planting in Nevada is underway. Limited water supplies may impact some fields. In New Mexico, weather conditions have been favorable. Washington producers experienced a cold winter causing some damage to over-wintered onions. However, growers are optimistic about this year's onion crop.

Summer Storage Onions: Storage planted area is 111,900 acres, down 1 percent from 2006. California acreage, which is primarily dehydrated or otherwise processed, is down 3 percent from 2006. Planting was behind schedule due to rain and cold temperatures, however, no major problems were reported. In Idaho, snowpack supplies are expected to be below average. However, the State has adequate water stock, therefore, water availability is not a concern. In Oregon, growers are optimistic about this year's crop despite some damage that was caused by the Iris yellow spot virus last season. In Washington, planting has begun in many areas and should be in full swing in the next few weeks. Thrips remains a major concern for some producers. Irrigation supplies look promising.

Onions for Fresh Market 2005-2007 Crops

Crop	Area Planted		
	2005	2006	2007
	Acres		
Spring 1/			
Total	40,700	40,800	34,000
Summer: 1/			
Non-Storage			
CA	9,700	9,800	9,400
NV	2,400	2,600	2,700
NM	6,500	6,000	6,500
TX	1,000	1,000	800
WA 2/	1,400	1,500	1,500
Total	21,000	20,900	20,900
Storage			
CA 3/	31,800	33,100	32,200
CO	10,000	10,000	10,000
ID	9,700	9,700	9,400
MI	3,000	2,700	2,300
NY	13,800	14,100	12,700
OR:			
Malheur	11,700	12,000	12,300
Other	7,800	7,800	8,300
WA	19,500	20,000	20,500
WI	2,000	1,900	2,000
Oth Sts 4/	2,020	2,280	2,200
Total	111,320	113,580	111,900
Total Summer	132,320	134,480	132,800
U.S.	173,020	175,280	166,800

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.
3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing. 4/ 2005 - OH and UT, 2006 - OH and UT, 2007 - OH and UT.

COLD STORAGE - MARCH 31, 2006

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for cheese and pork. Butter stocks were up 4 percent from last month but down 1 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down slightly from last month but up slightly from the previous year. Frozen pork supplies were up 5 percent from last month and up slightly from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 18 percent from last month but down 10 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2007 were up 2 percent from the previous month but down 24 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from the previous month and down 32 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 13 percent from last month but down 7 percent from March 31, 2006.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Mar. 31, 2006	Feb. 29, 2007	Mar. 31, 2007
		1,000 Pounds	
Butter	195,330	185,426	193,083
Cheese, total natural	810,674	856,419	872,881
Eggs, frozen	20,757	15,693	14,738
Poultry, total frozen	1,255,037	937,584	952,130
Chicken	869,367	620,074	594,415
Turkey	377,747	312,737	352,054
Fruits, frozen	746,981	942,383	835,576
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,319,462	1,095,124	1,198,237
Vegetables, total frozen	1,711,204	1,766,620	1,541,470
Potatoes, total frozen	1,158,885	1,063,645	1,114,130
Meats, total red	959,752	961,727	959,800
Beef, total frozen	436,157	457,254	432,571
Pork, total frozen	504,978	483,200	505,649

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.

TURKEYS - APRIL 1, 2007

Turkey eggs in incubators in the United States on April 1, 2007 totaled 31.5 million, up 4 percent from April 1, 2006. Eggs in incubators were up 1 percent from the March 1, 2007 total of 31.2 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 1 percent, West North Central up 9 percent, North and South Atlantic up 2 percent, and South Central and West up 1 percent.

Turkey eggs hatched in the United States during March 2007 totaled 26.8 million, up 4 percent from March 2006. Eggs hatched were up 8 percent from the February 2007 total of 24.7 million poults. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 4 percent, West North Central up 6 percent, North and South Atlantic up 2 percent, and South Central and West up 4 percent.

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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