NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

AG UPDATE

To access NASS and Colorado reports:
http://www.nass.usda.gov

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

Released: December 3, 2007 Vol. 27 No. 23

Contents of This Issue

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2007

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2007 totaled 185.7 million pounds, up 22 percent from a year earlier and 18 percent above the previous month. **Cattle kill** during October was up 22 percent from a year earlier to 211,000 head and the average live weight increased 10 pounds to 1,342 pounds per head. **Hog** slaughter was down 9 percent to 1,000 head but the average live weight remained the same at 260. **Accumulated red meat production** for the January-October period this year, at 1.57 billion pounds, is 1 percent above the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.61 billion pounds in October, up 10 percent from the 4.20 billion pounds produced in October 2006. **Beef production,** at 2.44 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.10 million head, up 8 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,300 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 11.1 million pounds, 16 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,200 head, up 3 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was down 59 pounds from last year, at 288 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.14 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.7 million head, up 11 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production,** at 16.4 million pounds, was up 5 percent from October 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from October a year ago.

January to October 2007 commercial red meat production was 40.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States 1/

Area And Species	Oct. 2006	Sept. 2007	Oct. 2007	January-October 2006	January-October 2007
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	152.3	157.7	185.7	1,553.7	1,574.1
United States:	4,197.2	3,864.1	4,613.5	39,511.1	40,318.1
Beef	2,236.4	2,094.9	2,441.4	21,875.2	22,126.5
Veal	13.2	9.4	11.1	120.6	116.8
Pork	1,932.0	1,746.3	2,144.7	17,361.0	17,923.3
Lamb & Mutton	15.7	13.6	16.4	154.3	151.5

1/ US totals may not add due to rounding.

FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 9-15, 2007

There were 1,122,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 806,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $9.98 per hour compared with $9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up fractionally from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In the Southern Plains and Lake regions, considerably drier conditions compared with last year's reference week resulted in a stronger demand for hired workers. Warm, dry conditions in the Appalachian I region caused vegetables to mature rapidly, and cotton harvest in North Carolina was well ahead of last year's pace. These factors led to an increased need for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, worker demand was higher due to increased sorghum harvest in Kentucky and increased cotton harvest in Tennessee compared with last year's pace.

(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	9.96	9.22	9.70	10.35	34	39.8
Northeast II	9.81	9.86	9.82	10.63	38	41.8
Appalachian I	8.66	8.60	8.64	8.97	43	37.7
Appalachian II	9.24	9.53	9.35	9.75	31	38.0
Southeast	8.53	8.33	8.47	9.08	28	37.1
FL	8.70	8.95	8.74	9.76	43	41.8
Lake	10.75	10.64	10.70	11.30	67	38.9
Cornbelt I	10.24	9.75	10.10	10.60	50	42.7
Cornbelt II	10.69	10.90	10.80	11.25	23	41.0
Delta	8.26	8.24	8.25	8.35	30	43.0
Northern Plains	10.68	9.82	10.45	10.78	35	46.3
Southern Plains	8.59	10.46	9.45	10.05	69	39.0
Mountain I	8.31	9.10	8.56	9.00	22	50.7
Mountain II	9.80	10.69	10.05	10.66	13	43.7
Mountain III	8.26	9.91	8.85	9.21	22	46.1
Pacific	10.48	11.07	10.55	11.30	75	40.7
CA	9.70	10.80	9.86	10.56	177	45.7
HI [4]	11.00		11.13	13.19	6	40.0
US [3]	9.62	9.98	9.72	10.33	806	42.1

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 7-13, 2007 [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 decreases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), California, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific region, wetter conditions compared with last year's reference week caused some fieldwork delays and reduced the demand for hired workers. In California, worker numbers were down slightly from last year due to continued shortages caused by unsettled political issues on immigration. Some California grape growers have resorted to mechanical harvest methods because of the worker shortages. Persistent dryness in the Mountain II region delayed completion of small grain seeding. The lack of precipitation also caused pastures to deteriorate and led some livestock producers to reduce inventories. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. In the Northeast II region, lingering effects from the season-long drought caused production of corn and soybeans to be considerably below last year, lowering worker demand. Dry conditions In the Delta region slowed the progress of winter wheat seeding, decreasing the demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II, Lake, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Northeast II, Mountain II, and Corn Belt II regions, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. Strong demand for skilled workers in the dairy industry pushed wages higher in the Mountain III region. In the Lake Region, the higher wages were due to the heavy demand for skilled fruit pickers and dairy workers.

The 2007 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $10.21, up 3 percent from the 2006 annual average wage rate of $9.87. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $9.40, up 34 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $9.49, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $9.15.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

NOVEMBER 15, 2007

The **preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** by Farmers in November, at 143 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, eggs, corn, and broilers and lower prices were received for lettuce, hogs, cattle, and broccoli. 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 cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce.

The November **All Crops Index** is 150, up 1.4 percent from October and 23 percent above November 2006. From November index increases for oil-bearing crops, potatoes & dry beans, feed grains & hay, and fruits & nuts more than offset the index decreases for commercial vegetables and cotton. The November **all wheat** price, at $7.92 per bushel, is up 27 cents from October and $3.33 above November 2006. The **corn** price, at $3.49 per bushel, is up 20 cents from last month and 61 cents above November 2006. The **all hay** price, at $131 per ton, is down $2.00 from October but up $22.00 from last November. **Grain sorghum**, at $6.22 per cwt, is 4 cents above October and 39 cents above November last year. The **soybean** price, at $9.48 per bushel, increased $1.12 from October and is $3.40 above November 2006. The **all potato** price, at $6.35 per cwt, is up 52 cents from October but down 24 cents from last November. The **all dry bean** price, at $26.80 per cwt, is up 90 cents from the previous month and $5.00 above November 2006.

The November **Livestock & Products Index,** at 135, is 2.3 percent above last month and up 16 percent from November 2006. The November **hog price**, at $38.50 per cwt, is down $3.60 from October and $6.40 lower than a year ago. The November **beef cattle** price of $89.30 per cwt is down $1.30 from last month but $4.90 higher than November 2006.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2006 Oct.	2006 Nov.	2007 Oct.	2007 Nov.
	Percent			
Prices Received	115	119	141	143
Prices Paid	148	148	160	161
Ratio 1/	78	80	88	89

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged higher than a year ago. Compared with October 2007, no decreases were recorded for all crop items except for wheat and other hay. All livestock items averaged higher than a year ago except cows which were lower. **Wheat**, at $6.74 per bushel decreased from the previous month but averaged $2.00 above November 2006. **Corn** was up 8 cents from October to $3.51 per bushel and averaged 71 cents above November 2006. **Potato** prices, at $7.90 per cwt, increased 40 cents from October but decreased 55 cents from a year ago. **Alfalfa hay** prices increased $5.00 from October to $140.00 per ton but **other hay** decreased to $125.00 per ton. **Steers and heifers** were down $2.00 to $106.00 per cwt from October but were $5.00 higher than November 2006. **Cow** prices decreased $5.60 to $43.30 per cwt and were $5.60 below a year earlier. **Calves** were down $3.00 to $115.00 per cwt but were $3.00 above November 2006. The **all milk price**, at $21.60, was down 30 cents from last month, but was up $7.40 from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2006	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.74	6.89	6.74
Corn	Bu.	2.80	3.43	3.51
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.35	3.44	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	8.45	7.50	7.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	20.50	27.80	28.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	138.00	135.00	140.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	124.00	130.00	125.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	100.00	107.00	105.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	101.00	108.00	106.00
Cows	Cwt	43.60	48.90	43.30
Calves	Cwt	112.00	118.00	115.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.00	29.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	94.00	95.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.20	21.90	21.60
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.59	7.65	7.92
Corn	Bu.	2.88	3.29	3.49
Soybeans	Bu.	6.08	8.36	9.48
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.92	4.50	4.69
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.84	4.88	4.93
Sorghum	Cwt	5.83	6.18	6.22
Potatoes	Cwt	6.59	5.83	6.35
Dry edible beans	Cwt	21.80	25.90	26.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	110.00	137.00	135.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	106.00	122.00	123.00
Onions	Cwt	11.10	6.32	6.13
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	84.40	90.60	89.30
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.00	96.40	95.40
Cows	Cwt	43.60	46.60	43.60
Calves	Cwt	119.00	122.00	118.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.30	25.30	3/
Lambs	Cwt	95.60	97.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	44.90	42.10	38.50
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	13.90	21.40	21.60
Broilers	Lb.	0.400	0.430	0.450

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, 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 1,030,000 head as of November 1, 2007. The latest inventory was up 10 percent from October 1, 2007 but down 9 percent from the 1,130,000 on feed on November 1, 2006. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 165,000 head of fed cattle during October 2007. This equals the revised marketings of the previous month but is 22 percent above a year ago. An estimated 260,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, no change from the revised September 2007 placements, but 21 percent above last year's placements of 215,000. Of the October placements, 25 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 25 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 5,000 head, equals the 5,000 head from last month but down from 10,000 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 11.8 million head on November 1, 2007. The inventory was 2 percent below November 1, 2006 but 3 percent above November 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.72 million, 12 percent above 2006 but 3 percent below 2005. Net placements were 2.67 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 855,000, 600-699 pounds were 745,000, 700-799 pounds were 556,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 560,000. Marketing of fed cattle during October totaled 1.88 million, 6 percent above 2006 and 8 percent above 2005. Other disappearances total 47,000 during October, 42 percent below 2006 and 19 percent below 2005.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots
October 1 to November 1, 2006-2007

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	1,060	940	11,385	10,967
Placements During Oct.	215	260	2,430	2,716
< 600 pounds	55	65	840	855
600 - 699 Pounds	55	65	650	745
700 - 799 Pounds	45	55	485	556
800 Plus Pounds	60	75	455	560
Marketings During Oct.	135	165	1,765	1,876
Other Disap. During Oct.	10	5	81	47
On Feed November 1	1,130	1,030	11,969	11,760

CHICKENS AND EGGS

OCTOBER 2007

Colorado laying flocks produced 88 million eggs during October 2007, up 5 million from the previous month but down 4 percent from October 2006. The average number of layers during October 2007 totaled 3.83 million, up 2 percent from the previous month and 1 percent above October 2006. The rate of lay, at 2,298 eggs per 100 layers increased 4 percent from a month earlier but down 5 percent during October a year ago.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2007, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.57 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2007 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,253 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2007 totaled 343 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.87 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2007, averaged 72.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2006.

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. 14 - Potato Stocks
Dec. 18 - Milk Production
Dec. 21 - Cattle on Feed
Dec. 21 - Chickens and Eggs
Dec. 21 - Cold Storage
Dec. 21 - Livestock Slaughter
Dec. 27 - Hogs and Pigs
Dec. 28 - Agricultural Prices
Jan. 8 - Vegetables
Jan. 11 - Crop Production - Annual
Jan. 11 - Grain Stocks
Jan. 11 - Winter Wheat Seedings

R. Reneé Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director