



**NATIONAL  
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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 9.5 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2008 compared with 11.3 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 45 percent of the 20.98 million cwt produced in 2007. The March 1, 2007 stocks represented 50 percent of the 22.69 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2006. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for **table stock** have averaged 69 percent of the production for the 2002-2006 period. The remaining 31 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage

The 13 major potato States held 172 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2008, up 8 percent from last year and 10 percent above March 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.05 million cwt on March 1, 2008, 7 percent lower than last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 228 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1 was down 1 percent from last year but up 4 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 19.7 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the previous year but 7 percent above the same date in 2006. Processors have used 123 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 1 percent from a year ago, as did Maine's total processing. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was down 5 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage was 25.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 10 percent from last year but 11 percent above the same date in 2006.

Western States held 129 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 13 percent from last year and 11 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 6 percent from last year; Washington's potato sheds held 40 percent more than last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 20 percent from last season.

Montana's potato sheds held 6 percent more stocks than last year. California's and Colorado's potato stocks decreased 8 and 16 percent, respectively, from last year.

Central States accounted for 34.6 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, down 3 percent from last year but 13 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 2 percent from last year; North Dakotas's sheds held 19 percent less; and potato stocks in Nebraska were 12 percent below last season. Minnesota's potato stocks increased 2 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato sheds held 39 percent more than a year ago.

Eastern States stored 8.70 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, down 19 percent from last year and 9 percent below March 1, 2006. Maine's potato sheds held 18 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 30 percent from a year ago.

## CATTLE ON FEED

**MARCH 1, 2008**

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 1,050,000 head as of March 1, 2008. The latest inventory was down 4 percent from February 1, 2008, but up 4 percent from the 1,010,000 on feed on March 1, 2007. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 190,000 head of fed cattle during February 2008. This was up 3 percent from January 2008 and up 19 percent from February 2007 marketings. An estimated 155,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, 14 percent below January 2008 placements but up 11 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in February, 6 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 23 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 32 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 39 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 5,000 head, was 5,000 head below the previous year but no change from the previous month.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent

above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 533,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 percent below 2006.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2007-2008**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Feb. 1	1,040	1,090	11,726	11,966
Placements During Feb.	140	155	1,659	1,723
< 600 pounds	15	10	325	330
600 – 699 Pounds	30	35	334	385
700 – 799 Pounds	45	50	505	533
800 Plus Pounds	50	60	495	475
Marketings During Feb.	160	190	1,711	1,776
Other Disap. During Feb.	10	5	75	60
On Feed Mar. 1	1,010	1,050	11,599	11,853

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
FEBRUARY 2008**

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2008 totaled 171.4 million pounds, up 21 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter increased 22 percent to 201,800 head and the average live weight of 1,300 pounds per head was 2 pounds lighter than February 2007. Hog slaughter, at 700 head, was down 12 percent from a year earlier and the average live weight of 245 pounds was unchanged from the February 2007 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2008 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 346.9 million pounds, up 20 percent from the 289.2 million pounds produced during January and February of 2007.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007. Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2008 commercial red meat production was 8.38 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 15 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

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

Area And Species	Feb. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Jan-Feb	
				2007	2008
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado:</b>	141.5	175.5	171.4	289.2	346.9
<b>United States <u>1</u>:</b>	3,615.4	4,415.9	3,967.6	7,709.1	8,383.5
Beef	1,952.5	2,232.0	2,039.0	4,118.4	4,271.0
Veal	12.1	11.3	11.0	26.4	22.3
Pork	1,636.3	2,157.8	1,902.6	3,534.8	4,060.5
Lamb & Mutton	14.4	14.8	15.0	29.5	29.8

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**MILK PRODUCTION  
FEBRUARY 2008 - 23 STATES**

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2008 totaled 227 million pounds, up 18 percent from last year. The average number of cows for February at 125,000 head, increased nearly 9 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,815 pounds for the month of February, 9 percent above February 2007.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during February totaled 13.9 billion pounds, up 6.0 percent from February 2007. January revised production at 14.7 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from January 2007. The January revision represented an increase of 40 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,653 pounds for February, 69 pounds above February 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.42 million head, 136,000 head more than February 2007, and 9,000 head more than January 2008.

**Milk Production, February, 2007-2008**

Item	Unit	2007	2008
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> / .....	1,000 Head	115	125
Production Per Cow.....	Pounds	1,670	1,815
Production <u>2</u> / .....	Mil. Lbs.	192	227
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> / .....	1,000 Head	8,286	8,422
Production Per Cow.....	Pounds	1,584	1,653
Production <u>2</u> / .....	Mil. Lbs.	13,125	13,919

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

## COUNTY ESTIMATES - CORN FOR GRAIN 2007 CROP

Colorado corn production for 2007 was up significantly from 2006. Farmers increased planted and harvested acreage to produce 150,520,000 bushels of corn, an increase of 12 percent compared with the previous year's crop of 134,160,000 bushels. The 1,200,000 acres planted for all purposes was up 20 percent or 200,000 acres from the previous year and the 1,060,000 acres harvested for grain increased 23 percent from 860,000 acres harvested in 2006. Average per acre yield on irrigated acres reached 188.5 bushels, down from 202.5 bushels in 2006 while the average dryland yield of 52.0 bushels per acre was the highest since 2001. Dryland harvested acreage increased 125,000 acres from the previous year and represented 34 percent of total harvested acres, up from 27 percent last year. Average yield in many counties was reduced from last year due to a higher proportion of dryland acreage harvested in 2007.

**Yuma County** continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 44,700,000 bushels of corn in 2007. The latest crop was down 5 percent from the 47,217,000 bushels produced in 2006 and represented 30 percent of the state's total output. Producers in Yuma County planted 239,300 acres of corn for all purposes in 2007 and harvested 231,000 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres continued to be the highest in the State. The average yield of 193.5 bushels per acre from the 2007 crop was 25.0 bushels per acre below the previous year.

**Kit Carson County** remained in the second place ranking for the 2007 crop with a total output of 22,140,000 bushels. The latest crop was 18 percent above the 18,725,000 bushels produced in 2006. Kit Carson County growers planted 194,000 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn in the State. The 182,100 acres harvested for grain represented a 18 percent increase from the 154,500 acres harvested in 2006. This was the second highest corn for grain acres harvested in the State. Producers averaged 121.5 bushels per acre from the 2007 crop compared with a 121.0 bushel average yield from the 2006 crop.

**Phillips County** was again the third largest corn producing area of the State in 2007 with a total output of 15,860,000 bushels. The 2007 crop was 21 percent larger than the 13,095,000 bushels produced in 2006. Producers harvested 102,600 acres of corn for grain in 2007, up 10 percent from the 93,000 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 154.5 bushels per acre for the 2007 crop was 13.5 bushels per acre higher than the 2006 crop average of 141.0 bushels per acre.

**Weld County** continued in fourth place in the top producing counties for the 2007 crop with a total output of 10,666,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 6 percent smaller than the 2006 output of 11,332,000 bushels. The 112,900 acres planted in the county was 8,800 acres above the previous year and the third largest in the State. The 66,700 acres harvested for grain represented an increase of 1,000 from the 65,700 acres harvested for grain a year earlier.

The average yield of 160.0 bushels per acre was 12.5 bushels per acre below the 2006 crop average of 172.5 bushels.

**Logan County** moved to fifth place on the list of the top five producing counties for the 2007 crop with a total output of 9,595,000 bushels. The harvested area of 65,600 acres was up 8 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 146.5 bushels per acre was 16.5 bushels above a year earlier.

The **top five counties** produced 102,961,000 bushels of grain corn in 2007, representing 68 percent of the State's total corn for grain crop. The top five counties produced 74 percent of the 2006 crop. The next five leading counties of **Morgan, Sedgwick, Baca, Washington, and Prowers** had a combined output of 30,580,000 bushels, bringing the top ten county total to 133,541,000 bushels or 89 percent of the State's total corn for grain production in 2007. There were 17 counties in the State that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2007.

## COUNTY ESTIMATES - SORGHUM FOR GRAIN - 2007 CROP

Colorado sorghum production in 2007 increased 64 percent from 2006 to the highest level of production since 2001. Colorado producers harvested 5,550,000 bushels of sorghum in 2007, up 2,170,000 bushels from 2006. Planted acres for all purposes, at 220,000, were down 21 percent from the 280,000 planted acres last year and up 38 percent for the 160,000 acres in 2005. Harvested acres for grain, at 150,000, were up 15 percent from the 130,000 harvested acres in 2006 and also up 36 percent from the 110,000 acres harvested in 2005. The average yield for the 2007 crop was 37.0 bushels per acre compared with the average of 26.0 bushels per acre in 2006 and 31.0 bushels per acre from the 2005 crop.

**Baca County** continued to lead all counties as the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado with 1,480,000 bushels. This production accounted for 27 percent of the state's total sorghum production and was 24 percent above the 1,198,000 bushel crop produced in Baca County in 2006. The 55,000 acres harvested in 2007 reflected a 9,100 acre increase from the 45,900 acres harvested for grain the previous year. The average yield of 27.0 bushels per acre for the 2007 crop was 1 bushel per acre above the 26.0 bushel average realized from the 2006 crop.

**Prowers County** remained second in grain sorghum production with a total of 1,250,000 bushels in 2007. This was an increase in production of 53 percent from the 815,000 bushels produced in Prowers County in 2006. Producers harvested 22,900 acres for grain in 2007 down from 24,500 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 54.5 bushels per acre for the 2007 crop was 21.0 bushels above the 2006 crop average of 33.5 bushels.

**Kiowa County** had the third largest production in the state in 2007 with a total crop of 1,159,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2007 crop was 43 percent larger than the 2006 crop of 809,000 bushels. Producers harvested 31,800 acres of grain sorghum in 2007 compared with 35,000 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 36.5 bushels per acre was 13.5 bushels above the 2006 crop average of 23.0 bushels per acre.

**Cheyenne County** kept the fourth place ranking of the State's sorghum grain producing counties with a total output of 470,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2007, which is over four times greater than the 112,000 bushel crop produced in 2006. Producers harvested 11,500 acres in 2007 compared with 6,200 acres the previous year. The average yield for the 2007 crop was 41.0 bushels per acre compared with the average yield of 18.0 bushels per acre in 2006.

**Bent County** was ranked fifth with a total production of 268,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2007. This was also over four times greater than the 55,000 bushels produced in the county in 2006. Producers harvested 4,300 acres of grain sorghum and obtained an average yield of 62.5 bushels per acre from the 2007 crop. That compares with 1,000 acres harvested and an average yield of 55.0 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 29, 2008**

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on February 29, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, pork, chicken and butter. Butter stocks were up 7 percent from last month and up 8 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 9 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 6 percent from the previous month and up 25 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 12 percent from last month and up 70 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on February 29, 2008 were up 6 percent from the previous month and up 25 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month but up 21 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 26 percent from last month and up 32 percent from February 28, 2007.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2007	Jan. 31, 2008	Feb. 29, 2008
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	185,426	188,072	201,097
Cheese, total natural.....	875,700	781,363	805,515
Eggs, frozen .....	15,693	12,007	15,834
Poultry, total frozen .....	939,607	1,105,683	1,169,853
Chicken .....	621,956	773,005	753,151
Turkey .....	312,878	327,590	411,474
Fruits, frozen.....	950,657	1,140,318	1,037,055
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,095,124	1,260,236	1,354,450
Vegetables, total frozen..	1,766,620	2,011,470	1,754,322
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,063,645	1,089,088	1,121,632
Meats, total red .....	963,373	1,037,245	1,046,367
Beef, total frozen.....	458,900	445,131	418,254
Pork, total frozen.....	483,200	570,348	603,244

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>

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- Mar. 31 - Grain Stocks
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