NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
MARCH 1, 2008

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,200,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, unchanged from last year's plantings. Sorghum intentions are 190,000 acres, down 30,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2008 remain at 2,400,000 acres, unchanged from January's report, but down 100,000 acres from the 2007 crop. Growers intend to seed 55,000 acres of spring wheat this year, up 35,000 acres from last year. If realized, this will be the largest area seeded in spring wheat since 1998. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 50,000 acres, is down 25,000 acres from actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are up 15,000 acres to 75,000. Growers intend to plant 155,000 acres of sunflowers this year, up 36,000 acres from what they planted in 2007. The acreage of oil varieties is expected total 130,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to increase 11,000 acres to 25,000 this year. The State's dry bean growers indicate they plan to increase plantings slightly, up 2,000 acres from last year to 50,000 this year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 3,800 acres from last year's actual plantings to 35,800 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,450,000 acres this year, down 100,000 acres from the number of acres cut for hay in 2007. High prices for competing grain crops have producers considering alternatives to hay this year.

Above average, mountain snowpack should help farmers with appropriate water rights irrigate crops this year. Currently, most growing areas have short to adequate soil moisture supplies. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects at planting time and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

Growers in the **United States** intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn.

Despite the decrease from last year, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

Expected planted area for all purposes in 2008 for sorghum is estimated at 7.42 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007. Producers are expected to plant more acres than a year ago in the southern Great Plains area but fewer acres in the northern Great Plains. Acreage for sorghum is also expected to decline in the southeast portion of the U.S. The States expecting the largest decline in sorghum acreage are Kansas and Louisiana where growers intend to plant 100,000 fewer acres in each State. The largest increase in sorghum acreage is expected to occur in Texas, with an increase of 50,000 acres, followed by Oklahoma with an increase of 40,000 acres.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2007-2008

Crop	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,200	1,200	93,600	86,014
Sorghum, all	220	190	7,718	7,415
Oats	75	50	3,760	3,420
Wheat, all 1/	2,520	2,455	60,433	63,803
Winter	2,500	2,400	44,987	46,840
Spring	20	55	13,297	14,333
Barley	60	75	4,020	4,147
Soybeans	…	…	63,631	74,793
Sunflower, all	119	155	2,068	2,153
Oil	105	130	1,764	1,848
Non-oil	14	25	304	305
Dry beans	48.0	50.0	1526.9	1398.5
Sugarbeets	32.0	35.8	1,269.8	1,131.8
Hay, all 2/	1,550	1,450	61,625	60,583

1/ Includes Durum for U.S.
2/ Harvested acres 2007, intentions to harvest in 2008.

Growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres of oats, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. Acreage intentions declined in 15 of the 30 estimating States. The largest acreage decline is expected to occur in South Dakota, where growers intend to plant 200,000 acres this year, 130,000 fewer than were planted in 2007. Prospective oat acreage in North Dakota declined 110,000 acres.

The 2008 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 46.8 million acres, up slightly from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Acreage increases from the previous report were mainly in Soft Red Winter growing States. States with the most notable acreage increases were Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Iowa and Michigan were the only States to show an acreage decrease. Of the total acreage, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. With good moisture received across most of the Great Plains during the winter, crop conditions improved from last fall. Other Spring Wheat growers intend to plant 14.3 million acres this year, up 8 percent from 2007. Of the total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The most notable expected acreage increases are in the Dakotas and Minnesota

GRAIN STOCKS
MARCH 1, 2008

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2008 totaled 27.11 million bushels, up 41 percent from 19.25 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 5.5 million bushels, were up 22 percent from the previous year and off-farm stocks were up 47 percent to 21.61 million bushels. Corn stocks, at 60.06 million bushels, were up 13 percent. Farm stocks were up 18 percent to 33.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks were up 7 percent to 27.06 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were down 19 percent to 65,000 bushels. Off-farm Grain sorghum was down 48 percent to 390,000 bushels but off-farm Barley was up 32 percent from last year to 3.46 million bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions in the **United States** on March 1, 2008 totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 3.78 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.08 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 3.42 billion bushels, compared with 2.86 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 593 million bushels, down 35 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 835 million bushels, are down 5 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2007 - February 2008 quarter totaled 904 million bushels, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 92.0 million bushels, down 52 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 618 million bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance is 422 million bushels, down 8 percent from the same period a year earlier. Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 105 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 2007. On-farm stocks are estimated at 28.3 million bushels, 26 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 76.5 million bushels, are 3 percent below March 2007. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance totaled 31.0 million bushels, 44 percent below the same period a year earlier. Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 79.0 million bushels, 11 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2007. Of the total stocks on hand, 31.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 9 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 48.0 million bushels, up 29 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2007 - February 2008 totaled 15.4 million bushels, down 45 percent from the same period a year ago. Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2008 totaled 186 million bushels, up 30 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 26.1 million bushels, are up 53 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 159 million bushels, are up 27 percent from a year earlier. The December 2007 - February 2008 indicated disappearance from all positions is 106 million bushels, up 51 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2007-2008

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado 2007	Colorado 2008	United States 2007	United States 2008
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	4,500	5,500	192,450	91,990
Off farms	14,750	21,610	664,278	617,650
Total	19,250	27,110	856,728	709,640
Corn				
On farms	28,000	33,000	3,330,000	3,780,000
Off farms	25,180	27,055	2,738,250	3,078,895
Total	53,180	60,055	6,068,250	6,858,895
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	38,310	28,270
Off farms	2,625	3,460	78,756	76,540
Total	2/	2/	117,066	104,810
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	33,900	31,000
Off farms	80	65	37,158	48,038
Total	2/	2/	71,058	79,038
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	17,100	26,100
Off farms	745	390	125,122	159,471
Total	2/	2/	142,222	185,571
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	910,000	593,000
Off farms	2/	2/	876,887	835,102
Total	2/	2/	1,786,887	1,428,102

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
2/ Minor states are not published separately, but are included in US total.
3/ Not estimated.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 15, 2008

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell.

The March **All Crops Index** is 171, up 4.9 percent from February and 20 percent above March 2007. Index increases for food grains, commercial vegetables, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts more than offset the index decrease for cotton. The March all wheat price, at $11.70 per bushel, is up $1.72 from February and $6.95 above March 2007. The corn price, at $4.83 per bushel, is up 30 cents from last month and $1.40 above March 2007. The all hay price, at $139 per ton, is up $6.00 from February and up $20.00 from last March. Grain sorghum, at $8.72 per cwt, is 37 cents above February and $2.24 above March last year. The all potato price, at $7.82 per cwt, is up 31 cents from February but down 11 cents from last March. The all dry bean price, at $32.20 per cwt, is unchanged from the previous month but $6.50 above March 2007.

The March **Livestock and Products Index** at 133, is unchanged from last month but up 6.4 percent from March 2007. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for milk, eggs, turkeys, and broilers. Prices for cattle, hogs, and calves are down from last year. The March hog price, at $41.20 per cwt, is down $1.00 from February and $3.70 lower than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $88.70 per cwt is down 30 cents from last month and $2.90 lower than March 2007. The March all milk price of $18.30 per cwt is down 80 cents from last month but up $2.70 from March 2007.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index	2007		2008	
1990-92 = 100	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	Percent			
Prices Received	128	133	147	150
Prices Paid..........................	156	159	173	176
Ratio 1/...............................	82	84	85	85

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

Compared with March 2007, **Colorado** crop prices were higher than last year except for other hay, while livestock prices all averaged lower except for cows and milk sold to plants. Mid-March 2008 wheat, at $10.80 per bushel, was up $6.19 from a year ago and was $1.98 above last month. Corn prices increased 29 cents from February to $4.65 per bushel and averaged $1.45 higher than March 2007. The mid-March potato price, at $9.75 per cwt, increased 20 cents from last month and was $1.65 above March a year ago. Alfalfa hay, at $145.00 per ton, increased $5.00 per ton from February 2008 and March 2007. The other hay price, at $125.00 per ton, was unchanged from February but $5.00 below March a year ago. The mid-March steer and heifer price, at $101.00 per cwt, remained unchanged from last month but averaged $3.00 below a year ago. Cow prices increased $1.70 from the previous month to $54.20 per cwt and were $6.40 per cwt above March 2007. The mid-March calf price of $119.00 per cwt was up $2.00 from last month but down $8.00 from a year ago. The March all milk price of $18.50 per cwt was down 80 cents from last month but $3.00 above March 2007.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2007	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.61	8.82	10.80
Corn..................................	Bu.	3.20	4.36	4.65
Barley (All).........................	Bu.	2/	4/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	8.10	9.55	9.75
Dry edible beans.................	Cwt	25.00	32.20	32.50
Alfalfa hay (baled)..............	Ton	140.00	140.00	145.00
Other hay (baled)................	Ton	130.00	125.00	125.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle..........................	Cwt	103.00	100.00	100.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	104.00	101.00	101.00
Cows.................................	Cwt	47.80	52.50	54.20
Calves...............................	Cwt	127.00	117.00	119.00
Sheep.................................	Cwt	34.00	31.00	3/
Lambs................................	Cwt	94.00	98.00	3/
Milk sold to plants..............	Cwt	15.50	19.30	18.50
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.75	9.98	11.70
Corn..................................	Bu.	3.43	4.53	4.83
Soybeans	Bu.	6.95	11.70	11.90
Barley (All).........................	Bu.	3.11	4.39	4.75
Barley (Feed)......................	Bu.	3.19	4.67	4.41
Sorghum	Cwt	6.48	8.35	8.72
Potatoes	Cwt	7.93	7.51	7.82
Dry edible beans.................	Cwt	25.70	32.20	32.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)..............	Ton	121.00	138.00	143.00
Other hay (baled)................	Ton	115.00	122.00	128.00
Onions	Cwt	35.00	3.55	2.11
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle..........................	Cwt	91.60	89.00	88.70
Steers & heifers	Cwt	97.70	94.20	93.80
Cows.................................	Cwt	47.20	51.40	52.20
Calves...............................	Cwt	122.00	120.00	120.00
Sheep.................................	Cwt	36.60	29.90	3/
Lambs................................	Cwt	95.50	96.80	3/
Hogs	Cwt	44.90	42.20	41.20
Milk sold to plants..............	Cwt	15.60	19.10	18.30
Broilers..............................	Lb.	.500	.500	.510

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands
2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.
3/ Not available
4/ Discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS
MARCH 1, 2008

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2008 totaled 780,000 head, down 5 percent from March 1, 2007. The breeding hog inventory at 155,000 head was up 3 percent from a year earlier but the market hog inventory was down 7 percent to 625,000 head. Colorado's December 2007 - February 2008 pig crop of 747,000 head is up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. There were 83,000 sows farrowed during the December 2007 - February 2008 time period unchanged from the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 87,000 sows during both March - May 2008 period and June - August 2008 period.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008 was 65.9 million head. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2007-February 2008 pig crop, at 28.1 million head, was up 6 percent from 2007 and up 9 percent from 2006. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.05 million head, up 5 percent from 2007 and up 7 percent from 2006. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.21 for the December 2007-February 2008 period, compared to 9.09 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.30 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 3.05 million sows farrow during the March-May 2008 quarter, up slightly from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2007, and up 4 percent from 2006. Intended farrowings for June-August 2008, at 3.04 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 40 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 39 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2007 through December 2007 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, an adjustment of slightly more than 2 percent was made to the September 1, 2007 total inventory along with an adjustment of slightly larger than 4 percent to the June-August 2007 pig crop. Adjustments of less than 3 percent were made to the December 1, 2007 total inventory and September-November 2007 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2007-2008

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	820	780	61,860	65,909
Kept for breeding	150	155	6,110	6,138
Market	670	625	55,749	59,770
Under 60 lbs	375	320	20,381	21,897
60-119 lbs	100	85	13,356	14,291
120-179 lbs	75	80	11,679	12,443
180 lbs. & over	120	140	10,334	11,140
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec – Feb	83	83	2,905	3,051
March - May 1/	80	87	3,033	3,047
June – Aug 1/	83	87	3,114	3,037
Pig Crop:				
Dec – Feb	730	747	26,396	28,094
March - May	712	2/	27,896	2/
June – Aug	755	2/	28,875	2/

1/ Actual for 2007; intentions for 2008. 2/ Not estimated.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2008

Colorado laying flocks produced 88 million eggs during February 2008, up 5 percent from the same month a year earlier but 5 percent below the 93 million eggs produced during January 2008. The average number of layers during February 2008 totaled 3.91 million, up 2 percent from 3.83 million a year earlier but 1 percent below the 3.93 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2008, at 2,254 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,196 eggs per 100 layers during February 2007 and 2,368 for January 2008.

United States egg production totaled 7.13 billion during February 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.05 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2008 averaged 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2008 totaled 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2008, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2007.

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 Internet at: **http://www.nass.usda.gov**

April 03 - Vegetables
April 09 - Crop Production
April 14 - Turkey Hatchery
April 15 - Potato Stocks
April 18 - Milk Production
April 18 - Cattle on Feed
April 21 - Cold Storage
April 22 - Chickens and Eggs
April 25 - Livestock Slaughter

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