



# AG UPDATE

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### CATTLE ON FEED - APRIL 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 1,020,000 head as of April 1, 2008. The latest inventory was the same as last year but 3 percent below last month's inventory. The inventory included 600,000 steers and steer calves, down 9 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 415,000 head, was up 17 percent from last year. The number of cows and bulls in the feedlot inventory, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from last month and a year ago. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 160,000 head of fed cattle during March 2008. This was 16 percent below the previous month's marketings but 14 percent above marketings one year earlier. An estimated 135,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, down 13 percent from February 2008 placements and down 16 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 15 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 19 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 33 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 33 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from February 2008 but 5,000 head lower than 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 11.7 million head on April 1, 2008. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2007 but 1 percent below April 1, 2006. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.35 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.28 million head, up 3 percent from 2007. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.74 million, 11 percent below 2007 and 5 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.67 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000, 600-699 pounds were 330,000, 700-799 pounds were 561,000 and 800

pounds and greater were 510,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million, slightly below 2007 and 6 percent below 2006. Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during March, 12 percent below 2007 and 30 percent below 2006.

### Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2007-2008

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 head			
On Feed March 1	1,010	1,050	11,599	11,853
Placements During Mar.	160	135	1,960	1,736
< 600 pounds	15	20	345	335
600 - 699 pounds	30	25	375	330
700 - 799 pounds	50	45	640	561
800 plus pounds	65	45	600	510
Marketings During Mar.	140	160	1,843	1,842
Other Disap. During Mar.	10	5	72	63
On Feed April 1	1,020	1,020	11,644	11,684
Steers & Steer Calves	660	600	7,433	7,347
Heifers & Heifer Calves	355	415	4,142	4,276
Cows & Bulls	5	5	69	61

### CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION MARCH 2008

**Colorado** laying flocks produced 96 million eggs during March 2008 compared with 93 million in March 2007 and 88 million in February 2008. The number of layers during March of this year was nearly 3.90 million, up from 3.75 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,465 for March 2008 compared with 2,480 for March 2007.

**United States** egg production totaled 7.68 billion during March 2008, down 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.53 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.08 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2008 averaged 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,244 eggs, up slightly from March 2007. All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2008 totaled 342 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2008, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from April 1, 2007. Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2008 totaled 39.5 million, up 3 percent from March 2007. Eggs in

incubators totaled 37.6 million on April 1, 2008, down 2 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 245 thousand during March 2008, down 22 percent from March 2007.

### MILK PRODUCTION MARCH 2008 - 23 STATES

**Colorado** dairy herds produced 245 million pounds of milk during March 2008, up 25 million pounds from March last year. The average number of cows, at 126,000, is up 11,000 head from the 115,000 cows on hand a year ago. The average milk per cow for the month of March in Colorado was 1,945 pounds per cow compared with 1,910 pounds per cow in March 2007.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 15.1 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from March 2007. February revised production at 13.9 billion pounds, was up 6.2 percent from February 2007. The February revision represented an increase of 23 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,795 pounds for March, 12 pounds above March 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.44 million head, 141,000 head more than March 2007, and 9,000 head more than February 2008. Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 47.6 billion pounds, up 3.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 112,000 head more than the same period last year.

**Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States**

Item	March 2007	Feb. 2008	March 2008
<b>Colorado</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <sup>1/</sup> .....	115	125	126
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,910	1,815	1,945
Production (mil. Lbs.) <sup>2/</sup> .....	220	227	245
<b>23 States</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <sup>1/</sup> .....	8,295	8,427	8,436
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <sup>2/</sup> .....	1,783	1,654	1,795
Production (mil. Lbs.) <sup>2/</sup> .....	14,787	13,942	15,144

<sup>1/</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2/</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2008

**Colorado** growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 7.5 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2008, down 17 percent from the 9.0 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 36 percent of the 20.98 million cwt produced in 2007. 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 134 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up 10 percent from a year ago and 15 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.15 million cwt on April 1, 2008, down 18 percent from last year. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was at 266 million cwt, 1 percent below last year but up 3 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006.

Processors have used 140 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 5 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 5 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 5 percent lower than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

Western States held 102.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 18 percent from a year ago and 16 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 10 percent from last year; Washington's potato stocks were 55 percent above last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 21 percent from April 1, 2007. California's potato stocks decreased 25 percent from 2007, while Colorado's and Montana's stocks were both down 17 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 24.4 million cwt of all potato stocks on April 1, down 5 percent from a year ago but 20 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 5 percent from last year; North Dakota's stocks were 24 percent below 2007; and potato stocks in Nebraska were down 13 percent from the previous season. Minnesota's stocks increased 5 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato stocks were 61 percent higher than a year ago. Eastern States stored 6.50 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, down 21 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent below April 1, 2006. Maine's potato stocks were 19 percent lower than last year and New York's potato stocks decreased 40 percent from a year ago

### COLD STORAGE - MARCH 31, 2008

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, chicken, turkey, and butter. Butter stocks were up 8 percent from last month and up 17 percent from a year ago. **Total red meat supplies** in freezers were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 17 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 33 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 25 percent from last month and up 79 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on March 31, 2008 were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 28 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 31 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 3 percent from last month and up 24 percent from March 31, 2007.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Mar. 31, 2007	Feb. 29, 2008	Mar. 31, 2008
	1,000 Pounds		
Butter.....	193,104	210,422	226,430
Cheese, total natural .....	892,932	800,992	822,871
Eggs, frozen.....	14,632	16,732	15,502
Poultry, total frozen .....	953,310	1,182,753	1,224,075
Chicken .....	600,866	760,831	789,372
Turkey .....	346,784	416,694	430,506
Fruits, frozen .....	853,647	1,068,889	932,126
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,197,366	1,363,547	1,441,329
Vegetables, total frozen .....	1,533,934	1,769,625	1,568,637
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,116,226	1,117,491	1,086,431
Meats, total red.....	943,521	1,054,106	1,103,897
Beef, total frozen .....	427,188	424,124	424,068
Pork, total frozen .....	494,761	605,718	657,106

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.

**ONIONS - 2008 CROPS**

**Colorado** producers intend to plant 8,500 acres of summer storage onions in 2008, down 6 percent from last year. Although mountain snowpack is currently about 120 percent of average statewide, mandated well restrictions, labor shortages, low prices and disease problems such as Iris Spot Virus are negative incentives for rising onions this year.

**United States** total planted onion area for all seasons in 2008 is forecast at 155,750 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Spring onions are expected to be harvested from 29,400 acres in 2008, down 5 percent from 2007. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 6.22 million cwt, 2 percent below last year. Summer non-storage onion planted area, at 20,100 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. Total summer onion area, at 124,150 acres, is down 6 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest spring onions 29,400 acres, down 5 percent from last year. In California, despite some reports of mildew, the spring onion crop is in good condition. In Georgia, precipitation during the winter months was near normal. Heading into spring the State had adequate moisture levels. The crop is doing well and disease problems are minimal. Harvest should begin around mid-April.

Non-storage summer onions planted area is 20,100 acres, down 6 percent from last year. In California, despite some minor problems with rain during planting, good growing conditions are currently being reported.

In Nevada, seed beds have been in place for several weeks anticipating seasonal warming to begin planting. In New Mexico, weather conditions have been favorable despite lack of moisture. Washington producers experienced a relatively mild winter, though some wind damage was reported. The crop is in good condition and growers are optimistic about this year's non-storage onion crop.

Summer storage onions planted area is 104,050 acres, down 6 percent from 2007. California acreage, which is primarily dehydrated or otherwise processed, is down 1 percent from 2007. Despite some minor problems with rain during planting, good growing conditions are currently being reported. In Idaho, snow pack supplies are near normal and water availability is not a concern. In Oregon, spring conditions have been favorable throughout the State. In Washington, thrips remains a major concern for some producers in the Columbia Basin. Irrigation supplies look promising.

**Onions for Fresh Market 2006-2008 Crops**

Crop	Area Planted		
	2006	2007	2008
	Acres		
Spring <u>1/</u>			
Total	40,800	33,800	31,600
Summer: <u>1/</u>			
Non-Storage			
CA.....	9,800	9,700	9,000
NV.....	2,600	2,800	2,900
NM.....	6,000	6,300	5,500
TX.....	1,000	1,100	800
WA <u>2/</u> .....	1,500	1,500	1,900
Total.....	20,900	21,400	20,100
Storage			
CA <u>3/</u> .....	33,100	31,700	31,500
CO .....	10,000	9,000	8,500
ID .....	9,700	9,300	8,600
MI.....	2,700	2,600	2,100
NY.....	14,100	13,000	12,400
OR:			
Malheur	11,700	11,500	9,900
Other	8,400	9,100	8,500
WA.....	20,000	21,000	19,000
WI .....	2,100	1,900	1,800
Oth Sts <u>4/</u> .....	2,280	2,180	1,750
Total	114,080	111,280	104,050
Total Summer.....	134,980	132,680	124,150
U.S. ....	175,780	166,480	155,750

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing. 4/ 2006 - OH and UT, 2007 - OH and UT, 2008 - OH and UT.

## COUNTY ESTIMATES - BARLEY 2007

Colorado's barley production jumped 50 percent from last year's output due to a 28 percent increase in seeded acreage and a 10.0 bushel per acre increase in yield. The 2007 crop totaled 7,250,000 bushels compared with 4,830,000 bushels produced in 2006 as producers planted 60,000 acres, up 13,000 acres from the previous year. The area harvested, at 58,000 acres, was up 38 percent from the 42,000 acres harvested a year earlier. Statewide, growing conditions were favorable leading to a 125.0 bushel per acre yield, up from 115.0 last year and the second highest on record for the State.

**Rio Grande County** led all barley producing areas of the State by producing 2,030,000 bushels in 2007. The latest crop was 66 percent larger than the 1,225,000 bushels produced in 2006 and represented 28 percent of the state's total output. Producers harvested 13,600 acres in 2007 compared with 7,800 acres the previous year, a increase of 74 percent. The average yield of 149.5 bushels per acre for 2007 was 7.5 bushels below the 2006 crop average of 157.0 bushels per acre.

**Saguache County** dropped to the second largest barley producing area of the State with a total production of 1,500,000 bushels in 2007, up 22 percent from the 1,230,000 bushels produced a year earlier. The 10,700 acres harvested in 2007 were up 41 percent from the previous year. However, the average yield of 140.0 bushels per acre was 22.0 bushels per acre below the average for the previous year's crop.

**Alamosa County** continued in third place for the 2007 crop by producing 1,170,000 bushels, up 80 percent from the 650,000 bushels produced in 2006. The harvested area of 8,100 acres increased 50 percent from the 5,400 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield for the county, at 144.5 bushels per acre, was 24.0 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 120.5 bushels per acre.

**Conejos County** jumped to fourth as its 2007 barley output of 840,000 bushels was up 180 percent compared with 300,000 bushels produced the previous year. The harvested area of 6,000 acres was twice the number of acres harvested a year earlier. Per acre yields in the county were also higher than the previous year, averaging 140.0 bushels for the 2007 crop compared with 100.0 bushels per acre from the 2006 crop.

**Weld County** dropped to fifth place in barley producing counties in the State with a total production of 662,000 bushels in 2007. The latest crop was only 3 percent larger than the previous year's output of 642,300 bushels. The harvested area of 7,300 acres was 900 acres less than the previous year. However, the average yield for the county, at 90.5 bushels per acre, was 12.0 bushels per acre above the previous year's average of 78.5 bushels.

The top five producing counties accounted for 86 percent of the state's total barley crop of 7,250,000 bushels produced in 2007. Other top producing counties with the 2007 output were as follows: Costilla County with 420,000 bushels; Boulder County with 193,000 bushels; Larimer County with 176,000 bushels.

## 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>

- Apr. 24 - Floriculture Crops
- Apr. 25 - Dairy Products - Annual
- Apr. 25 - Livestock Slaughter
- Apr. 25 - Meat Animals - Prod, Disp, Income
- Apr. 25 - Poultry Production and Value
- Apr. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- May 09 - Crop Production
- May 15 - Potato Stocks
- May 16 - Cattle on Feed
- May 19 - Milk Production

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