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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

APRIL 2008

Red meat production in **Colorado** during April 2008 totaled 179.9 million pounds, 35 percent above 133.7 million pounds produced during April 2007 and 8 percent above March 2008. The accumulated production for the first four months of this year now totals 695.1 million pounds, up 22 percent from the 571.0 million pounds during the comparable period last year. Cattle kill in Colorado during April increased 34 percent from the previous year to 217,600 head. The average live weight of 1,261 pounds was 19 pounds above the average for April 2007. Hog slaughter stayed the same from a year ago at 600 head and the average live weight decreased 3 pounds to 259. Sheep and lamb kill during April totaled 82,300 head, down 1 percent from the previous year. The average live weight of 167 pounds increased 6 pound from April 2007.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.30 billion pounds in April, up 14 percent from the 3.75 billion pounds produced in April 2007. Beef production, at 2.25 billion pounds, was 12 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 10 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.9 million pounds, 1 percent above April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73,300 head, up 29 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 70 pounds from last year, at 278 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.02 billion pounds, up 18 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.99 million head, up 18 percent from April 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was up 2 percent from April 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 221,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, unchanged from April a year ago.

January to April 2008 commercial red meat production was 16.8 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 13 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States 1/

Area and Species	Apr. 2007	Mar. 2008	Apr. 2008	January-April	
				2007	2008
Million Pounds					
Colorado	133.7	165.9	179.9	571.0	695.1
United States	3,753.4	4,090.6	4,297.0	15,475.0	16,771.1
Beef	2,015.0	2,100.4	2,254.5	8,251.7	8,625.8
Veal	11.9	11.3	11.9	51.8	45.5
Pork	1,711.5	1,962.9	2,015.3	7,107.3	8,038.7
Lamb & Mutton....	15.0	16.0	15.3	64.1	61.1

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

APRIL 2008

Colorado laying flocks produced 91 million eggs during April 2008, up 5 percent from the 87 million produced during the same month last year. March egg production was up 3 percent in 2008 at 96 million eggs. During April, the average number of layers was 3.89 million compared with 3.74 million in April 2007 and 3.90 in March 2008. The average number of eggs produced per 100 layers was 2,337 this April compared with 2,328 last April and 2,465 for March of this year.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during April 2008, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.28 billion table eggs, and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2008 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, up slightly from April 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2008 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2008, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from May 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2008 totaled 41.1 million, up 5 percent from April 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.6 million on May 1, 2008, up 10 percent

from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 264 thousand during April 2008, down 4 percent from April 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2008 totaled 797 million, down slightly from April 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 665 million on May 1, 2008, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.87 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2008, up 3 percent from April 2007.

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES, BEEF COWS AND MILK COWS COUNTY ESTIMATES JANUARY 1, 2008

This report continues the livestock county estimates data series for all cattle, beef cows, and milk cows. Data for this report is obtained from the National January 1 Cattle Inventory Survey and supplemented by the Livestock County Estimates Survey that was mailed to all cattle operations in the state excluded from the National survey.

Herd rebuilding continued in 2007 with the cattle inventory in Colorado up 2 percent to 2.75 million head as of January 1, 2008 and the beef cow inventory, at 730,000 head, up 1%, as of January 1, 2008. This current beef cow inventory is up 8 percent from two years ago but still down 13 percent from 2001 when state estimates for beef cows began.

Weld County, with 585,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2008, remained the leading cattle county in the state with 21 percent of the state's total inventory. Weld County has a number of large commercial feedlots and large dairy operations which contributes to its leading cattle county ranking. Weld County far surpassed any other county in Colorado in the number of milk cows with 68,000, or 57 percent of the total 120,000 milk cows in the state. **Yuma County** and **Morgan County** are the second and third for all cattle and calf inventory in the state with 280,000 and 245,500 head, respectively. Like **Weld County**, both **Yuma County** and **Morgan County** are home to several large commercial feedlots and dairy operations. **Logan County** is ranked fourth in Colorado in all cattle inventory, at 205,000 head, followed by **Kit Carson County** at 161,500 head. **Prowers County**, with 108,500 head, was the only other county in the state with 100,000 or more cattle and calves and was the sixth largest cattle county in the state. The counties of **Washington** (76,500 head), **Otero** (76,000 head), **Crowley** (71,500) and **Baca** (56,000 head) complete the list of the top ten counties in the state for all cattle and calves.

Yuma County has the state's largest inventory of beef cows with 51,500 head, or 7 percent of the state total of 730,000 head. **Weld County** continues to have the second largest number of beef cows, at 47,000, or 6 percent of the total. **Las Animas County**, **Washington County**, and **Morgan County**

are third, fourth and fifth in the number of beef cows at 36,000 head, 30,000 head, and 29,000 head, respectively. Rounding out the top ten counties in beef cows are **Logan County** with 27,500 head, **Pueblo County** with 26,000 head, **Elbert** and **Lincoln County** with 25,000 head each and **Mesa County** with 23,000 head.

The January 1, 2008 inventory in the top ten counties totaled 1,865,500 head of all cattle and calves and represented nearly 68 percent of the total cattle inventory in the state. The top ten counties with beef cows had a combined inventory of 320,000 head, representing 44 percent of the state's total inventory of 730,000 head.

COLD STORAGE APRIL 30, 2008

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, eggs, butter and beef. Butter stocks were up 13 percent from last month and up 3 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 14 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down slightly from the previous month but up 23 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 1 percent from last month and up 62 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2008 were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 28 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 1 percent from the previous month but up 24 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 15 percent from last month and up 37 percent from April 30, 2007.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	April 30, 2007	Mar. 31, 2008	April 30, 2008
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	245,907	224,804	253,642
Cheese, total natural	894,338	824,309	852,857
Eggs, frozen.....	14,318	16,302	16,196
Poultry, total frozen.....	972,933	1,197,125	1,249,481
Chicken.....	606,083	764,765	753,427
Turkey.....	360,220	428,133	492,738
Fruits, frozen	882,805	920,547	868,720
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,295,746	1,410,683	1,586,471
Vegetables, total frozen	1,316,778	1,626,420	1,453,260
Potatoes, total frozen	1,102,232	1,087,661	1,130,771
Meats, total red.....	970,254	1,098,783	1,104,502
Beef, total frozen.....	417,256	423,230	429,289
Pork, total frozen.....	528,527	652,683	652,220

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.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

MAY 15, 2008

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (3.4 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 4 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for hogs, cattle, onions, and broilers and lower prices for eggs, lettuce, wheat, and broccoli. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cantaloups, grapes, sweet corn, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, corn, and apples.

The May All Crops index is 172, up 2.4 percent from April and 23 percent above May 2007. Index increases for fruits & nuts, potatoes & dry beans, oil-bearing crops, and feed grains & hay more than offset the index decreases for food grains, cotton, and commercial vegetables. The May all wheat price, at \$8.80 per bushel, is down \$1.20 from April but \$3.92 above May 2007. The corn price, at \$5.12 per bushel, is down 3 cents from last month but \$1.63 above May 2007. The all hay price, at \$166 per ton, is up \$14.00 from April and \$28.00 from last May. Grain sorghum, at \$9.18 per cwt, is 12 cents below April but \$2.69 above May last year. The soybean price, at \$12.30 per bushel, increased 30 cents from April and is \$5.18 above May 2007. The all potato price, at \$9.21 per cwt, is up 76 cents from April and \$1.26 from last May. The all dry bean price, at \$36.30 per cwt, is up \$1.90 from the previous month and \$11.90 above May 2007.

The May Livestock and Products index, at 132, is 3.9 percent above last month but unchanged from May 2007. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for turkeys, broilers, milk, hogs, and eggs. Cattle and calf prices are down from last year. The May hog price, at \$54.10 per cwt, is up \$10.00 from April and \$1.00 higher than a year ago. The May beef cattle price of \$90.50 per cwt is up \$3.90 from last month but \$2.30 lower than May 2007. The May all milk price of \$18.20 per cwt is up 20 cents from last month and May 2007. The fluid grade milk price is up 20 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is up 80 cents from the previous month.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2007		2008	
	April	May	April	May
	Percent			
Prices Received	133	136	145	150
Prices Paid.....	160	161	181	184
Ratio 1/.....	83	84	80	82

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

All mid-May 2008 Colorado crop prices except other hay increased from the previous year. All mid-May prices for livestock items except cows decreased from May 2007. Wheat, at \$7.43 per bushel, was 63 cents below the previous month but \$2.80 per bushel higher than May a year ago. Corn prices decreased 5 cents from April to \$4.65 per bushel but

averaged \$1.22 per bushel above May 2007. Potatoes were up from the previous month at \$10.40 per cwt and were \$2.55 per cwt up from the \$7.85 per cwt received in May 2007. Alfalfa hay averaged \$150.00 per ton in mid-May of this year, up from the previous month by \$3.00 per ton and \$10.00 per ton above May 2007. Other hay remained unchanged from the previous month, at \$130.00 per ton, but averaged \$15.00 per ton below May 2007. Steers and heifers, at \$104.00 per cwt, were up \$5.50 from April but averaged \$1.00 per cwt below May 2007. Calves remained unchanged from the previous month at \$114.00 but were \$7.00 per cwt below the May 2007 average of \$121.00 per cwt. The April 2008 all milk price of \$18.20 was down 30 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		May 2007	April 2008	May 2008
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	4.63	8.06	7.43
Corn.....	Bu.	3.43	4.70	4.65
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2/	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	7.85	9.60	10.40
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	25.10	36.70	37.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	140.00	147.00	150.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	145.00	130.00	130.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	104.00	97.60	103.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	105.00	98.50	104.00
Cows	Cwt	53.20	52.20	55.50
Calves.....	Cwt	121.00	114.00	114.00
Sheep	Cwt	32.00	30.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	104.00	3/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	18.00	18.50	18.20
United States				
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	4.88	10.00	8.80
Corn.....	Bu.	3.49	5.15	5.12
Soybeans	Bu.	17.12	12.00	12.30
Barley (All).....	Bu.	3.12	4.54	4.76
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	3.20	4.65	3.98
Sorghum	Cwt	6.49	9.30	9.18
Potatoes	Cwt	7.95	8.45	9.21
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	24.40	34.40	36.30
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	145.00	157.00	177.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	115.00	140.00	134.00
Onions	Cwt	24.20	17.40	31.70
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	92.80	86.60	90.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	98.10	91.60	95.40
Cows	Cwt	51.70	50.50	53.10
Calves.....	Cwt	124.00	116.00	116.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.80	28.80	3/
Lambs	Cwt	97.10	99.40	3/
Hogs	Cwt	53.10	44.10	54.10
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	18.00	18.00	18.20
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.470	0.460	0.480

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/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 3/ Mid-month price not estimated.

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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