



**NATIONAL
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AG UPDATE

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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

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COLD STORAGE

OCTOBER 31, 2008

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, and cheese. Butter stocks were down 20 percent from last month and down 24 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from the previous month and up slightly from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 4 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 7 percent from last month and up 12 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2008 were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 22 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 8 percent from last month but up 37 percent from October 31, 2007.

MILK PRODUCTION

OCTOBER 2008

Colorado dairy herds produced 245 million pounds of milk during the October 2008 period, about 6 percent above the 232 million pounds produced during the same period in 2007. The average number of milk cows on hand during the month was 130,000, up 10,000 head from the same month last year. Production per cow averaged 1,885 pounds for October, 45 pounds below the 1,930 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 14.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from October 2007. September revised production at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from September 2007. The September revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,700 pounds for October, 3 pounds above October 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.46 million head, 105,000 head more than October 2007, and 1,000 head more than September 2008.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Oct. 31, 2007	Sept. 30, 2008	Oct. 31, 2008
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	196,629	186,878	149,413
Cheese, total natural	810,619	834,177	823,468
Eggs, frozen	17,556	21,890	21,074
Poultry, total frozen	1,117,175	1,382,367	1,357,557
Chicken	694,020	759,321	784,556
Turkey	416,971	621,475	571,219
Fruits, frozen	1,352,415	1,130,651	1,369,874
Fruit Juices, frozen	946,711	1,493,198	1,430,398
Vegetables, total frozen	2,403,564	2,458,656	2,603,453
Potatoes, total frozen	1,133,758	1,180,803	1,201,021
Meats, total red	1,003,207	984,543	1,004,857
Beef, total frozen	488,033	448,133	463,037
Pork, total frozen	494,751	507,714	513,361

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.

Colorado and 23 State Milk Production, Oct., 2007-08

Item	Unit	2007	2008
Colorado:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 head	120	130
Production per cow 2/	Pounds	1,930	1,885
Production 2/	Mil. lbs.	232	245
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows 1/	1,000 head	8,355	8,460
Production per cow 2/	Pounds	1,697	1,700
Production 2/	Mil. lbs.	14,176	14,382

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

CROP PRODUCTION

NOVEMBER 1, 2008

Colorado's **corn** for grain production for 2008 remains forecast at 156.8 million bushels, up 4 percent from last year's crop of 150.5 million bushels and unchanged from the October 1 forecast. Average yield remains forecast at 140 bushels per acre. Producers are expected to harvest 1.12 million acres for grain. **Sorghum** production for 2008 is now expected to total 5.76 million bushels, up from the October 1 forecast of 4.86 million bushels and 4 percent above last year's crop of 5.55 million bushels. The 2008 yield is expected to average 32 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from last month and 5 bushels below the 2007 average. The area expected to be harvested remains at 180,000 acres, which is 30,000 acres more than last year. **Sugarbeet** production dropped to 735,000 tons, down 37,000 tons from the October 1 forecast and down 30,000 tons from the previous year. Yields are now expected to average 25.7 tons per acre, slightly down from 27 forecasted last month and from the 26.2 tons per acre attained in 2007. The area for harvest is forecast at 28,600 acres, down from 29,200 acres in 2007. **Fall potato** growers in the San Luis Valley produced 21.34 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 2 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was 375 cwt per acre, up 20 cwt per acre from last year's yield. The harvested area of 56,900 acres this year was 2,200 acres less than in 2007.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 12.0 billion bushels, down slightly from the October forecast and 8 percent below 2007. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 153.8 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from October but 2.7 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, behind 2004, and production will be the second largest, behind last year. Forecasted yields are higher than last year across the northern half of the Great Plains and northern and central Corn Belt. Yield prospects are lower than last year in the southern half of the Great Plains and Delta.

Sorghum production is forecast at 465 million bushels, down 1 percent from the October 1 forecast and 8 percent below 2007. Expected area for harvest for grain is forecast at 7.39 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 9 percent from last year. Based on November 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 63.0 bushels per acre, down 0.9 bushel from October and down 11.2 bushels from last year. Kansas, the top producing State, expects a yield of 74.0 bushels, 2.0 bushels below last month. The yield forecast for Texas is unchanged from October, at 52.0 bushels per acre. As of November 2, harvest in the top 11 producing States was 56 percent complete, compared with 85 percent last year and 73 percent for the 5-year average. Harvest was complete in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Production of **sugarbeets** in 2008 is forecast at 28.2 million tons, 1 percent above the October forecast but 12 percent below 2007's production of 31.9 million tons. Growers expect to harvest 1.05 million acres, slightly below the October forecast and the lowest acreage since 1960. The yield is forecast at 26.8 tons per acre, slightly above the October forecast and up 1.2 tons from the previous year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. As of November 2, sugarbeet harvest was 89 percent complete, compared with 93 percent for the 5-year average.

Production of **fall potatoes** for 2008 is forecast at 373 million cwt, down 8 percent from 2007. Area harvested, at 918,200 acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 8 percent lower than last year. The average yield, forecast at 407 cwt per acre, is down 2 cwt from last year's record high yield and, if realized, will be the second highest yield on record.

Idaho's yield is forecast at 378 cwt per acre. If realized, this will be the second highest yield on record, 8 cwt below the record yield set in 2006. Cool, wet weather delayed planting this spring, but with reports of Potato Virus Y down, potato quality was better than last year. In eastern Washington, potatoes were planted on time, but growth was delayed due to cool, wet weather in the early summer, which also delayed planting in the western part of the State. Potato size was smaller than last year, but quality was good. In Colorado, the growing season was favorable for the San Luis Valley, however, severe hail storms in August damaged plants just before vine killing. As a result, potato sizes were more variable. Despite a slow start to the potato crop in Oregon, most growers reported normal to slightly below normal yields. In California, favorable weather conditions resulted in excellent crop quality and yields.

In Maine, a wet growing season resulted in below average potato yields. Dry weather in September promoted excellent harvest and storage conditions. Massachusetts potato farmers battled wet conditions during the season, while growing conditions were excellent in Rhode Island.

Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2007-2008

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
Colorado:									
All Corn 1/	1,200	1,250	1,060	1,120	Bu.	142.0	140.0	150,520	156,800
All Sorghum 1/	220	230	150	180	Bu.	37.0	32.0	5,550	5,760
All Wheat	2,520	2,190	2,369	1,936	Bu.	40.3	30.8	95,520	59,700
Winter Wheat	2,500	2,150	2,350	1,900	Bu.	40.0	30.0	94,000	57,000
Spring Wheat.....	20.0	40.0	19.0	36.0	Bu.	80.0	75.0	1,520	2,700
Oats	75	45	10	7	Bu.	80.0	70.0	800	490
Barley	60	80	58	72	Bu.	125.0	120.0	7,250	8,640
Proso Millet.....	270	330	260.0	4/	Bu.	33.0	4/	8,580	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,550	1,580	Tons	2.83	2.55	4,385	4,030
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	800	830	Tons	3.70	3.50	2,960	2,905
Other Hay .....	...	...	750	750	Tons	1.90	1.50	1,425	1,125
Sugarbeets	32.0	34.8	29.2	28.6	Tons	26.2	25.7	765	735
Dry edible beans.....	48.0	48.0	46.0	44.0	Cwt.	1,600	1,800	736	792
Sunflowers, All.....	119.0	190.0	113.0	178.0	Lbs.	1,202	990	135,800	176,300
Sunflowers, Oil	105.0	165.0	100.0	155.0	Lbs.	1,150	4/	115,000	4/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	14.0	25.0	13.0	23.0	Lbs.	1,600	4/	20,800	4/
All potatoes	62.2	61.4	61.8	60.9	Cwt.	355	374	21,926	22,778
Summer potatoes.....	3.0	4.4	2.7	4.0	Cwt.	350	360	945	1,440
Fall potatoes	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.9	Cwt.	355	375	20,981	21,338
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	13,000	15,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	13.0	15.0
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1.7	1.5
United States:									
All Corn 1/	93,600	85,889	86,542	78,177	Bu.	151.1	153.8	13,073,893	12,019,894
All Sorghum 1/	7,718	8,327	6,805	7,385	Bu.	74.2	63.0	504,993	465,271
All Wheat 2/	60,433	63,047	51,011	55,685	Bu.	40.5	44.9	2,066,722	2,499,524
Winter Wheat	44,987	46,181	35,952	39,614	Bu.	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903
Spring Wheat.....	13,297	14,135	12,947	13,487	Bu.	37.0	40.5	479,047	546,744
Oats	3,760	3,217	1,505	1,395	Bu.	60.9	63.5	91,599	88,635
Barley	4,020	4,234	3,508	3,767	Bu.	60.4	63.6	211,825	239,498
Rye	1,376	1,260	289	269	Bu.	27.4	29.7	7,914	7,979
Proso Millet.....	570	605	515	4/	Bu.	32.3	4/	16,615	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	61,625	60,439	Tons	2.44	2.49	150,304	150,500
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	21,670	20,778	Tons	3.35	3.44	72,575	71,424
Other Hay .....	...	...	39,955	39,661	Tons	1.95	1.99	77,729	79,076
Sugarbeets	1,268.8	1,110.1	1,246.8	1,051.6	Tons	25.6	26.8	31,912	28,179
Dry edible beans.....	1,526.9	1,492.9	1,478.7	1,424.6	Cwt.	1,716	1,774	25,371	25,268
Sunflowers, All.....	2,068.0	2,507.0	2,009.5	2,385.0	Lbs.	1,436	1,448	2,886,065	3,454,640
Sunflowers, Oil	1,764.0	2,154.0	1,717.0	2,049.0	Lbs.	1,454	4/	2,495,920	4/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	304.0	353.0	292.5	336.0	Lbs.	1,339	4/	390,145	4/
All potatoes 3/	1,148.8	1,057.1	1,129.7	1,043.1	Cwt.	396	394	446,807	410,545
Summer potatoes.....	53.7	48.5	51.2	46.2	Cwt.	332	324	16,997	14,946
Fall potatoes	1,010.8	928.4	996.8	918.2	Cwt.	409	407	407,517	373,496
Soybeans	64,736	75,878	64,141	74,374	Bu.	41.7	39.3	2,675,822	2,920,589
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,113,900	9,242,200
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,128.7	1,093.9
Pears.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	873.0	821.8

1/ Area planted for all purposes 2/ includes durum wheat 3/ includes winter and spring crops 4/ Jan. 2009

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>

Nov. 21 - Chickens and Eggs
Nov. 21 - Livestock Slaughter
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R. René Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director