



To access NASS and Colorado reports:

<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

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

Released: March 10, 2009

Vol. 29 No. 5

Contents of This Issue

- ▶ Chickens and Eggs
 - ▶ Cattle on Feed
- ▶ Feedlots and Annual Marketings
 - ▶ Agricultural Prices
 - ▶ Livestock Slaughter
- ▶ Bees and Honey Production
 - ▶ Trout Production

marketings one year ago. An estimated 200,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during January, 33 percent above a year ago and 11 percent above December 2008 placements of 180,000. Of the number placed in January, 10 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 28 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 28 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 35 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for January at 10,000 head, was 5,000 head higher than last month and last year.

CHICKENS AND EGGS JANUARY 2009

Colorado laying flocks produced 99 million eggs during January 2009 a slight increase from the 98 million eggs one month earlier and up from 93 million eggs produced in January last year. The number of layers during January totaled just under 3.97 million, up 1 percent from 3.93 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for January 2009, at 2,493 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,368 eggs per 100 layers during January 2008.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in **the United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on February 1, 2009. The inventory was 6 percent below February 1, 2008. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.86 million head, 4 percent above 2008. Net placements were 1.79 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 553,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 420,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.74 million, 6 percent below 2008. This is the lowest fed cattle marketing for the month of January since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during January, 12 percent above 2008.

United States egg production totaled 7.67 billion during January 2009, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.59 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 72 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2009 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,249 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2008.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, February 1, 2008-2009

| Item | Colorado | | United States | |
|--------------------------|----------|-------|---------------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2008 | 2009 |
| 1,000 head | | | | |
| On Feed Jan. 1. | 1,100 | 1,000 | 12,092 | 11,234 |
| Placements During Jan. | 180 | 200 | 1,787 | 1,858 |
| < 600 pounds | 20 | 20 | 400 | 380 |
| 600 - 699 Pounds | 45 | 55 | 467 | 505 |
| 700 - 799 Pounds | 55 | 55 | 525 | 553 |
| 800 Plus Pounds | 60 | 70 | 395 | 420 |
| Marketings During Jan. | 185 | 170 | 1,853 | 1,737 |
| Other Disap. During Jan. | 5 | 10 | 60 | 76 |
| On Feed Feb. 1 | 1,090 | 1,020 | 11,966 | 11,288 |

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.03 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2009, averaged 72.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from February 1, 2008.

CATTLE ON FEED FEBRUARY 1, 2009

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 February 1, 2009. The latest inventory was 2 percent above January 1, 2009 but down 6 percent from the 1,090,000 on feed on February 1, 2008. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 170,000 head of fed cattle during January 2009. This was 10 percent above December 2008 marketings of 155,000 head but 8 percent below the

NUMBER OF FEEDLOTS AND ANNUAL FED CATTLE MARKETINGS 2007-2008

Special Note: Estimates of number of feedlots, inventory and annual marketing by size group by State will no longer be published on an annual basis. State level size group number will only be published in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture every five years. However, the total United States number of feedlots, inventory and annual marketings by size group for the 2007 and 2008 are included in this publication.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 81.1 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2009, down from 81.6% on January 1, 2008. Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2008 represented 84.7 percent of all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, up from 84.0 percent during 2007.

Number of Feedlots and Annual Fed Cattle Marketings by Size 2007-2008

| Feedlot Capacity | United States | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|--|------|
| | Feedlots | | Fed Cattle Marketings | | Percent of Total Mrktgs. ^{1/} | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| | Number | | 1,000 Head | | Percent | |
| Under 1,000 | 85,000 | 80,000 | 4,285 | 4,045 | 16 | 15 |
| 1,000 - 3,999 | 1,373 | 1,380 | 2,175 | 2,169 | 8 | 8 |
| 4,000 - 15,999 | 525 | 530 | 4,509 | 4,505 | 17 | 17 |
| 16,000 - 31,999 | 133 | 132 | 4,495 | 4,400 | 17 | 17 |
| 32,000 & over | 129 | 128 | 11,282 | 11,330 | 42 | 43 |
| Total | 87,160 | 82,170 | 26,746 | 26,449 | 100 | 100 |

^{1/} Percents may not total to 100 due to rounding.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES
FEBRUARY 15, 2009**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 127 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 12 points (8.6 percent) from January. The Crop Index is down 12 points (7.5 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for lettuce, milk, corn, and eggs and higher prices for snap beans, strawberries, hogs, and turkeys. 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 cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 19 points (13 percent) from February 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 122, decreased 12 points (9.0 percent) from last month and 22 points (15 percent) from February 2008.

The February all crops index is 148, down 7.5 percent from January and 9.8 percent below February 2008. Index decreases for commercial vegetables, cotton, feed grains & hay, food grains, and oil-bearing crops more than offset the index increase for fruits & nuts. The February all wheat price, at \$5.73 per bushel, is down 48 cents from January and \$4.37 below February 2008. The corn price, at \$4.13 per bushel, is down 23 cents from last month and 41 cents below February 2008.

The all hay price, at \$132 per ton, declined \$4.00 from January but increased \$3.00 from last February. Sorghum grain, at \$5.09 per cwt, is 75 cents below January and down \$3.26 from February last year.

The soybean price, at \$9.58 per bushel, decreased 39 cents from January and is \$2.12 below February 2008.

The all potato price, at \$8.94 per cwt, is down 46 cents from January but up \$1.43 from last February. The all dry bean price, at \$34.30 per cwt, is down \$1.20 from the previous month but \$2.30 above February 2008.

The February Livestock and Products Index, at 109, is 4.4 percent below last month and down 17 percent from February 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, cattle, eggs, calves, and turkeys. Prices for broilers and hogs are higher than last year. The price for hogs is down from last year. The February hog price, at \$43.50 per cwt, is up 70 cents from January and \$1.30 higher than a year ago. The February beef cattle price of \$80.20 per cwt is up 10 cents from last month but \$8.80 lower than February 2008. The February all milk price of \$11.50 per cwt is down \$1.80 from last month and \$7.60 from February 2008.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

| Index 1990-92 = 100 | 2008 | | 2009 | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|
| | Jan. | Feb. | Jan | Feb. |
| | Percent | | | |
| Prices Received | 144 | 146 | 139 | 127 |
| Prices Paid..... | 169 | 171 | 175 | 173 |
| Ratio ^{1/} | 85 | 85 | 79 | 73 |

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

Colorado prices for February 2009 were higher than a year earlier for crops except wheat and corn and other hay, but all livestock items were lower than last year. Mid-February 2009 wheat, at \$5.10 per bushel, was 88 cents lower than the previous month and \$3.72 below February a year ago. Corn prices decreased 27 cents from January to \$4.10 per bushel and averaged 26 cents below February 2008. The mid-February potato price, at \$12.00 per cwt, was \$1.20 below last month but \$2.45 per cwt above February a year ago. Dry bean prices, at \$32.30 per cwt, averaged \$3.10 per cwt below last month but were 10 cents per cwt above February 2008. Alfalfa hay, at \$170.00 per ton, was unchanged from January but \$30.00 above February 2008. The other hay price, at \$125.00 per ton, was \$5.00 below January but remained unchanged from February a year ago.

The mid-February steer and heifer price decreased 50 cents per cwt from last month to \$89.50 per cwt and decreased \$11.50 from the \$101.00 per cwt a year ago. Cow prices increased \$2.50 from the previous month to \$46.00 per cwt but were \$6.50 per cwt below February 2008. The mid-February calf price of \$105.00 per cwt remained unchanged from January but was \$12.00 per cwt below a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

| Item | Unit | Colorado | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Feb. 2008 | Jan. 2009 | Feb. 2009 |
| Crops | | | | |
| Dollars | | | | |
| Wheat | Bu. | 8.82 | 5.98 | 5.10 |
| Corn..... | Bu. | 4.36 | 4.37 | 4.10 |
| Barley (All)..... | Bu. | 2/ | 3/ | 3/ |
| Potatoes | Cwt | 9.55 | 13.20 | 12.00 |
| Dry edible beans | Cwt | 32.20 | 35.40 | 32.30 |
| Alfalfa hay (baled)..... | Ton | 140.00 | 170.00 | 170.00 |
| Other hay (baled)..... | Ton | 125.00 | 130.00 | 125.00 |
| Livestock & Products | | | | |
| Beef Cattle..... | Cwt | 100.00 | 89.10 | 88.60 |
| Steers & heifers | Cwt | 101.00 | 90.00 | 89.50 |
| Cows..... | Cwt | 52.50 | 43.50 | 46.00 |
| Calves | Cwt | 117.00 | 105.00 | 105.00 |
| Sheep | Cwt | 31.00 | 31.00 | 3/ |
| Lambs | Cwt | 98.00 | 100.00 | 3/ |
| Milk sold to plants..... | Cwt | 19.30 | 13.70 | 11.60 |
| United States | | | | |
| Dollars | | | | |
| Wheat | Bu. | 10.10 | 6.21 | 5.73 |
| Corn..... | Bu. | 4.54 | 4.36 | 4.13 |
| Soybeans..... | Bu. | 11.70 | 9.97 | 9.58 |
| Barley (All)..... | Bu. | 4.38 | 5.29 | 5.37 |
| Barley (Feed) | Bu. | 4.67 | 2.96 | 2.74 |
| Sorghum | Cwt | 8.35 | 5.84 | 5.09 |
| Potatoes | Cwt | 7.51 | 9.40 | 8.94 |
| Dry edible beans | Cwt | 32.00 | 35.50 | 34.30 |
| Alfalfa hay (baled)..... | Ton | 138.00 | 149.00 | 143.00 |
| Other hay (baled)..... | Ton | 113.00 | 110.00 | 107.00 |
| Onions | Cwt | 3.15 | 9.05 | 8.27 |
| Livestock & Products | | | | |
| Beef Cattle..... | Cwt | 89.00 | 80.10 | 80.20 |
| Steers & heifers | Cwt | 94.30 | 85.80 | 85.40 |
| Cows..... | Cwt | 51.70 | 42.30 | 44.30 |
| Calves | Cwt | 120.00 | 106.00 | 105.00 |
| Sheep | Cwt | 29.90 | 31.40 | 3/ |
| Lambs | Cwt | 96.50 | 101.00 | 3/ |
| Hogs | Cwt | 42.20 | 42.80 | 43.50 |
| Milk sold to plants..... | Cwt | 19.10 | 13.30 | 11.50 |
| Broilers..... | Lb. | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.47 |

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 est.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER JANUARY 2009

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during January 2009 totaled 170.4 million pounds, down 3 percent from the same month last year but 4 percent above a month earlier in

December 2008. Cattle slaughter during January was down 8 percent from a year earlier to 192,400 head but the average live weight was but 52 pounds to 1,363. Hog slaughter, at 700 head, down 13 percent from January 2008 but the average live weight increased 4 pounds to 249.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.17 billion pounds in January, down 6 percent from the 4.42 billion pounds produced in January 2008.

Beef production, at 2.12 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 6 percent from January 2008. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,306 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.0 million pounds, 6 percent above January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 84,700 head, 19 percent above January 2008. The average live weight was down 24 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.03 billion pounds, 6 percent below the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.92 million head, 6 percent below January 2008. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.3 million pounds, was 10 percent below January 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 189,400 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 2 pounds from January a year ago.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

| Area and Species | Jan. 2008 | Dec. 2008 | Jan. 2009 | Jan. 2009 as % of | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| | | | | Jan. 2008 | Dec. 2008 |
| Million Pounds | | | | | |
| Colorado: | 175.5 | 164.3 | 170.4 | 97 | 97 |
| United States: | 4,415.9 | 4,162.7 | 4,169.6 | 94 | 100 |
| Beef..... | 2,232.0 | 2,082.0 | 2,118.4 | 95 | 102 |
| Veal..... | 11.3 | 13.3 | 12.0 | 106 | 90 |
| Pork..... | 2,157.8 | 2,052.0 | 2,026.0 | 94 | 99 |
| Lamb & Mutton | 14.8 | 15.4 | 13.3 | 90 | 86 |

BEES AND HONEY PRODUCTION 2008

The number of colonies in **Colorado** during 2008 was down 13 percent from a year earlier at 27,000. The total honey production of 1.22 million pounds for 2008 was 23 percent below the 1.58 million pounds a year earlier. The yield per colony decreased from 45 pounds per colony in 2007 to 51 pounds per colony in 2008. The total value of the 2008 honey crop was \$1.82 million, remained unchanged from the previous year.

The average price received for the 2008 crop was \$1.50 per pound, up from \$1.15 per pound received for the 2007 crop. December 15, 2008 honey stocks of 656,000 pounds were down 22 percent from 838,000 pounds a year earlier.

United States honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

TROUT PRODUCTION

2009

During 2008 **Colorado** had trout sales totaling \$.62 million and distributed trout valued at \$6.73 million. The total value of the trout sold and distributed, excluding eggs, during 2008 totaled \$7.4 million, up 2 percent from the comparable value of \$7.2 million a year earlier. To avoid disclosure of individual operations, the detailed information on trout sales by size of fish is not published separately. There were 1.31 million pounds of 6 to 12 inch fish distributed during 2008 which had an average value of \$2.84 per pound compared with nearly 1.55 million pounds distributed in 2007 which averaged \$2.71 per pound.

The total value of fish sales received by trout growers in the United States totaled 79.7 million dollars for 2008, a decrease of 9 percent from 2007. Idaho accounted for 44 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of **trout 12 inches and longer** sold during 2008 totaled 40.4 million fish, down 31 percent from the previous year. The average price per pound was \$1.38, up 19 cents from 2007. The value of sales for the 2008 marketing year was 72.4 million dollars, down 9 percent from 2007. For trout 12 inches or longer 58 percent were sold to processors and 24 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of **6"- 12" trout** sold during 2008 totaled 4.61 million fish, a decrease of 15 percent from 2007. The average price per pound was \$3.02 during 2008, unchanged from the 2007 price. The total value of sales was 5.78 million dollars during 2008, a 11 percent decrease from the previous year. The major sales outlets for 6"-12" trout were to fee and recreational fishing establishments accounting for 39 percent of total sales, followed by government with 24 percent.

The number of **1"- 6" trout** sold during 2008 totaled 9.53 million, a 6 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$157 during 2008, down from \$178 in 2007. The total value of sales was 1.50 million dollars, down 17 percent from last year's total.

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>

- Mar. 6 - Livestock Slaughter - Annual
- Mar. 13 - Potato Stocks
- Mar. 18 - Milk Production
- Mar. 20 - Cold Storage
- Mar. 20 - Cattle on Feed
- Mar. 20 - Livestock Slaughter
- Mar. 23 - Chickens and Eggs
- Mar. 27 - Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
- Mar. 30 - Agricultural Prices

Bill Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director