



**NATIONAL  
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# AG UPDATE

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## POTATO STOCKS

**MARCH 1, 2009**

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 10.9 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2009 compared with 9.5 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 51 percent of the 21.34 million cwt produced in 2008. The March 1, 2008 stocks represented 45 percent of the 20.98 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2007. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2003-2007 period. The remaining 32 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years.

The 13 major potato States held 151 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2009, down 8 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below March 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 41 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below March 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.00 million cwt on March 1, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 217 million cwt, was 8 percent below March 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.7 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in 2008 and 8 percent below 2007. Processors in the 9 major States have used 117 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 8 percent from the same period last year and down 8 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 21.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

## CATTLE ON FEED

**MARCH 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 1,040,000 head as of March 1, 2009. The latest inventory was up 2 percent from February 1, 2009, but down 1

percent from the 1,050,000 on feed on March 1, 2008. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 165,000 head of fed cattle during February 2009. This was down 3 percent from January 2009 and down 13 percent from February 2008 marketings. An estimated 190,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, 5 percent below January 2009 placements but up 23 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in February, 11 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 29 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 37 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 5,000 head, was 5,000 head below the previous month but no change from the previous year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on March 1, 2009. The inventory was 5 percent below March 1, 2008. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million, 3 percent below 2008. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 538,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 435,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million, 5 percent below 2008. Other disappearance totaled 56,000 during February, 7 percent below 2008. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

### Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States 1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2008-2009

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
<b>1,000 head</b>				
On Feed Feb. 1	1,100	1,020	11,966	11,288
Placements During Feb.	155	190	1,723	1,678
< 600 pounds	10	20	330	320
600 – 699 Pounds	35	45	385	385
700 – 799 Pounds	50	55	533	538
800 Plus Pounds	60	70	475	435
Marketings During Feb.	190	165	1,776	1,682
Other Disap. During Feb.	5	5	60	56
On Feed Mar. 1	1,050	1,040	11,853	11,228

# LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

## FEBRUARY 2009

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2009 totaled 165.1 million pounds, down 4 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter decreased 8 percent to 185,900 head and the average live weight of 1,366 pounds per head was 66 pounds heavier than February 2008. Hog slaughter, at 600 head, was down 14 percent from a year earlier and the average live weight of 243 was down 2 pounds from the February 2008 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2009 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 335.5 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 346.7 million pounds produced during January and February of 2008.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.83 billion pounds in February, down 4 percent from the 3.97 billion pounds produced in February 2008. Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 4 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,310 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, slightly below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,100 head, up 7 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was down 15 pounds from last year, at 257 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.91 million head, down 5 percent from February 2008. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 15 percent from February 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 180,100 head, 15 percent below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

January to February 2009 commercial red meat production was 7.99 billion pounds, down 5 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was up 3 percent, pork was down 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 12 percent.

### Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area And Species	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan-Feb	
	2008	2009	2009	2008	2009
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado:</b>	171.2	170.4	165.1	346.7	335.5
<b>United States <u>1</u>:</b>	3,967.4	4,169.6	3,825.1	8,385.1	7,994.8
Beef	2,038.6	2,118.4	1,985.2	4,271.4	4,103.6
Veal	11.0	12.0	11.0	22.3	23.0
Pork	1,902.7	2,026.0	1,816.1	4,061.7	3,842.1
Lamb & Mutton	15.0	13.3	12.8	29.7	26.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

### MILK PRODUCTION FEBRUARY 2009 - 23 STATES

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2009 totaled 228 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. The average

number of cows for February at 128,000 head, increased 2 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,780 pounds for the month of February, 1 percent below February 2008.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during February totaled 13.7 billion pounds, down 2.5 percent from February 2008. January revised production at 14.9 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from January 2008. The January revision represented an increase of 52 million pounds or 0.4 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Please see the special note below. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,608 pounds for February, 48 pounds below February 2008. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.49 million head, 31,000 head more than February 2008, but 16,000 head less than January 2009.

### Milk Production, February, 2008-2009

Item	Unit	2008	2009
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> / .....	1,000 Head	126	128
Production Per Cow.....	Pounds	1,800	1,780
Production <u>2</u> / .....	Mil. Lbs.	227	228
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> / .....	1,000 Head	8,457	8,488
Production Per Cow.....	Pounds	1,656	1,608
Production <u>2</u> / .....	Mil. Lbs.	14,007	13,650

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

### COUNTY ESTIMATES - CORN FOR GRAIN 2008 CROP

**Colorado** corn production for 2008 was down from 2007. The total production of 147,960,000 bushels was down slightly compared to the previous year's crop of 148,400,000 bushels which was due to a decrease in yield per acre. The 1,250,000 acres planted for all purposes was up 50,000 acres from the previous year, and the 1,080,000 acres harvested for grain increased 2 percent from 1,060,000 acres harvested in 2007. Average per acre yield on irrigated acres was set at 180.0 bushels per acre, twelve bushels below the previous year. The average dryland yield of 50.0 was down from 60.5 bushels per acre in 2007.

**Yuma County** continued to be the top corn for grain producing area in the state by producing 41,740,000 bushels of corn in 2008. The latest crop was down 2 percent from the 42,490,000 bushels produced in 2007 and represented 28 percent of the state's total output. Producers in Yuma County planted 240,200 acres of corn for all purposes in 2008 and harvested 223,800 acres for grain. The county's planted and harvested acres continued to be the highest in the state. The average yield of 187.0 bushels per acre from the 2008 crop was 6.0 bushels per acre below the previous year.

**Kit Carson County** remained in the second place ranking for the 2008 crop with a total output of 17,965,000 bushels. The latest crop was 1 percent above the 17,824,000 bushels produced in 2007. Kit Carson County growers planted 191,000 acres of corn for all purposes, the second highest planted acreage of corn for all purposes in the state. The 174,000 acres harvested for grain represented a 22 percent increase from the 142,500 acres harvested in 2007. This was the second highest corn for grain acres harvested in the state. Producers averaged 103.0 bushels per acre from the 2008 crop compared with a 125.0 bushel average yield from the 2007 crop.

**Phillips County** moved up from fourth last year to the third largest corn producing area of the state in 2008 with a total output of 16,400,000 bushels. The 2008 crop was 22 percent more than the 13,473,000 bushels produced in 2007. Producers harvested 104,000 acres of corn for grain in 2008, up 9 percent from the 95,500 acres harvested a year earlier. The average yield of 158.0 bushels per acre for the 2008 crop was 17.0 bushels per acre higher than the 2007 crop average of 141.0 bushels per acre.

**Weld County** moved down from third last year to fourth place in the top producing counties for the 2008 crop with a total output of 13,620,000 bushels. The county's latest crop was 6 percent smaller than the 2007 output of 14,416,000 bushels. The 123,800 acres planted in the county was 24,200 acres below the previous year and the third largest in the state. The 79,100 acres harvested for grain represented a decrease of 16,000 from the 95,100 acres harvested for grain a year earlier. The average yield of 172.0 bushels per acre was 20.5 bushels per acre above the 2007 crop average of 151.5 bushels.

**Logan County** remained in fifth place of the top five producing counties for the 2008 crop with a total output of 9,580,000 bushels. The harvested area of 68,000 acres was down 2 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 141 bushels per acre was unchanged from a year earlier.

The **top five counties** produced 99,305,000 bushels of grain corn in 2008, representing 67 percent of the state's total corn for grain crop. The next five leading counties of **Morgan, Baca, Washington, Prowers** and **Cheyenne** had a combined output of 27,074,000 bushels, bringing the top ten county total to 126,379,000 bushels or 85 percent of the state's total corn for grain production in 2008. There were fifteen counties in the state that produced over 1,000,000 bushels of grain corn in 2008.

## **COUNTY ESTIMATES - SORGHUM FOR GRAIN - 2008 CROP**

**Colorado** sorghum production in 2008 declined 19 percent from 2007 to the lowest level since the near record-setting lows of the drought affected crop of 2002. Colorado producers harvested 4,500,000 bushels of sorghum in 2008, down 1,050,000 bushels from 2007. Planted acres, at 230,000, were up 5 percent from the 220,000 planted acres last year. Harvested acres, at 150,000, remained unchanged from a year earlier. The average yield for the 2008 crop was 30.0 bushels per acre compared to the average of 37.0 bushels per acre in 2007. Publishable counties are listed

below. Non-publishable counties are in combined counties and districts due to the low number of producer reports received.

**Prowers County** came in first out of publishable counties as the largest sorghum producing area in Colorado with 1,145,000 bushels. This production accounted for 25 percent of the state's total sorghum production but was 19 percent below the 1,410,000 bushel crop produced in Prowers County in 2007. The 29,600 acres harvested in 2008 reflected a 6,700 acre increase from the 22,900 acres harvested for grain the previous year. The average yield of 39.0 bushels per acre for the 2008 crop was 15.5 bushels per acre below the 54.5 bushel average realized from the 2007 crop.

**Washington County** placed second in publishable counties with a total of 143,000 bushels in 2008. This was an increase in production of 4 percent from the 138,000 bushels produced in Washington County in 2007. Producers harvested 4,800 acres for grain in 2008 compared with 3,100 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 30.0 bushels per acre for the 2007 crop was 14.5 bushels below the 2007 crop average of 44.5 bushels.

**El Paso County** had the third largest production of publishable counties with a total crop of 85,000 bushels of grain sorghum. The 2008 crop was over 6 times last year's crop of 13,000 bushels. Producers harvested 2,400 acres of grain sorghum in 2008 compared with 600 acres harvested the previous year. The average yield of 35.0 bushels per acre was 14.5 bushels above the 2007 crop average of 21.5 bushels per acre.

**Logan County** had the fourth place ranking of the state's publishable counties with a total output of 50,000 bushels of grain sorghum in 2008, which is up 52 percent from the 33,000 bushel crop produced in 2007. Producers harvested 2,000 acres in 2008 compared with 1,500 acres the previous year. The average yield for the 2008 crop was 25.0 bushels per acre compared to the average yield of 22.0 bushels per acre in 2007.

**NOTE:** More detailed reports are available upon request from this office. The reports are also available at the Internet address listed on the front page of this report.

## **COLD STORAGE FEBRUARY 29, 2009**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2009 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, cheese, and pork. Butter stocks were up 17 percent from last month but down 2 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down slightly from the previous month but up 2 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 5 percent from the previous month

and up 4 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 12 percent from last month but down 2 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on February 28, 2009 were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 5 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 7 percent from the previous month and down 15 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 5 percent from last month and up 13 percent from February 28, 2008.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2008	Jan. 31, 2009	Feb. 29, 2009
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter.....	210,422	176,526	206,144
Cheese, total natural .....	800,992	865,259	892,874
Eggs, frozen.....	16,732	22,558	22,085
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,182,753	1,144,045	1,120,961
Chicken .....	760,831	694,432	647,452
Turkey .....	416,694	446,197	470,053
Fruits, frozen .....	1,068,744	1,135,021	1,042,475
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,363,547	1,565,074	1,658,721
Vegetables, total frozen..	1,769,625	2,172,077	1,971,112
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,117,491	1,171,020	1,201,457
Meats, total red.....	1,072,643	1,096,229	1,096,075
Beef, total frozen .....	436,549	462,647	434,166
Pork, total frozen.....	611,830	606,936	636,608

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.

**UPCOMING REPORTS**

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. 27 - Hogs and Pigs
- Mar. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- Mar. 31 - Grain Stocks
- Mar. 31 - Prospective Plantings
- Apr. 09 - Crop Production
- Apr. 15 - Turkey Hatchery
- Apr. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Apr. 17 - Milk Production
- Apr. 17 - Cattle on Feed

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