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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
MARCH 1, 2009

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,050,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, 16 percent below last year's plantings. Sorghum intentions are 180,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2009 at 2,500,000 acres, were revised up 100,000 acres from January's report, and up 350,000 acres from the 2008 crop. Growers intend to seed 30,000 acres of spring wheat this year, down 10,000 acres from last year. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 50,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are down 10,000 acres to 70,000. Growers intend to plant 125,000 acres of sunflowers this year, down 69,000 acres from what they planted in 2008. The acreage of oil varieties is expected total 100,000 acres, down 70,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to increase 1,000 acres to 25,000 this year. The State's dry bean growers indicate they will remain unchanged in planted acreage from last year at 48,000 acres. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 2,500 acres from last year's actual plantings to 36,300 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,600,000 acres this year, up 30,000 acres from the number of acres cut for hay in 2008.

Near average, mountain snowpack should help farmers with appropriate water rights irrigate crops this year. Currently, most growing areas have short soil moisture supplies. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects at planting time and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

Corn growers in the **United States** intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down 1 percent from last year as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007 but will still be the third largest acreage sine 1949, behind 2007 and 2008. Expected acreage is down from later year in many states, however, producers in the 10 major corn producing States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) collectively intend to plant 66.3 million acres, up slightly from the 66.1 million acres planted last year.

The 2009 sorghum area intended to be planed for all purposed is estimated at 6.96 million acres, down 16 percent from 2008. Compared with last year, producers in all States are showing a decline in intended acreage. Producers in Kansas intend to plant 2.80 million acres, down 3 percent from the previous year. The large decline is expected in Texas, where farmers intend to plant 750,000 acres less than 2008. Planting was underway in early March across the Lower Valley and Upper Coast regions of Texas, as 18 percent of the State's crop was planted by March 15, two percentage points behind the 5-year average.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2008-2009

Crop	Colorado		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,250	1,050	85,982	84,986
Sorghum, all	230	180	8,284	6,960
Oats	45	50	3,217	3,400
Wheat, all 1/	2,190	2,530	63,147	58,6.38
Winter	2,150	2,500	46,281	42,889
Spring	40	30	14,135	13,304
Barley	80	70	4,234	3,953
Soybeans	3/	3/	75,718	76,024
Sunflower, all	194.0	125.0	2,516.5	2,069.5
Oil	170.0	100.0	2,163.0	1,737.0
Non-oil	24.0	25.0	353.5	332.5
Dry beans	48.0	48.0	1,495.0	1,546.1
Sugarbeets	33.8	36.3	1,090.8	1,151.6
Hay, all 2/	1,570	1,600	60,062	60,297

1/ Includes Durum for U.S.
2/ Harvested acres 2008, intentions to harvest in 2009.
3/ Not Estimated

Producers intend to harvest 60.3 million acres of all hay in 2009, up slightly from 2008. Harvested area is expected to increase from last year throughout most of the Central Great Plains and the Pacific Northwest. Oklahoma, Montana, Kansas, and Wisconsin expect the largest increase in acreage harvested. North Dakota, Texas, North Carolina, and Missouri expect the largest decreases in acreage harvested. Producers in Oklahoma and Montana intend to harvest 240,000 and 200,000 more acres, respectively, while growers in North Dakota and Texas expect to harvest 420,000 and 130,000 less acres, respectively.

The 2009 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 42.9 million acres, up 2 percent from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Acreage increases from the previous report were mainly in the Hard Red Winter growing States. States with the most notable acreage increases from the previous estimate were Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado. Of the total acreage, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.38 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.65 million acres are White Winter. Winter wheat conditions declined over the winter in several States. Moisture shortages are a concern in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.

GRAIN STOCKS
MARCH 1, 2009

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2009 totaled 25.70 million bushels, down 5 percent from 27.11 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 7.5 million bushels, were up 36 percent from the previous year but off-farm stocks were down 16 percent to 18.20 million bushels. Corn stocks, at 58.70 million bushels, were down 2 percent. Farm stocks were down 9 percent to 30.0 million bushels but off-farm stocks were up 6 percent to 28.70 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were down 23 percent to 50,000 bushels. Off-farm grain sorghum was down 30 percent to 510,000 bushels. Off-farm Barley stocks are at 4.73 million bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2009 in the **United States** totaled 6.96 billion bushels, up 1 percent from March 1, 2008. Of the total stocks, 4.09 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.87 billion bushels, are down 7 percent from a year ago. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance is 3.12 billion bushels, compared with 3.42 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 1.30 billion bushels, down 9 percent from March 1, 2008. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 657 million bushels, up 11 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 645 million bushels, are down 23 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2008 - February 2009 quarter totaled 974 million bushels, up 5 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 1.04 billion bushels, up 46 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 280 million bushels, up 205 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 756 million bushels, are up 23 percent from a year ago. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance is 386 million bushels, down 9 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 128 million bushels, up 16 percent from March 1, 2008. On-farm stocks are estimated at 44.1 million bushels, 56 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 83.9 million bushels, are 2 percent above March 2008. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance totaled 44.9 million bushels, 77 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 95.4 million bushels, 21 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2008. Of the total stocks on hand, 30.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 3 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 65.4 million bushels, up 36 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2008 - February 2009 totaled 19.6 million bushels, up 27 percent from the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2009 totaled 209 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 32.2 million bushels, are up 23 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 177 million bushels, are up 11 percent from a year earlier. The December 2008 - February 2009 indicated disappearance from all positions is 103 million bushels, down 2 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2008-2009

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado 2008	Colorado 2009	United States 2008	United States 2009
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	5,500	7,500	91,990	280,200
Off farms	21,610	18,200	617,280	756,372
Total	27,110	25,700	709,270	1,036,572
Corn				
On farms	33,000	30,000	3,780,000	4,085,000
Off farms	27,055	28,700	3,078,722	2,873,397
Total	60,055	58,700	6,858,722	6,958,397
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	28,270	44,060
Off farms	2/	4,730	82,154	83,895
Total	2/	2/	110,424	127,955
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	31,000	30,000
Off farms	65	50	47,988	65,364
Total	2/	2/	78,988	95,364
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	26,100	32,200
Off farms	725	510	159,808	176,593
Total	2/	2/	185,908	208,793
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	593,000	656,500
Off farms	2/	2/	840,982	645,106
Total	2/	2/	1,433,982	1,301,606

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
2/ Minor states are not published separately, but are included in US total.
3/ Not estimated.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 15, 2009

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 126 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from February. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.7 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for corn, lettuce, snap beans, and tomatoes and lower prices for broilers, soybeans, strawberries, and celery. 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 strawberries, broilers, soybeans, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The March All Crops Index is 147, up 0.7 percent from February but 12 percent below March 2008. Index increases for commercial vegetables, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts, food grains, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for oil-bearing crops and cotton. The March all wheat price, at $5.85 per bushel, is up 6 cents from February but $4.65 below March 2008. The corn price, at $3.96 per bushel, is up 9 cents from last month but 74 cents below March 2008. The all hay price, at $129 per ton, is down $3.00 from February and $4.00 below last March. Sorghum grain, at $5.54 per cwt, is 49 cents above February but $3.50 below March last year. The all potato price, at $9.07 per cwt, is up 20 cents from February and 70 cents from last March. The all dry bean price, at $28.80 per cwt, is down $1.30 from the previous month and $3.40 below March 2008.

The March Livestock and Products Index at 108, is down 0.9 percent from last month and 16 percent from March 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, cattle, eggs, broilers, calves, and turkeys. Hog prices are higher. The March hog price, at $44.20 per cwt, is up 30 cents from February and $3.90 higher than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $78.50 per cwt is down 30 cents from last month and $9.30 lower than March 2008. The March all milk price of $11.50 per cwt is down 10 cents from last month and down $6.60 from March 2008.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index	2008		2009	
1990-92 = 100	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	Percent			
Prices Received	146	146	126	126
Prices Paid	171	174	174	174
Ratio 1/	85	84	72	72

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

Compared with March 2008, **Colorado** crop prices were lower than last year except for hay, while livestock prices all averaged lower. Mid-March 2009 wheat, at $5.13 per bushel, was down $3.66 from a year ago and was $1.36 below last month. Corn prices increased 3 cents from February to $4.00 per bushel but averaged 33 cents below March 2008. The mid-March potato price, at $9.80 per cwt, decreased 70 cents from last month and was 20 cents below March a year ago. Alfalfa hay, at $165.00 per ton, decreased $5.00 per ton from February 2009 and $20.00 from March 2008. The other hay price, at $125.00 per ton, was unchanged from February and March a year ago. The mid-March steer and heifer price, at $89.00 per cwt, down 50 cents from last month and averaged $12.00 below a year ago. Cow prices increased 20 cents from the previous month to $45.70 per cwt but were $8.20 per cwt below March 2008. The mid-March calf price of $105.00 per cwt remained unchanged from last month but down $12.00 from a year ago. The March all milk price of $11.10 per cwt was down 70 cents from last month and $6.70 below March 2008.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2008	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	8.79	6.49	5.13
Corn	Bu.	4.33	3.97	4.00
Barley (All)	Bu.	2/	3/	3/
Potatoes	Cwt	10.00	10.50	9.80
Dry edible beans	Cwt	35.40	32.00	29.50
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	145.00	170.00	165.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	125.00	125.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	100.00	88.60	88.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	101.00	89.50	89.00
Cows	Cwt	53.90	45.50	45.70
Calves	Cwt	117.00	105.00	105.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.00	34.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	99.00	100.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	17.80	11.80	11.10
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	10.50	5.79	5.85
Corn	Bu.	4.70	3.87	3.96
Soybeans	Bu.	11.40	9.55	9.13
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.18	4.94	4.82
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	4.29	2.63	2.98
Sorghum	Cwt	9.04	5.05	5.54
Potatoes	Cwt	8.37	8.87	9.07
Dry edible beans	Cwt	32.20	30.10	28.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	144.00	143.00	137.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	116.00	107.00	109.00
Onions	Cwt	2.53	6.80	5.18
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	87.80	78.80	78.50
Steers & heifers	Cwt	92.90	83.80	83.50
Cows	Cwt	51.50	43.90	44.00
Calves	Cwt	118.00	105.00	104.00
Sheep	Cwt	28.70	31.90	3/
Lambs	Cwt	97.40	100.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	40.30	43.90	44.20
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	18.10	11.60	11.50
Broilers	Lb.	0.46	0.47	0.45

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands

2/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 3/ Not available

4/ Discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS
MARCH 1, 2009

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2009 totaled 730,000 head, down 6 percent from March 1, 2008. The breeding hog inventory at 155,000 head remained unchanged from a year earlier but the market hog inventory was down 8 percent to 575,000 head. Colorado's December 2008- February 2009 pig crop of 636,000 head is down 14 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. There were 74,000 sows farrowed during the December 2008 - February 2009 time period 12 percent below the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 79,000 sows during March - May 2009 period and 77,000 sows during June - August 2009 period.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2009 was 65.4 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2008 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2008. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous quarter.

Market hog inventory, at 59.4 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2008-February 2009 pig crop, at 28.2 million head, was down 1 percent from 2008 but up 7 percent from 2007. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.98 million head, down 3 percent from 2008 but up 3 percent from 2007. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.48 for the December 2008- February 2009 period, compared to 9.24 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.50 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.96 million sows farrow during the March-May 2009 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2008 and down 2 percent from 2007. Intended farrowings for June-August 2009, at 2.95 million sows, are down 4 percent from 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 45 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 40 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2008 through December 2008 were reviewed using slaughter, death loss and current import and export data. Based on this review, adjustments of less than one half of one percent were made to the December 2008 total inventory, March-May 2008 pig crop, and June-August 2008 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2008-2009

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	300	275	67,218	65,389
Kept for breeding	155	155	6,200	6,011
Market	210	190	61,018	59,378
Under 60 lbs	320	315	22,137	21,458
60-119 lbs	85	70	14,490	14,126
120-179 lbs	80	70	13,193	12,862
180 lbs. & over	140	120	11,199	10,932
Sows Farrowed: Dec – Feb	84	74	3,071	2,978
March - May 1/	81	79	3,052	2,962
June – Aug 1/	76	77	3,075	2,952
Pig Crop: Dec – Feb	760	636	28,387	28,230
March - May	712	717	27,870	28,630
June – Aug	676	2/	29,240	2/

1/ Actual for 2008; intentions for 2009. 2/ Not estimated.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2009

Colorado laying flocks produced 89 million eggs during February 2009, up 1 percent from the same month a year earlier but 10 percent below the 99 million eggs produced during January 2009. The average number of layers during February 2009 totaled 3.89 million, down 2 percent from 3.97 million a year earlier but 1 percent below the 3.91 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2009, at 2,288 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,254 eggs per 100 layers during February 2008 and 2,493 for January 2009.

United States egg production totaled 6.89 billion during February 2009, down 3 percent from last year. Production included 5.91 billion table eggs, and 985 million hatching eggs, of which 917 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2009 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,023 eggs, down 2 percent from February 2008.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.07 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2009, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from March 1, 2008.

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 Internet at: **http://www.nass.usda.gov**

April 03 - Vegetables
April 09 - Crop Production
April 15 - Turkey Hatchery
April 15 - Potato Stocks
April 17 - Milk Production
April 17 - Cattle on Feed
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April 21 - Chickens and Eggs
April 24 - Livestock Slaughter

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