



**NATIONAL  
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Released: June 10, 2009

# AG UPDATE

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Vol. 29 No. 11

up 2 percent, pork was down 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 6 percent.

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## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

### APRIL 2009

Red meat production in **Colorado** during April 2009 totaled 169.7 million pounds, 6 percent below 179.9 million pounds produced during April 2008 and nearly unchanged from March 2009. The accumulated production for the first four months of this year now totals 674.6 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 692.5 million pounds during the comparable period last year. Cattle kill in Colorado during April decreased 8 percent from the previous year to 199,500 head. The average live weight of 1,302 pounds was 41 pounds above the average for April 2008. Hog slaughter went up from a year ago to 700 head and the average live weight decreased 1 pound to 258. Sheep and lamb kill during April totaled 83,800 head, up 2 percent from the previous year. The average live weight of 164 pounds decreased 3 pounds from April 2008.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.08 billion pounds in April, down 5 percent from the 4.30 billion pounds produced in April 2008. Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.77 million head, down 6 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.2 million pounds, 6 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 7 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from last year, at 281 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.92 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.43 million head, down 6 percent from April 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from April 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,100 head, 4 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 3 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2009 commercial red meat production was 16.2 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was

### Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States 1/

Area and Species	Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	January-April	
				2008	2009
	<b>Million Pounds</b>				
<b>Colorado</b> .....	179.9	169.4	169.7	692.5	674.6
<b>United States</b> .....	4,298.2	*4,141.6	4,083.9	16,773.1	16,220.2
Beef .....	2,255.4	*2,144.6	2,133.1	8,627.4	8,381.2
Veal .....	11.9	12.2	11.2	45.5	46.4
Pork .....	2,015.6	1,969.0	1,924.1	8,039.2	7,735.2
Lamb & Mutton....	15.3	15.9	15.5	61.0	57.4

\* Revised

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION

### APRIL 2009

**Colorado** laying flocks produced 93 million eggs during April 2009, up 2 percent from the 91 million produced during the same month last year. March egg production was up 2 percent in 2009 at 98 million eggs. During April, the average number of layers was 3.77 million compared with 3.89 million in April 2008 and 3.85 in March 2009. The average number of eggs produced per 100 layers was 2,466 this April compared with 2,337 last April and 2,543 for March of this year.

**United States** egg production totaled 7.46 billion during April 2009, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.41 billion table eggs, and 1.05 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2009 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,196 eggs, up 2 percent from April 2008.

All layers in the United States on May 1, 2009 totaled 339 million, down slightly from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 53.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.01 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2009, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from May 1, 2008.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2009 totaled 40.6 million, down 4 percent from April 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on May 1, 2009, down 12 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 307 thousand during April 2009, up 16 percent from April 2008.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2009 totaled 756 million, down 6 percent from April 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 628 million on May 1, 2009, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.16 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2009, down 13 percent from April 2008.

**ALL CATTLE AND CALVES,  
BEEF COWS AND MILK COWS  
COUNTY ESTIMATES  
JANUARY 1, 2009**

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.

**Weld County**, with 518,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2009, remained the leading cattle county in the state with 20 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 73,000, or 56 percent of the total 130,000 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 230,000 and 222,000 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 177,500 head, followed by **Kit Carson County** at 168,000 head. The counties of **Prowers** (87,000 head), **Otero** (72,500 head), **Crowley** (71,500 head), **Washington** (58,000) and **Baca** (54,500 head) complete the list of the top ten counties in the state for all cattle and calves.

**Weld County** has the state's largest inventory of beef cows with 46,000 head, or 6 percent of the state total of 720,000 head. **Yuma County** has the second largest number of beef cows, at 33,000, or 5 percent of the total. **Las Animas County**, **Logan County**, and **Mesa County** are third, fourth and fifth in the number of beef cows at 30,000 head, 25,000 head, and 25,000 head, respectively. Rounding out the top ten counties in beef cows are **Lincoln County** with 24,500 head, **Conjeos County** with 24,000 head, **Elbert** with 23,500 head, **Montrose County** with 22,500 head and **Washington County** with 21,500 head.

The January 1, 2009 inventory of the top ten counties totaled 1,659,500 head of all cattle and calves, and represented nearly 64 percent of the total cattle inventory in the state. The top ten counties with beef cows had a combined inventory of 275,000 head, representing 38 percent of the state's total inventory of 720,000 head.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES**

**MAY 15, 2009**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 131 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.6 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.3 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, and onions and lower prices for eggs, lettuce, tomatoes, and milk. 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 sweet corn, broilers, grapes, and cantaloupes offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, corn, and apples.

The May All Crops index at 153, is up 1.3 percent from April but 12 percent below May 2008. Index increases for feed grains & hay, oil-bearing crops, fruits & nuts, and food grains more than offset the index decreases for commercial vegetables, cotton, and potatoes & dry beans. The May all wheat price, at \$6.02 per bushel, is up 28 cents from April but \$2.85 below May 2008. The corn price, at \$4.08 per bushel, is up 23 cents from last month but \$1.19 below May 2008. The all hay price, at \$131 per ton, is up \$2.00 from April but down \$37.00 from last May. Sorghum grain, at \$6.14 per cwt, is 57 cents above April but \$3.18 below May last year. The soybean price, at \$10.80 per bushel, increased \$1.01 from April but is \$1.30 below May 2008. The all potato price, at \$9.88 per cwt, is up seven cents from April and 72 cents from last May. The all dry bean price, at \$30.00 per cwt, is down \$1.70 from the previous month and \$5.60 below May 2008.

The May Livestock and Products index, at 112, is unchanged from last month but down 16 percent from May 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for broilers. Prices are down from last year for milk, cattle, hogs, eggs, turkeys, and calves. The May hog price, at \$44.20 per cwt, is up 10 cents from April but \$11.10 lower than a year ago. The May beef cattle price of \$82.80 per cwt is down 70 cents from last month and \$8.50 lower than May 2008. The May all milk price of \$11.70 per cwt is down 20 cents from last month and \$6.60 from May 2008. The fluid grade and the manufacturing grade milk prices are down 20 cents from the previous month.

**Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States**

Index 1990-92 = 100	2008		2009	
	April	May	April	May
	<b>Percent</b>			
Prices Received .....	146	152	129	131
Prices Paid.....	179	184	177	176
Ratio 1/.....	82	83	73	74

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

All mid-May 2009 **Colorado** crop prices except alfalfa hay decreased from the previous year. All mid-May prices for livestock items decreased from May 2008. Wheat, at \$5.64 per bushel, was 8 cents below the previous month and \$1.74 per bushel lower than May a year ago. Corn prices increased 13 cents from April to \$4.00 per bushel but averaged 55 cents per bushel below May 2008. Potatoes were down from the

previous month to \$8.35 per cwt and were \$2.65 per cwt down from the \$11.00 per cwt received in May 2008. Alfalfa hay averaged \$160.00 per ton in mid-May of this year, down from the previous month by \$5.00 per ton but \$10.00 per ton above May 2008. Other hay remained unchanged from the previous month, at \$125.00 per ton, but averaged \$5.00 per ton below May 2008. Steers and heifers, at \$97.00 per cwt, were up 80 cents from April but averaged \$7.00 per cwt below May 2008. Calves were up \$5.00 from the previous month at \$113.00 but were \$2.00 per cwt below the May 2008 average of \$115.00 per cwt. The May 2009 all milk price of \$12.00 was down 10 cents from last month.

## COLD STORAGE APRIL 30, 2009

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2009 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, eggs and cheese. Butter stocks were up 14 percent from last month but down 3 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 1 percent from the previous month but down 5 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 3 percent from the previous month but down 7 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 9 percent from last month but down 21 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2009 were up 8 percent from the previous month but down slightly from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 4 percent from the previous month but down 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 12 percent from last month and up 18 percent from April 30, 2008.

### Average Prices Received By Farmers <sup>1/</sup>

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009
<b>Crops</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	7.38	5.72	5.64
Corn.....	Bu.	4.55	3.87	4.00
Potatoes .....	Cwt	11.00	9.80	8.35
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	36.90	30.70	32.20
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	150.00	165.00	160.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	130.00	125.00	125.00
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	103.00	95.30	96.10
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	104.00	96.20	97.00
Cows .....	Cwt	55.80	50.50	51.40
Calves .....	Cwt	115.00	108.00	113.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	30.00	37.00	2/
Lambs .....	Cwt	104.00	98.00	2/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	18.00	12.10	12.00
<b>United States</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	8.87	5.74	6.02
Corn.....	Bu.	5.27	3.85	4.08
Soybeans.....	Bu.	12.10	9.79	10.80
Barley (All).....	Bu.	4.52	4.76	5.23
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	4.99	2.67	2.75
Sorghum .....	Cwt	9.32	5.57	6.14
Potatoes .....	Cwt	9.16	9.81	9.88
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	35.60	31.70	30.00
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	180.00	133.00	138.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	135.00	117.00	113.00
Onions .....	Cwt	23.90	16.40	23.70
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	91.30	83.50	82.80
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	96.10	88.40	87.20
Cows .....	Cwt	54.10	48.00	49.20
Calves .....	Cwt	120.00	110.00	112.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	25.40	35.00	2/
Lambs .....	Cwt	101.00	102.00	2/
Hogs .....	Cwt	55.30	44.10	44.20
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	18.30	11.90	11.70
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.48	0.45	0.49

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> Mid-month price not estimated.

### Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	April 30, 2008	Mar. 31, 2009	April 30, 2009
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	251,533	212,477	242,746
Cheese, total natural.....	855,863	894,607	914,093
Eggs, frozen.....	16,034	20,343	18,467
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,247,505	1,153,158	1,246,125
Chicken .....	752,875	635,475	663,385
Turkey.....	491,283	513,384	577,316
Fruits, frozen .....	866,161	911,604	897,367
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,579,302	1,694,955	1,783,450
Vegetables, total frozen .....	1,438,084	1,830,459	1,703,797
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,135,035	1,226,843	1,209,220
Meats, total red.....	1,103,911	1,045,263	1,053,173
Beef, total frozen.....	416,354	425,878	410,899
Pork, total frozen.....	663,443	594,127	614,666

### 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>

- June 10 - Crop Production
- June 12 - Potato Stocks
- June 18 - Milk Production
- June 19 - Cattle on Feed
- June 22 - Cold Storage
- June 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- June 26 - Livestock Slaughter
- June 26 - Hogs and Pigs
- June 29 - Agricultural Prices

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