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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2009

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2009 totaled 180.3 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year earlier and 4 percent from the previous month. Cattle kill during October was up 2 percent from a year earlier to 205,300 head but the average live weight decreased 4 pounds to 1,344 pounds per head. Hog slaughter decreased 20 percent to 800 head from a year earlier but the average live weight remained unchanged 258. Accumulated red meat production for the January-October period this year, at 1.72 billion pounds, is 5 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.39 billion pounds in October, down 3 percent from the 4.53 billion pounds produced in October 2008. Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, down 3 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,312 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, 10 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,600 head, down 13 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, at 249 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.09 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.3 million head, down 4 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was down 5 percent from October 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 218,800 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 2 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2009 commercial red meat production was 41.2 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Oct. 2008	Sept. 2009	Oct. 2009	January-October 2008	January-October 2009
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	177.1	173.3	180.3	1,819.8	1,721.3
United States:	4,529.3	4,261.9	4,391.1	42,192.5	41,154.1
Beef....................	2,340.9	2,234.1	2,275.4	22,519.8	21,813.8
Veal....................	13.5	11.7	12.2	118.5	113.4
Pork....................	2,159.9	2,001.3	2,089.1	19,408.6	19,086.1
Lamb & Mutton .	15.0	14.8	14.3	145.6	140.7

FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 11-17, 2009

There were 1,092,000 hired workers on the Nation’s farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $10.23 per hour compared with $10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.
The number of hours worked averaged 39.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Florida, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, continued strong demand from the equine and horticulture industries kept worker numbers higher than last year, despite the extremely wet conditions. Potato and corn harvests in the Pacific region were in high gear in an attempt to beat oncoming rains, causing stronger demand for field workers. In Florida, the reference week was much drier compared with last year when 2 to 3 inches of rain fell statewide, allowing fieldwork to progress rapidly. Therefore, hired worker demand increased. Strong demand from the dairy and horticulture industries in the Mountain II and

Northeast II regions pushed worker numbers above the previous year.

(Continued on next page)

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Number of Workers, and Number of Hours Worked by Region and United States, October 11-17, 2009 [1]

U.S. and Region [2]	Type of Worker			All Hired Workers		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	Wage Rates	Number of Workers	Number of Hours Worked
	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	1,000	Hours per Week
Northeast I	9.96	9.93	9.95	10.41	37	38.5
Northeast II	10.28	9.50	10.05	10.88	38	39.1
Appalachian I	8.67	9.15	8.85	9.55	40	37.9
Appalachian II	9.85	10.38	10.10	11.05	29	34.5
Southeast	8.87	9.33	9.00	9.53	40	37.4
FL	9.30	10.10	9.40	10.65	36	37.3
Lake	11.03	10.10	10.65	11.24	76	34.6
Cornbelt I	11.30	10.51	11.00	11.17	56	36.2
Cornbelt II	10.46	11.23	10.75	10.85	28	33.6
Delta	8.86	9.16	8.95	9.50	34	38.5
Northern Plains	11.77	10.23	11.20	11.80	40	41.0
Southern Plains	9.17	10.64	9.85	10.17	61	39.5
Mountain I	10.45	8.89	9.70	10.05	29	41.1
Mountain II	11.01	11.70	11.25	11.55	20	40.1
Mountain III	9.10	10.06	9.50	10.30	18	45.4
Pacific	11.07	10.42	11.00	11.82	117	40.4
CA	10.25	11.05	10.40	11.25	170	45.6
HI [4]	11.55	13.40	11.69	13.60	6	37.4
US [3]	10.25	10.23	10.24	10.91	875	39.7

1 Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. [2] Regions consist of the following States. Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. [3] Excludes AK. [4] Insufficient data for livestock.

(Farm Labor-continued)

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In northern and central California, heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Melor caused major fieldwork delays. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed. Weather conditions in the Appalachian I, Southern Plains, and Delta regions were considerably wetter compared with last year's relatively dry period, and fieldwork was seriously curtailed for several days. This led to a decreased demand for hired workers.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain II, Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II, and Delta regions. The higher wages in the Appalachian II region were due to a higher percentage of workers on equine farms and on nursery and greenhouse operations. In the remaining regions cited, the higher wages were due to a lower percentage of part time workers.

The 2009 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $10.82 per hour, up 2 percent from the 2008 annual average wage rate of $10.59 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $10.07 per hour, up 29 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $10.11 per hour, up 2 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $9.89 per hour.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

NOVEMBER 15, 2009

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 134 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from October. The Crop Index is down 1 point (0.7 percent) but the Livestock Index increased 4 points (3.6 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, eggs, milk, and tomatoes and lower prices for apples, broccoli, strawberries, and grapes. 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 milk, cotton, cattle, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 176 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from October but 6 points (3.3 percent) below November 2008. Lower prices in November for nitrogen, completed feeds, other services, and potash & phosphate offset higher prices for diesel, supplements, LP gas, and feeder cattle.

November all wheat price, at $4.79 per bushel, is up 32 cents from October but $1.50 below November 2008. The corn price, at $3.64 per bushel, is up 3 cents from last month but 62 cents below November 2008. The all hay price, at $107 per ton, is up $1.00 from October but down $42.00 from last November. Sorghum grain, at $5.79 per cwt, is 24 cents above October but 69 cents below November last year. The soybean price, at $9.48 per bushel, is up 4 cents from October and 9 cents above November 2008. The all potato price, at $7.20 per cwt, is up 17 cents from October but down $1.57 from last November. The all dry bean price, at $31.40 per cwt, is up $1.50 from the previous month but $3.20 below November 2008.

The November Livestock & Products Index, at 114, is 3.6 percent above last month but down 7.3 percent from November 2008. The November hog price, at $40.00 per cwt, is up $2.20 from October but 70 cents lower than a year ago. The November beef cattle price of $79.80 per cwt is up 60 cents from last month but $4.50 lower than November 2008.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2008 Oct.	2008 Nov.	2009 Oct.	2009 Nov.
	Percent			
Prices Received	150	142	134	134
Prices Paid	187	182	176	176
Ratio 1/	80	78	76	76

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged lower than a year ago. Compared with October 2009, there was a decrease in all crop items except for all wheat. Wheat, at $4.49 per bushel increased 34 cents from the previous month but $2.02 below November 2008. Corn was down 8 cents from October to $3.74 per bushel and averaged 76 cents below November 2008. Potato prices, at $5.90 per cwt, decreased 45 cents from October and decreased $8.90 from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices decreased $5.00 from October to $130.00 per ton and other hay decreased to $110.00 per ton from $115 per ton last month.

All livestock items averaged lower than a year ago except cows. Steers and heifers at $91.50 per cwt up $1.50 from October but were $2.60 lower than November 2008. Cow prices decreased 50 cents from October to $44.50 per cwt and were $2.20 below a year earlier. Calves were up $1.00 to $101.00 per cwt but were $1.00 below November 2008. The all milk price, at $14.80, was up 80 cents from last month, but was down $2.30 from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	6.51	4.15	4.49
Corn	Bu.	4.50	3.82	3.74
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.21	5.38	3/
Potatoes	Cwt	14.80	6.35	5.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	40.90	37.50	35.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	170.00	135.00	130.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	115.00	110.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.10	89.10	90.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.10	90.00	91.50
Cows	Cwt	42.30	45.00	44.50
Calves	Cwt	102.00	100.00	101.00
Sheep	Cwt	30.00	29.00	2/
Lambs	Cwt	99.00	96.00	2/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	17.10	14.00	14.80
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	6.29	4.47	4.79
Corn	Bu.	4.26	3.61	3.64
Soybeans	Bu.	9.39	9.44	9.48
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.44	4.35	4.10
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	3.43	2.33	2.35
Sorghum	Cwt	6.48	5.55	5.79
Potatoes	Cwt	8.77	7.03	7.20
Dry edible beans	Cwt	34.60	29.90	31.40
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	165.00	109.00	110.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	113.00	98.50	99.10
Onions	Cwt	10.50	8.64	8.54
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	84.30	79.20	79.80
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.90	84.40	85.60
Cows	Cwt	43.10	43.60	42.00
Calves	Cwt	105.00	104.00	105.00
Sheep	Cwt	27.30	30.00	2/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	97.00	2/
Hogs	Cwt	40.70	37.80	40.00
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	17.10	14.20	15.00
Broilers	Lb.	0.46	0.40	0.41

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 prices discontinued.

CATTLE ON FEED

NOVEMBER 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 November 1, 2009. The latest inventory was up 8 percent from October 1, 2009 and up 8 percent from the 960,000 on feed on November 1, 2008. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 160,000 head of fed cattle during October 2009. This was 3 percent above September 2009 marketings of 155,000 head and 7 percent above a year ago. An estimated 245,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, even with a year ago but down 6 percent from the September 2009 placements of 260,000.

Of the number placed in October, 20 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 37 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from October 2008 and September 2009.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on November 1, 2009. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2008. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.47 million, 1 percent above 2008. Net placements were 2.42 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 615,000, 600-699 pounds were 645,000, 700-799 pounds were 579,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 635,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2008. Other disappearance totaled 59,000 during October, 12 percent below 2008.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots
October 1 to November 1, 2008-2009

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	870	960	10,415	10,474
Placements During Oct.	245	245	2,438	2,474
< 600 pounds	50	50	700	615
600 - 699 Pounds	70	45	615	645
700 - 799 Pounds	45	60	543	579
800 Plus Pounds	80	90	580	635
Marketings During Oct.	150	160	1,814	1,755
Other Disap. During Oct.	5	5	67	59
On Feed November 1	960	1,040	10,972	11,134

CHICKENS AND EGGS
OCTOBER 2009

Colorado laying flocks produced 90 million eggs during October 2009, up 4 million from the previous month but down 1 million from October 2008. The number of layers during October 2009 totaled 3.68 million, up 3 percent from the previous month but 1 percent below October 2008. The rate of lay, at 2,446 eggs per 100 layers increased 2 percent from a month earlier and slightly up from October a year ago.

United States egg production totaled 7.69 billion during October 2009, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.63 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 990 million were broiler-type and 70 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2009 averaged 336 million, up slightly from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,292 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2008.

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2009 totaled 337 million, up slightly from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 52.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.90 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2009, averaged 74.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 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 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

Dec.	15	-	Potato Stocks
Dec.	18	-	Milk Production
Dec.	18	-	Cattle on Feed
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