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POTATO STOCKS

MARCH 1, 2010

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 10.5 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of March 1, 2010 compared with 11.1 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 48 percent of the 22.08 million cwt produced in 2009. The March 1, 2009 stocks represented 51 percent of the 21.91 million cwt of fall potatoes produced in 2008. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2004-2008 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 170 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above March 1, 2008. Potatoes in storage accounted for 44 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 3 percentage points above March 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.20 million cwt on March 1, 2010, up 10 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 214 million cwt, was 2 percent below March 1, 2009 and down 9 percent from 2008. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.9 million cwt, was up 12 percent from the same date in 2009 and 3 percent above 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 108 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 7 percent from the same period last year and down 14 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 19.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 22 percent below the same period in 2008.

CATTLE ON FEED

MARCH 1, 2010

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 940,000 head as of March 1, 2010. The latest inventory was 2 percent below last month's inventory and 10

percent below March 1, 2009 inventory.

Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 175,000 head of fed cattle during February 2010. This was 3 percent above the previous month's marketings and 6 percent above marketings one year earlier. An estimated 160,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, up 23 percent from January 2010 placements but down 16 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in February, 9 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 31 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 38 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 5,000 head, was no change from last year, but 5,000 head less than last month.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on March 1, 2010. The inventory was 3 percent below March 1, 2009. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.67 million, 1 percent below 2009. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 520,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 460,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.72 million, 2 percent above 2009. Other disappearance totaled 68,000 during February, 21 percent above 2009.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States 1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2009-2010

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 head			
On Feed Feb. 1	1,020	960	11,288	10,984
Placements During Feb.	190	160	1,678	1,665
< 600 pounds	20	15	320	320
600 – 699 Pounds	45	35	385	365
700 – 799 Pounds	55	50	538	520
800 Plus Pounds	70	60	435	460
Marketings During Feb.	165	175	1,682	1,717
Other Disap. During Feb.	5	5	56	68
On Feed Mar. 1	1,040	940	11,228	10,864

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER FEBRUARY 2010

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2010 totaled 169.5 million pounds, up 3 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter increased 5 percent to 195,700 head and the average live weight of 1,327 pounds per head was 39 pounds lighter than February 2009. Hog slaughter, at 700 head, was up 17 percent from a year earlier and the average live weight of 263 was up 9 pounds from the February 2009 average. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2010 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 344.8 million pounds, up 3 percent from the 335.5 million pounds produced during January and February of 2009.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.74 billion pounds in February, down 2 percent from the 3.83 billion pounds produced in February 2009. Beef production, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.55 million head, up 1 percent from February 2009. The average live weight was down 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds. Veal production totaled 10.7 million pounds, 2 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,000 head, down slightly from February 2009. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from last year, at 247 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.69 million head, down 3 percent from February 2009. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 270 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 12.3 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 178,400 head, 1 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2010 commercial red meat production was 7.65 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was down 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area And Species	Feb. 2009	Jan. 2010	Feb. 2010	Jan-Feb	
				2009	2010
Million Pounds					
Colorado:	165.1	175.3	169.5	335.5	344.8
United States ^{1/}:	3,827.0	3,917.6	3,736.1	7,997.2	7,653.8
Beef	1,986.0	2,083.1	1,955.7	4,103.9	4,038.7
Veal	11.0	11.6	10.7	23.0	22.3
Pork	1,817.3	1,810.1	1,757.4	3,844.3	3,567.6
Lamb & Mutton	12.7	12.8	12.3	26.0	25.2

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding.

MILK PRODUCTION FEBRUARY 2010 - 23 STATES

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2010 totaled 209 million pounds, down 8 percent from last year. The average number of cows for February at 116,000 head, decreased 9 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,800 pounds for the month of February, 1 percent above February 2009.

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.6 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from February 2009. January revised production at 14.8 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from January 2009. The January revision represented an increase of 14 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,640 pounds for February, 35 pounds above February 2009. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.32 million head, 168,000 head less than February 2009, but 3,000 head more than January 2010.

Milk Production, February, 2009-2010

Item	Unit	2009	2010
Colorado:			
Milk Cows ^{1/}	1,000 Head	128	116
Production Per Cow	Pounds	1,780	1,800
Production ^{2/}	Mil. Lbs.	228	209
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows ^{1/}	1,000 Head	8,486	8,318
Production Per Cow	Pounds	1,605	1,640
Production ^{2/}	Mil. Lbs.	13,624	13,643

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

COLD STORAGE FEBRUARY 29, 2010

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 28, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for cheese and eggs. Butter stocks were up 18 percent from last month but down 3 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up slightly from the previous month but down 13 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 5 percent from the previous month but down 17 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 4 percent from last month but down 27 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on February 28, 2010 were up 4 percent from the previous month but down 13 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 4 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 14 percent from last month but down 25 percent from February 28, 2009.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2009	Jan. 31, 2010	Feb. 29, 2010
1,000 Pounds			
Butter.....	204,927	168,248	198,071
Cheese, total natural	892,541	973,139	983,622
Eggs, frozen	22,065	24,340	24,095
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,113,610	935,104	974,083
Chicken	647,759	630,249	624,323
Turkey	462,395	302,058	345,810
Fruits, frozen	1,038,062	1,225,951	1,122,325
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,670,284	1,628,009	1,691,832
Vegetables, total frozen..	1,984,061	2,315,027	2,138,059
Potatoes, total frozen	1,192,095	1,091,266	1,106,521
Meats, total red.....	1,084,860	938,370	939,825
Beef, total frozen.....	434,514	426,259	401,601
Pork, total frozen.....	624,477	492,287	516,801

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. 26 - 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. 19 - Milk Production
- Apr. 23 - Cattle on Feed

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