NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office
PO Box 150969
Lakewood, CO 80215 **Phone:** (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 **FAX:** (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

To access NASS and Colorado reports: http://www.nass.usda.gov

Released: April 5, 2010 Vol. 30 No. 7

Contents of This Issue

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

MARCH 1, 2010

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,350,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, 23 percent above last year's plantings. Sorghum intentions are 200,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2010 at 2,450,000 acres, were revised up 50,000 acres from January's report, but down 150,000 acres from the 2009 crop. Growers intend to seed 35,000 acres of spring wheat this year, up 5,000 acres from last year. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 45,000 acres, is down 15,000 acres from actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are down 5,000 acres to 73,000. Growers intend to plant 145,000 acres of sunflowers this year, up 54,000 acres from what they planted in 2009. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 110,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to increase 14,000 acres to 35,000 this year. The State's dry bean growers indicate they will plant 58, 000 acres this year compared with the 57,000 last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to decrease 5,300 acres from last year's actual plantings to 29,800 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,630,000 acres this year, up 30,000 acres from the number of acres cut for hay in 2009.

Mountain snowpack is 89 percent of average statewide, but farmers with appropriate water rights should be able to irrigate crops this year. Currently, most growing areas have adequate 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 88.8 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2010, up 3 percent from both last year and 2008. Expected acreage is up in many States due to reduced winter wheat acreage and expectations of improved net returns. Acreage increases of 300,000 or more are expected in Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, and Ohio. The largest decreases are expected in Iowa, down 200,000 acres, and Texas, down 150,000 acres.

The 2010 sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 6.36 million acres, down 4 percent from 2009 Producers in Kansas intend to plant 2.70 million acres, unchanged from last year. The largest decline is expected in Texas, where farmers intend to plant 300,000 acres less than 2009. Planting was underway in early March in the Coastal end region of Texas, as 24 percent of the State's crop was planted by March 21, five percentage points behind the 5year- average.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2009-2010

Crop	Colorado 2009	Colorado 2010	United States 2009	United States 2010
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,100	1,350	86,482	88,798
Sorghum, all	180	200	6,633	6,360
Oats	60	45	3,404	3,364
Wheat, all 1/	2,630	2,485	59,133	53,827
Winter	2,600	2,450	43,311	37,698
Spring	30	35	13,268	13,906
Barley	78	73	3,567	3,273
Soybeans	3/	3/	77,451	78,098
Sunflower, all	91.0	145.0	2,030.0	2,181.0
Oil	70.0	110.0	1,698.0	1,714.0
Non-oil	21.0	35.0	332.0	467.0
Dry beans	57.0	58.0	1,537.5	1,766.6
Sugarbeets	35.1	29.8	1,183.2	1,174.2
Hay, all 2/	1,600	1,630	59,755	60,460

1/ Includes Durum for U.S.
2/ Harvested acres 2009, intentions to harvest in 2010.
3/ Not Estimated

Producers intend to harvest 60.5 million acres of all hay in 2010, up 1 percent from 2009. Harvested area is expected to increase from last year throughout most of the Southern Great Plains, Southwest, and Coastal Plains. The largest increases in acreage harvested are expected in Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin. Compared with last year, producers in Missouri and Texas intend to harvest 220,000 and 180,000 more acres, respectively, while growers in Montana and Kentucky expect to harvest 100,000 and 70,000 less acres, respectively.

The 2010 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 37.7 million acres, down 13 percent from 2009 but up 2 percent from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. This is the lowest United States total since 1970 and record lows are estimated in Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio. States with notable acreage increases from the previous estimate were Nebraska and Texas, up 100,000 and 200,000 acres, respectively. Of the 2010 total acreage, about 28.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.0 million acres are Soft Red

Winter, and 3.4 million acres are White Winter. Winter wheat conditions declined over the winter in several States. Adequate moisture levels were reported throughout much of the Great Plains.

GRAIN STOCKS
MARCH 1, 2010

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2010 totaled 32.10 million bushels, up 25 percent from 25.70 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 8.5 million bushels, were up 13 percent from the previous year and off-farm stocks were up 30 percent to 23.60 million bushels. Corn stocks, at 58.99 million bushels, were up less than 1 percent. Farm stocks were up 10 percent to 33.0 million bushels but off-farm stocks were down 9 percent to 25.99 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were up 2 percent to 51,000 bushels. Off-farm grain sorghum was up 120 percent to 1.12 million bushels. Off-farm Barley stocks are at 6.72 million bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2010 in the **United States** totaled 7.69 billion bushels, up 11 percent from March 1, 2009. Of the total stocks, 4.55 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 11 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.15 billion bushels, are up 10 percent from a year ago. The December 2009 - February 2010 indicated disappearance is 3.23 billion bushels, compared with 3.12 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2010 totaled 1.27 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 2009. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 609 million bushels, down 7 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 661 million bushels, are up 2 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2009 - February 2010 quarter totaled 1.07 billion bushels, up 10 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2010 totaled 1.35 billion bushels, up 30 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 348 million bushels, up 24 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 1.00 billion bushels, are up 32 percent from a year ago. The December 2009 - February 2010 indicated disappearance is 429 million bushels, up 12 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in all positions on March 1, 2010 totaled 157 million bushels, up 22 percent from March 1, 2009. On-farm stocks are estimated at 67.4 million bushels, 52 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 90.0 million bushels, are 6 percent above March 2009. The December 2009 - February 2010 indicated disappearance totaled 49.0 million bushels, 12 percent above the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on March 1, 2010 totaled 98.0 million bushels, 3 percent above the stocks on March 1, 2009. Of the total stocks on hand, 30.9 million bushels are stored on farms, up 2 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 67.1 million bushels, up 3 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2009 - February 2010 totaled 12.6 million bushels, down 35 percent from the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2010 totaled 175 million bushels, down 15 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 23.7 million bushels, are down 26 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 152 million bushels, are down 13 percent from a year earlier. The December 2009 - February 2010 indicated disappearance from all positions is 75.5 million bushels, down 18 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2009-2010

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado 2009	Colorado 2010	United States 2009	United States 2010
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	7,500	8,500	280,400	348,200
Off farms	18,200	23,600	759,664	1,004,133
Total	25,700	32,100	1,040,064	1,352,333
Corn				
On farms	30,000	33,000	4,085,000	4,548,000
Off farms	28,700	25,988	2,869,145	3,145,940
Total	58,700	58,988	6,954,145	7,693,940
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	44,310	67,370
Off farms	4,730	6,720	84,791	90,029
Total	2/	2/	129,101	157,399
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	30,200	30,900
Off farms	50	51	65,250	67,126
Total	2/	2/	95,450	98,026
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	32,200	23,680
Off farms	510	1,121	173,650	151,581
Total	2/	2/	205,850	175,261
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	656,500	609,200
Off farms	2/	2/	645,289	660,806
Total	2/	2/	1,301,789	1,270,006

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, 2010

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 141 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 6 points (4.4 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (5.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (4.1 percent). Producers received higher prices for onions, lettuce, eggs, and cattle and lower prices for milk, corn, soybeans, and apples. 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, soybeans, broilers, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The March All Crops Index is 155, up 5.4 percent from February and March 2009. Index increases for commercial vegetables, fruits & nuts, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, oil-bearing crops, food grains, and cotton. The March all wheat price, at $4.63 per bushel, is down 10 cents from February and $1.08 below March 2009. The corn price, at $3.49 per bushel, is down 6 cents from last month and 36 cents below March 2009. The all hay price, at $108.00 per ton, is up $1.00 from February but down $21.00 from last March. Sorghum grain, at $5.34 per cwt, is 10 cents below February and 3 cents lower than March last year. The all potato price, at $7.46 per cwt, is up 12 cents from February but down $1.81 from last March. The all dry bean price, at $30.80 per cwt, is up 50 cents from the previous month but $1.70 below March 2009.

The March Livestock and Products Index at 128, is 4.1 percent above last month and up 17 percent from March 2009. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for milk, cattle, eggs, hogs, broilers, turkeys, and calves. The March hog price, at $52.80 per cwt, is up $4.00 from February and $8.90 higher than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $88.80 per cwt is up $3.30 from last month and $9.70 higher than March 2009. The March all milk price of $15.10 per cwt is 80 cents lower than last month but up $3.30 from March 2009.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index	2009		2010	
1990-92 = 100	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	Percent			
Prices Received	126	126	135	141
Prices Paid	179	180	184	184
Ratio 1/	70	70	73	77

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

Compared with March 2009, **Colorado** crop prices were lower than last year, while livestock prices all averaged higher. Mid-March 2010 wheat, at $3.97 per bushel, was down $1.97 from a year ago and was 32 cents below last month. Corn prices decreased 22 cents from February to $3.34 per bushel and averaged 52 cents below March 2009. The mid-March potato price, at $5.65 per cwt, decreased 5 cents from last month and was $4.75 below March a year ago. Alfalfa hay, at $120.00 per ton, decreased $5.00 per ton from February 2010 and $45.00 below March 2009. The other hay price, at $120.00 per ton, was $5.00 above February but $5.00 below March a year ago. The mid-March steer and heifer price, at $99.00 per cwt, up $3.00 from last month and averaged $9.00 above a year ago. Cow prices increased 80 cents from the previous month to $55.00 per cwt and were $8.80 per cwt above March 2009. The mid-March calf price of $117.00 per cwt increase $2.00 from last month and up $12.00 from a year ago. The March all milk price of $15.20 per cwt was down 70 cents from last month but $3.50 above March 2009.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Mar. 2009	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2010
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	5.94	4.29	3.97
Corn	Bu.	3.86	3.56	3.34
Barley (All)	Bu.	2/	3/	3/
Potatoes	Cwt	10.40	5.70	5.65
Dry edible beans	Cwt	33.10	33.00	31.40
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	165.00	125.00	120.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	115.00	120.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	89.10	95.20	98.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	90.00	96.00	99.00
Cows	Cwt	46.20	54.20	55.00
Calves	Cwt	105.00	115.00	117.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.00	55.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	106.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	11.70	15.90	15.20
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	5.71	4.73	4.63
Corn	Bu.	3.85	3.55	3.49
Soybeans	Bu.	9.12	9.41	9.16
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.03	4.51	3.82
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.73	3.10	2.40
Sorghum	Cwt	5.37	5.44	5.34
Potatoes	Cwt	9.27	7.34	7.46
Dry edible beans	Cwt	32.50	30.30	30.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	138.00	111.00	111.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	110.00	97.10	98.60
Onions	Cwt	6.99	16.70	38.30
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	79.10	85.50	88.80
Steers & heifers	Cwt	84.00	90.50	93.90
Cows	Cwt	44.40	51.60	52.40
Calves	Cwt	106.00	112.00	113.00
Sheep	Cwt	32.10	55.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	106.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	43.90	48.80	52.80
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	11.80	15.90	15.10
Broilers	Lb.	0.45	0.47	0.49

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, 2010

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2010 totaled 730,000 head, down 1 percent from March 1, 2009. The breeding hog inventory at 150,000 head remained unchanged from a year earlier but the market hog inventory was down 2 percent to 580,000 head. Colorado's December 2009- February 2010 pig crop of 682,000 head is up 6 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. There were 71,000 sows farrowed during the December 2009- February 2010 time period 5 percent below the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 74,000 sows during March - May 2010 period and 74,000 sows during June - August 2010 period.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2010 was 64.0 million head. This was down 3 percent from March 1, 2009 and down 2 percent from December 1, 2009. Breeding inventory, at 5.76 million head, was down 4 percent from last year and down 2 percent from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.2 million head, was down 3 percent from last year and down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2009-February 2010 pig crop, at 27.9 million head, was down 2 percent from 2009 and down 2 percent from 2008. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.90 million head, down 4 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.61 for the December 2009-February 2010 period, compared to 9.48 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.70 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2010 quarter, down 4 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2009 and down 5 percent from 2008. Intended farrowings for June-August 2010, at 2.89 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2009 and down 6 percent from 2008. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 44 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 45 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2009 through December 2009 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 June-August 2009 pig crop and September 2009 total inventory. An adjustment of less than one percent was made to the December 2009 total inventory.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2009-2010

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	740	730	65,819	63,988
Kept for breeding	150	150	5,992	5,760
Market	590	580	59,828	58,228
Under 60 lbs	290	270	19,809	19,017
60-119 lbs	105	115	16,426	15,993
120-179 lbs	70	80	12,732	12,477
180 lbs. & over	125	115	10,862	10,742
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec-Feb	75	71	3,011	2,901
March - May 1/	72	74	3,018	2,898
June – Aug 1/	72	74	2,959	2,887
Pig Crop:				
Dec-Feb	645	682	28,552	27,873
March - May	717	2/	28,631	2/
June – Aug	684	2/	28,718	2/

1/ Actual for 2009; intentions for 2010. 2/ Not estimated.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2010

Colorado laying flocks produced 80 million eggs during February 2010, down 10 percent from the same month a year earlier and 11 percent below the 90 million eggs produced during January 2010. The average number of layers during February 2010 totaled 3.57 million, down 8 percent from 3.89 million a year earlier but 1 percent below the 3.59 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2010, at 2,240 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,288 eggs per 100 layers during February 2009 and 2,508 for January 2010.

United States egg production totaled 6.90 billion during February 2010, down slightly from last year. Production included 5.92 billion table eggs, and 983 million hatching eggs, of which 915 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2010 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,038 eggs, up 1 percent from February 2009.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2010 totaled 339 million, down slightly from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 281 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.96 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2010, averaged 73.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2009.

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 09 - Crop Production
April 15 - Turkey Hatchery
April 15 - Potato Stocks
April 19 - Milk Production
April 22 - Cold Storage
April 23 - Cattle on Feed
April 23 - Chickens and Eggs
April 23 - Livestock Slaughter

William Meyer **Rodger Ott**

Director **Deputy Director**

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE **COLORADO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE**