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CATTLE ON FEED

APRIL 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 930,000 head as of April 1, 2010. The latest inventory was 1 percent below last month's inventory and 11 percent below April 1, 2009 inventory. The inventory included 630,000 steers and steer calves, down 6 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 295,000 head, are down 19 percent from a year ago. The number of cows and bulls totaled 5,000, no change from last year's number. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 190,000 head of fed cattle during March 2010. This was 9 percent above the previous month's marketings and 23 percent above marketings one year earlier. An estimated 185,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, up 16 percent from February 2010 placements and up 12 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 16 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 38 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 24 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 5,000 head, was no change from last month, but 5,000 head less than last year.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on April 1, 2010. The inventory was 4 percent below April 1, 2009. The inventory included 6.71 million steers and steer calves, down 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.02 million head, down 3 percent from 2009. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.86 million, 3 percent above 2009. Net placements were 1.80 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 395,000, 600-699 pounds were 375,000, 700-799 pounds were 602,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 485,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.90 million, 4 percent above 2009. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during March, 20 percent above 2009. This is the second lowest other disappearance for the month of March since the series began in 1996.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2008-2009

| Item | Colorado | | United States | |
|--------------------------|------------|------|---------------|--------|
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2009 | 2010 |
| | 1,000 head | | | |
| On Feed March 1 | 1,040 | 940 | 11,228 | 10,874 |
| Placements During Mar. | 165 | 185 | 1,808 | 1,857 |
| < 600 pounds | 20 | 30 | 305 | 395 |
| 600 - 699 pounds | 25 | 40 | 340 | 375 |
| 700 - 799 pounds | 55 | 70 | 593 | 602 |
| 800 plus pounds | 65 | 45 | 570 | 485 |
| Marketings During Mar. | 155 | 190 | 1,824 | 1,902 |
| Other Disap. During Mar. | 10 | 5 | 50 | 60 |
| On Feed April 1 | 1,040 | 930 | 11,162 | 10,769 |
| Steers & Steer Calves | 670 | 630 | 6,984 | 6,707 |
| Heifers & Heifer Calves | 365 | 295 | 4,127 | 4,021 |
| Cows & Bulls | 5 | 5 | 51 | 41 |

CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION MARCH 2010

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during March 2010 compared with 98 million in March 2009 and 80 million in February 2010. The number of layers during March of this year was nearly 3.70 million, down from 3.85 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,485 for March 2010 compared with 2,543 for March 2009.

United States egg production totaled 7.81 billion during March 2010, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.71 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 76 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2010 averaged 341 million, up slightly from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,292 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2009. All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2010 totaled 342 million, up slightly from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.03 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2010, averaged 74.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2009.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2010 totaled 45.2 million, up 8 percent from March 2009. Eggs in incubators totaled 42.9 million on April 1, 2010, up 14 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 260 thousand during March 2010, down 6 percent from March 2009.

**MILK PRODUCTION
MARCH 2010 - 23 STATES**

Colorado dairy herds produced 232 million pounds of milk during March 2010, down 21 million pounds from March last year. The average number of cows, at 116,000, is down 12,000 head from the 128,000 cows on hand a year ago. The average milk per cow for the month of March in Colorado was 2,000 pounds per cow compared with 1,980 pounds per cow in March 2009.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 15.4 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from March 2009. February revised production at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 0.3 percent from February 2009. The February revision represented an increase of 17 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,846 pounds for March, 51 pounds above March 2009. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.32 million head, 162,000 head less than March 2009, but 1,000 head more than February 2010. Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 47.3 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.30 million head, 11,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States

| Item | March 2009 | Feb. 2010 | March 2010 |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Colorado | | | |
| Milk Cows (1,000 head) ^{1/} | 128 | 116 | 116 |
| Milk Per Cow (lbs.) ^{2/} | 1,980 | 1,800 | 2,000 |
| Production (mil. Lbs.) ^{2/} | 253 | 209 | 232 |
| 23 States | | | |
| Milk Cows (1,000 head) ^{1/} | 8,482 | 8,319 | 8,320 |
| Milk Per Cow (lbs.) ^{2/} | 1,795 | 1,642 | 1,846 |
| Production (mil. Lbs.) ^{2/} | 15,222 | 13,660 | 15,355 |

^{1/} Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2010

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 8.1 million hundredweight of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2010, down 10 percent from the 9.0 million hundredweight on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 37 percent of the 22.08 million hundredweight produced in 2010. 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 129 million hundredweight of potatoes in storage April 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year

ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 34 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 3 percentage points above April 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.40 million hundredweight on April 1, 2010, down 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 255 million hundredweight, was slightly above April 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 24.4 million hundredweight, was up 18 percent from the same date in 2009.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 125 million hundredweight of potatoes this season, down 6 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 23.0 million hundredweight of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

COLD STORAGE - MARCH 31, 2010

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2010 were greater than year earlier levels for cheese and eggs. Butter stocks were down 3 percent from last month and down 7 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 11 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 14 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 6 percent from last month but down 19 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2010 were up 3 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 2 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 11 percent from last month but down 26 percent from March 31, 2009.

Stocks in Storage, United States

| Commodity | Mar. 31, 2009 | Feb. 29, 2010 | Mar. 31, 2010 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 1,000 Pounds | | |
| Butter | 212,477 | 203,235 | 196,585 |
| Cheese, total natural | 915,189 | 985,657 | 1,000,778 |
| Eggs, frozen | 20,343 | 24,106 | 21,608 |
| Poultry, total frozen | 1,153,158 | 974,184 | 1,002,657 |
| Chicken | 635,475 | 627,816 | 619,850 |
| Turkey | 513,384 | 342,418 | 379,135 |
| Fruits, frozen..... | 910,992 | 1,125,941 | 1,016,713 |
| Fruit Juices, frozen | 1,714,376 | 1,698,585 | 1,671,188 |
| Vegetables, total frozen | 1,830,459 | 2,151,804 | 1,960,387 |
| Potatoes, total frozen | 1,226,843 | 1,113,590 | 1,107,145 |
| Meats, total red | 1,045,263 | 941,914 | 925,111 |
| Beef, total frozen | 425,878 | 404,505 | 390,524 |
| Pork, total frozen | 594,127 | 515,911 | 510,482 |

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

ONIONS - 2010 CROPS

Colorado producers intend to plant 8,200 acres of summer

storage onions in 2010, up 3 percent from last year.

Onions for Fresh Market 2008-2010 Crops

| Crop | Area Planted | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| | Acres | | |
| Spring <u>1/</u> | | | |
| Total | 31,200 | 30,100 | 28,200 |
| Summer: <u>1/</u> | | | |
| Non-Storage | | | |
| CA | 7,800 | 6,600 | 6,900 |
| NV | 2,600 | 3,400 | 3,200 |
| NM | 7,000 | 5,200 | 5,500 |
| TX | 800 | 700 | 600 |
| WA <u>2/</u> | 1,900 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total | 20,100 | 17,900 | 18,200 |
| Storage | | | |
| CA <u>3/</u> | 32,500 | 32,600 | 29,000 |
| CO | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,200 |
| ID | 8,800 | 9,000 | 9,800 |
| MI | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,500 |
| NY | 10,600 | 10,600 | 10,700 |
| OR: | | | |
| Malheur | 12,200 | 11,200 | 11,400 |
| Other | 9,600 | 9,100 | 9,400 |
| WA | 20,000 | 21,000 | 21,000 |
| WI | 1,900 | 2,000 | 1,900 |
| Oth Sts <u>4/</u> | 1,690 | 1,910 | 1,710 |
| Total | 109,290 | 109,410 | 107,610 |
| Total Summer..... | 129,390 | 127,310 | 125,810 |
| U.S..... | 160,590 | 157,410 | 154,010 |

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ Includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.
3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing. 4/ OH and UT.

down 6 percent from 2009. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 5.12 million cwt, 7 percent below last year. Summer non-storage onion planted area, at 18,200 acres, is up 2 percent from a year ago. Total summer onion area, at 125,810 acres, is down 1 percent from the previous year.

Storage planted area is 107,610 acres, down 2 percent from 2009. California acreage, which is primarily dehydrated or otherwise processed, is down 11 percent from last year. Despite concerns with water availability during planting, good growing conditions are currently being reported. In Idaho, snow pack on March 1 was reported to be below average. In Washington, summer onion planting began in some areas around March 1.

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>

- Apr. 29 - Dairy Products - Annual
- Apr. 29 - Livestock Slaughter - Annual
- Apr. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- May 11 - Crop Production
- May 14 - Potato Stocks
- May 18 - Milk Production
- May 21 - Cattle on Feed

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
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United States total planted onion area for all seasons in 2010 is forecast at 154,010 acres, down 2 percent from last year. For Spring onions producers planted 28,200 acres in 2010,