NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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

USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office
Denver Federal Center Bldg 67, Room 630
Denver, CO 80225 **Phone:** (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 **FAX:** (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

Released: May 20, 2010 Vol. 30 No. 9

Contents of This Issue

▸Livestock Slaughter
▸ Hay Stocks
▸ Crop Production
▸ Agricultural Prices
▸Potato Stocks

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - MARCH 2010

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2010 totaled 193.8 million pounds, 14 percent above the same month a year earlier and 14 percent above February 2010. Beef slaughter increased 19 percent from March 2009 to 225,600 head, and the average live weight of 1,308 decreased 49 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter increased 17 percent to 700 head, and the average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 240. Accumulated red meat production for the first three months of 2010 totaled 538.6 million pounds, up from the 504.9 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.28 billion pounds in March, up 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in March 2009. Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.91 million head, up 7 percent from March 2009. The average live weight was down 32 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, slightly below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,800 head, up slightly from March 2009. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from last year, at 259 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.04 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.0 million head, up 4 percent from March 2009. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.6 million pounds, was up 11 percent from March 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,300 head, 18 percent above last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 8 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2010 commercial red meat production was 11.9 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was down 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Mar. 2009	Feb. 2010	Mar. 2010	January-March 2009	January-March 2010
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	169.4	169.5	193.8	504.9	538.6
United States:	4,141.9	3,736.2	4,281.7	12,139.0	11,935.5
Beef	2,144.0	1,955.7	2,212.1	6,247.9	6,250.8
Veal	12.2	10.7	12.2	35.2	34.5
Pork	1,969.7	1,757.4	2,039.9	5,814.0	5,607.4
Lamb & Mutton	15.9	12.3	17.6	41.9	42.8

HAY STOCKS
MAY 1, 2009

Hay stocks on **Colorado** farms and ranches as of May 1, 2010 totaled 650,000 tons, up 63 percent from stocks of 400,000 tons on hand last year. More hay production last year combined with better pasture conditions last fall and winter led to the increase in hay inventory.

All hay stored in the **United States** on farms May 1, 2010 totaled 20.9 million tons, down 5 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2009-May 1, 2010 totaled 86.3 million tons, compared with 81.6 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased in the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley, Rocky Mountains, and much of the Southwest. Stock increases in these areas were largely attributed to improved spring pasture conditions and in many cases, higher 2009 hay production. Stocks in Kentucky and Rhode Island showed the largest increases with 116 and 100 percent, respectively. A harsh, snowy winter in many States in these areas caused hay stocks to dwindle as producers were forced to feed more hay due to the lack of available winter pastures. Hay stocks were also lower compared with May 1, 2009 in California, Washington, and Utah. Overall, the greatest percentage declines occurred in Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas.

Meanwhile, in the eastern United States, higher production, milder winter weather, increased precipitation, and lower cattle inventories contributed to higher hay stocks on May 1. The largest increase was shown in Tennessee where stocks were 157 percent higher than a year earlier. Other notable increases where shown in Alabama and Kentucky, both up 150 percent from May 2008. Stocks in the western United States were also higher than a year ago as lower demand was noted in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Hay Stocks on Farms, Selected States and U. S. May 1, 2008-2010

State	2008	2009	2010
	1,000 tons		
Alabama	150	375	192
Arizona	36	50	60
Arkansas	530	570	340
California	250	470	432
Colorado	**520**	**400**	**650**
Connecticut	8	9	14
Delaware	1	4	4
Florida	66	58	40
Georgia	145	238	210
Idaho	300	450	775
Illinois	210	300	310
Indiana	93	185	198
Iowa	640	750	420
Kansas	1,100	1,350	1,200
Kentucky	186	465	1,006
Louisiana	100	60	60
Maine	27	18	34
Maryland	52	111	60
Massachusetts	12	12	9
Michigan	320	450	330
Minnesota	535	790	630
Mississippi	196	214	90
Missouri	900	2,050	1,250
Montana	1,025	590	720
Nebraska	990	935	1,000
Nevada	90	170	310
New Hampshire	6	8	7
New Jersey	5	26	46
New Mexico	125	105	125
New York	283	420	400
North Carolina	79	311	296
North Dakota	1,260	700	1,310
Ohio	165	325	350
Oklahoma	1,600	1,000	650
Oregon	150	270	420
Pennsylvania	500	700	680
Rhode Island	1	1	2
South Carolina	55	115	130
South Dakota	1,930	1,900	2,190
Tennessee	215	552	678
Texas	4,906	2,100	1,100
Utah	215	285	245
Vermont	60	37	50
Virginia	226	450	350
Washington	200	350	280
West Virginia	92	156	125
Wisconsin	790	950	753
Wyoming	240	230	400
United States	21,585	22,065	20,913

CROP PRODUCTION
MAY 1, 2010

Winter wheat production in **Colorado**, based on conditions as of May 1, 2010, is forecast at 87.4 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This forecast is 11 percent below last year's production, but 53 percent above the winter wheat crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.3 million acres, is 150,000 acres less than a year ago.

Average yield is forecast at 38.0 bushels per acre, down 2.0 bushels per acre from last year's crop. This year's crop was planted under generally good conditions resulting in some very good stands going into winter dormancy. After a relatively moist but windy winter the crop has retained most of its potential. Above average soil moisture supplies exist in most growing areas. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

Production of winter wheat in the **United States** is forecasted at 1.46 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2009. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 31.8 million acres, down 8 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 45.9 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous year. Hard Red Winter, at 960 million bushels, is up 5 percent from 2009. Soft Red Winter, at 283 million bushels, is down 30 percent from last year. White Winter is up 7 percent from last year and now totals 215 million bushels. Of this total, 17.0 million bushels are Hard White and 198 million bushels are Soft White.

In the southern Great Plains States, mostly adequate rainfall this spring along with moderate temperatures allowed for good crop development. Record snowfall in Oklahoma aided the crop throughout the early growing season. Crop conditions improved from last year in all of the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) producing States. As of May 2, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Oklahoma and Texas was 66 and 46 points above last year, respectively. The crop in the northern Great Plains States had adequate snow cover with limited winter kill reported. Yields are forecasted to be up from 2009 in Montana, Oklahoma, and Texas, down in Colorado and Nebraska, and unchanged in Kansas

Winter Wheat: Acres harvested, yield and production, selected states and United States, 2008-2010

STATE	Acres harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2009	Indicated 2010	2009	Indicated 2010	2008	2009	Indicated 2010
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Arkansas	390	170	44.0	52.0	55,860	17,160	8,840
California	315	380	80.0	70.0	34,000	25,200	26,600
Colorado	**2,450**	**2,300**	**40.0**	**38.0**	**57,000**	**98,000**	**87,400**
Georgia	250	130	42.0	48.0	22,400	10,500	6,240
Idaho	700	740	81.0	85.0	60,000	56,700	62,900
Illinois	820	325	56.0	60.0	73,600	45,920	19,500
Indiana	450	280	67.0	68.0	38,640	30,150	19,040
Kansas	8,800	8,200	42.0	42.0	356,000	369,600	344,400
Kentucky	390	300	57.0	65.0	32,660	22,230	19,500
Maryland	195	140	60.0	63.0	13,140	11,700	8,820
Michigan	560	490	69.0	72.0	48,990	38,640	35,280
Mississippi	165	130	50.0	50.0	30,070	8,250	6,500
Missouri	730	310	47.0	46.0	55,680	34,310	14,260
Montana	2,420	1,900	37.0	40.0	94,380	89,540	76,000
North Dakota	1,600	1,500	48.0	46.0	73,480	76,800	69,000
Nebraska	105	100	65.0	62.0	7,686	6,825	6,200
New York	600	400	49.0	46.0	43,200	29,400	18,400
North Carolina	545	320	48.0	52.0	22,550	26,160	16,640
Ohio	980	750	72.0	72.0	74,120	70,560	54,000
Oklahoma	3,500	3,900	22.0	33.0	166,500	77,000	128,700
Oregon	750	830	56.0	59.0	44,950	42,000	48,970
Pennsylvania	175	155	56.0	58.0	11,840	9,800	8,990
South Carolina	150	135	47.0	46.0	11,070	7,050	6,210
South Dakota	1,530	1,180	42.0	49.0	103,950	64,260	57,820
Tennessee	340	180	51.0	56.0	32,760	17,340	10,080
Texas	2,450	3,500	25.0	35.0	99,000	61,250	122,500
Virginia	210	175	58.0	63.0	19,880	12,180	11,025
Washington	1,640	1,710	59.0	61.0	96,320	96,760	104,310
Wisconsin	315	230	68.0	68.0	22,110	21,420	15,640
Other States 1/	960	926	47.9	48.1	65,497	46,013	44,585
United States	34,485	31,786	44.2	45.9	1,867,333	1,522,718	1,458,350

1/Other States include AL, AZ, DE, FL, IA, LA, MN, NV, NJ, NM, UT, WV, and WY. Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Small Grains 2010 Summary", September 30, 2010.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
APRIL 15, 2010

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 138 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 2 points (1.4 percent) from March. The Crop Index is down 3 points (2.0 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received lower prices for eggs, strawberries, broccoli, and lettuce and higher prices for cattle, onions, hogs, and soybeans. 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 cattle, sweet corn, strawberries, and milk offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton.

The all crops index is 150, down 2.0 percent from March but unchanged from April 2009. Index decreases for commercial vegetables, fruits & nuts, feed grains & hay, and cotton more than offset the index increases for oil-bearing crops, potatoes & dry beans, and food grains. The April all wheat price, at $4.69 per bushel, is down 1 cent from March and $1.06 below April 2009. The corn price, at $3.51 per bushel, is down 4 cents from last month and 34 cents below April 2009. The all hay price, at $109.00 per ton, increased $1.00 from March but declined $17.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at $5.31 per cwt, is 37 cents below March and 26 cents below April last year. The soybean price, at $9.48 per bushel, increased 9 cents from March but is 31 cents below April 2009.

The all potato price, at $7.59 per cwt, is up 17 cents from March but down $2.22 from last April. The all dry bean price, at $31.30 per cwt, is up $1.80 from the previous month but 20 cents below April 2009.

The April livestock index, at 127, is 0.8 percent below last month but up 13 percent from April 2009. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for eggs. Prices are higher for cattle, milk, hogs, broilers, calves, and turkeys. The April hog price, at $53.60 per cwt, is up $1.40 from March and $9.60 higher than a year ago. The April beef cattle price of $95.40 per cwt is up $4.90 from last month and $11.60 higher than April 2009. The April all milk price of $14.60 per cwt is down 20 cents from last month but $2.70 higher than April 2009.

The April index is 155, up 6.2 percent from March but 8.3 percent below April 2008. Indexes for commercial vegetables, oil-bearing crops, fruits & nuts, potatoes & dry beans, cotton, and food grains increased while the feed grains & hay index was unchanged.

The April all wheat price, at $5.69 per bushel, is down 1 cent from March and $4.41 below April 2008. The corn price, at $3.87 per bushel, is up 1 cent from last month but $1.27 below April 2008. The all hay price, at $129 per ton, is unchanged from March but down $18.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at $5.57 per cwt, is 23 cents above March but $3.73 below April last year.

Prices Received and Paid Summary
United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2009 Mar.	2009 Apr.	2010 Mar.	2010 Apr.
	Percent			
Prices Received	126	129	140	138
Prices Paid	180	180	182	183
Ratio 1/	70	72	77	75

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

Compared with April 2009 all **Colorado** crop prices averaged lower while all livestock prices averaged higher. Mid-April 2010 wheat, at $3.98 per bushel, was 38 cents lower than the previous month and $1.74 below April a year ago. Corn, at $3.28 per bushel, was 34 cents below the previous month and 59 cents below April 2009. The mid-April potato price, at $5.60 per cwt, remained unchanged from last month but was $4.20 below April a year ago. Dry bean prices were $1.30 below March at $30.20 per cwt and were 50 cents below the April 2009 price of $30.70 per cwt. Alfalfa hay, at $125.00 per ton, increased $5.00 from last month but $40.00 lower then April 2009. The other hay price, at $120.00 per ton, remained unchanged from March but $5.00 below April a year ago.

The mid-April steer and heifer price, at $107.00 per cwt was $5.00 above last month and $10.80 above the previous year average of $96.20 per cwt. Cow prices increased $3.50 from the previous month to $59.50 per cwt and averaged $9.00 above April 2009. The mid-April calf price of $128.00 per cwt averaged $9.00 higher than the previous month and $20.00 above the April 2009 average of $108.00 per cwt. The April all milk price of $14.50 was down 50 cents from last month but $2.40 higher than the previous year.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Unit	Apr. 2009	Mar. 2010	Apr. 2010
		Colorado		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	5.72	4.36	3.98
Corn	Bu.	3.87	3.62	3.28
Potatoes	Cwt	9.80	5.60	5.60
Dry edible beans	Cwt	30.70	31.50	30.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	165.00	120.00	125.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	120.00	120.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	95.30	101.00	106.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	96.20	102.00	107.00
Cows	Cwt	50.50	56.00	59.50
Calves	Cwt	108.00	119.00	128.00
Sheep	Cwt	37.00	51.00	1/
Lambs	Cwt	98.00	115.00	1/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	12.10	15.00	14.50
		United States		
Crops		**Dollars**		
Wheat	Bu.	5.75	4.70	4.69
Corn	Bu.	3.85	3.55	3.51
Soybeans	Bu.	9.79	9.39	9.48
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.84	4.15	3.63
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.65	2.68	2.35
Sorghum	Cwt	5.57	5.68	5.31
Potatoes	Cwt	9.81	7.42	7.59
Dry edible beans	Cwt	31.50	29.50	31.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	131.00	111.00	113.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	114.00	98.60	99.30
Onions	Cwt	18.40	40.00	50.70
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	83.80	90.50	95.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	88.30	95.60	101.00
Cows	Cwt	48.00	53.50	56.90
Calves	Cwt	109.00	115.00	121.00
Sheep	Cwt	34.70	51.80	1/
Lambs	Cwt	101.00	115.00	1/
Hogs	Cwt	44.00	52.20	53.60
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	11.90	14.80	14.60
Broilers	Lb.	0.45	0.49	0.48

1/ Mid-month price not est.

POTATO STOCKS
May 1, 2010

Fall potato stocks in the San Luis Valley of **Colorado** totaled 4.9 million cwt as of May 1, 2010, down 17 percent from the stocks on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 22 percent of the 22.08 million cwt produced in 2009. The May 1, 2009 stocks represented 27 percent of the 21.91 million cwt 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 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 23 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 2 percentage points above May 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 770 thousand cwt on May 1, 2010, up 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 297 million cwt, was 2 percent above May 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 26.6 million cwt, was up 19 percent from the same date in 2009. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 26.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and **United States** 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/**

May 21 - Cattle on Feed
May 21 - Cold Storage
May 21 - Chicken and Eggs
May 25 - Poultry Slaughter
May 28 - Agricultural Prices

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director