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AG UPDATE

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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

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2010

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2010 totaled 174.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier and down 4 percent from the previous month. Cattle kill during October was down 3 percent from a year earlier to 198,500 head but the average live weight decreased 5 pounds to 1,339 pounds per head. Hog slaughter remained unchanged from a year earlier and the average live weight increased to 269 pounds per head. Accumulated red meat production for the January-October period this year, at 1,775.2 billion pounds, is 3 percent above the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.27 billion pounds in October, down 3 percent from the 4.39 billion pounds produced in October 2009. Beef production, at 2.24 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, down 1 percent from October 2009. The average live weight was down 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,298 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.4 million pounds, 7 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,400 head, down 15 percent from October 2009. The average live weight was up 26 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.00 billion pounds, down 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.73 million head, down 6 percent from October 2009. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 276 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 8 percent from October 2009. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,300 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 130 pounds, down 1 pound from October a year ago.

January to October 2010 commercial red meat production was 40.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2009. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was down 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2010	Oct. 2010	January-October 2009	January-October 2010
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	180.3	182.2	174.2	1,721.3	1,775.2
United States:	4,391.2	4,160.5	4,265.2	41,161.3	40,365.7
Beef	2,275.7	2,252.9	2,237.8	21,815.4	21,808.1
Veal	12.2	11.3	11.4	113.5	111.3
Pork	2,089.0	1,883.3	2,002.9	19,091.9	18,312.2
Lamb & Mutton	14.3	13.1	13.1	140.5	134.2

FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 10-16, 2010

There were 1,157,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, up 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 826,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $10.27 per hour compared with $10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.43 per hour, was up 19 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.7 for hired workers during the survey week, up 7 percent from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California, and in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. Above normal winter precipitation in California allowed more acreage to be cropped due to increased availability of irrigation water. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the remaining three regions, weather conditions were virtually ideal compared with last year's excessively wet reference week. This caused increased demand for field workers as the corn and soybean harvests progressed rapidly.

(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 10-16, 2010 [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	10.95	10.10	10.65	11.17	39	44.3
Northeast II	11.84	10.17	11.30	12.05	37	41.9
Appalachian I	9.01	9.99	9.24	9.70	35	39.9
Appalachian II	9.87	9.72	9.80	10.60	22	39.1
Southeast	8.72	9.75	9.05	9.78	24	38.0
FL	9.79	9.05	9.65	11.00	43	39.0
Lake	11.58	10.06	11.05	11.88	67	37.5
Cornbelt I	11.19	10.48	10.95	11.54	56	38.3
Cornbelt II	11.62	11.02	11.40	11.60	29	37.8
Delta	8.55	8.85	8.64	9.07	33	43.4
Northern Plains	12.26	10.79	11.70	11.93	38	44.8
Southern Plains	9.68	10.01	9.85	10.30	52	42.0
Mountain I	10.11	9.66	9.90	10.60	22	45.2
Mountain II	10.91	11.01	10.95	11.95	19	42.0
Mountain III	9.43	10.07	9.75	10.45	17	47.1
Pacific	10.95	10.97	10.95	11.59	94	41.2
CA	10.20	11.20	10.34	11.18	192	44.3
HI [4]	12.00	14.30	12.16	14.38	7	37.0
US [3]	10.49	10.27	10.43	11.13	826	41.7

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 the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Abnormally dry conditions in the Southeast and Southern Plains regions slowed small grain seeding and reduced the demand for hired workers. In the Pacific region, above normal rains kept pasture grasses plentiful and lessened the need for livestock movement. This led to fewer workers being required.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), Northeast I (New England and New York), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. In the two Northeast regions, the higher wages were due to strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry. The higher wages in the Corn Belt II region were due to strong demand for skilled workers to help with the grain harvest. In the Lake region, the higher wages were due to more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up.

The 2010 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $10.95 per hour, up 1 percent from the 2009 annual average wage rate of $10.83 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $10.19 per hour, up 12 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $10.22 per hour, up 1 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $10.12 per hour.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
NOVEMBER 15, 2010

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 159 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 4 points (2.6 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 9 points (5.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received higher prices for soybeans, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for hogs, milk, apples, and cucumbers. 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 corn 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 188 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index is up 2 points (1.1 percent) from October and 10 points (5.6 percent) above November 2009.

Higher prices in November for complete feeds, nitrogen, and supplements more than offset lower prices for other services, feeder pigs, and hay & forages.

November all wheat price, at $6.21 per bushel, is up 34 cents from October and $1.42 above November 2009. The corn price, at $4.59 per bushel, is up 27 cents from last month and 94 cents above November 2009. The Alfalfa hay (baled) price, at $117 per ton, is down $1.00 from October and $8.00 above from last November. The Other hay (baled) price, at $95.50 per ton, is down $1.40 from last month but is $2.40 below last November. The Sorghum grain, at $8.34 per hundredweight, is 54 cents above October and $2.67 above November last year. The soybean price, at $11.20 per bushel, is up $1.00 from October and $1.67 cents above November 2009. The all potato price, at $7.65 per hundredweight, is up 88 cents from October and 43 cents above last November. The all dry bean price, at $24.30 per hundredweight, is down $1.40 from the previous month and $5.80 below November 2009.

The November Livestock & Products Index, at 135, is 0.7 percent above last month and up 17 percent from November 2009. The November hog price, at $47.20 per hundredweight, is down $6.10 from October and $6.90 cents above a year ago. The November beef cattle price of $122.00 per hundredweight is up $2.00 from last month and $18.00 above November 2009.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2009 Oct.	2009 Nov.	2010 Oct.	2010 Nov.
	Percent			
Prices Received	134	136	155	159
Prices Paid	177	178	186	188
Ratio 1/	76	76	83	85

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

Colorado mid-November prices for wheat, corn and potatoes were above a year ago but dry edible beans and hay prices were lower than this time last year. Compared with October 2010, there was an increase in all crop items except for potatoes and wheat. Wheat, at $5.76 per bushel decreased 7 cents from the previous month but was $1.17 above November 2009. Corn was up 34 cents from October to $4.57 per bushel and averaged 78 cents above November 2009. Potato prices, at $11.10 per hundredweight, decreased 20 cents from October but increased $4.85 from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices remained unchanged from October at $125.00 per ton and other hay also was at $105 per ton.

All livestock items averaged higher than a year ago. Steers and heifers at $110.00 per hundredweight were up $4.00 from October and were $20.00 higher than November 2009. Cow prices decreased 60 cents from October to $56.50 per hundredweight but were $13.00 above a year earlier. Calves were up $5.00 to $125.00 per hundredweight and were $24.00 above November 2009. The all milk price, at $18.40, decreased 10 cents from last month, but was up $3.50 from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2010	Nov. 2010
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.59	5.83	5.76
Corn	Bu.	3.79	4.23	4.57
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.22	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	6.25	11.30	11.10
Dry edible beans	Cwt	30.40	23.20	22.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	130.00	125.00	125.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	110.00	105.00	105.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	89.10	105.00	109.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.00	106.00	110.00
Cows	Cwt	43.50	57.10	56.50
Calves	Cwt	101.00	120.00	125.00
Sheep	Cwt	34.00	47.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	95.00	133.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.90	18.50	18.40
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.79	5.87	6.21
Corn	Bu.	3.65	4.32	4.59
Soybeans	Bu.	9.53	10.20	11.20
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.46	3.75	3.76
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.50	3.35	3.54
Sorghum	Cwt	5.67	7.80	8.34
Potatoes	Cwt	7.22	6.77	7.65
Dry edible beans	Cwt	30.10	25.70	24.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Cwt	109.00	118.00	117.00
Other hay (baled)	Cwt	97.90	96.90	95.50
Onions	Cwt			
Livestock & Products	Cwt			
Beef Cattle	Cwt	79.60	93.10	94.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	85.40	98.80	100.00
Cows	Cwt	41.70	52.70	51.90
Calves	Cwt	104.00	120.00	122.00
Sheep	Cwt	36.30	48.50	3/
Lambs	Cwt	97.70	138.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	40.30	53.30	47.20
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.40	18.50	17.90
Broilers	Lb.	0.41	0.47	0.47

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, 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 1,090,000 head as of November 1, 2010. The latest inventory was up 9 percent from October 1, 2010 and up 5 percent from the 1,040,000 on feed on November 1, 2009. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 170,000 head of fed cattle during October 2010. This is 6 percent below the marketings of the previous month but 6 percent above a year ago. An estimated 270,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, down 8 percent from the September 2010 placements, but 10 percent above last year's placements of

245,000. Of the October placements, 20 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 37 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 10,000 head, is up 5,000 head from last month and up 5,000 head from 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 11.5 million head on November 1, 2010. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2009. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.50 million, 1 percent above 2009. Net placements were 2.44 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 725,000, 600-699 pounds were 640,000, 700-799 pounds were 514,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 625,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.73 million, 1 percent below 2009. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 62,000 during October, 5 percent above 2009.

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots
October 1 to November 1, 2009-2010

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	960	1,000	10,474	10,779
Placements During Oct.	245	270	2,474	2,504
< 600 pounds	50	55	615	725
600 - 699 Pounds	45	55	645	640
700 - 799 Pounds	60	60	579	514
800 Plus Pounds	90	100	635	625
Marketings During Oct.	160	170	1,755	1,734
Other Disap. During Oct.	5	10	59	62
On Feed November 1	1,040	1,090	11,134	11,487

CHICKENS AND EGGS
OCTOBER 2010

Colorado laying flocks produced 89 million eggs during October 2010, up 2 million from the previous month but down 1 million from October 2009. The number of layers during October 2010 totaled 3.58 million, up 1 percent from the previous month but 3 percent below October 2009. The rate of lay, at 2,485 eggs per 100 layers increased 1 percent from a month earlier and 2 percent up from a year ago.

United States egg production totaled 7.68 billion during October 2010, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2010 averaged 336 million, up slightly from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,285 eggs, down slightly from October 2009.

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2010 totaled 336 million, down slightly from last year. The 336 million layers consisted of 279 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.96 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2010, averaged 73.8 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from November 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 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

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Jan.	12	-	Winter Wheat Seedings

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director