



**NATIONAL
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AG UPDATE

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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2011**

Red meat production in **Colorado** during September 2011 totaled 187 million pounds, up 3 percent from 182.2 million pounds a year earlier but 9 percent lower than August 2011 production. Cattle kill during September was up 1 percent from a year earlier to 211,100 head and the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,337 per head. Hog slaughter, at 1,000 head, remained unchanged from a year earlier but the average live weight of 258 pounds was 3 pounds below the previous year. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 84,300 head, increased 13,600 head from a year earlier, and the average live weight of 152 pounds was 8 pounds above the previous year. Accumulated red meat production for the January-September period this year, now totals 1.62 billion pounds, 1 percent above last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.19 billion pounds in September, up 1 percent from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in September 2010. Beef production, at 2.22 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.88 million head, down 1 percent from September 2010. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,278 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.7 million pounds, 5 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 73,800 head, up 4 percent from September 2010. The average live weight was down 22 pounds from last year, at 252 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.95 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.69 million head, up 4 percent from September 2010. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.8 million pounds, was down 10 percent from September 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 177,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 5 pounds from September a year ago.

January to September 2011 commercial red meat production was 36.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Sept. 2010	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2011	January-September	
				2010	2011
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	182.2	204.9	187.0	1,601.0	1,622.8
United States:	4,160.0	4,302.6	4,191.8	36,094.9	36,489.2
Beef	2,252.2	2,386.7	2,215.4	19,563.5	19,707.4
Veal	11.3	11.3	10.7	99.9	97.2
Pork	1,883.5	1,891.5	1,953.8	16,310.2	16,572.8
Lamb & Mutton ...	13.1	13.1	11.8	121.3	111.8

* - Revised.

**CATTLE ON FEED
OCTOBER 1, 2011**

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 1,070,000 head as of October 1, 2011. The latest inventory was 8 percent above last month's inventory and 7 percent above the October 1, 2010 inventory. The inventory included 730,000 steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 335,000 head, are up 16 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 185,000 head of fed cattle during September 2011. This was 10 percent below the previous month's marketings but 3 percent above marketings one year earlier. An estimated 275,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September 2011, down 7 percent from a year ago, but up 20 percent from the August 2011 placements. Of the number placed in September, 15 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 9 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 55 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 10,000 head, was up 5,000 head from last month and 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 11.3 million head on October 1, 2011. The inventory was 5 percent above October 1, 2010. This is the second highest October 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 6.95 million steers and steer calves, up 5

percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.32 million head, up 5 percent from 2010. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.47 million, slightly above 2010. Net placements were 2.40 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 685,000, 600-699 pounds were 415,000, 700-799 pounds were 504,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 865,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.81 million, 1 percent above 2010. Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during September, 37 percent above 2010.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000 Plus Capacity, Sept. 1 to Oct 1, 2010-2011**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 head			
On Feed Sept. 1	890	990	10,181	10,730
Placements During Sept.	295	275	2,463	2,469
< 600 pounds	35	40	510	685
600 - 699 Pounds	35	25	455	415
700 - 799 Pounds	65	60	603	504
800 Plus Pounds	160	150	895	865
Marketings During Sept.	180	185	1,802	1,813
Other Disap. During Sept.	5	10	54	74
On Feed Oct 1.	1,000	1,070	10,788	11,312
Steers & Steer Calves	705	730	6,607	6,945
Heifers & Heifer Calves	290	335	4,126	4,318
Cows & Bulls	5	5	55	49

**MILK PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 2011**

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado dairy herds produced 252 million pounds of milk during September 2011, up 15 million pounds from last September's production, but down 6 million pounds from August's production. The average number of cows, at 130,000 head, increased 1,000 head from last month, and up 8,000 cows from the previous year. The average milk per cow for the month of September in Colorado was 1,935 pounds per cow, down from 2,000 pounds per cow in August and 10 pounds per cow lower than 2010. Colorado is fifteenth in the nation in milk production per cow.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during September totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from September 2010. August revised production at 15.3 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from August 2010. The August 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 1,742 pounds for September, 12 pounds above September 2010. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 101,000 head more than September 2010, and 1,000 head more than August 2011.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 48.7 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the

July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.21 million head, 83,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, 23 States

Item	Sept. 2010	Aug. 2011	Sept. 2011
Colorado			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/.....	122	129	130
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/.....	1,945	2,000	1,935
Production (mil. lbs.) 2/.....	237	258	252
23 States Total:			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) 1/.....	8,371	8,471	8,472
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) 2/.....	1,730	1,812	1,742
Production (mil. lbs.) 2/.....	14,481	15,347	14,760

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES
OCTOBER 2011**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 185 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 6 points (3.4 percent) from September. The Crop Index is up 3 points (1.5 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received higher prices for cattle, eggs, hogs, and sweet corn and lower prices for corn, milk, wheat, 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 movement of soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, and sunflowers offset the decreased marketing of wheat, milk, hogs, and hay.

The October All Crops Index at 206, increased 1.5 percent from September and 26 percent above October 2010. Index increases for oilseeds more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, food grains, and commercial vegetables. The October all wheat price, at \$6.94 per bushel, is down 61 cents from September but \$1.06 above October 2010. The corn price, at \$5.92 per bushel, is down 45 cents from last month but \$1.60 above October 2010. Grain sorghum, at \$11.10 per cwt, is 60 cents higher than September and \$3.30 above October last year. The soybean price, at \$11.90 per bushel, decreased 30 cents from September but is \$1.70 above October 2010. The all potato price, at \$7.48 per cwt, is down 82 cents from September but 45 cents higher than last October. The all dry bean price, at \$43.90 per cwt, is up \$3.70 from the previous month and \$18.20 above October 2010.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2010		2011	
	Oct.	Sept.	Sept.	Oct.
	Percent			
Prices Received.....	151	179	185	
Prices Paid	185	205	205	
Ratio 1/.....	82	87	90	

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

The October Livestock & Products Index at 153, is 0.7 percent above last month and 14 percent higher than October 2010. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, hogs, milk, eggs, calves, and turkeys. Prices for broilers are down from last year. The October hog price, at \$68.80 per cwt, is up \$1.70 from September and up \$15.50 from a year ago. The October beef cattle price of \$116 per cwt is up \$4.00 from last month and is \$22.90 higher than October 2010. The October all milk price of \$19.90 per cwt decreased \$1.20 from last month but is up \$1.40 from October 2010.

year, up \$1.72 from the previous year but down 66 cents from last month. Potato prices decreased \$1.00 per hundredweight from last month to \$11.30 per cwt but averaged 50 cents above the October 2010 average of \$10.80 per hundredweight. Alfalfa hay prices, at \$220.00 per ton, increased \$20.00 per ton from last month and were \$95.00 above a year ago. Other hay prices at \$160.00 per ton remained unchanged from last month, but increased \$55.00 from a year ago. The October all milk price of \$20.30 was \$1.00 below last month but \$1.80 above a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Oct. 2010	Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011
Crops				
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	5.83	6.84	6.03
Corn	Bu.	4.23	6.61	5.95
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.12	2/	2/
Potatoes.....	Cwt	10.80	12.30	11.30
Dry edible beans	Cwt	23.20	44.70	44.70
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	200.00	220.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	105.00	160.00	160.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	105.00	3/	3/
Steers & heifers	Cwt	106.00	3/	3/
Cows	Cwt	57.10	3/	3/
Calves.....	Cwt	120.00	3/	3/
Sheep	Cwt	47.00	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	133.00	3/	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	18.50	21.30	20.30
United States				
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	5.88	7.55	6.94
Corn	Bu.	4.32	6.37	5.92
Soybeans.....	Bu.	10.20	12.20	11.90
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.73	5.46	5.40
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	3.38	5.04	4.77
Sorghum	Cwt	7.80	10.50	11.10
Potatoes.....	Cwt	7.03	8.30	7.48
Dry edible beans	Cwt	25.70	40.20	43.90
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	118.00	196.00	203.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	96.00	128.00	129.00
Onions	Cwt	9.61	10.40	9.42
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.10	112.00	116.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	98.90	117.00	121.00
Cows	Cwt	52.50	67.30	63.30
Calves.....	Cwt	121.00	132.00	139.00
Sheep	Cwt	48.40	58.40	3/
Lambs	Cwt	137.00	189.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	53.30	67.10	68.80
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	18.50	21.10	19.90
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.48	0.44	0.43

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/ Not Published.

Colorado's mid-October prices for crop items averaged higher than a year ago. Wheat, at \$6.03 per bushel, averaged 20 cents above October 2010 but 81 cents below September of this year. Corn averaged \$5.95 per bushel in mid-October this

**COLD STORAGE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2011**

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2011 were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 2 percent from September 30, 2010. Butter stocks were down 9 percent from last month but up 16 percent from a year ago.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2011 were down 3 percent from the previous month but up slightly from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month and down 5 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 2 percent from last month but up 9 percent from September 30, 2010.

Total frozen fruit stocks were up slightly from last month but down 5 percent from a year ago. Total frozen vegetable stocks were up 19 percent from last month but down 6 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were down slightly from the previous month but up 8 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 11 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 39 percent from last month but up 92 percent from last year.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Sept. 30, 2010	Aug. 31, 2011	Sept. 30, 2011
1,000 Pounds			
Butter.....	129,956	165,698	151,106
Cheese, total natural.....	1,060,596	1,060,956	1,040,022
Eggs, frozen	26,054	31,009	31,893
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,189,833	1,228,431	1,194,043
Chicken	711,197	694,231	673,583
Turkey	473,745	528,396	515,375
Fruits, frozen.....	1,113,069	1,058,546	1,059,418
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,337,836	993,077	878,042
Vegetables, total frozen	2,529,301	1,984,758	2,366,665
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,070,106	954,173	1,063,377
Meats, total red.....	844,667	896,709	944,544
Beef, total frozen	396,818	428,633	428,081
Pork, total frozen	424,322	442,903	490,713

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

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>

- Nov. 9 - Crop Production
- Nov. 18 - Cattle on Feed
- Nov. 18 - Milk Production
- Nov. 22 - Cold Storage
- Nov. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Nov. 23 - Livestock Slaughter
- Nov. 30 - Agricultural Prices

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