NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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Released: December 6, 2011 Vol. 31 No. 23

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER OCTOBER 2011

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2011 totaled 178.2 million pounds, up 2 percent from a year earlier but 5 percent below last month. Cattle kill during October was up 2 percent from a year earlier to 201,900 head and the average live weight increased 2 pounds to 1,341 pounds per head. Hog slaughter increased 38 percent to 1,100 head from a year earlier but the average live weight, at 242 pounds, is a 27 pound decrease. Sheep and lamb slaughter increased 12 percent to 83,100 head from a year earlier and the average live weight, at 153 pounds, is a 4 pound increase. Accumulated red meat production for the January-October period this year, at 1.80 billion pounds, is 7 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** for the United States totaled 4.27 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 4.26 billion pounds produced in October 2010. Beef production, at 2.22 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.86 million head, down slightly from October 2010. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,289 pounds. Veal production totaled 10.5 million pounds, 8 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,600 head, up 2 percent from October 2010. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from last year, at 252 pounds. Pork production totaled 2.03 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.91 million head, up 2 percent from October 2010. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 275 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 11.7 million pounds, was down 11 percent from October 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 174,600 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 4 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2011 commercial red meat production was 40.8 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	Oct. 2010	Sept. 2011	Oct. 2011	January-October 2010	January-October 2011
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	174.2	187.0	178.2	1946.3	1801.0
United States:	4,262.2	4,191.8	4,270.9	40,356.9	40,760.2
Beef	2,234.9	2,215.2	2,215.2	21,798.3	21,922.7
Veal	11.4	10.7	10.5	111.3	107.7
Pork	2,002.7	1,953.8	2,033.5	18,312.9	18,606.4
Lamb & Mutton....	13.1	11.8	11.7	134.4	123.5

FARM LABOR OCTOBER 9-15, 2011

There were 1,141,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2011, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 313,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $11.15 per hour during the October 2011 reference week, up 2 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.54 per hour, up 5 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $10.67 per hour compared with $10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.57 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. In the Lake, Mountain I, and Corn Belt II regions, above normal temperatures and windy conditions were more than enough to offset minor rain delays, and field activities progressed rapidly. This resulted in a stronger demand for hired workers. In spite of rain in the Southeast region, most fields remained workable due to prolonged earlier dryness. Therefore, harvest and planting activities kept worker demand higher. In the Appalachian I region, increased activity on vegetable operations led to a greater need for hired workers.

(Continued on next page)

U.S. and Region [2]	Type of Worker: Field	Type of Worker: Livestock	Type of Worker: Field & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers: Wage Rates	All Hired Workers: Number of Workers	All Hired Workers: Number of Hours Worked
	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(1,000)	(Hours per Week)
Northeast I	11.36	11.18	11.30	11.84	40	41.8
Northeast II	10.04	10.43	10.15	11.16	36	39.0
Appalachian I	9.54	10.50	9.70	10.10	39	41.3
Appalachian II	9.44	9.58	9.50	10.43	20	35.7
Southeast	9.87	9.09	9.65	10.10	29	33.8
FL	9.25	10.20	9.35	10.56	41	37.3
Lake	11.59	10.71	11.30	11.83	77	40.8
Cornbelt I	11.15	11.01	11.10	11.38	50	39.5
Cornbelt II	12.07	10.60	11.50	11.66	33	38.3
Delta	9.12	9.68	9.20	9.64	31	44.7
Northern Plains	12.58	10.61	11.85	12.13	39	43.8
Southern Plains	9.53	11.03	10.10	10.78	45	41.0
Mountain I	10.38	10.08	10.25	10.45	29	50.7
Mountain II	10.90	10.22	10.60	11.36	18	41.1
Mountain III	8.77	10.55	9.50	10.10	19	49.1
Pacific	11.42	11.78	11.45	12.04	90	41.4
CA	10.15	11.20	10.30	10.96	185	43.6
HI [4]	12.55	13.60	12.65	14.83	7	38.0
US [3]	10.54	10.67	10.57	11.15	828	41.6

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, 2011 [1]

[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.

(Farm Labor-continued)

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. In California and in the Pacific region, the wet spring and cooler than normal growing season delayed crop development, lessening the need for hired workers. Wetter conditions compared with last year's reference week kept the demand for hired workers lower in the Corn Belt I region. In the Southern Plains, prolonged drought conditions led to considerable culling of livestock throughout the summer. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed during the October reference week.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Northeast I (New England and New York), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Pacific, and Southern Plains regions. In the Northeast I and Pacific regions, the higher wages were due to strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry. The higher wages in the Delta region were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. In the Southern Plains region, there were more salaried workers working fewer hours which pushed the average wage up.

The 2011 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $11.07 per hour, up 1 percent from the 2010 annual average wage rate of $10.95 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $10.33 per hour, up 14 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $10.36, up 1 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $10.22.

CHICKENS AND EGGS OCTOBER 2011

Colorado laying flocks produced 112 million eggs during October 2011, up 9 million from the previous month and up 21 million from October 2010. The number of layers during October 2011 totaled 4.72 million, 2 percent above the previous month but 32 percent above October 2010. The rate of lay, at 2,374 eggs per 100 layers increased 7 percent from a month earlier but was down 6 percent from October a year ago.

United States egg production totaled 7.78 billion during October 2011, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.74 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 968 million were broiler-type and 70 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2011 averaged 336 million, down slightly from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,317 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2010.

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2011 totaled 337 million, down slightly from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 50.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.94 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2011, averaged 74.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2010.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES NOVEMBER 30, 2011

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 185 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, is up 1 point (0.5 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 5 points (2.5 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 2 points (1.3 percent). Producers received higher prices for corn, lettuce, cattle, and broilers and lower prices for soybeans, hogs, apples, and hay. 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 milk, cattle, corn, and cotton offset the decreased marketing of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflowers.

The November All Crops Index at 208, increased 2.5 percent from October and is 21 percent above November 2010. Index increases for feed grains & hay, oilseeds, commercial vegetables, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decrease for fruits & nuts. The November all wheat prices, at $7.33 per bushel, is up 4 cents from October and $1.23 above November 2010. The corn price, at $6.00 per bushel, is up 29 cents from last month and $1.45 above November 2010. The all hay price, at $176.00 per ton, is down $5.00 from October but $66.00 higher than last November. Sorghum grain, at $11.00 per hundredweight, is 30 cents above October and up $2.56 from November last year. The soybean price, at $11.50 per bushel, decreased 20 cents from October but is 40 cents above November 2010. The all potato price, at $8.26 per hundredweight, is up 93 cents from October and 25 cents from a year ago. The all dry bean price, at $44.40 per hundredweight, increased $2.80 from the previous month and $17.70 from November 2010.

The November Livestock & Products Index, at 156, is 1.3 percent above last month and up 16 percent from November 2010. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, hogs, milk, calves, and turkeys. Prices for broilers and eggs are lower than last year.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2010 Nov.	2011 Oct.	2011 Nov.
	Percent		
Prices Received	154	184	185
Prices Paid	187	205	205
Ratio 1/	82	90	90

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged higher than a year ago. Wheat, at $5.89 per bushel increased 6 cents from the previous month and 6 cents above November 2010. Corn was up 21 cents from October to $5.99 per bushel and averaged $1.66 above November 2010. Potato prices, at $11.00 per hundredweight, increased 80 cents from October and increased 30 cents from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices increased $15.00 from October to $235.00 per ton, up $110.00 from last year. Other hay remained unchanged from last month but is $55.00 per ton above last year.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2010	Oct. 2011	Nov. 2011
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	5.83	5.83	5.89
Corn	Bu.	4.33	5.78	5.99
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.13	2/	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	10.70	10.20	11.00
Dry edible beans	Cwt	24.50	44.40	43.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	220.00	235.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	105.00	160.00	160.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	110.00	3/	3/
Steers & heifers	Cwt	111.00	3/	3/
Cows	Cwt	56.40	3/	3/
Calves	Cwt	128.00	3/	3/
Sheep	Cwt	46.00	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	136.00	3/	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	18.20	19.70	19.50
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	6.10	7.29	7.33
Corn	Bu.	4.55	5.71	6.00
Soybeans	Bu.	11.10	11.70	11.50
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.86	5.52	5.59
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	3.34	4.76	4.74
Sorghum	Cwt	8.44	10.70	11.00
Potatoes	Cwt	8.01	7.33	8.26
Dry edible beans	Cwt	26.70	41.60	44.40
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	117.00	203.00	198.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	97.80	129.00	122.00
Onions	Cwt	12.10	9.50	9.81
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	94.00	117.00	119.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	101.00	122.00	125.00
Cows	Cwt	51.50	65.00	65.70
Calves	Cwt	125.00	145.00	152.00
Sheep	Cwt	54.80	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	143.00	3/	3/
Hogs	Cwt	47.80	68.70	65.70
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	17.90	19.90	19.90
Broilers	Lb.	0.48	0.43	0.45

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/ Discontinued.

CATTLE ON FEED NOVEMBER 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 1,140,000 head as of November 1, 2011. The latest inventory was up 7 percent from October 1, 2011 and up 5 percent from the 1,090,000 on feed on November 1, 2010. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during October 2011. This is 16 percent below the marketings of the previous month and 9 percent below a year ago. An estimated 230,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, down 16 percent from the September 2011 placements, and down 15 percent from last year's placements of 270,000. Of the October placements, 26 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 30 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 5,000 head, is down 5,000 head from last month and down 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 11.9 million head on November 1, 2011. The inventory was 4 percent above November 1, 2010. This is the second highest November 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.49 million, 1 percent below 2010. Net placements were 2.40 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 805,000, 600-699 pounds were 600,000, 700-799 pounds were 501,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 585,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.79 million, 3 percent above 2010. Other disappearance totaled 93,000 during October, 50 percent above 2010.

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

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	1,000	1,070	10,788	11,312
Placements During Oct.	270	230	2,505	2,491
< 600 pounds	55	60	725	805
600 - 699 Pounds	55	50	640	600
700 - 799 Pounds	60	50	515	501
800 Plus Pounds	100	70	625	585
Marketings During Oct.	170	155	1,734	1,786
Other Disap. During Oct.	10	5	62	93
On Feed November 1	1,090	1,140	11,497	11,924

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**

Dec. 15 - Potato Stocks
Dec. 16 - Cattle on Feed
Dec. 19 - Milk Production
Dec. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
Dec. 22 - Cold Storage
Dec. 23 - Hogs and Pigs
Dec. 23 - Livestock Slaughter
Dec. 30 - Agricultural Prices
Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat Seedings
Jan. 26 - Vegetables

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UPCOMING REPORTS