NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS
MARCH 1, 2011

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,370,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, three percent above last year's plantings. Sorghum intentions are 190,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2011 remain estimated at 2,500,000 acres from January's report. This is up 50,000 acres from the 2010 crop. Growers intend to seed 40,000 acres of spring wheat this year, up 12,000 acres from last year. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 55,000 acres, is equal to the actual seedings a year ago. Planting intentions for barley are up 4,000 acres to 68,000 acres. Growers intend to plant 100,000 acres of sunflowers this year, down 32,000 acres from what they planted in 2010. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 75,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area planted to non-oil varieties is expected to decrease 12,000 acres to 25,000 acres this year. The State's dry bean growers indicate they will plant 49,000 acres this year compared with 70,000 acres last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 1,300 acres from last year's actual plantings to 30,200 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,600,000 acres this year. This is unchanged from the number of acres cut for hay in 2010.

Mountain snowpack is 111 percent of average statewide, northern areas have above average snowpack while southern areas are below average. Farmers with appropriate water rights should be able to irrigate crops this year. Currently, many growing areas have short soil moisture supplies due to a very dry winter. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects, soil moisture levels at planting time, and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

Corn growers in the **United States** intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than in 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007. Acreage increases of 250,000 or more are expected in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota. The largest decrease is expected in Texas, down 150,000 acres.

The 2011 sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at5.65 million acres, up 4 percent from 2010. Producers in Kansas intend to plant 2.50 million acres, up 6 percent from 2010. Texas growers expect to plant 1.80 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous season. Texas growers expect to plant 1.80 million acres, down 5 percent from the previous season. Kansas and Texas account for 76 percent of the expected United States acreage. As of March 27, Texas had planted 46 percent of their sorghum crop.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2010-2011

Crop	Colorado 2010	Colorado 2011	United States 2010	United States 2011
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,330	1,370	88,192	92,178
Sorghum, all	210	190	5,404	5,645
Oats	55	55	3,138	2,839
Wheat, all 1/	2,478	2,540	53,603	58,021
Winter	2,450	2,500	37,335	41,229
Spring	28	40	13,698	14,427
Barley	64	68	2,872	2,952
Soybeans	3/	3/	77,404	76,609
Sunflower, all	132.0	100.0	1951.5	1,805.0
Oil	95.0	75.0	1,463.0	1,400.0
Non-oil	37.0	25.0	488.5	405.0
Dry beans	70.0	49.0	1,911.4	1,303.5
Sugarbeets	28.9	30.2	1,171.4	1,187.1
Hay, all 2/	1,600	1,600	59,862	58,973

1/ Includes Durum for U.S. 2/ Harvested acres 2010, intentions to harvest in 2011. 3/ Not Estimated

Producers intend to harvest 59.0 million acres of all hay in 2011, up 1 percent from 2009. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest harvested acreage on record. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the western two-thirds of the Nation, primarily due to lower livestock inventories, an increase in acreage being planted to other crops with higher prices, and drought conditions in the Southern Great Plains. The largest decreases in acreage harvested are expected in Idaho, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas. Compared with last year, producers in Oklahoma and Texas intend to harvest 110,000 and 220,000 less acres, respectively, while growers in Pennsylvania expect to harvest 100,000 more acres.

The 2011 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 41.2 million acres, up 10 percent from 2010 and up 1 percent from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report. Of the 2011 total acreage, about 29.4 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.7 million acres are White Winter. Acres are up across all of the Soft Red winter area from 2010 due to the early row crop harvest and higher prices. The largest increases in the Soft Red Winter growing area are in Arkansas, Illinois, and Missouri, each up more than 300,000 acres. With concerns of a lack of moisture reported throughout much of the Great Plains, Hard Red Winter acres are down in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas.

GRAIN STOCKS
MARCH 1, 2011

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2010 totaled 32.10 million bushels, up 25 percent from 25.70 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 8.5 million bushels, were up 13 percent from the previous year and off-farm stocks were up 30 percent to 23.60 million bushels. Corn stocks, at 58.99 million bushels, were up less than 1 percent. Farm stocks were up 10 percent to 33.0 million bushels but off-farm stocks were down 9 percent to 25.99 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were up 2 percent to 51,000 bushels. Off-farm grain sorghum was up 120 percent to 1.12 million bushels. Off-farm Barley stocks are at 6.72 million bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2011 in the **United States** totaled 6.52 billion bushels, down 15 percent from March 1, 2010. Of the total stocks, 3.38 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 26 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 3.14 billion bushels, are down slightly from a year ago. The December 2010 - February 2011 indicated disappearance is 3.53 billion bushels, compared with 3.21 billion bushels during the same period last year. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2011 totaled 1.25 billion bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 2010. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 505 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 744 million bushels, are up 13 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2010 - February 2011 quarter totaled 1.03 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2011 totaled 1.42 billion bushels, up 5 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 288 million bushels, down 17 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 1.14 billion bushels, are up 13 percent from a year ago. The December 2010 - February 2011 indicated disappearance is 508 million bushels, up 20 percent from the same period a year earlier. **Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2011 totaled 138 million bushels, down 12 percent from March 1, 2010. On-farm stocks are estimated at 57.7 million bushels, 14 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 80.3 million bushels, are 11 percent below March 2010. The December 2010 - February 2011 indicated disappearance totaled 42.4 million bushels, 14 percent below the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2011 totaled 86.3 million bushels, 12 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2010. Of the total stocks on hand, 27.0 million bushels are stored on farms, down 13 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 59.4 million bushels, down 11 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2010 - February 2011 totaled 14.7 million bushels, up 16 percent from the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2011 totaled 171 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 13.0 million bushels, are down 45 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 158 million bushels, are up 4 percent from a year earlier. The December 2010 - February 2011 indicated disappearance from all positions is 66.8 million bushels, down 11 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2010-2011

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado 2010	Colorado 2011	United States 2010	United States 2011
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	8,500	10,000	348,250	288,010
Off farms	23,600	25,350	1,008,107	1,136,548
Total	32,100	35,350	1,356,357	1,424,558
Corn				
On farms	33,000	27,000	4,548,000	3,384,000
Off farms	25,988	38,210	3,145,787	3,138,804
Total	58,988	65,210	7,693,787	6,522,804
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	67,370	57,700
Off farms	6,720	6,774	89,985	80,272
Total	2/	2/	157,355	137,972
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	30,900	26,950
Off farms	51	40	67,091	59,395
Total	2/	2/	97,991	86,345
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	23,680	13,020
Off farms	1,121	1,775	151,873	157,802
Total	2/	2/	175,553	170,822
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	609,200	505,000
Off farms	2/	2/	660,868	743,885
Total	2/	2/	1,270,068	1,248,885

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
2/ Minor states are not published separately, but are included in US total.
3/ Not estimated.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 2011

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 4 points (2.4 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.5 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 7 points (4.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for cattle, broilers, milk, and lettuce and lower prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and cotton. 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 strawberries, soybeans, tomatoes, and milk offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and wheat.

The March All Crops Index is 200, up 0.5 percent from February and 29 percent above March 2010. Index increases for commercial vegetables, food grains, fruits & nuts, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index decreases for feed grains & hay, oilseeds, and cotton. The March all wheat price, at $7.63 per bushel, is up 20 cents from February and $2.93 above March 2010. The corn price, at $5.46 per bushel, is down 18 cents from last month but $1.91 above March 2010. The all hay price, $124.00 per ton, is up $8.00 from February and $17.00 higher than last March. Sorghum grain, at $10.10 per hundredweight, is 80 cents below February but $4.42 above March last year. The all potato price, at $9.95 per hundredweight, is up 69 cents from February and $2.53 higher than last March. The all dry bean price, at $30.30 per hundredweight, is up $1.70 from the previous month and 60 cents above March 2010.

The March Livestock and Products Index at 149, is up 3.5 percent from last month and 24 percent higher than last year.
Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for milk, cattle, hogs, calves, and turkeys. The March hog price, at $62.70 per hundredweight, is up $1.10 from February and $10.60 higher than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $113 per hundredweight is up $5.00 from last month and $22.60 higher than March 2010. The March all milk price of $20.40 per hundredweight is $1.30 higher than last month and up $5.60 from March 2010.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2010 Mar.	2011 Feb.	2011 Mar.
	Percent		
Prices Received	141	170	174
Prices Paid	180	197	199
Ratio 1/	78	86	87

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

Compared with March 2010, **Colorado** crop prices were higher than last year, except for dry edible beans and other hay. Mid-March 2011 wheat, at $6.79 per bushel, was up $2.42 from a year ago but was nine cents below last month. Corn prices decreased seven cents from February to $5.29 per bushel and averaged $1.67 above March 2010. The mid-March potato price, at $13.90 per hundredweight, increased 50 cents from last month and was $8.30 above March a year ago. Alfalfa hay, at $140.00 per ton, increased $5.00 per ton from February 2011 and was $20.00 above March 2010. The other hay price, at $115.00 per ton, was $10.00 above February but $5.00 below March a year ago. The March all milk price of $20.02 per hundredweight was up $1.12 from last month and $5.02 above March 2010.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2011	Mar. 2011
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.37	6.88	6.79
Corn	Bu.	3.62	5.36	5.29
Barley (All)	Bu.	2/	4.08	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	5.60	13.40	13.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	31.50	27.50	27.70
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	120.00	135.00	140.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	120.00	105.00	115.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	101.00	3/	3/
Steers & heifers	Cwt	102.00	3/	3/
Cows	Cwt	56.00	3/	3/
Calves	Cwt	119.00	3/	3/
Sheep	Cwt	51.00	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	115.00	3/	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.00	18.90	20.02
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.70	7.43	7.63
Corn	Bu.	3.55	5.64	5.46
Soybeans	Bu.	9.39	12.70	12.10
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.22	3.97	4.58
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.66	3.55	4.31
Sorghum	Cwt	5.68	10.90	10.10
Potatoes	Cwt	7.42	9.26	9.95
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.70	28.60	30.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	113.00	127.00	136.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	95.30	93.90	97.30
Onions	Cwt	34.20	9.90	6.89
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	90.40	108.00	113.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	95.70	111.00	116.00
Cows	Cwt	53.50	72.50	73.40
Calves	Cwt	117.00	139.00	148.00
Sheep	Cwt	51.30	76.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	115.00	155.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	52.10	61.60	62.70
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.80	19.10	20.40
Broilers	Lb.	0.49	0.44	0.49

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's
2/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 3/ Mid-month prices discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS
MARCH 2011

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2011 totaled 740,000 head, up 1 percent from March 1, 2010. The breeding hog inventory at 150,000 head remained unchanged from a year earlier but the market hog inventory was up 2 percent to 590,000 head. There were 70,000 sows farrowed during the December 2010-February 2011 time period is 1 percent below the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado's December 2010-February 2011 pig crop of 693,000 head is up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 73,000 sows during March - May 2011 period and 72,000 sows during June - August 2011 period.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2011 was 64.0 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2010, but down 1 percent from December 1, 2010. Breeding inventory, at 5.79 million head, was up slightly from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 58.2 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter. The December 2010-February 2011 pig crop, at 28.0 million head, was up 1 percent from 2010 but down 2 percent from 2009. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.86 million head, down 1 percent from 2010 and down 5 percent from 2009. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.80 for the December 2010-February 2011 period, compared to 9.61 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the March-May 2011 quarter, down 3 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2010, and down 5 percent from 2009. Intended farrowings for June-August 2011, at 2.87 million sows, are down 3 percent from 2010 and down 3 percent from 2009. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 46 percent of the total United States hog inventory, up from 44 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2010 through December 2010 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, an adjustment of slightly more than one percent was made to the September 2010 total inventory. An adjustment of less than one half of one percent was made to the December 2010 total inventory. An adjustment of more than one percent was made to the June-August 2010 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2010-2011

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	730	740	63,568	63,964
Kept for breeding	150	150	5,760	5,788
Market	580	590	57,808	58,176
Under 50 lbs	270	290	18,767	18,898
50 - 119 lbs	115	105	15,993	16,225
120 -179 lbs	80	70	12,307	12,309
180 lbs. & over	115	125	10,742	10,744
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec - Feb	71	70	2,872	2,856
March - May 1/	72	73	2,929	2,854
June - Aug 1/	72	72	2,944	2,867
Pig Crop:				
Dec - Feb	682	693	27,597	27,986
March - May	648		28,730	
June - Aug	684		28,871	

1/ Actual for 2010; intentions for 2011.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
FEBRUARY 2011

Colorado laying flocks produced 78 million eggs during February 2011, down 2 percent from the same month a year earlier and 11 percent below the 88 million eggs produced during January 2011. The average number of layers during February 2011 totaled 3.71 million, up 4 percent from 3.57 million a year earlier and slightly above the 3.60 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2011, at 2,105 eggs per 100 layers, is 6 percent below the 2,240 eggs per 100 layers during February 2010 and 14 percent below January 2011.

United States egg production totaled 7.01 billion during February 2011, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.03 billion table eggs, and 974 million hatching eggs, of which 908 million were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2011 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,065 eggs, up 1 percent from February 2010.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2011 totaled 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.02 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2011, averaged 73.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2010.

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 Internet at: **http://www.nass.usda.gov**

April 08 - Crop Production
April 15 - Turkey Hatchery
April 15 - Potato Stocks
April 19 - Milk Production
April 21 - Cold Storage
April 21 - Cattle on Feed
April 21 - Chickens and Eggs
April 21 - Livestock Slaughter

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