NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE
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

AG UPDATE

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

Released: May 16, 2011 Vol. 31 No. 9

Contents of This Issue

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - MARCH 2011

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2011 totaled 191.4 million pounds, 1 percent below the same month a year earlier but 13 percent above February 2011. Beef slaughter decreased 1 percent from March 2010 to 223,700 head, and the average live weight of 1,304 decreased 4 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter increased 14 percent to 800 head, and the average live weight increased 6 pounds to 264. Accumulated red meat production for the first three months of 2011 totaled 528.1 million pounds, down from the 538.6 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.35 billion pounds in March, up 2 percent from the 4.28 billion pounds produced in March 2010. Beef production, at 2.27 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, up 2 percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,276 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.1 million pounds, 1 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,900 head, down 9 percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.05 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.87 million head, down 2 percent from March 2010. The average live weight was up 6 pounds from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.1 million pounds, was down 20 percent from March 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 193,900 head, 26 percent below last year. The average live weight was 146 pounds, up 11 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2010 commercial red meat production was 12.2 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 16 percent.

Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Mar. 2010	Feb. 2011	Mar. 2011	January-March 2010	January-March 2011
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	193.8	168.9	191.4	538.6	528.1
United States:	4,281.1	3,811.3	4,347.0	11,933.0	12,200.3
Beef	2,211.2	2,021.2	2,266.3	6,248.3	6,411.1
Veal	12.2	10.5	12.1	34.5	33.3
Pork	2,040.1	1,768.7	2,054.6	5,607.3	5,719.7
Lamb & Mutton	17.7	10.9	14.1	42.9	36.2

HAY STOCKS
MAY 1, 2011

Hay stocks on **Colorado** farms and ranches as of May 1, 2011 totaled 450,000 tons, down 31 percent from stocks of 650,000 tons on hand last year. Less hay production last year combined with below average pasture conditions last fall and winter led to the decrease in hay inventory.

All hay stored in the **United States** on farms May 1, 2011 totaled 22.2 million tons, up 6 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2010-May 1, 2011 totaled 79.9 million tons, compared with 86.3 million tons for the same period a year ago. Compared with last year, hay stocks increased across much of the Nation’s midsection. In many cases, these increases are attributed to an increase in total hay production in 2010.

Stocks on hand were down throughout much of the western half of the United States and along the Atlantic Coast. Lingering winter weather conditions in many western States forced producers to feed livestock longer into the spring months. Drought conditions in many areas along the Atlantic Coast caused a lack of available winter pastures. Overall, the largest percentage declines occurred in California, Idaho, and Nevada.

Hay Stocks on Farms, Selected States and U. S. May 1, 2009-2011

State	2009	2010	2011
	1,000 tons		
Alabama	375	192	187
Arizona	50	60	40
Arkansas	570	340	380
California	470	432	160
Colorado	**400**	**650**	**450**
Connecticut	9	14	12
Delaware	4	4	3
Florida	58	40	45
Georgia	238	210	188
Idaho	450	775	280
Illinois	300	310	320
Indiana	185	198	225
Iowa	750	420	610
Kansas	1,350	1,200	1,000
Kentucky	465	1,006	799
Louisiana	60	60	110
Maine	18	34	23
Maryland	111	60	65
Massachusetts	12	9	10
Michigan	450	330	420
Minnesota	790	630	810
Mississippi	214	90	137
Missouri	2,050	1,250	1,325
Montana	590	720	1,300
Nebraska	935	1,000	1,335
Nevada	170	310	46
New Hampshire	8	7	6
New Jersey	26	46	17
New Mexico	105	125	100
New York	420	400	273
North Carolina	311	296	253
North Dakota	700	1,310	1,250
Ohio	325	350	390
Oklahoma	1,000	650	1,200
Oregon	270	420	280
Pennsylvania	700	680	340
Rhode Island	1	2	1
South Carolina	115	130	110
South Dakota	1,900	2,190	1,850
Tennessee	552	678	746
Texas	2,100	1,100	2,500
Utah	285	245	144
Vermont	37	50	48
Virginia	450	350	402
Washington	350	280	350
West Virginia	156	125	190
Wisconsin	950	753	1,122
Wyoming	230	400	365
United States	22,065	20,931	22,217

CROP PRODUCTION MAY 1, 2011

Winter wheat production in **Colorado**, based on conditions as of May 1, 2011, is forecast at 64.5 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This forecast is 39 percent below last year's production of 105.8 million bushels and 34 percent below the winter wheat crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.15 million acres, is 200,000 acres less than a year ago.

Average yield is forecast at 30.0 bushels per acre, down 15.0 bushels per acre from last year's record high yield. This year's crop was planted under dry and windy conditions resulting in thin stands going into winter dormancy. After a relatively dry winter the crop has lost a substantial share of its potential. Very short to short soil moisture supplies exist in many 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 forecast at 1.42 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2010. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 32.0 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions the United States yield is forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year.

In the southern Great Plains States, dry weather during the winter and spring has led to poor growing conditions. Crop conditions declined from last year in all of the major Hard Red Winter (HRW) producing States except Montana. As of May 1, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas was 49 points or more below last year. Yields are forecasted lower than last year in all major HRW producing States.

Favorable planting conditions and adequate moisture this spring in many of the Soft Red Winter (SRW) producing States has resulted in crop development slightly ahead of the 5-year average. On May 1, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Illinois and North Carolina was 23 and 41 points above last year, respectively. Yields are forecasted to be higher than 2010 in most SRW producing States.

A cool, wet spring in the Pacific Northwest has led to concerns of disease and caused crop development to be slightly behind the 5-year average in Oregon and Washington. Yields are forecasted to be down from 2010 in Idaho and Washington, but up in Oregon.

Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at a collective 23.2 million bushels, up 12 percent from the previous year. A cool spring in California caused crop development to be slightly behind normal. If realized, California's yield of 110.0 bushels per acre will tie last year's record high yield.

Winter Wheat: Acres harvested, yield and production, selected states and United States, 2009-2011

STATE	Acres harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2010	Indicated 2011	2010	Indicated 2011	2009	2010	Indicated 2011
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Arkansas	150	450	54.0	52.0	17,160	8,100	23,400
California	360	460	80.0	85.0	26,400	28,800	39,100
Colorado	**2,350**	**2,150**	**45.0**	**30.0**	**98,000**	**105,750**	**64,500**
Georgia	125	180	40.0	49.0	10,500	5,000	8,820
Idaho	710	790	82.0	79.0	56,700	58,220	62,410
Illinois	295	730	56.0	61.0	45,920	16,520	44,530
Indiana	230	390	60.0	64.0	30,150	13,800	24,960
Kansas	8,000	7,700	45.0	34.0	369,600	360,000	261,800
Kentucky	250	410	66.0	66.0	22,230	16,500	27,060
Maryland	135	220	60.0	67.0	11,700	8,100	14,740
Michigan	510	680	70.0	73.0	39,330	35,700	49,640
Mississippi	100	300	47.0	53.0	8,250	4,700	15,900
Missouri	280	720	45.0	52.0	34,310	12,600	37,440
Montana	1,950	2,150	48.0	44.0	89,540	93,600	94,600
Nebraska	1,490	1,350	43.0	42.0	76,800	64,070	56,700
New York	100	105	67.0	64.0	6,825	6,700	6,720
North Carolina	380	630	37.0	57.0	29,400	14,060	35,910
North Dakota	320	310	55.0	54.0	26,160	17,600	16,740
Ohio	750	860	61.0	69.0	70,560	45,750	59,340
Oklahoma	3,900	3,400	31.0	22.0	77,000	120,900	74,800
Oregon	810	810	67.0	69.0	42,000	54,270	55,890
Pennsylvania	150	160	59.0	59.0	9,800	8,850	9,440
South Carolina	130	190	36.0	47.0	7,050	4,680	8,930
South Dakota	1,300	1,550	49.0	46.0	64,260	63,700	71,300
Tennessee	180	260	53.0	57.0	17,340	9,540	14,820
Texas	3,750	1,800	34.0	26.0	61,250	127,500	46,800
Virginia	160	260	51.0	66.0	12,180	8,160	17,160
Washington	1,710	1,770	69.0	65.0	96,760	117,990	115,050
Wisconsin	230	305	64.0	67.0	21,420	14,720	20,435
Other States 1/	944	949	47.1	47.9	46,013	39,356	45,422
United States	31,749	32,039	46.8	44.5	1,524,608	1,485,236	1,424,357

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 2011 Summary", September 30, 2011.

POTATO STOCKS
May 1, 2011

Fall potato stocks in the San Luis Valley of **Colorado** totaled 4.3 million hundredweight as of May 1, 2011, down 12 percent from the stocks on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 20 percent of the 21.53 million hundredweight produced in 2010. The May 1, 2010 stocks represented 22 percent of the 22.08 million hundredweight produced in 2009. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2005-2009 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 65.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2011, down 27 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 19 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, four percentage points below May 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 520 thousand cwt on May 1, 2011, down 32 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 286 million cwt, was 3 percent below May 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.1 million cwt, was down 17 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 1 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 22.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
APRIL 2011

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 2 points (1.2 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 1 point (0.5 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 4 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher prices for corn, cattle, eggs, and hogs and lower prices for lettuce, milk, tomatoes, and celery. 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, strawberries, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton.

The all crops index at 195 increased 0.5 percent from March and is 30 percent above April 2010. Index increases for feed grains & hay, food grains, fruits & nuts, potatoes & dry beans, oilseeds, and cotton more than offset the decrease in the commercial vegetables index. The April all wheat price, at $8.18 per bushel, is up 64 cents from March and $3.77 above April 2010. The corn price, at $6.40 per bushel, is up 87 cents from last month and $2.99 above April 2010. The all hay price, at $141.00 per ton, is up $17.00 from March and $33.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at $11.80 per hundredweight, is $1.20 above March and $6.41 above April last year. The soybean price, at $12.80 per bushel, increased 10 cents from March and is $3.33 above April 2010. The all potato price, at $11.41 per bushel, increased 67 cents from March and is $2.99 above April 2010. The all dry bean price, at $31.10 per hundredweight, is up $1.00 from the previous month and 50 cents above April 2010.

The April livestock index, at 156, is 2.6 percent above last month and up 22 percent from April 2010. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, milk, hogs, eggs, turkeys, and calves. Broilers were unchanged.

The April hog price, at $67.10 per hundredweight, is up $4.00 from March and $10.60 higher than a year ago. The April beef cattle price of $120 per hundredweight is up $5.00 from last month and $24.40 higher than April 2010. The April all milk price of $19.70 per hundredweight is 70 cents lower than last month but $5.10 higher than April 2010.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2010 Apr.	2011 Mar.	2011 Apr.
	Percent		
Prices Received	138	172	174
Prices Paid	181	201	204
Ratio 1/	76	86	85

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

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Unit	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2011	Apr. 2011
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.05	6.91	7.35
Corn	Bu.	3.31	5.21	6.38
Potatoes	Cwt	5.35	13.00	12.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	31.30	29.40	29.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	140.00	140.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	120.00	115.00	115.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	107.00	3/	3/
Steers & heifers	Cwt	108.00	3/	3/
Cows	Cwt	61.00	3/	3/
Calves	Cwt	128.00	3/	3/
Sheep	Cwt	48.00	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	118.00	3/	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.70	20.30	20.00
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	4.41	7.54	8.18
Corn	Bu.	3.41	5.53	6.40
Soybeans	Bu.	9.47	12.70	12.80
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.08	4.31	4.62
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.40	4.27	4.67
Sorghum	Cwt	5.39	10.60	11.80
Potatoes	Cwt	8.42	10.74	11.41
Dry edible beans	Cwt	30.60	30.10	31.10
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	112.00	136.00	155.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	96.70	97.30	103.00
Onions	Cwt	29.90	6.79	7.49
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	95.60	115.00	120.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	101.00	118.00	124.00
Cows	Cwt	57.50	75.20	79.80
Calves	Cwt	124.00	148.00	150.00
Sheep	Cwt	49.40	NA	4/
Lambs	Cwt	118.00	169.00	4/
Hogs	Cwt	56.50	63.10	67.10
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	14.60	20.40	19.70
Broilers	Lb.	0.49	0.49	0.49

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale.
2/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.
3/ Monthly prices discontinued.
4/ Mid-month prices discontinued
NA/ Not available

Compared with April 2010 all **Colorado** crop prices averaged higher except for dry edible beans and other hay (baled). Mid-April 2011 wheat, at $7.35 per bushel, was 44 cents above the previous month and $3.30 above April a year ago. Corn, at $6.38 per bushel, was $1.17 above the previous month and $3.07 above April 2010. The mid-April potato price, at $12.90 per hundredweight, was 10 cents below the previous month and was $7.55 above April a year ago. Dry bean prices were 40 cents above March at $29.80 per hundredweight but were $1.50 cents below the April 2010 price of $31.30 per hundredweight. Alfalfa hay, at $140.00 per ton, remained unchanged from last month but $15.00 higher than April 2010. The other hay price, at $115.00 per ton, remained unchanged from March but $5.00 below April a year ago.

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 20 - Cattle on Feed
May 20 - Cold Storage
May 23 - Chicken and Eggs
May 25 - Poultry Slaughter
May 31 - Agricultural Prices

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director