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down 8 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States 1/

Area and Species	Apr. 2011	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	January-April	
				2011	2012
Million Pounds					
Colorado	157.6	185.3	170.8	685.7	712.5
United States	3,867.8	4,171.8	3,855.1	16,065.7	16,064.3
Beef	2,052.5	2,159.8	1,990.6	8,462.1	8,273.2
Veal	10.2	10.0	9.9	43.6	40.1
Pork	1,790.7	1,987.9	1,841.7	7,509.5	7,699.4
Lamb & Mutton ..	14.4	14.2	12.9	50.6	51.5

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER APRIL 2012

Red meat production in **Colorado** during April 2012 totaled 170.8 million pounds, 8 percent above 157.6 million pounds produced during April 2011 but 8 percent below March this year. The accumulated production for the first four months of this year now totals 712.5 million pounds, 4 percent above the 685.7 million pounds during the comparable period last year. Cattle kill in Colorado during April increased 4 percent from the previous year to 196,600 head. The average live weight of 1,313 pounds was 51 pounds above the average for April 2011. Hog slaughter increased 50 percent from a year ago at 900 head but the average live weight decreased 38 pounds to 227. Sheep and lamb kill during April totaled 75,500 head, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average live weight of 181 pounds increased 12 pounds from April 2011.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.86 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.87 billion pounds produced in April 2011. Beef production, at 1.99 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 6 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,282 pounds. Veal production totaled 9.9 million pounds, 3 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,500 head, down 4 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 295 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.83 million head, up 2 percent from April 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from April 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 181,200 head, 13 percent below last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, up 4 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2012 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, down slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was

CHICKEN AND EGG PRODUCTION APRIL 2012

Colorado laying flocks produced 112 million eggs during April 2012, up 23 percent from the 91 million produced during the same month last year. During April, the average number of layers was 4.73 million, up 19 percent from April 2011 and up from 4.33 million in March 2012. The average number of eggs produced per 100 layers was 2,366 this April compared with 2,282 last April and 2,447 for March of this year.

United States egg production totaled 7.58 billion during April 2012, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.54 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 964 million were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2012 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,233 eggs, down slightly from April 2011.

All layers in the United States on May 1, 2012 totaled 338 million, down slightly from last year. The 338 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 52.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.98 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2012, averaged 73.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from May 1, 2011.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2012 totaled 39.7 million, down 8 percent from April 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 42.0 million on May 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 172 thousand during April 2012, down 40 percent from April 2011.

Eggs in incubators totaled 619 million on May 1, 2012, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.52 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2012, down 7 percent from April 2011.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES MAY 2012

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 176 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 2 points (1.1 percent) from April. The Crop Index is down 3 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for cattle, corn, milk, and wheat. Higher prices were received for broilers, grapefruit, hay, and oranges. 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 broilers, sweet corn, wheat, and grapes offset the decreased marketing of corn, cattle, milk, and soybeans.

The May All Crops index at 204, decreased 1.4 percent from April but remained slightly above May 2011. Index decreases for feed grains & hay, food grains, and potatoes & dry beans more than offset the index increases for fruits & nuts, upland cotton, and commercial vegetables. The May all wheat price, at \$6.60 per bushel, is down 51 cents from April and \$1.56 below May 2011. The corn price, at \$6.22 per bushel, is down 12 cents from last month and 10 cents below May 2011. The all hay price, at \$199 per ton, is up \$9.00 from April and \$28.00 higher than last May. Sorghum grain, at \$10.10 per hundredweight, is 50 cents below April and \$1.50 below May last year. The soybean price, at \$13.70 per bushel, is unchanged from April but is 50 cents above May 2011. The all potato price, at \$9.86 per hundredweight, is down 89 cents from April and \$1.31 from last May. The all dry bean price, at \$44.60 per hundredweight, is down \$2.40 from the previous month but \$11.70 above May 2011.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		May 2011	Apr. 2012	May 2012
Crops				
Dollars				
Wheat.....	Bu.	7.96	6.01	5.62
Corn	Bu.	6.55	6.35	6.10
Potatoes.....	Cwt	13.00	11.20	10.20
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.70	50.70	51.20
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	150.00	255.00	255.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	125.00	170.00	170.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Cows	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Calves	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Sheep.....	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Lambs	Cwt	1/	1/	1/
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	19.60	17.10	16.70
United States				
Dollars				
Wheat.....	Bu.	8.16	7.11	6.60
Corn	Bu.	6.32	6.34	6.22
Soybeans	Bu.	13.20	13.70	13.70
Barley (All).....	Bu.	4.15	5.72	5.43
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	4.61	5.15	4.75
Sorghum.....	Cwt	11.60	10.60	10.10
Potatoes.....	Cwt	11.17	10.75	9.86
Dry edible beans	Cwt	32.90	47.00	44.60
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	187.00	207.00	215.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	114.00	140.00	146.00
Onions.....	Cwt	15.10	18.00	22.80
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	112.00	124.00	121.00
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	115.00	128.00	124.00
Cows	Cwt	78.20	85.50	87.30
Calves	Cwt	137.00	178.00	176.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	55.40	1/	1/
Lambs	Cwt	181.00	1/	1/
Hogs.....	Cwt	68.60	62.80	61.60
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	19.60	16.80	16.40
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.50	0.51	0.53

1/Discontinued.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2012		
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
Percent			
Prices Received	175	178	176
Prices Paid.....	204	213	212
Ratio 1/	86	84	83

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

The May Livestock and Products index, at 151, is 0.7 percent below last month and May 2011. Compared with a year ago, prices for milk and hogs are down from last year. Prices are higher for cattle, broilers, calves, turkeys, and all eggs. The May hog price, at \$61.60 per hundredweight, is down \$1.20 from April and \$7.00 lower than a year ago. The May beef cattle price of \$121 per hundredweight is down \$3.00 from last month but \$9.00 higher than May 2011. The May all milk price \$16.40 per hundredweight declined 40 cents from last month and is \$3.20 lower than May 2011.

All mid-May 2011 **Colorado** crop prices decreased from the previous year, except for dry beans, alfalfa hay baled and other hay baled. Wheat, at \$5.62 per bushel, was 39 cents below the previous month and \$2.34 per bushel lower than May a year ago. Corn prices decreased 25 cents from April to \$6.10 per bushel and averaged 45 cents per bushel lower than May 2011. Dry edible beans at \$51.20 per hundredweight, were up 50 cents from last month and up \$21.50 from a year earlier. Potatoes were down \$1.00 from the previous month to \$10.20 per hundredweight and were \$2.80 per hundredweight lower than the \$13.00 per hundredweight received in May 2011. Alfalfa hay averaged \$255.00 per ton in mid-May of this year, unchanged from the previous month but \$85.00 per ton above May 2011. Other hay also remained unchanged at \$170.00 per ton from the previous month but averaged \$45.00 per ton above May 2011. The May all milk price of \$16.70 per hundredweight is down 40 cents from last month and \$2.90 higher than May 2011.

**COLD STORAGE
APRIL 30, 2012**

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on April 30, 2012 were up 2 percent from the previous month but down 1 percent from April 30, 2011. Butter stocks were up 22 percent from last month and up 79 percent from a year ago.

Total frozen poultry supplies on April 30, 2012 were up 10 percent from the previous month but down 6 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 6 percent from the previous month but down 18 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 17 percent from last month and up 20 percent from April 30, 2011.

Total frozen fruit stocks were down 7 percent from last month but up 6 percent from a year ago. Total frozen vegetable stocks were down 7 percent from last month but up 3 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 19 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 17 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 20 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 13 percent from last month and up 41 percent from last year.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	April 30, 2011	Mar. 31, 2012	April 30, 2012
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	141,728	208,253	253,854
Cheese, total natural	1,040,145	1,005,960	1,024,836
Eggs, frozen.....	27,681	33,669	32,468
Poultry, total frozen	1,112,956	952,269	1,048,361
Chicken.....	741,568	574,455	606,583
Turkey.....	364,503	375,268	438,507
Fruits, frozen.....	770,104	881,382	817,790
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,206,065	1,236,072	1,332,264
Vegetables, total frozen .	1,602,421	1,796,113	1,648,199
Potatoes, total frozen	1,070,257	1,097,449	1,114,382
Meats, total red	1,009,545	1,139,834	1,200,312
Beef, total frozen.....	443,151	503,170	517,528
Pork, total frozen.....	549,279	610,318	659,532

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. 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>

- June 12 - Crop Production
- June 13 - Potato Stocks
- June 18 - Milk Production
- June 22 - Cattle on Feed
- June 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- June 22 - Cold Storage
- June 22 - Livestock Slaughter
- June 28 - Agricultural Prices
- June 29 - Hogs and Pigs
- June 29 - Acreage
- June 29 - Grain Stocks

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**CENSUS OF
AGRICULTURE**

<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>



NASS's annual June surveys on crops and livestock are underway. In the first two weeks of June, NASS will survey about 140,000 U.S. producers and visit 42,000 tracts of farm land to collect information. Responses to these surveys provide the foundation for estimates in the upcoming growing year and will first be released in the *Acreage* and other reports on June 29.