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down 9 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

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## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AUGUST 2012

Red meat production in **Colorado** during August 2012 totaled 204.9 million pounds, unchanged from August 2011 but 1 percent above the 190.5 million pounds produced during July of this year. Cattle slaughter during August was down 8 percent from the previous year to 231,700 head, but the average live weight increased 10 pounds to 1,336 pounds per head. Hog slaughter, at 2,300 head, increased 28 percent from August 2011, but the average live weight decreased 16 pounds to 239 pounds per head. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 84,300 head, is a slight increase from August 2011 and the average live weight increased 17 pounds to 173 pounds per head. Accumulated red meat production for the first eight months of this year now totals 1.48 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the 1.43 billion pounds produced during the comparable period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.39 billion pounds in August, up 2 percent from the 4.30 billion pounds produced in August 2011. Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 3 percent from August 2011. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,300 pounds. Veal production totaled 10.1 million pounds, 11 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,600 head, down 9 percent from August 2011. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from last year, at 237 pounds. Pork production totaled 2.00 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.94 million head, up 4 percent from August 2011. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 269 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 8 percent from August 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,500 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 142 pounds, up 10 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2012 commercial red meat production was 32.6 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was

## Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Aug 2011	July 2012	Aug 2011	January-Aug	
				2011	2012
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado</b> .....	204.9	190.5	204.9	1,435.8	1,483.8
<b>United States</b> .....	4,303.4	3,944.5	4,389.6	32,295.0	32,605.0
Beef .....	2,386.9	2,200.8	2,367.5	17,489.9	17,325.5
Veal .....	11.4	9.5	10.1	86.6	79.0
Pork .....	1,892.1	1,721.8	1,997.8	14,618.3	15,096.3
Lamb & Mutton .....	13.1	12.5	14.2	100.1	104.2

## CATTLE ON FEED SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

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 930,000 head as of September 1, 2012. The latest inventory was down 6 percent from September 1, 2011, and down 1 percent from the previous month. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 195,000 head of fed cattle during August 2012. This represented an 8 percent increase from the July 2012 marketings, but a 5 percent decrease from the August marketings one year earlier. An estimated 190,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during August, up 23 percent from July 2012 placements, but down 17 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in August, 16 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 13 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 26 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 45 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for August, at 5,000 head, was the same as 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 10.6 million head on September 1, 2012. The inventory was 1 percent below September 1, 2011. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.00 million, 11 percent below 2011. This is the second lowest cattle placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.94 million head. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 482,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 475,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 660,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.96 million, 5 percent below 2011. Other disappearance totaled 61,000 during August, 15 percent below 2011.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots  
August 1 to September 1, 2011-2012**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Aug. 1	970	940	10,579	10,656
Placements During Aug.	230	190	2,246	2,002
< 600 pounds	45	30	715	482
600 - 699 Pounds	30	25	365	385
700 - 799 Pounds	45	50	476	475
800 Plus Pounds	110	85	690	660
Marketings During Aug.	205	195	2,053	1,960
Other Disap. During Aug.	5	5	72	61
On Feed September 1	990	930	10,700	10,637

**MILK PRODUCTION  
AUGUST 2012**

Milk production in **Colorado** during August 2012 totaled 272 million pounds, up 15 million pounds from the 257 million pounds produced during the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for August of this year was 133,000 head, up 5,000 head from August 2011. Production per cow averaged 2,045 pounds for August, 2% above the 2,010 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 15.5 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from July 2011. June revised production at 15.5 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from June 2011. The June revision represented an increase of 2 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,826 pounds for July, 6 pounds above July 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 41,000 head more than July 2011, but 7,000 head less than June 2012.

**Milk Cows and Milk Production**

Item	Unit	2011	2012
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/.....	1,000 head	128	133
Milk Per Cow 2/.....	Lbs.	2,010	2,045
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	257	272
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/.....	1,000 head	8,459	8,500
Milk Per Cow 2/.....	Lbs.	1,820	1,826
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	15,395	15,520

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**ONIONS**

The first production forecast for **Colorado** has acreage down 800 acres from last year to 6,700 planted. Planting was virtually complete two weeks early by the first week of May. Acres for harvest are forecast at 6,400 with a yield of 400 hundredweight per acre, producing 2.56 million

hundredweight. This is down 11 percent from last year's production.

Production of spring onions in the **United States** for 2012 is forecast at 7.38 million hundredweight, down 17 percent from last year. The crop covered 24,900 harvested acres. The average yield at 296 hundredweight per acre is 3 hundredweight below 2011. In Georgia, disease problems were reported due to adverse weather conditions. In northern California, an early frost and wind driven erosion increased fungal problems for the crop.

Production of non-storage onions is forecast at 10.8 million hundredweight, up 3 percent from last year. Harvested area covers 18,800 acres, unchanged from the previous year. In California, despite adverse weather conditions, harvest was on schedule and the onion crop was reported to be developing well. In Nevada, harvest was underway and early yields were reported to be good. In New Mexico, growing conditions for non-storage onions were reported to be good. In Washington, exceptional yields were reported for the State.

Growers expect to harvest 99,850 acres of **storage onions** this year, up 1 percent from last year. In California, harvest was on schedule and the crop was reported to be developing well. Washington onion growers experienced a very good growing season.

**Onions for Fresh Market 2011-2012 Crops**

Crop	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	<b>Acres</b>		<b>Acres</b>		<b>Cwt.</b>		<b>1,000 Cwt.</b>	
Spring 1/ .....	33,100	28,900	29,600	24,900	299	296	8,845	7,378
Summer 1/ Non-Storage...	19,300	19,100	18,800	18,800	556	573	10,452	10,781
Storage 2/ CA 3/.....	30,600	31,000	29,500	29,800	440	436	12,980	13,000
CO .....	7,500	6,700	6,900	6,400	415	400	2,864	2,560
ID .....	9,400	8,300	9,200	8,100	780	740	7,176	5,994
MI .....	3,900	3,000	3,400	2,900	240	310	816	899
NY .....	8,100	10,200	6,200	10,100	305	330	1,891	3,333
OR-Malheur ...	11,300	10,400	11,300	10,300	730	740	8,249	7,622
OR-Other .....	9,500	8,400	9,500	8,400	685	610	6,508	5,124
WA .....	20,000	20,200	20,000	20,200	650	660	13,000	13,332
WI .....	1,500	1,800	1,500	1,800	370	290	555	522
Other .....	1,730	1,850	1,730	1,850	440	489	761	904
Subtotal .....	103,530	101,850	99,230	99,850	552	534	54,800	53,290
Total Summer	122,830	120,950	118,030	118,650	553	540	65,252	64,071
U.S. ....	155,930	149,850	147,630	143,550	502	498	74,097	71,449

1/ Primarily fresh marketing. 3/ Primarily for processing.

**COLD STORAGE  
AUGUST 31, 2012**

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on August 31, 2012 were down 4 percent from the previous month and down 6 percent from August 31, 2011. Butter stocks were down 13 percent from last month but up 23 percent from a year ago. Total frozen poultry supplies on August 31, 2012 were up 1 percent from the previous month but down 1 percent from a

year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from the previous month but down 6 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 1 percent from last month and up 5 percent from August 31, 2011. Total frozen fruit stocks were up 6 percent from last month and up 8 percent from a year ago. Total frozen vegetable stocks were up 19 percent from last month and up 6 percent from a year ago. Total red meat supplies in freezers were up slightly from the previous month and up 16 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were down 7 percent from the previous month but up slightly from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 6 percent from the previous month and up 31 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 51 percent from last month and down 9 percent from last year.

### Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Aug 31, 2011	July 31, 2012	Aug 31, 2012
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	165,698	234,352	204,492
Cheese, total natural .....	1,065,363	1,044,529	1,003,139
Eggs, frozen .....	31,009	38,654	36,010
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,288,431	1,202,424	1,213,415
Chicken .....	694,231	650,442	655,272
Turkey .....	528,396	547,465	554,869
Fruits, frozen .....	1,058,546	1,077,471	1,143,507
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	933,077	1,156,873	1,068,547
Vegetables, total frozen .....	1,984,758	1,779,072	2,109,394
Potatoes, total frozen .....	954,173	1,053,129	1,029,675
Meats, total red .....	896,709	1,039,092	1,039,363
Beef, total frozen .....	428,633	461,051	429,785
Pork, total frozen .....	442,903	549,621	580,783

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.

## CROP PRODUCTION SEPTEMBER 1, 2012

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The **corn** yield forecast for Colorado is estimated at 135.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels above last year's final yield, but unchanged from the August 1 forecast. The forecast for harvested acres remains at 970,000 acres, down 330,000 acres from the area harvested for grain in 2011. The adverse growing conditions this year prompted many farmers to consider abandonment, grazing or harvest for forage instead of grain. Corn production is forecast at 130.95 million bushels, 24 percent below last year's production. The **sorghum** yield is now forecast at 22.0 bushels per acre, down 5.0 bushels from the August 1 forecast and 13.0 bushels per acre below last year's crop. This year's drought also affected the mostly non-irrigated, late planted crop. Growers are expected to harvest 160,000 acres, placing production at 3.52 million bushels, down 28 percent from the 4.90 million bushels produced last year. The **summer potato** yield is now forecast at 385 hundredweight per acre, 30 hundredweight above last year's average yield and up marginally from July's forecast. Growers are expected to harvest 5,300 acres, up 900 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is forecast at 2.04 million hundredweight, up 479,000 hundredweight from the production attained last year. The **sugarbeet** yield is now

forecast at a record high 34.0 tons per acre, up slightly from the August 1 forecast and 5.1 tons per acre above last year's yield. Production is now forecast at 1,010,000 tons from 29,700 harvested acres, up from last year's 829,000 tons from 28,700 acres.

### UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Corn** production is forecast at 10.7 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent from the August forecast and down 13 percent from 2011. This represents the lowest production in the United States since 2006. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 122.8 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the August forecast and 24.4 bushels below the 2011 average. If realized, this will be the lowest average yield since 1995. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 87.4 million acres, unchanged from the August forecast but up 4 percent from 2011.

**Sorghum** production is forecast at 246 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month but up 15 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 5.10 million acres, unchanged from August 1 but up 30 percent from 2011. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 48.3 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month and down 6.3 bushels from last year. A record high yield is forecast in Louisiana, where farmers reported mostly favorable growing conditions.

**Summer potato** production is forecast at 17.4 million hundredweight, up 7 percent from the July forecast and 35 percent above 2011. Harvested area is estimated at 49,000 acres, up 3 percent from the previous forecast and 7 percent above last year. Average yield is forecast at 356 hundredweight per acre, up 14 hundredweight from July and 76 hundredweight from 2011.

**Sugarbeet** production for the 2012 crop year is forecast at 35.6 million tons, up 23 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 1.22 million acres, down slightly from the previous forecast. Expected yield is forecast at 29.3 tons per acre, an increase of 0.2 ton from last year. If realized, this will be a record yield for the United States.

**Soybean** production is forecast at 2.63 billion bushels, down 2 percent from August and down 14 percent from last year. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 35.3 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from last month and down 6.2 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are lower or unchanged across the Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt as lingering drought conditions continued to hamper yield expectations. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 74.6 million acres, unchanged from August but up 1 percent from last year.

**Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2011-2012**

Area and Crop	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Unit	Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2011	2012	2011	2012		2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres			Units per acre		1,000 units	
<b>Colorado:</b>									
All Corn 1/ .....	1,500	1,420	1,300	970	Bu.	133.00	135.0	172,900	130,950
All Sorghum 1/.....	220	230	140	160	Bu.	35.0	22.0	4,900	3,520
All Wheat.....	2,345	2,420	2,044	2,269	Bu.	40	5/	81,828	5/
Winter Wheat .....	2,300	2,400	2,000	2,250	Bu.	39.0	37.0	78,000	83,250
Spring Wheat .....	45	20	44	5/	Bu.	87.0	5/	3,828	5/
Oats .....	45	50	10	5/	Bu.	70	5/	700	5/
Barley.....	66	58	63	55	Bu.	126.0	125.0	7,938	6,875
Proso Millet .....	250	200	230	4/	Bu.	27	4/	6,210	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	1,620	4/	Tons	2.54	4/	4,110	4/
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	800	790	Tons	3.6	3.2	2,880	2,528
Other Hay.....	...	...	820	710	Tons	1.5	1.4	1,230	994
Sugarbeets.....	29.4	31.2	28.7	29.7	Tons	28.9	34.0	829	1,010
Dry edible beans .....	38	50	37	45	Cwt.	15.8	16.2	585	729
Sunflowers, All .....	128	85	113	79	Lbs.	1099	6/	124,200	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	110	75	97	70	Lbs.	1,000	6/	97,000	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil .....	18	10	16	9	Lbs.	1,700	6/	27,200	6/
All potatoes .....	58.5	60.5	58.3	7/	Cwt.	392	7/	22,853	7/
Summer potatoes.....	4.5	5.4	4.4	5.3	Cwt.	355	385	1,562	2,041
Fall potatoes .....	54.0	55.1	53.9	55.0	Cwt.	395	7/	21,291	7/
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,000	17,,000
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	12	15
<b>United States:</b>									
All Corn 1/ .....	91,921	96,405	83,981	87,361	Bu.	147.2	122.8	12,358,412	10,727,364
All Sorghum 1/.....	5,481	6,210	3,929	5,098	Bu.	54.6	48.3	214,443	246,021
All Wheat 2/.....	54,409	56,017	45,705	48,826	Bu.	43.7	46.5	1,999,347	2,268,246
Winter Wheat .....	40,646	41,819	32,314	35,023	Bu.	46.2	48.0	1,493,677	1,682,726
Spring Wheat .....	12,394	11,995	12,079	11,681	Bu.	37.7	42.8	455,188	499,510
Oats .....	2,496	2,746	939	1,091	Bu.	57.1	61.0	53,649	66,519
Barley.....	2,559	3,678	2,239	3,268	Bu.	69.6	67.6	155,780	221,019
Rye .....	1,266	1,251	242	275	Bu.	26.1	5/	6,326	5/
Proso Millet .....	370	315	338	4/	Bu.	27.1	4/	9,149	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	55,633	57,574	Tons	2.36	2.09	131,144	120,343
Alfalfa Hay.....	...	...	19,213	18,812	Tons	3.40	2.92	65,332	54,895
Other Hay.....	...	...	36,420	38,762	Tons	1.81	1.69	65,812	65,448
Sugarbeets.....	1,232.7	1,243.5	1,213.1	1,215.0	Tons	23.8	29.3	28,828	35,583
Dry edible beans .....	1,205.9	1,714.7	1,155.9	1,673.5	Cwt.	17.2	16.1	19,833	27,016
Sunflowers, All .....	1,543.0	1,804.5	1,457.8	1,735.4	Lbs.	1,398	6/	2,038,275	6/
Sunflowers, Oil.....	1,289.5	1,496.0	1,233.4	1,451.0	Lbs.	1,397	6/	1,722,675	6/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil .....	253.5	308.5	224.4	284.4	Lbs.	1,406	6/	315,600	6/
All potatoes 3/ .....	1,099.2	1,150.9	1,077.0	1,135.9	Cwt.	399	7/	429,647	7/
Summer potatoes.....	48.2	50.3	46.0	49.0	Cwt.	280	356	12,894	17,447
Fall potatoes .....	957.7	1,002.9	939.5	990.8	Cwt.	416	7/	391,180	7/
Soybeans.....	74,976	76,080	73,636	74,635	Bu.	41.5	35.3	3,056,032	2,634,310
Apples.....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,420,000	8,065,700
Peaches.....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	1,072	1,023

1/ Planted for all purposes; harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops.

4/ January 2013. 5/ September 30, 2012. 6/ October 12, 2012. 7/ November 9, 2012.

## 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 Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Sept. 28 - Grain Stocks
- Sept. 28 - Small Grains Summary
- Oct. 11 - Crop Production
- Oct. 19 - Milk Production
- Oct. 19 - Cattle on Feed
- Oct. 22 - Cold Storage
- Oct. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Oct. 26 - Livestock Slaughter

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