



**NATIONAL
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AG UPDATE

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Released: October 25, 2012

Vol. 32 No. 20

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CHICKENS AND EGGS September 2012

Colorado laying flocks produced 97 million eggs during September 2012, down 9 million from the previous month and down 6 million from September 2011. The average number of layers for the month, at 4.20 million, was 1 percent below the 4.22 million the previous month and was 9 percent below the 4.62 million layers for September 2011. The rate of lay for September 2012, at 2,311 eggs per 100 layers, was 8 percent below the 2,511 for the previous month and 4 percent below the 2,227 in September a year earlier.

United States egg production totaled 7.55 billion during September 2012, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.57 billion table eggs, and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 919 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2012 averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,241 eggs, up slightly from September 2011.

All layers in the United States on October 1, 2012 totaled 338 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 338 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 49.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.96 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2012, averaged 74.3 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from October 1, 2011.

CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 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 1,000,000 head as of October 1, 2012. The latest inventory was 8 percent above last month's inventory, but 7 percent below the October 1, 2011 inventory. The inventory included 670,000 steers and steer calves, down 8 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 325,000 head, are down 3 percent from a year ago. The number of cows and bulls totaled 5,000, no change from last year's number. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or

larger capacity marketed an estimated 150,000 head of fed cattle during September 2012. This was 23 percent below the previous month's marketings and 19 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 225,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September 2012, down 18 percent from a year ago, but up 18 percent from the August 2012 placements. Of the number placed in September, 18 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 9 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 49 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from last month, but down 5,000 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 11.0 million head on October 1, 2012. The inventory was 3 percent below October 1, 2011. The inventory included 6.96 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.97 million head, down 8 percent from 2011. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.00 million, 19 percent below 2011. This is the lowest cattle placements for the month of September since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.94 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 515,000, 600-699 pounds were 355,000, 700-799 pounds were 444,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 690,000. Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.60 million, 12 percent below 2011. This is the second lowest cattle marketings for the month of September since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 64,000 during September, 14 percent below 2011.

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

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
1,000 head				
On Feed Sept. 1	990	930	10,647	10,700
Placements During Sept.	275	225	2,469	2,004
< 600 pounds ¹	40	40	685	515
600 - 699 Pounds	25	20	415	355
700 - 799 Pounds	60	55	504	444
800 Plus Pounds	150	110	865	690
Marketings During Sept.	185	150	1,813	1,598
Other Disap. During Sept.	10	5	74	61
On Feed October 1	1,070	1,000	11,282	10,989

MILK PRODUCTION SEPTEMBER 2012

Milk production in **Colorado** during September 2012 totaled 264 million pounds, up 13 million pounds from the 251 million pounds produced during the same period a year earlier. The average number of milk cows for September of this year was 135,000 head, up 5,000 head from September 2011. Production per cow averaged 1,955 pounds for September, 1 percent above the 1,930 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during September totaled 14.7 billion pounds, down 0.5 percent from September 2011. August revised production at 15.3 billion pounds, was down slightly from August 2011. The August revision represented an increase of 26 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,732 pounds for September, 10 pounds below September 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 5,000 head more than September 2011, but 25,000 head less than August 2012.

Milk Cows and Milk Production

Item	Unit	2011	2012
Colorado:			
Milk Cows ^{1/}	1,000 head	130	135
Milk Per Cow ^{2/}	Lbs.	1,930	1,955
Production ^{2/}	Mil. Lbs.	251	264
23 State Total:			
Milk Cows ^{1/}	1,000 head	8,466	8,471
Milk Per Cow ^{2/}	Lbs.	1,742	1,732
Production ^{2/}	Mil. Lbs.	14,744	14,670

^{1/} Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CROP PRODUCTION OCTOBER 1, 2012

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado's **corn** for grain production is now forecast at 133.86 million bushels, up 2 percent from the September 1 forecast. Average yield is 3.0 bushels per acre above the September forecast at 138.0 bushels per acre, but 5.0 bushels below last year. Area intended for grain remains at 970,000 acres.

Sorghum for grain production for 2012 is expected to total 3.52 million bushels, unchanged from the September 1 forecast, but down 28 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 22.0 bushels per acre, is unchanged from the September 1 forecast, but down 13.0 bushels from last year's results. The area planted is revised upward 15,000 acres from the June forecast to 245,000, but area intended for grain is unchanged from September at 160,000 acres.

Sugarbeet production remains forecast at 1.01 million tons, up 22 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average a record high 34.0 tons per acre compared with 28.9

tons per acre last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 29,700 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year.

The initial forecast of **all sunflower** production was placed at 53.94 million pounds, down 57 percent from the 2011 crop of 124.20 million pounds. If realized, this will be the second lowest sunflower production in Colorado since record keeping started in 1991. The average expected yield is 782 pounds per acre, a decrease of 317 pounds per acre from last year. The revised estimated harvested acreage based on administrative information, at 69,000 acres, is down 13 percent from June's forecast of 79,000. Last year producers harvested 113,000 acres.

Alfalfa hay production is now forecast at 2.92 million tons, up 1.5 percent from last year and up 16 percent from the August forecast. Acreage harvested for alfalfa hay is expected to total 790,000 acres. **All other hay** production is forecast at 710,000 tons, down 42 percent from last year's production and down 29 percent from August. If realized, this will be the lowest other hay production in Colorado since 1956. Harvested acreage is expected to total 710,000 acres this year, down 110,000 acres from last year with an expected yield of 1.0 ton per acre.

Dry bean production, is expected to hit 702,000 hundredweight, an increase from last year's 585,000 hundredweight. The average expected yield of 1560 pounds per acre is 20 pounds below the 2011 yield. Area for harvest remained unchanged from the August forecast at 45,000 acres, 8,000 acres above last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 10.7 billion bushels, down slightly from the September forecast and down 13 percent from 2011. This represents the lowest production in the United States since 2006. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 122.0 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushel from the September forecast and 25.2 bushels below the 2011 average. If realized, this will be the lowest average yield since 1995. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 87.7 million acres, up less than 1 percent from the September forecast and up 4 percent from 2011. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

Sorghum production is forecast at 252 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month and up 18 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data. Planted area, at 6.24 million acres, is up slightly from the previous estimate and up 14 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 5.02 million acres, down 2 percent from September 1 but up 28 percent from 2011. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 50.2 bushels per acre, up 1.9 bushels from last month but down 4.4 bushels from last year. A record high yield is forecast in Louisiana, where farmers reported mostly favorable growing conditions.

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, up slightly from the previous forecast. Expected yield is forecast at 29.3 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous month but 5.5 tons higher than last year. If realized, this will be a record yield for the United States.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.86 billion bushels, up 9 percent from September but down 8 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 37.8 bushels per acre, up 2.5 bushels from last month but down 4.1 bushels from last year. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are higher or unchanged across all States. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 75.7 million acres, up 1 percent from September and up 3 percent from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixture production is forecast at 55.6 million tons, up 1 percent from August but down 15 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production level since 1953. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 2.95 tons per acre, up 0.03 ton from August but down 0.45 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 18.8 million acres, down 2 percent from 2011.

Other hay production is forecast at 66.4 million tons, up 1 percent from both the August forecast and last year. If realized, this will be the second lowest production level since 1990. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.71 tons per acre, up 0.02 ton from August but down 0.1 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest United States yield since 1988. Harvested area is forecast at 38.8 million acres, up 6 percent from last year.

Dry bean production is forecast at 31.0 million cwt for 2012, up 56 percent from last year. Planted area is forecast at 1.73 million acres, up 44 percent from 2011. Harvested area is forecast at 1.69 million acres, 46 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,836 pounds per acre, an increase of 120 pounds from 2011. If realized, yield will be at a record level exceeding the previous high of 1,768 pounds set in 2008.

(Table on page 4)

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>

Oct. 26 - Livestock Slaughter
Oct. 31 - Agricultural Prices
Nov. 09 - Crop Production
Nov. 16 - Cattle on Feed
Nov. 19 - Milk Production
Nov. 23 - Livestock Slaughter

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UPCOMING REPORTS

Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2010-2011

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	
Colorado:									
All Corn 1/	1,500	1,420	1,300	970	Bu.	133.00	138.0	172,900	133,860
All Sorghum 1/	220	245	140	160	Bu.	35.0	22.0	4,900	3,520
All Wheat	2,345	2,363	2,044	2,182	Bu.	40.0	34.3	81,828	74,848
Winter Wheat	2,300	2,350	2,000	2,170	Bu.	39.0	34.0	78,000	73,780
Spring Wheat	45	13	44	12	Bu.	87.0	89.0	3,828	1,068
Oats	45	55	10	6	Bu.	70.0	70.0	700	420
Barley	66	58	63	55	Bu.	126.0	123.0	7,938	6,765
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	3.7	2,880	2,923
Other Hay .....	...	...	820	710	Tons	1.5	1.0	1,230	710
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	15.6	585	702
Sunflowers, All	128	86	113	69	Lbs.	1,099	782	124,200	53,940
Sunflowers, Oil	110	75	97	60	Lbs.	1,000	5/	97,000	5/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	18	11	16	9	Lbs.	1,700	5/	27,200	5/
All potatoes	58.5	6/	58.3	6/	Cwt.	392	6/	22,853	6/
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	6/	21,291	6/
Apples .....	...	...	...	...	Lbs.	...	...	9,000	17,000
Peaches .....	...	...	...	...	Tons	...	...	12	15
United States:									
All Corn 1/	91,921	96,946	83,981	87,721	Bu.	147.2	122.0	12,358,412	10,705,729
All Sorghum 1/	5,481	6,238	3,929	5,016	Bu.	54.6	50.2	214,443	251,977
All Wheat 2/	54,409	55,736	45,705	48,991	Bu.	43.7	46.3	1,999,347	2,269,117
Winter Wheat	40,646	41,324	32,314	34,834	Bu.	46.2	47.2	1,493,677	1,645,202
Spring Wheat	12,394	12,289	12,079	12,055	Bu.	37.7	45.0	455,188	541,959
Oats	2,496	2,760	939	1,045	Bu.	57.1	61.3	53,649	64,024
Barley	2,559	3,637	2,239	3,244	Bu.	69.6	67.9	155,780	220,284
Rye	1,266	1,300	242	248	Bu.	26.1	28.0	6,326	6,944
Proso Millet	370	315	338	4/	Bu.	27.1	4/	9,149	4/
All Hay .....	...	...	55,633	57,574	Tons	2.36	2.12	131,144	121,974
Alfalfa Hay .....	...	...	19,213	18,812	Tons	3.40	2.95	65,332	55,566
Other Hay .....	...	...	36,420	38,762	Tons	1.81	1.71	65,812	66,408
Sugarbeets	1,232.7	1,243.5	1,213.1	1,215.5	Tons	23.8	29.3	28,828	35,597
Dry edible beans	1,205.9	1,733.7	1,155.9	1,690.0	Cwt.	17.2	18.4	19,833	31,033
Sunflowers, All	1,543.0	1,918.2	1,457.8	1,815.1	Lbs.	1,398	1,354	2,038,275	2,458,140
Sunflowers, Oil	1,289.5	1,656.5	1,233.4	1,576.5	Lbs.	1,397	5/	1,722,675	5/
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	253.5	261.7	224.4	238.6	Lbs.	1,406	5/	315,600	5/
All potatoes 3/	1,099.2	1,150.9	1,077.0	1,135.9	Cwt.	399	6/	429,647	6/
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	6/	391,180	6/
Soybeans	75,046	77,203	73,776	75,693	Bu.	41.9	37.8	3,093,524	2,860,290
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/ October 30, 2012. 6/ November 9, 2012.