NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
October 2012

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2012 totaled 196.7 million pounds, up 10 percent from a year earlier and 17 percent above last month. Cattle kill during October was up 10 percent from a year earlier to 221,900 head and the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 1,344 pounds per head. Hog slaughter increased 45 percent to 1,600 head from a year earlier but the average live weight, at 239 pounds, is a 3 pound decrease. Sheep and lamb slaughter increased 3 percent to 85,900 head from a year earlier and the average live weight, at 167 pounds, is a 14 pound increase. Accumulated red meat production for the January-October period this year, at 1.84 billion pounds, is 3 percent above the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.58 billion pounds in October, up 7 percent from the 4.27 billion pounds produced in October 2011. Beef production, at 2.34 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.95 million head, up 3 percent from October 2011. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,318 pounds. Veal production totaled 10.3 million pounds, 2 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,900 head, up slightly from October 2011. The average live weight was down 11 pounds from last year, at 242 pounds. Pork production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.86 million head, up 10 percent from October 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 274 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 21 percent from October 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,100 head, 18 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2012 commercial red meat production was 41.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent. lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Oct. 2011	Sept. 2012	Oct. 2012	January-October 2011	January-October 2012
	Million Pounds				
Colorado	178.2	167.7	196.7	1,801.0	1,848.2
United States	4,270.6	3,948.4	4,578.6	40,757.5	41,132.1
Beef	2,215.1	2,016.0	2,343.7	21,920.0	21,685.2
Veal	10.6	8.8	10.3	107.9	98.2
Pork	2,033.2	1,911.0	2,210.4	18,605.9	19,217.8
Lamb & Mutton	11.7	12.5	14.2	123.6	130.9

FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 2012

There were 906,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, up nearly 9 percent from the July 2011 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 872,000 for the reference week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $11.36 per hour during the July 2012 reference week, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.71 per hour, up more than 4 percent, while livestock workers earned $10.89 per hour compared with $10.29 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $10.75 per hour, was up 47 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down a little over 2 percent from July 2011.

The largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) region followed by the Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) region. Strong demand for tobacco, field crop, and livestock workers was seen in Appalachian II and increased demand in Northeast II across many farm types.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri) region followed by California. In Cornbelt II, early harvest of principle crops meant less workers in the field during the reference week this year and California saw decreases in hired worker demand from primarily nurseries and fruit and nut operations.

(Continued on next page)

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Number of Workers, and Number of Hours Worked by Region and Untied States, October 13, 2012

U.S. and Region	Type of Worker			All Hired Workers		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	Wage Rates	Number of Workers	Number of Hours Worked
	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(Dollars per Hour)	(1,000)	(Hours per Week)
Northeast I	10.99	10.66	10.90	11.38	47	41.0
Northeast II	11.48	11.83	11.55	12.13	48	37.8
Appalachian I	9.57	10.04	9.70	10.08	36	39.6
Appalachian II	10.48	10.55	10.50	10.98	30	37.9
Sourtheast	10.03	9.52	9.90	10.41	29	37.0
FL	9.25	9.90	9.32	10.24	47	37.6
Lake	12.06	10.68	11.50	12.01	72	37.2
Cornbelt I	11.67	11.61	11.65	12.45	65	37.9
Cornbelt II	11.87	10.84	11.50	12.09	29	36.2
Delta	9.45	9.46	9.45	9.79	30	41.0
Northern Plains	13.71	11.44	12.90	13.10	43	43.9
Southern Plains	10.06	11.40	10.60	11.38	54	39.1
Mountain I	10.03	9.47	9.85	10.17	30	53.6
Mountain II	10.74	10.12	10.45	11.63	19	39.9
Mountain III	9.55	11.13	10.10	11.06	21	47.0
Pacific	13.49	11.41	13.30	13.59	103	43.7
CA	10.70	11.50	10.80	11.73	162	46.5
HI	12.75	13.90	12.85	15.17	7	35.5
US	11.22	10.83	11.13	11.76	872	41.5

[1] Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. [2] Regions consist of the following States. Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. [3] Excludes AK.

(Farm Labor-continued)

Hired worker wage rates were above the previous year rates in the majority of regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington) region followed by the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) region. The field and livestock worker wage was up substantially in the Pacific region. Increases in the wage rate for field and livestock workers, plus a slight increase in the proportion of supervisory and other workers, were seen in the Mountain III region.

The 2012 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was $11.52 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2011 annual average wage rate of $11.07 per hour. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was $10.76 per hour, up 43 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was $10.80, up 4 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of $10.36.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
OCTOBER 2012

Colorado laying flocks produced 102 million eggs during October 2012, up 5 million from the previous month and up 10 million from October 2011. The number of layers during October 2012 totaled 4.17 million, 1 percent below the previous month and 12 percent above October 2011. The rate of lay, at 2,444 eggs per 100 layers increased 6 percent from a month earlier and was up 3 percent from October a year ago.

United States egg production totaled 7.90 billion during October 2012, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.88 billion table eggs, and 1.02 billion hatching eggs, of which 952 million were broiler-type and 69 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2012 averaged 340 million, up 1 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,321 eggs, up slightly from October 2011.

All layers in the United States on November 1, 2012 totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from last year. The 342 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 49.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2012, averaged 75.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2011.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
NOVEMBER 30, 2012

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 203 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 6 points (2.9 percent) from October. The Crop Index is down 7 points (3.0 percent) but the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.1 percent). Producers received lower prices for soybeans, corn, and apples and higher prices for broilers, eggs, and milk. 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 corn, milk, cattle, and cotton offset the decreased marketing of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflowers.

The November All Crops Index at 230, decreased 3.0 percent from October but is 12 percent above November 2011. Index decreases for feed grains & hay, oilseeds, and fruits & nuts more than offset the index increases for commercial vegetables, potatoes & dry beans, and food grains. The November all wheat price, at $8.42 per bushel, is up 4 cents from October and $1.12 above November 2011. The corn price, at $6.71 per bushel, is down 6 cents from last month but 88 cents above November 2011. The all hay price, at $193 per ton, is unchanged from October but up $19.00 from last November. Sorghum grain, at $12.30 per cwt, is 10 cents below October but $1.60 above November last year. The soybean price, at $13.80 per bushel, decreased 40 cents from October but is $2.10 above November 2011. The all potato price at $7.10 per cwt, is up 13 cents from October but down $1.48 from last November. The all dry bean price, at $35.70 per cwt, is down $2.00 from the previous month and $4.20 below November 2011.

The November Livestock & Products Index, at 168, is 3.1 percent above last month and up 7.0 percent from November 2011. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for broilers, milk, cattle, eggs, and calves. Prices for hogs and turkeys are down from last year.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2011 Nov.	2012 Oct.	2012 Nov.
	Percent		
Prices Received	184	209	203
Prices Paid	206	218	217
Ratio 1/	89	96	94

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged higher than a year ago. Wheat, at $8.26 per bushel increased 2 cents from the previous month and $2.08 above November 2011. Corn was up 53 cents from October to $6.98 per bushel and averaged $1.13 above November 2011. Potato prices, at $6.30 per hundredweight, increased 25 cents from October but decreased $4.00 from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices remained unchanged at $235.00, the same as October and November 2011. Other hay increased $10.00 from October to $220.00 per ton, and up $60.00 from last year.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Nov. 2011	Oct. 2012	Nov. 2012
		Colorado		
		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	6.18	8.24	8.26
Corn	Bu.	5.85	6.45	6.98
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.30	6.74	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	10.30	6.05	6.30
Dry edible beans	Cwt	44.70	45.40	2/
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	235.00	235.00	235.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	160.00	210.00	220.00
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	19.90	21.20	22.20
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	7.30	8.38	8.42
Corn	Bu.	5.83	6.77	6.71
Soybeans	Bu.	11.70	14.20	13.80
Barley (All)	Bu.	5.44	6.48	6.50
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	4.85	5.72	5.47
Sorghum	Cwt	10.70	12.40	12.30
Potatoes	Cwt	8.58	6.97	7.10
Dry edible beans	Cwt	39.90	37.70	35.70
Sunflowers	Cwt	29.00	25.90	25.50
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	193.00	212.00	215.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	124.00	146.00	144.00
Onions	Cwt	9.35	10.10	11.50
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	120.00	123.00	123.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	126.00	127.00	129.00
Cows...	Cwt	66.00	77.30	76.40
Calves	Cwt	153.00	164.00	162.00
Hogs	Cwt	64.40	62.00	62.10
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	20.50	21.50	22.10
Broilers	Lb.	0.45	0.51	0.57

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.
2/ Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

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 1,030,000 head as of November 1, 2012. The latest inventory was up 3 percent from October 1, 2012 but down 10 percent from the 1,140,000 on feed on November 1, 2011. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 160,000 head of fed cattle during October 2012. This is 7 percent above the previous month's marketings and 3 percent above a year ago. An estimated 195,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, down 13 percent from the September 2012 placements, and down 15 percent from last year's placements of 230,000. Of the October placements, 33 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 23 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 26 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 5,000 head, is 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 11.3 million head on November 1, 2012. The inventory was 5 percent below November 1, 2011. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.18 million, 13 percent below 2011. This is the lowest cattle placements for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.10 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 505,000, 700-799 pounds were 435,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 560,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.84 million, 3 percent above 2011. Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during October, 20 percent below 2011.

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

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 head			
On Feed October 1	1,070	1,000	11,282	10,989
Placements During Oct.	230	195	2,492	2,180
< 600 pounds1	60	65	840	680
600 - 699 Pounds	50	45	590	505
700 - 799 Pounds	50	35	487	435
800 Plus Pounds	70	50	575	560
Marketings During Oct.	155	160	1,787	1,837
Other Disap. During Oct.	5	5	98	78
On Feed November 1	1,140	1,030	11,889	11,254

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 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**

Dec. 14 - Potato Stocks
Dec. 19 - Milk Production
Dec. 21 - Cattle on Feed
Dec. 21 - Chickens and Eggs
Dec. 21 - Cold Storage
Dec. 21 - Livestock Slaughter
Dec. 28 - Hogs and Pigs
Dec. 31 - Agricultural Prices
Jan. 11 - Crop Production - Annual
Jan. 11 - Grain Stocks
Jan. 11 - Winter Wheat Seedings
Jan. 29 - Vegetables

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