



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

AG UPDATE

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

USDA NASS Colorado Field Office
PO Box 150969 Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone: (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202

FAX: (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

Released: February 23, 2012

Vol. 32 No. 4

Contents of This Issue

- ▶ Farms and Land in Farms
 - ▶ Potato Stocks
 - ▶ County Estimates - 2010
- ▶ Milk Production - January 2011
- ▶ Milk Production - Annual 2010
 - ▶ Cold Storage

FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS – 2011

The **number of farms and ranches in Colorado** in 2011 totaled 36,700, up 300 from 2010 according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The percent change and the Colorado number of agricultural operations for each sales class was as follows: \$1,000 - \$9,999, increased 1 percent from last year to 19,800 farms; \$10,000 - \$99,999, remained unchanged at 11,400 farms; \$100,000 - \$249,000, increased 4 percent to 2,700 farms; \$250,000 - \$499,999, remained unchanged at 1,200 farms; and \$500,000 remained unchanged at 1,600 farms. Total land in farms in Colorado, at 31.3 million acres, was unchanged from 2010. The average size of farm was 853 acres, down from 860 acres last year.

The **number of farms and ranches in the United States** in 2011 is estimated at 2.2 million, down slightly from 2010. Total land in farms, at 917 million acres, decreased 1.85 million acres from 2010. The average farm size is 420 acres, up 1 acre from the previous year. Farm numbers and land in farms are broken down into five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these “sales classes” by summing their sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000.

Farm numbers increased slightly in the \$10,000-\$99,999, \$250,000-\$499,999, and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Higher commodity prices and larger value of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 1.3 percent, to slightly over 600,000 farms in the \$10,000 - \$99,999 sales class and 1.9 percent in the \$250,000 - \$499,999 sales class to over 100,000 farms. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class increased by 5.9 percent, to 133,570 farms.

Land in farms increased in the largest sales class while decreasing in all other sales classes. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 & over in sales class increased 2.5 percent, to 305.7 million acres. Land operated by farms in both \$1,000-\$9,999 and \$100,000-\$249,999 sales classes decreased by 3.5 percent, to 100.7 million acres and 138.7 million acres

respectively. The **average farm size** increased 1 acre in 2011 to 420 acres per farm. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

Farms and Land in Farms, Colorado and United States, 2006-2011

Year	Number of Farms ^{1/}		Land in Farms ^{1/}	
	Colorado	United States	Colorado	United States
	Number		Thousand Acres	
2006	30,700	2,088,790	31,300	925,790
2007	36,900	2,204,950	31,400	921,460
2008	36,500	2,200,100	31,300	919,910
2009	36,200	2,200,210	31,300	919,890
2010	36,400	2,192,000	31,300	918,840
2011	36,700	2,181,000	31,300	916,990

^{1/} A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

Number of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class, Colorado, 2010-2011

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Number		1,000 acres	
\$ 1,000 - \$9,999	19,600	19,800	2,600	2,700
\$ 10,000 - \$99,999	11,400	11,400	9,400	9,500
\$100,000 - \$249,999	2,600	2,700	5,100	5,300
\$250,000 - \$499,999	1,200	1,200	5,700	5,800
\$500,000 & over	1,600	1,600	8,500	8,000

Number of Farms and Land in Farms by Economic Sales Class, United States, 2010-2011

Economic Sales Class	Farms		Land in Farms	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
	Number		1,000 acres	
\$ 1,000 - \$9,999	1,227,200	1,200,550	104,380	100,680
\$ 10,000 - \$99,999	592,420	600,350	225,130	225,050
\$100,000 - \$249,999	147,290	145,640	143,710	138,730
\$250,000 - \$499,999	98,980	100,890	147,295	146,805
\$500,000 & over	126,110	133,570	298,325	305,725

POTATO STOCKS - FEBRUARY 1, 2012

Colorado's growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 11.8 million hundredweight of potatoes on hand as of February 1, 2012, up 4 percent from the 11.4 million hundredweight on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 55 percent of the 21.29 million hundredweight produced in 2011. The February 1, 2011 stocks represented 53 percent of the 21.53 million hundredweight of potatoes produced in 2010. Sales of

Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 67 percent of the production for the 2006-2010 period. The remaining 33 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 85 percent over the past five years.

If these relationships for total sales and table stock sales exist for the 2011 crop, about 18.1 million hundredweight of the 21.3 million hundredweight produced will be sold of which 14.3 million hundredweight will be sold as table stock.

The **13 major potato States** held 187 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 49 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below February 1, 2011.

Potato disappearance, at 193 million cwt, was 9 percent above February 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 19.3 million cwt, was up 16 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 106 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 15 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 20.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 53 percent from last year.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
February 1, 2010-2011 ^{1/}**

State	Crop of 2010		Crop of 2011	
	Prod.	Stocks Feb. 1, 2011	Prod.	Stocks Feb. 1, 2012
	1,000 Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
California.....	2,828	1,200	4,128	1,700
Colorado.....	21,528	11,400	21,291	11,800
Idaho.....	112,970	62,500	127,070	67,500
Maine.....	15,892	9,300	14,310	7,300
Michigan.....	15,660	5,900	15,180	4,700
Minnesota.....	17,010	7,700	16,685	8,300
Montana.....	3,673	3,300	3,795	3,500
Nebraska.....	7,719	3,400	7,800	3,600
New York.....	5,120	1,500	4,050	1,200
North Dakota.....	22,000	10,300	18,865	9,300
Oregon.....	20,058	12,700	23,342	13,000
Washington.....	88,440	40,600	98,400	44,000
Wisconsin.....	24,293	10,500	25,000	11,000
13 States.....	357,191	180,300	379,916	186,900
Klamath Basin ^{1/}.....	(NA)	2,500	(NA)	3,600

^{1/} Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon.
(NA) Not available

COUNTY ESTIMATES - 2011

The Colorado Field Office of USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) announces the publication of 2011 county estimates of acreage and production for the major crops in Colorado. The estimates are published on the NASS website, www.nass.usda.gov, under Quick Stats, State and County Data. County estimates for additional states are also available.

County estimates for small grains, including wheat and barley, were published on February 9, 2012. Row crops such as corn, sorghum and sunflowers are to be released February 23, 2012. NASS will publish county estimates for hay on April 12, dry beans and sugarbeets on July 19 and potatoes on October 11. County estimates for Cattle will be published on May 3.

**MILK PRODUCTION
JANUARY 2012**

Milk production in **Colorado** during January of 2012 totaled 262 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year. The average number of cows for January at 133,000 head increased 10,000 head from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,970 pounds for the month of January, slightly below January 2011.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during January totaled 15.8 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from January 2011. December revised production at 15.4 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from December 2010. The December revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,857 pounds for January, 46 pounds above January 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 93,000 head more than January 2011, and 13,000 head more than December 2011.

Milk Cows and Milk Production – Colorado

Item	Jan. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012
Milk Cows (1,000 head) ^{1/}	123	131	133
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) ^{2/}	1,975	1,955	1,970
Production (mil. lbs.) ^{2/}	243	256	262

^{1/} Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.
^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**MILK PRODUCTION
ANNUAL 2011**

Colorado's total output of milk during 2011 totaled 2.99 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2.82 billion pounds produced during 2010. The annual total for 2011 marks the ninth consecutive year that production has exceeded two billion pounds.

The production in the **23 major States** of milk cows for 2011 was 196 billion pounds, 1.8 percent above 2010. Revisions to 2010 production increased the annual total 29 million pounds. Revised 2011 production was up 29 million pounds from last month's milk production publication. Production per cow in the United States averaged 21,345 pounds for 2011, 197 pounds above 2010. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 14.7 percent from 2002. The average number of milk cows on farms in the United States during 2011 was 9.19 million head, up 0.8 percent from 2010. The average number of milk cows was revised up 2,000 head for 2010.

**Annual Milk Production,
Colorado and United States, 2009-2011**

Item	2009	2010	2011
Colorado			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u>	123	119	128
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u>	22,930	23,664	23,430
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u>	2,935	2,816	2,999
United States			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u>	9,315	9,119	9,194
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u>	20,395	21,148	21,345
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u>	189,982	192,848	196,245

1/ Average number during year, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**COLD STORAGE
JANUARY 31, 2012**

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2012 were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 7 percent from January 31, 2011. Butter stocks were up 60 percent from last month and up 44 percent from a year ago.

Total frozen fruit stocks were down 9 percent from last month but up 2 percent from a year ago. Total frozen vegetable stocks were down 8 percent from last month and down slightly from a year ago.

Total frozen poultry supplies on January 31, 2012 were up 8 percent from the previous month but down 11 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month and down 21 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 41 percent from last month and up 17 percent from January 31, 2011. Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 13 percent from the previous month and up 7 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were up 5 percent from the previous month and up 4 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 21 percent from the previous month and up 8 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 29 percent from last month and up 5 percent from last year.

2011 Cheese Revisions

The 2011 revisions of American and other natural cheese are the result of increased coverage of cold storage facilities. Please refer to the *Cold Storage 2011 Summary*, published February 22, 2012, at www.nass.usda.gov for all 2011 cold storage commodity estimates.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Jan. 31, 2011	Dec 31, 2011	Jan 31, 2012
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	118,784	106,856	171,183
Cheese, total natural	1,052,397	991,616	997,835
Eggs, frozen	26,788	36,491	37,433
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,026,857	842,980	909, 927
Chicken	769,538	629,791	609,776
Turkey	253,527	210,787	297,632
Fruits, frozen	1,060,697	1,189,316	1,080,069
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,191,560	954,044	1,036,027
Vegetables, total frozen...	2,117,008	2,305,785	2,111,415
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,095,023	999,913	1,043,717
Meats, total red.....	1,017,379	961,458	1,088,859
Beef, total frozen	461,734	457,223	482,070
Pork, total frozen	538,754	484,497	584,431

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.

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 Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Mar. 9 - Crop Production
- Mar. 22 - Chickens And Eggs
- Mar. 23 - Cattle on Feed
- Mar. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- Mar. 30 - Grain Stocks
- Mar. 30 - Prospective Plantings
- Apr. 16 - Potato Stocks

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director