



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: March 29, 2012

Vol. 32 No. 6

### Contents of This Issue

- ▶ Cattle On Feed
- ▶ Livestock Slaughter
- ▶ Milk Production
- ▶ Cold Storage

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER FEBRUARY 2012

Commercial red meat production in **Colorado** during February 2012 totaled 175.0 million pounds, up 4 percent from the same month a year earlier. Beef slaughter decreased slightly to 195,800 head and the average live weight of 1,354 pounds per head was 34 pounds higher than February 2011. Hog slaughter, at 800 head, was up 33 percent from a year earlier but the average live weight of 238 was down 23 pounds from the February 2011 average. Sheep and lamb slaughter, at 82,900 head, was 23 percent above February 2011 and the average live weight increased 11 pounds to 171. Accumulated red meat production for the first two months of 2011 (including sheep and lambs) totaled 356.4 million pounds, up 6 percent from the 336.7 million pounds produced during January and February of 2011.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.91 billion pounds in February, up 3 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in February 2011. Beef production, at 2.01 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 2 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,307 pounds. Veal production totaled 9.8 million pounds, 6 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 60,200 head, down 13 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from last year, at 276 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.88 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.04 million head, up 6 percent from February 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 278 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 12.3 million pounds, was up 13 percent from February 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 165,400 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 8 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2012 commercial red meat production was 8.04 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2011. Accumulated beef

production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 6 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 10 percent.

### Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area And Species	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan-Feb	
	2011	2012	2012	2011	2012
	Million Pounds				
<b>Colorado:</b>	168.9	181.4	175.0	336.7	356.4
<b>United States 1/:</b>	3,810.0	4,123.4	3,914.0	7,851.2	8,037.3
Beef	2,020.4	2,113.8	2,009.0	4,143.4	4,122.8
Veal	10.5	10.4	9.8	21.3	20.2
Pork	1,768.1	1,987.0	1,882.9	3,664.3	3,869.9
Lamb & Mutton	10.9	12.1	12.3	22.1	24.4

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

## CATTLE ON FEED MARCH 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 1,090,000 head as of March 1, 2012. The latest inventory was 4 percent below last month's inventory, but 2 percent above March 1, 2011 inventory. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 200,000 head of fed cattle during February 2012. This was 5 percent above the previous month's marketings, but 5 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 165,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during February, down 13 percent from January 2012 placements and down 23 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in February, 18 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 39 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for February, at 15,000 head, was up 10,000 head from last year, and 5,000 head above last month.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the **United States** for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on March 1, 2012. The inventory was 3 percent above March 1, 2011. Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million, 3 percent above 2011. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 335,000, 700-799 pounds were 469,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 510,000. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.76 million, 2 percent below 2011. Other

disappearance totaled 93,000 during February, 52 percent above 2011.

**1,000+Capacity February 1 to March 1, 2011-2012**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
<b>1,000 head</b>				
On Feed Feb. 1	1,070	1,140	11,571	11,811
Placements During Feb.	215	165	1,667	1,714
< 600 pounds	30	30	400	400
600 – 699 Pounds	45	30	365	335
700 – 799 Pounds	65	40	492	469
800 Plus Pounds	75	65	410	510
Marketings During Feb.	210	200	1,791	1,755
Other Disap. During Feb.	5	15	61	93
On Feed Mar. 1	1070	1,090	11,386	11,677

**MILK PRODUCTION  
FEBRUARY 2012 - 23 STATES**

Milk production in **Colorado** during February of 2012 totaled 248 million pounds, up 12 percent from last year. The average number of cows for February at 133,000 head, increased 8 percent from the last year. Production per cow averaged 1,865 pounds for the month of February, 4 percent above February 2011.

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.2 billion pounds, up 8.3 percent from February 2011. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be up 4.6 percent on a per day basis. January revised production at 15.8 billion pounds, was up 3.9 percent from January 2011. The January revision represented an increase of 24 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for February, 117 pounds above February 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.51 million head, 102,000 head more than February 2011, and 8,000 head more than January 2012.

**Milk Production, February, 2011-2012**

Item	Unit	2011	2012
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/ .....	1,000 Head	123	133
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,795	1,865
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	221	248
<b>23 State Total:</b>			
Milk Cows 1/ .....	1,000 Head	8,408	8,510
Production Per Cow .....	Pounds	1,665	1,782
Production 2/.....	Mil. Lbs.	13,997	15,162

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

**COLD STORAGE  
FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 29, 2012 were up 1 percent from the previous month but down 5 percent from February 28, 2011. Butter stocks were up 21 percent from last month and up 48 percent from a year ago. Total frozen poultry supplies on February 29, 2012 were up 5 percent

from the previous month but down 6 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 16 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 18 percent from last month and up 21 percent from February 28, 2011. Total frozen fruit stocks were down 9 percent from last month but up 4 percent from a year ago. Total frozen vegetable stocks were down 9 percent from last month but up slightly from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from the previous month and up 6 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were down 4 percent from the previous month but up 1 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 7 percent from the previous month and up 9 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 15 percent from last month and up 21 percent from last year.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Feb. 28, 2011	Jan. 31, 2012	Feb. 29, 2012
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter.....	138,672	170,348	205,315
Cheese, total natural.....	1,035,332	978,781	987,391
Eggs, frozen .....	28,143	37,416	36,273
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,010,045	907,677	951,830
Chicken .....	716,405	607,571	599,421
Turkey .....	288,976	297,735	350,087
Fruits, frozen.....	950,854	1,082,216	986,942
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	1,231,459	1,032,134	1,110,764
Vegetables, total frozen ..	1,934,877	2,125,133	1,938,682
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,102,938	1,042,375	1,081,767
Meats, total red.....	1,050,561	1,092,638	1,115,938
Beef, total frozen.....	459,833	485,058	466,106
Pork, total frozen.....	574,236	585,309	624,718

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**

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>

- Mar. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- Mar. 30 - Grain Stocks
- Mar. 30 - Prospective Plantings
- Apr. 10 - Crop Production
- Apr. 16 - Turkey Hatchery
- Apr. 16 - Potato Stocks
- Apr. 19 - Milk Production
- Apr. 20 - Cattle on Feed

**William Meyer**  
Director

**Rodger Ott**  
Deputy Director