NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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Contents of This Issue

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS MARCH 1, 2012

Colorado growers intend to plant 1,480,000 acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, down 20,000 acres and one percent below last year's plantings. Sorghum intentions are 230,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from plantings last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall for harvest in 2012 remain estimated at 2,400,000 acres from January's report. This is up 100,000 acres from the 2011 crop. Growers intend to seed 30,000 acres of spring wheat this year, down 15,000 acres from last year. The area expected to be seeded to oats, at 65,000 acres, is up 20,000 acres from a year ago. Most of the oat acreage in Colorado is harvested for hay. Planting intentions for barley equal last year's actual plantings of 66,000 acres. Growers intend to plant 131,000 acres of sunflowers this year, up 3,000 acres from what they planted in 2011. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 115,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area for non-oil varieties is expected to decrease 2,000 acres to 16,000 acres this year. The State's dry bean growers indicate they will plant 40,000 acres this year compared with 38,000 acres last year. The area planted to sugarbeets is expected to increase 2,700 acres from last year's actual plantings to 32,100 acres. Hay producers in the State intend to harvest 1,640,000 acres this year. This is up 20,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2011.

Mountain snowpack is currently 60 percent of average, statewide. Most growing areas have adequate to short soil moisture supplies at this point in the growing season, mostly due to moisture received last fall. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects, soil moisture levels at planting time, and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

Corn growers in the **United States** intend to plant 95.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than in 2010. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1937 when an estimated 97.2 million acres were planted.

Sorghum growers intend to plant 5.95 million acres of sorghum for all purposes in 2012, up 9 percent from last year. Oats area seeded to oats for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 2.86 million acres, up 15 percent from the record low planted last year. Barley producers intend to seed 3.33 million acres of barley for the 2012 crop year, up 30 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the third smallest seeded area on record, despite the large increase from last year.

The 2012 winter wheat planted area is estimated at 41.7 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year but down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2012 is estimated at 12.0 million acres, down 3 percent from 2011. Of this total, about 11.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2012 is estimated at 2.22 million acres, up 62 percent from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 57.3 million acres of all hay in 2012, up 3 percent from last year's record low.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 73.9 million acres, down 1 percent from last year and down 5 percent from 2010. Compared with 2011, planted area is down or unchanged across the Corn Belt and Great Plains with the exceptions of Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Sunflower growers intend to plant a total of 1.81 million acres in 2012, up 17 percent from last year. Planted area for the Nation will still be the second lowest since 1987, if realized. Area intended for oil type varieties, at 1.54 million acres, is up 19 percent from 2011. The area intended for non-oil varieties, estimated at 271,500 acres, is up 7 percent from last year but will still be the second lowest planted area since 1987, if realized.

Area planted to sugarbeets for the 2012 crop year is expected to total 1.24 million acres, up 1 percent from the 1.23 million acres planted in 2011. Planted area is expected to increase from the previous year in six of the ten estimating States. Dry Beans growers intend to plant 1.67 million acres in 2012, up 38 percent from last year, but 13 percent below 2010. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 184,000 acres, up 38 percent from last season. Small chickpea area, at 63,000 acres, is 71 percent higher than 2011. Large chickpea acreage, at 121,000 acres, is expected to be 26 percent above last year.

Planting Intentions
Colorado and United States, 2011-2012

Crop	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Acres			
Corn, all	1,500	1,480	92,921	95,864
Sorghum, all	220	230	5,481	5,950
Oats	45	65	2,496	2,863
Wheat, all 1/	2,345	2,430	54,409	55,908
Winter	2,300	2,400	40,646	41,709
Spring	45	30	12,394	11,976
Barley	66	66	2,559	3,333
Soybeans	3/	3/	74,976	73,902
Sunflower, all	128.0	131.0	1,543.0	1,808.0
Oil	110.0	115.0	1,289.5	1,536.5
Non-oil	18.0	16.0	253.5	271.5
Dry beans	38.0	40.0	1,205.9	1,669.9
Sugarbeets	29.4	32.1	1,232.8	1,241.3
Hay, all 2/	1,620	1,640	55,633	57,348

1/ Includes Durum for U.S. 2/ Harvested acres 2010, intentions to harvest in 2011. 3/ Not Estimated

GRAIN STOCKS
MARCH 1, 2012

All wheat stocks in **Colorado** as of March 1, 2012 totaled 35.74 million bushels, up 1 percent from 35.35 million bushels on hand one year earlier. Farm stocks, at 11.0 million bushels, were up 10 percent from the previous year but off-farm stocks were down 2.4 percent to 24.73 million bushels. Corn stocks, at 67.18 million bushels, were up 3 percent. Farm stocks were up 30 percent to 35.0 million bushels but off-farm stocks were down 16 percent to 32.18 million bushels. Off-farm oats stocks were up 103 percent to 81,000 bushels. Off-farm grain sorghum was down 55 percent to 894,000 bushels. Off-farm barley stocks were at 5.43 million bushels.

Corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2012 in the **United States** totaled 6.01 billion bushels, down 8 percent from March 1, 2011. Of the total stocks, 3.19 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.82 billion bushels, are down 10 percent from a year ago. The December 2011 - February 2012 indicated disappearance is 3.64 billion bushels, compared with 3.53 billion bushels during the same period last year. **Soybeans** stored in all positions on March 1, 2012 totaled 1.37 billion bushels, up 10 percent from March 1, 2011. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at 555 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 817 million bushels, are up 10 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2011 - February 2012 quarter totaled 998 million bushels, down 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

A**ll wheat** stored in all positions on March 1, 2012 totaled 1.20 billion bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 217 million bushels, down 25 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 983 million bushels, are down 14 percent from a year ago. The December 2011 - February 2012 indicated disappearance is 462 million bushels, down 9 percent from the same period a year earlier. **Barley** stocks in all positions on March 1, 2012 totaled 93.7 million bushels, down 32 percent from March 1, 2011. On-farm stocks are estimated at 26.5 million bushels, 54 percent below a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 67.2 million bushels, are 16 percent below March 2011. The December 2011 - February 2012 indicated disappearance totaled 45.3 million bushels, 7 percent above the same period a year earlier. **Oats** stored in all positions on March 1, 2012 totaled 72.5 million bushels, 16 percent below the stocks on March 1, 2011. Of the total stocks on hand, 19.8 million bushels are stored on farms, down 27 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 52.8 million bushels, down 11 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance during December 2011 - February 2012 totaled 6.60 million bushels, down 55 percent from the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on March 1, 2012 totaled 108 million bushels, down 37 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 12.8 million bushels, are down 2 percent from last March. Off-farm stocks, at 95.1 million bushels, are down 40 percent from a year earlier. The December 2011 - February 2012 indicated disappearance from all positions is 43.0 million bushels, down 35 percent from the same period last year.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, March 1, 2011-2012

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Bushels			
All wheat				
On farms	10,000	11,000	288,010	217,400
Off farms	25,350	24,735	1,137,292	983,255
Total	35,350	35,735	1,425,302	1,200,655
Corn				
On farms	27,000	35,000	3,384,000	3,192,000
Off farms	38,210	32,182	3,139,228	2,817,260
Total	65,210	67,182	6,523,228	6,009,260
Barley				
On farms	2/	2/	57,700	26,480
Off farms	6,774	5,430	80,424	67,207
Total	2/	2/	138,124	93,687
Oats				
On farms	2/	2/	26,950	19,750
Off farms	40	81	59,361	52,788
Total	2/	2/	86,311	72,538
Sorghum				
On farms	2/	2/	13,020	12,800
Off farms	1,996	894	158,027	95,135
Total	2/	2/	171,047	107,935
Soybeans				
On farms	3/	3/	505,000	555,000
Off farms	2/	2/	743,800	817,258
Total	2/	2/	1,248,800	1,372,258

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.
2/ Minor states are not published separately, but are included in US total.
3/ Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES
MARCH 2012

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 186 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, increased 5 points (2.8 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 8 points (3.9 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (1.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for soybeans, corn, broilers, and cattle and lower prices for milk, strawberries, snap beans, and lettuce. In addition to prices, the overall index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly movement of soybeans, strawberries, broilers, and milk offset decreased marketings of corn, cattle, cotton, and wheat.

The March All Crops Index is 213, increased 3.9 percent from February and is 7.6 percent above March 2011. The index groups with the largest contributions to the increase were feed grains & hay, oilseeds, commercial vegetables, and fruits & nuts. The March all wheat price, at $7.24 per bushel, is up 14 cents from February but 31 cents below March 2011. The corn price, at at $6.48 per bushel, is up 20 cents from last month and 95 cents above March 2011. The all hay price, at $181 per ton, is $5.00 higher than February and $55.00 higher than March 2011. Sorghum grain, at $11.30 per cwt, increased 50 cents from February and 70 cents from March last year. The all potato price, at $9.74 per cwt, is up 43 cents from February but down $1.00 from last March. The all dry bean price, at $49.00 per cwt, is up $2.30 from the previous month and $19.10 above March 2011.

The March Livestock and Products Index at 161, is 1.9 percent above last month and 5.9 percent higher than March 2011. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for cattle, broilers, eggs, calves, hogs, and turkeys. The price for milk is down from last year. The March hog price, at $65.70 per cwt, is up 20 cents from February and $2.80 higher than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of $130 per cwt is up $3.00 from last month and $15.00 higher than March 2011. The March all milk price of $17.40 per cwt is 30 cents lower than last month and down $3.00 from March 2011.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2011 Mar.	2012 Feb.	2012 Mar.
	Percent		
Prices Received	173	181	186
Prices Paid	201	209	210
Ratio 1/	86	87	89

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

Compared with March 2011, **Colorado** commodity prices were higher than last year, except for all wheat, potatoes and milk. Mid-March 2012 wheat, at $6.30 per bushel, was down 61 cents from a year ago and was 14 cents below last month. Corn prices increased 17 cents from February to $6.47 per bushel and averaged $1.26 above March 2011. The mid-March potato price, at $12.90 per hundredweight, increased $2.10 from last month but was 10 cents below March a year ago. Alfalfa hay, at $255.00 per ton, increased $10.00 per ton from February 2012 and was $115.00 above March 2011. The other hay price, at $170.00 per ton, was $5.00 above February and $55.00 above March a year ago. The March all milk price of $17.50 per hundredweight was down 60 cents from last month and $2.80 below March 2011.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Mar. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
		Colorado		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	6.91	6.44	6.30
Corn	Bu.	5.21	6.30	6.47
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.93	5.27	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	13.00	10.80	12.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.40	50.30	52.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	140.00	245.00	255.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	115.00	165.00	170.00
Livestock Products				
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	20.30	18.10	17.50
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	7.55	7.10	7.24
Corn	Bu.	5.53	6.28	6.48
Soybeans	Bu.	12.70	12.20	13.10
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.29	5.39	5.37
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	4.26	4.75	4.62
Sorghum	Cwt.	10.60	10.80	11.30
Potatoes	Cwt	10.74	9.31	9.74
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.90	46.70	49.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	142.00	198.00	201.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	99.50	130.00	139.00
Onions	Cwt	8.04	5.97	7.35
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	115.00	127.00	130.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	118.00	131.00	134.00
Cows	Cwt	75.20	82.00	84.50
Calves	Cwt	148.00	184.00	185.00
Sheep	Cwt	81.40	3/	3/
Lambs	Cwt	169.00	3/	3/
Hogs	Cwt	62.90	65.50	65.70
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	20.40	17.70	17.40
Broilers	Lb.	0.49	0.53	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.
3/ Discontinued.

HOGS AND PIGS
MARCH 2012

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1, 2012 totaled 720,000 head, down 1 percent from March 1, 2011. The breeding hog inventory at 150,000 head remained unchanged from a year earlier but the market hog inventory was down 2 percent to 570,000 head. There were 71,000 sows farrowed during the December 2011-February 2012 time period is slightly above the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado's December 2011-February 2012 pig crop of 707,000 head is up 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier. Colorado producers intend to farrow 74,000 sows during March - May 2012 period and 73,000 sows during June

- August 2012 period.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2012 was 64.9 million head. This was up 2 percent from March 1, 2011, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2011. Breeding inventory, at 5.82 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.1 million head, was up 2 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter. The December 2011-February 2012 pig crop, at 28.7 million head, was up 3 percent from 2011. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, up 1 percent from 2011. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.97 for the December-February period, compared to 9.80 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the March-May 2012 quarter, down 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2011, and down 1 percent from 2010. Intended farrowings for June-August 2012, at 2.88 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2011, and down 2 percent from 2010. The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 47 percent of the total United States hog inventory, up from 46 percent last year.

Revisions

All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2011 through December 2011 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, an adjustment of less than one percent was made to the September 2011 total inventory. An adjustment of less than one percent was made to the December 2011 total inventory. An adjustment of less than one percent was made to the June-August 2011 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, March 1, 2011-2012

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	730	720	63,684	64,872
Kept for breeding	150	150	5,788	5,820
Market	580	570	57,896	59,052
Under 50 lbs	290	275	18,863	19,332
50 - 119 lbs	105	100	16,060	16,456
120 -179 lbs	70	85	12,361	12,569
180 lbs. & over	115	110	10,612	10,695
Sows Farrowed:				
Dec - Feb	70	71	2,843	2,877
March - May 1/	72	74	2,917	2,890
June - Aug 1/	73	73	2,927	2,880
Pig Crop:				
Dec – Feb	693	707	27,866	28,681
March - May	706		29,252	
June - Aug	730		29,355	

1/ Actual for 2011; intentions for 2012.

CHICKENS AND EGGS FEBRUARY 2012

Colorado laying flocks produced 108 million eggs during February 2012, up 38 percent from the same month a year earlier but 7 percent below the 116 million eggs produced during January 2012. The average number of layers during February 2012 totaled 4.76 million, up 29 percent from 3.70 million a year earlier and slightly below the 4.79 million for the previous month. The average rate of lay for February 2012, at 2,267 eggs per 100 layers, is 8 percent above the 2,105 eggs per 100 layers during February 2011 but 6 percent below January 2012.

United States egg production totaled 7.24 billion during February 2012, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.25 billion table eggs, and 987 million hatching eggs, of which 914 million were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2012 averaged 338 million, down slightly from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,140 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2011.

All layers in the United States on March 1, 2012 totaled 339 million, down slightly from last year. The 339 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 50.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.10 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2012, averaged 74.0 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from March 1, 2011.

BEES AND HONEY PRODUCTION 2011

The number of colonies in **Colorado** during 2011 was down 9 percent from a year earlier at 31,000. The total honey production of 1.71 million pounds for 2011 was 10 percent below the 1.90 million pounds a year earlier. The yield per colony decreased from 56 pounds per colony in 2010 to 55 pounds per colony in 2011. The total value of the 2011 honey crop was $2.86 million, one percent below last year.

United States honey production in 2011 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2010. There were 2.49 million colonies producing honey in 2011, down 7 percent from 2010. Yield per colony averaged 59.6 pounds, down 9 percent from the 65.6 pounds in 2010. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 36.8 million pounds on December 15, 2011, down 18 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2011 to 172.9 cents per pound, up 7 percent from 161.9 cents per pound in 2010. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2010 crop reflect honey sold in 2010 and 2011. Some 2010 crop honey was sold in 2011, which caused some revisions to the 2010 crop prices.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. 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**

April 10 - Crop Production
April 16 - Turkey Hatchery
April 16 - Potato Stocks
April 19 - Milk Production
April 20 - Cold Storage
April 20 - Cattle on Feed
April 20 - Livestock Slaughter
April 23 - Chickens and Eggs
April 23 - Livestock Slaughter-AnnualS

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