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CATTLE ON FEED APRIL 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 1,070,000 head as of April 1, 2012. The latest inventory was 2 percent below last month's inventory and 2 percent below April 1, 2011 inventory. The inventory included 730,000 steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 335,000 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 175,000 head of fed cattle during March 2012. This was 12 percent below the previous month's marketings and 8 percent below a year ago. An estimated 160,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, down 3 percent from February 2012 placements and down 26 percent from a year ago. Of the number placed in March, 19 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 16 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 28 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 38 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for March, at 5,000 head, was down 10,000 head from last month but unchanged 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 11.5 million head on April 1, 2012. The inventory was 2 percent above April 1, 2011. The inventory included 7.17 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.25 million head, up 4 percent from 2011. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.79 million, 6 percent below 2011. Net placements were 1.72 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 390,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 500,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 602,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.92 million, 4 percent below 2011. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 30 percent above 2011.

Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2011-2012

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
	1,000 head			
On Feed March 1	1,070	1,090	11,386	11,677
Placements During Mar.	215	160	1,914	1,792
< 600 pounds	40	30	380	390
600 - 699 pounds	35	25	360	300
700 - 799 pounds	70	45	589	500
800 plus pounds	70	60	585	602
Marketings During Mar.	190	175	1,990	1,918
Other Disap. During Mar.	5	5	53	69
On Feed April 1	1,090	1,070	11,257	11,482
Steers & Steer Calves	740	730	7,119	7,174
Heifers & Heifer Calves	345	335	4,090	4,254
Cows & Bulls	5	5	48	54

CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION MARCH 2012

Colorado laying flocks produced 117 million eggs during March 2012 compared with 90 million in March 2011 and 108 million in February 2012. The number of layers during March of this year was 4.33 million, up 29 percent from 3.37 million the previous year. The average number of eggs produced per 100 birds was 2,447 for March 2012 compared with 2,358 for March 2011.

United States egg production totaled 7.86 billion during March 2012, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.80 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 981 million were broiler-type and 78 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2012 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,313 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2011. All layers in the United States on April 1, 2012 totaled 341 million, down slightly from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 52.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.09 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2012, averaged 75.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2011. Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2012 totaled 40.6 million, down 7 percent from March 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 39.3 million on April 1, 2012, down 5 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for

future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 210 thousand during March 2012, down 17 percent from March 2011.

MILK PRODUCTION MARCH 2012 - 23 STATES

Colorado dairy herds produced 270 million pounds of milk during March 2012, up 18 million pounds from March last year. The average number of cows, at 132,000, is up 7,000 head from the 125,000 cows on hand a year ago. The average milk per cow for the month of March in Colorado was 2,045 pounds per cow compared with 2,015 pounds per cow in March 2011.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 16.5 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from March 2011. February revised production at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 2011. The February revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Adjusting February production for the additional day due to leap year causes February revised production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,931 pounds for March, 59 pounds above March 2011. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.52 million head, 94,000 head more than March 2011, and 9,000 head more than February 2012.

January – March milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 51.0 billion pounds, up 5.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 86,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States

Item	March 2011	Feb. 2012	March 2012
Colorado			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) ^{1/}	125	133	132
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) ^{2/}	2,015	1,865	2,045
Production (mil. Lbs.) ^{2/}	252	248	270
23 States			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) ^{1/}	8,425	8,510	8,519
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) ^{2/}	1,872	1,780	1,931
Production (mil. Lbs.) ^{2/}	15,773	15,149	16,452

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

^{2/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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 116 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below April 1, 2011. Potato disappearance, at 264 million cwt, was 7 percent above April 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.8 million cwt, was up 12 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 11 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.1 million cwt of the total processing, up 45 percent from last year.

COLD STORAGE - MARCH 31, 2012

Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2012 were up 2 percent from the previous month but down 2 percent from March 31, 2011. Butter stocks were up 3 percent from last month and up 46 percent from a year ago. Total frozen poultry supplies on March 31, 2012 were up slightly from the previous month but down 7 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from the previous month and down 17 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 7 percent from last month and up 15 percent from March 31, 2011.

Total frozen fruit stocks were down 11 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 1 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 11 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 14 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 7 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 7 percent from last month and up 26 percent from last year.

POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2012

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 7.7 million hundredweight of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2012, up 7 percent from the 7.2 million hundredweight on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 36 percent of the 21.29 million hundredweight produced in 2012. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 67 percent of the production for the 2006-

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Mar. 31, 2011	Feb. 29, 2012	Mar. 31, 2012
	1,000 Pounds		
Butter	144,244	205,172	210,598
Cheese, total natural	1,029,494	998,258	1,004,533
Eggs, frozen	27,287	36,326	33,319
Poultry, total frozen	1,028,325	951,497	955,158
Chicken	696,464	599,698	577,027
Turkey	325,688	349,577	375,584
Fruits, frozen	847,724	989,110	881,903
Fruit Juices, frozen	1,187,939	1,106,388	1,240,091
Vegetables, total frozen	1,751,236	1,935,548	1,768,335
Potatoes, total frozen	1,086,143	1,079,506	1,098,257
Meats, total red	1,036,577	1,118,695	1,147,882
Beef, total frozen	445,526	470,808	507,862
Pork, total frozen	574,398	622,673	612,652

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Food stocks are excluded for places where entire inventories are turned over more than once a month.

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>

- Apr. 27 - Dairy Products - Annual
- Apr. 30 - Agricultural Prices
- May 10 - Crop Production
- May 18 - Milk Production
- May 18 - Cattle on Feed

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