NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

AG UPDATE

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USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office
Denver Federal Center Bldg 67, Room 630
Denver, CO 80225 **Phone:** (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202 **FAX:** (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

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Contents of This Issue

CROP PRODUCTION - MAY 1, 2012

Winter wheat production in **Colorado**, based on conditions as of May 1, 2012, is forecast at 92.25 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This forecast is 18 percent above last year's production of 78.00 million bushels but 13 percent below the winter wheat crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.25 million acres, is 250,000 acres more than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 41.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels per acre from last year's yield, but 4.0 bushels per acre below the record high yield of 45.0 set in 2010. This year's crop was planted under mostly favorable conditions resulting in good stands going into winter dormancy. After a dry, but mild winter, the crop retains most of its potential. Adequate to short soil moisture supplies exist in most growing areas. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

U.S. production of winter wheat is forecast at 1.69 billion bushels, up 13 percent from 2011. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 47.6 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from last year. Expected grain area totals 35.6 million acres, up 10 percent from last year. As of May 1, sixty-four percent of the winter wheat crop in the 18 major producing States was rated in good to excellent condition, 30 points above the same week in 2011, and heading had reached 54 percent, 30 points ahead of the 5-year average.

The combination of a mild winter and spring, paired with timely precipitation, resulted in beneficial growing conditions in the Great Plains States. Precipitation this spring not only aided the winter wheat crop, but also improved pasture and hay fields, leading cattle producers to harvest wheat acreage for grain instead of hay. Current crop conditions have improved from last year in all major Hard Red Winter (HRW) producing states except Montana and South Dakota. As of May 1, the percent of crop rated good to excellent in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas was 27 points or more higher than last year, contributing to forecasted yield increases for those States. Crop conditions were varied in several of the Soft Red Winter (SRW) producing States due to cooler than normal spring temperatures. Yields are forecasted to be down in the Coastal Plains States and the Southeast, where many States set record yields in 2011. However, yields are expected to be up from last year in much of the Corn Belt and the Northeast. Warmer temperatures and adequate moisture in the Pacific Northwest left growers optimistic after a predominantly cool start to the spring growing season. As of May 1, crop conditions reported as good to excellent were unchanged in Idaho, down 8 points in Oregon, while up 18 points in Washington compared to last year. Yields are forecast to be down from last year in Oregon and Washington but up in Idaho. Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at a collective 26.3 million bushels, up 28 percent from the previous year. Due to warm spring weather in California, crop development advanced ahead of normal. If realized, Arizona and California's yield of 115.0 bushels per acre will be record highs.

POTATO STOCKS - April 1, 2012

Colorado's 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 2011. The April 1, 2011 stocks represented 33 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 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.

Winter Wheat: Acres harvested, yield and production, selected states and United States, 2011-2012

STATE	Acres harvested		Yield per acre		Production	
	2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012	2011	Indicated 2012
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	520	480	58.0	57.0	30,160	27,360
California	420	350	85.0	80.0	35,700	28,000
Colorado	**2,000**	**2,250**	**39.0**	**41.0**	**78,000**	**92,250**
Georgia	200	200	55.0	52.0	11,000	10,400
Idaho	770	730	82.0	85.0	63,140	62,050
Illinois	765	360	61.0	62.0	46,665	39,060
Indiana	400	330	62.0	63.0	24,800	20,790
Kansas	7,900	9,000	35.0	43.0	276,500	387,000
Kentucky	440	450	70.0	60.0	30,800	27,000
Maryland	190	180	66.0	63.0	12,540	11,340
Michigan	680	540	75.0	74.0	51,000	39,960
Mississippi	335	450	64.0	56.0	21,440	25,200
Missouri	680	700	50.0	51.0	34,000	35,700
Montana	2,190	2,120	41.0	40.0	89,790	84,800
Nebraska	1,450	1,270	45.0	47.0	65,250	59,690
New York	93	85	56.0	63.0	5,208	5,355
North Carolina	610	750	68.0	60.0	41,480	45,000
North Dakota	375	720	37.0	48.0	13,875	34,560
Ohio	850	530	58.0	63.0	49,300	33,390
Oklahoma	3,200	4,300	22.0	36.0	70,400	154,800
Oregon	825	775	77.0	72.0	63,525	55,800
Pennsylvania	170	150	51.0	61.0	8,670	9,150
South Carolina	180	235	60.0	54.0	10,800	12,690
South Dakota	1,590	1,300	42.0	44.0	66,780	57,200
Tennessee	310	360	69.0	63.0	21,390	22,680
Texas	1,900	3,350	26.0	31.0	49,400	103,850
Virginia	250	290	71.0	64.0	17,750	18,560
Washington	1,730	1,670	75.0	69.0	129,750	115,230
Wisconsin	335	250	65.0	67.0	21,775	16,750
Other States 1/	956	1,135	55.2	51.2	52,789	58,095
United States	**32,314**	**35,580**	**46.2**	**47.6**	**1,493,677**	**1,693,710**

1/Other States include AL, AZ, DE, FL, IA, LA, MN, NV, NJ, NM, UT, WV, and WY. Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Small Grains 2012 Summary", September 30, 2012.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES - APRIL 1, 2012

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 177 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 7 points (3.8 percent) from March. The Crop Index is down 5 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 7 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for broilers, corn, cattle, and eggs and higher prices for soybeans, onions, hay, and oranges. 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 cattle, strawberries, milk, and broilers offset the decreased marketing of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton.

The all crops index at 205, decreased 2.4 percent from March but is 2.5 percent above April 2011. Index decreases for feed grains & hay and food grains more than offset the index increases for oilseeds, fruits & nuts, and commercial vegetables. The April all wheat price, at $6.87 per bushel, is down 32 cents from March and $1.14 below April 2011. The corn price, at $6.14 per bushel, is down 21 cents from last month and 22 cents below April 2011. The all hay price, at $190 per ton, is up $9.00 from March and $47.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at $10.40 per cwt, is 50 cents below March and down $1.30 from April last year. The soybean price, at $13.80 per bushel, increased 80 cents from March and is 70 cents above April 2011. The all potato price, at $10.57 per cwt, is up 59 cents from March but down 60 cents from last April. The all dry bean price, at $47.90 per cwt, is up 80 cents from the previous month and $16.10 higher than April 2011. The April index of livestock and products at 153, is down 4.4 percent from last month and 1.9 percent from April 2011. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, eggs, and hogs. Prices for cattle, broilers, calves, and turkeys are up from last year.

Compared with April 2011, all **Colorado** crop prices averaged higher except for wheat, potatoes and milk. Mid-April 2012 wheat, at $5.87 per bushel, was 53 cents lower than the previous month and $1.84 below April a year ago. Corn, at $6.23 per bushel, was 14 cents below the previous month, but

18 cents higher than April 2011. The mid-April potato price, at $11.00 per hundredweight, was 20 cents below last month and was $2.50 below April a year ago. Dry bean prices were 40 cents above March at $50.90 per hundredweight and were $21.00 above the April 2011 price of $29.90 per hundredweight. Alfalfa hay, at $255.00 per ton, remained unchanged from last month but was $115.00 higher then April 2011. The other hay price, at $170.00 per ton, remained unchanged from March, but was $55.00 above April a year ago. The April all milk price of $17.30 was down 20 cents from last month and $2.40 lower than the previous year.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2011 Apr.	2012 Mar.	2012 Apr.
		Percent	
Prices Received	176	184	177
Prices Paid	203	213	213
Ratio 1/	87	86	83

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

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Apr. 2011	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012
			Colorado	
Crops			Dollars	
Wheat	Bu.	7.71	6.40	5.87
Corn	Bu.	6.05	6.37	6.23
Barley (All)	Bu.	2/	5.28	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	13.50	11.20	11.00
Dry edible beans	Cwt	29.90	50.50	50.90
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	140.00	255.00	255.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	115.00	170.00	170.00
Livestock Products				
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	19.70	17.50	17.30
			United States	
Crops			Dollars	
Wheat	Bu.	8.01	7.19	6.87
Corn	Bu.	6.36	6.35	6.14
Soybeans	Bu.	13.10	13.00	13.80
Barley (All)	Bu.	4.41	5.33	5.43
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	4.89	4.75	4.56
Sorghum	Cwt.	11.70	10.90	10.40
Potatoes	Cwt	11.17	9.98	10.57
Dry edible beans	Cwt	31.80	47.10	47.90
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	161.00	201.00	207.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	105.00	139.00	140.00
Onions	Cwt	10.80	8.92	18.50
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	119.00	128.00	125.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	122.00	132.00	129.00
Cows	Cwt	78.90	84.20	84.90
Calves	Cwt	147.00	184.00	179.00
Lambs	Cwt	181.00	3/	3/
Sheep	Cwt.	68.80	3/	3/
Hogs	Cwt	67.80	65.20	62.60
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	19.60	17.20	16.90
Broilers	Lb.	0.49	0.57	0.51

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.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - MARCH 2012

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2012 totaled 185.3 million pounds, 3 percent below the same month a year earlier and 6 percent above February 2012. Beef slaughter decreased 8 percent from March 2011 to 206,900 head, but the average live weight of 1,348 increased 44 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter remained unchanged at 800 head, but the average live weight decreased 24 pounds from a year ago to 242. Sheep slaughter decreased 600 head from last year to 92,100 head, but the average live weight increased 9 pounds to 173. Accumulated red meat production for the first three months of 2012 totaled 541.7 million pounds, up from the 528.1 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.17 billion pounds in March, down 4 percent from the 4.35 billion pounds produced in March 2011. Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 7 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,299 pounds. Veal production totaled 10.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,400 head, down 19 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.52 million head, down 4 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 279 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 1 percent from March 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,200 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2012 commercial red meat production was 12.2 billion pounds, up slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 7 percent.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Species	Mar. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	January-March 2011	January-March 2012
			Million Pounds		
Colorado:	191.4	175.0	185.3	528.1	541.7
United States:	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	12,197.8	12,207.0
Beef	2,266.2	2,009.0	2,157.6	6,409.5	6,280.4
Veal	12.1	9.8	10.0	33.4	30.2
Pork	2,054.4	1,882.9	1,987.9	5,718.7	5,857.8
Lamb & Mutton	14.1	12.3	14.2	36.2	38.6

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding

HAY STOCKS - MAY 1, 2012

Hay stocks on Colorado farms and ranches as of May 1, 2012 totaled 230,000 tons, down 49 percent from stocks of 450,000 tons on hand last year. This is the lowest May inventory level in Colorado since 1996. Although slightly more hay was produced in 2011 than the previous year above average demand from neighboring states due to extreme drought reduced inventory and set record high prices received for hay.

All hay stored in the **United States** on farms May 1, 2012, totaled 21.4 million tons, down 4 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2011 - May 1, 2012 totaled

69.3 million tons, compared with 79.9 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Stocks on Farms, Selected States and U. S. May 1, 2010-2012

State	2010	2011	2012
	1,000 tons		
Alabama	192	187	269
Arizona	60	40	35
Arkansas	340	380	340
California	432	160	240
Colorado	**650**	**450**	**230**
Connecticut	14	12	12
Delaware	4	3	4
Florida	40	45	42
Georgia	210	188	169
Idaho	775	280	700
Illinois	310	320	300
Indiana	198	225	165
Iowa	420	610	500
Kansas	1,200	1,000	650
Kentucky	1,006	799	775
Louisiana	60	110	70
Maine	34	23	35
Maryland	60	65	80
Massachusetts	9	10	15
Michigan	330	420	360
Minnesota	630	810	900
Mississippi	90	137	251
Missouri	1,250	1,325	1,025
Montana	720	1,300	1,550
Nebraska	1,000	1,335	1,070
Nevada	310	46	238
New Hampshire	7	6	13
New Jersey	46	17	12
New Mexico	125	100	120
New York	400	273	327
North Carolina	296	253	369
North Dakota	1,310	1,250	1,700
Ohio	350	390	308
Oklahoma	650	1,200	500
Oregon	420	280	275
Pennsylvania	680	340	450
Rhode Island	2	1	1
South Carolina	130	110	80
South Dakota	2,190	1,850	2,400
Tennessee	678	746	716
Texas	1,100	2,500	950
Utah	245	144	350
Vermont	50	48	45
Virginia	350	402	900
Washington	280	350	230
West Virginia	125	190	285
Wisconsin	753	1,122	925
Wyoming	400	365	400
United States	20,931	22,217	21,381

This is the smallest disappearance since 1985. Compared with last year, hay stocks as a percent of production increased across much of the Northern Tier and in many eastern States. Mild temperatures coupled with limited snowpack left many pastures and ranges accessible to livestock herds for longer periods of time during the winter allowing producers to feed less hay. Similarly, beneficial rainfall throughout much of the spring and summer boosted pasture growth in many Atlantic Coast States, delaying the need for supplemental feedstuffs as winter approached. Elsewhere, on-farm stocks declined from last year in a number Great Plains States, as prolonged drought conditions hampered pasture growth and forced many livestock producers to feed an increased amount of hay to their herds

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and **United States** 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/**

May 21 - Cattle on Feed
May 21 - Cold Storage
May 21 - Chicken and Eggs
May 25 - Poultry Slaughter
May 28 - Agricultural Prices

William Meyer
Director

Rodger Ott
Deputy Director