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10800 Financial Centre Parkway
Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211
Phone: (501) 228-9926
www.nass.usda.gov/ar

Arkansas Chick Placements Down 1 Percent From Last Year

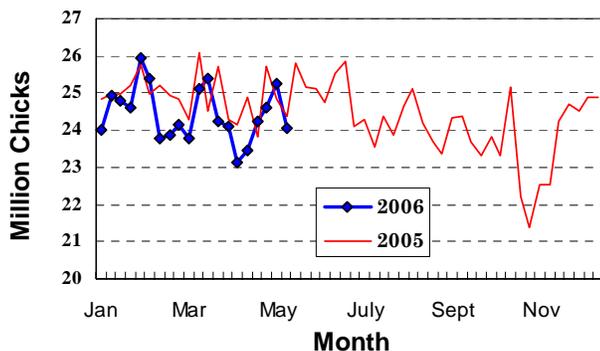
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 24.1 million during the week ending May 20, 2006. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 2005, and down 5 percent from the revised previous week, and included 2.6 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 31, 2005 through May 20, 2006 were 488.7 million, down 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 24.6 million, down 5 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and down 3 percent from the revised previous week. Of the total hatch, 2.8 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 83 percent.

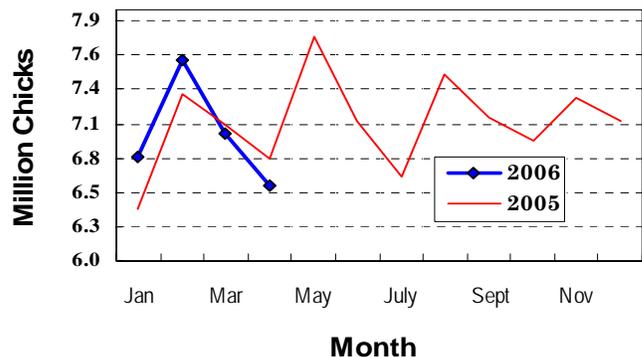
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 30.3 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending May 20, 2006, down 4 percent from the same period last year, but up slightly from the revised previous week.

Leading breeders in the **United States** placed 6.59 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2006, down 3 percent from April 2005.

Chicks Placed in Arkansas by Week, 2005-2006



U. S. Broiler-Type Pullet Chicks Placed for Domestic Hatchery Supply Flocks, 2005 - 2006



Week Ending 1/	Chicks Placed in Arkansas		
	Year		% of Prev. Year
	2005	2006	
	<i>Thousand</i>		
Apr. 15	24,164	23,110*	96
Apr. 22	24,895	23,469*	94
Apr. 29	23,835	24,234*	102
May 6	25,712	24,610*	96
May 13	24,820	25,233*	102
May 20	24,372	24,056	99

Month	U.S. Pullet Chicks Placed		
	Year		% of Prev. Year
	2004-2005	2005-2006	
	<i>Thousand</i>		
Nov.	7,128	7,298	102
Dec.	6,772	7,112	105
Jan.	6,409	6,825	106
Feb.	7,325	7,593	104
Mar.	7,077	7,012	99
Apr.	6,800	6,593	97

1/ For previous year, it is the comparable week.

* Revised

Broiler Eggs Set and Chicks Placed in 19 Major States by Weeks, April 22 - May 20, 2006

State	Eggs Set						Chicks Placed					
	Week Ending						Week Ending					
	22-Apr	29-Apr	6-May	13-May	20-May	% 1/	22-Apr	29-Apr	6-May	13-May	20-May	% 1/
	<i>Thousand</i>						<i>Thousand</i>					
Alabama	30,175	31,540 *	31,087	31,471	31,644	100	20,806	21,350	21,507	20,470 *	21,550	99
Arkansas	30,234	29,530 *	30,270	30,190 *	30,301	96	23,469	24,234	24,610 *	25,233 *	24,056	99
Delaware	3,726	3,580	3,586	3,542	3,661	90	4,740	4,996	5,137	5,940	5,119	86
Florida	1,384	1,384 *	1,361	1,378	922	67	1,494	1,619	1,435	1,324	1,319	106
Georgia	34,747	34,425	34,530	34,679 *	34,584	103	29,045	28,888	28,916	28,863 *	28,687	107
Kentucky	7,169 *	7,227	7,275	7,289 *	7,209	100	6,387	6,249	6,328	6,564 *	6,367	107
Louisiana	4,000	3,970	3,874	3,923	3,923	96	4,139	3,914	4,035	3,782	3,767	98
Maryland	8,824	8,859	8,842	8,876	8,955	100	5,901	5,670	5,201	4,484	4,979	107
Mississippi	18,172	17,788	18,408	18,385	17,679	94	16,394	16,413	16,100	15,743	15,414	90
N. Carolina	18,638	19,200 *	18,426	18,994	18,845	99	15,272	15,098	14,787	15,193	15,522	103
Oklahoma	6,603	6,648	6,395	6,104	6,478	98	4,877	5,143	4,862	4,194 *	5,296	98
Pennsylvania	3,922 *	3,819 *	4,093 *	4,013 *	4,122	101	2,865 *	2,966 *	2,919 *	2,959 *	2,601	84
S. Carolina	5,205	5,395	5,298	5,336	5,309	101	4,286	4,703	5,118	4,592 *	4,701	99
Texas	14,969	13,428	14,952	14,842	14,903	97	12,810	12,872	12,795	12,778	11,459	88
Virginia	6,443	6,501	6,460	6,472	6,475	98	5,375	5,123	5,140	5,112	5,792	100
CA,MO,TN & WV	18,057	17,114	16,685	18,023	17,925	98	16,835	17,480	17,213	17,221 *	15,901	86
19 State Total	212,268 *	210,408 *	211,542 *	213,517 *	212,935		174,695 *	176,718 *	176,103 *	174,452 *	172,530	
Prev. Year Total	215,123	214,687	215,071	215,969	216,555		175,439	180,017	179,021	178,354	177,385	
% of Prev. Year	99	98	98	99	98		100	98	98	98	97	
Approximate Marketing Date 2006 2/.....							10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	1-Jul	8-Jul	

* Revised in current week. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year. 2/ Industry average; seven weeks from placement.

Eggs Set In 19 Selected States Down 2 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 213 million eggs in incubators during the week ending May 20, 2006. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Down 3 Percent

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 173 million chicks for meat production during the week ending May 20, 2006. Placements were down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from January 1, 2006 through May 20, 2006 were 3.50 billion, down 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.