



# AG UPDATE

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Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

## Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area And Specie	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	January-November	
	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005
	<b>Million Pounds</b>				
<b>Colorado:</b> .....	149.2	138.8	143.2	1,831.1	1,619.2
<b>United States:</b> ....	3,770.0	3,925.0	3,942.0	41,488.0	41,765.0
Beef.....	1,941.0	2,081.0	2,071.0	22,505.0	22,635.0
Veal.....	13.8	12.6	12.4	151.9	142.3
Pork.....	1,799.0	1,816.0	1,843.0	18,654.0	18,816.0
Lamb & Mutton	16.5	15.8	15.8	41,488.0	41,765.0

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER NOVEMBER 2005

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during November 2005 totaled 143.2 million pounds, 4 percent below the same month last year but 3 percent above October 2005. **Beef** slaughter was down 6 percent from a year ago to 164,700 head but the average live weight increased 23 pounds to 1,307. **Hog** slaughter increased 22 percent to 1,100 head and the average live weight increased 9 pounds to 267. **Accumulated production** of all red meat for the January-November 2005 period totaled 1.62 billion pounds, down 12 percent from the 1.83 billion pounds produced during the same period in 2004.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004.

**Beef production**, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent above November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

**January to November 2005 commercial red meat production** was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004.

## CATTLE ON FEED DECEMBER 1, 2005

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 December 1, 2005. The latest inventory was up 4 percent from November 1, 2005 but down 3 percent from the 1,100,000 on feed on December 1, 2004. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 115,000 head of fed cattle during November 2006. This was 23 percent below a revised October 2006 marketings of 150,000 head and 26 percent below a year ago. An estimated 165,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during November, 6 percent below a year ago and 42 percent below a revised October 2005 placements of 285,000. Of the number placed in November, 27 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 36 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 21 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 15 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for November, at 10,000 head, is up 5,000 head from last month but unchanged from a year ago.

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 December 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above December 1, 2004 and 3 percent above December 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 17 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.95 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 660,000, 600-699 pounds were 650,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 315,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 4 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during November, 16 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States,  
1,000 Plus Capacity, Nov. 1 to Dec. 1, 2004-2005**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed Nov. 1	1,090	1,030	11,334	11,473
Placements During Nov.	175	165	1,743	2,045
< 600 pounds	60	45	590	660
600 - 699 Pounds	55	60	557	650
700 - 799 Pounds	35	35	326	420
800 Plus Pounds	25	25	270	315
Marketings During Nov.	155	115	1,635	1,701
Other Disap. During Nov.	10	10	108	91
On Feed Dec 1.	1,100	1,070	11,334	11,726

**HOG AND PIG INVENTORY  
DECEMBER 1, 2005**

Colorado's December 1, 2005 inventory of all hogs and pigs, at 840,000 head, increased 5 percent from a year ago but was down 1 percent from the September 2005 total. The **breeding hog** inventory of 145,000 head increased 4 percent from December 1, 2004 and September 2005. The **market hog** inventory for December 1, 2005 was 695,000 head, up 5 percent from a year earlier but down 2 percent from September 1, 2005.

Colorado's 2005 **pig crop** of 2.71 million head was 13 percent above 2004. There were 310,000 sows farrowed during the December 2004 through November 2005 time period compared with 288,000 sows farrowed during the comparable period a year earlier. The 2005 average litter size was 8.74 pigs this year, up from 8.31 pigs per litter in 2004.

**U.S. inventory** of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005. **Breeding inventory**, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The **September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop**, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

**U.S. hog producers** intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent from last year.

**Revisions:** All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2004 through September 2005 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the June 2005 total inventory, September 2005 total inventory and to the March-May 2005 pig crop.

**Hogs and Pigs, December 1, 2004-2005**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<b>1,000 Head</b>			
All Hogs & Pigs.....	800	840	90,975	61,197
Kept for breeding....	140	145	5,969	6,011
Market.....	660	695	55,005	55,186
Under 60 lbs.....	355	390	19,980	19,955
60-119 lbs.....	100	95	13,439	13,552
120-179 lbs.....	75	85	11,186	11,266
180 lbs. & over....	130	125	10,401	10,414
Sows Farrowed <u>1</u> /.....	288	310	11,498	11,504
Pigs per litter <u>1</u> /.....	8.31	8.74	8.94	9.01
Pig Crop <u>1</u> /.....	2,394	2,709	102,780	103,685

1/ Annual: December previous year - November current year

**CHICKENS AND EGGS  
NOVEMBER 2005**

Colorado laying flocks produced 89 million eggs during November 2005, down 1 percent from a month earlier but 1 percent above 88 million eggs produced during November 2004. The number of layers during November 2005 totaled 3.81 million, down 5 percent from a year earlier but up 2 percent from the previous month. The average rate of lay for November 2005, at 2,338 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,201 eggs per 100 layers during November 2004 and 2,411 for October 2005.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during November 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during November 2005 averaged 347 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up slightly from November 2004.

*(Continued on page 4)*

# AGRICULTURAL PRICES

## DECEMBER 15, 2005

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers** in December, at 114, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 4 points (3.8 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 2 points (1.7 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, corn, strawberries, and lettuce.

Lower prices were received for oranges, broilers, dairy, and grapes.

The **December All Crops Index** is 109, up 3.8 percent from November and 4.8 percent above December 2004. The all wheat price, at \$3.47 per bushel, is unchanged from November but up 7 cents from December 2004. The corn price, at \$1.88 per bushel, is up 11 cents from last month but 16 cents below December 2004. The all hay price, at \$92.00 per ton, is 30 cents above November and up \$6.00 from last December. The soybean price, at \$5.71 per bushel, increased 9 cents from November and is 26 cents above December 2004. The all potato price, at \$6.60 per cwt, is up 29 cents from November and up \$1.24 from last December. The all dry bean price, at \$18.60 per cwt, is up 30 cents from the previous month but \$8.40 below December 2004.

The December **Livestock and Products Index**, at 119, is 1.7 percent below last month and down 0.8 percent from December 2004. The December hog price, at \$45.50 per cwt, is up \$1.90 from November but \$6.90 lower than a year ago. The December beef cattle price of \$92.70 is up \$1.40 from last month and \$5.90 higher than December 2004. The December all milk price of \$14.70 is down 40 cents from last month and down \$1.70 from December 2004.

### Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
	<b>Percent</b>			
Prices Received .....	115	111	113	114
Prices Paid .....	135	134	143	143
Ratio <sup>1/</sup> .....	85	83	79	80

<sup>1/</sup> Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

**Colorado's** December 2005 crop prices averaged higher than a year earlier for all items except corn, all barley and dry edible beans. All livestock prices averaged above a year ago except cows. Mid-December 2005 wheat, at \$3.33 per bushel, increased 4 cents from the previous month and was 2 cents above December a year ago. Corn prices decreased 14 cents from November to \$2.05 per bushel and averaged 17 cents below December 2004. Potatoes were 15 cents above November at \$8.30 per cwt and averaged \$3.70 per cwt above the \$4.60 per cwt received in December 2004. Dry bean prices averaged \$18.20 per cwt in December, up 10 cents from the previous month but \$12.00 below the same month in 2004. Mid-December 2005 alfalfa hay prices decreased \$1.00 from

the previous month at \$100.00 but increased 14.00 per ton from a year ago. Other hay prices were \$1.00 below the previous month at \$99.00 but increased \$18.00 from December 2004. Steer and heifer prices, at \$119.00 per cwt, were unchanged from November but were \$13.00 per cwt above December 2004. December 2005 cow prices, at \$46.80 per cwt, averaged \$1.40 per cwt below November and \$2.20 below December a year ago. Calves, at \$137.00 per cwt, were unchanged from the previous month but \$11.00 per cwt above December 2004. The December all milk price of \$14.10 is down 70 cents from last month.

### Average Prices Received By Farmers <sup>1/</sup>

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Dec. 2004	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2005
<b>Crops</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	3.31	3.29	3.33
Corn .....	Bu.	2.22	2.19	2.05
Barley (All) .....	Bu.	2.84	2.15	2.37
Potatoes .....	Cwt	4.60	8.15	8.30
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	30.20	18.10	18.20
Alfalfa hay (baled) .....	Ton	86.00	101.00	100.00
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	81.00	100.00	99.00
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt	105.00	118.00	118.00
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	106.00	119.00	119.00
Cows .....	Cwt	49.00	48.20	46.80
Calves .....	Cwt	126.00	137.00	137.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	44.00	43.60	<sup>2/</sup>
Lambs .....	Cwt	102.00	105.00	<sup>2/</sup>
Milk sold to plants .....	Cwt	<sup>3/</sup>	14.80	14.10
<b>United States</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	3.40	3.47	3.47
Corn .....	Bu.	2.04	1.77	1.88
Soybeans .....	Bu.	5.45	5.62	5.71
Barley (All) .....	Bu.	2.49	2.64	2.54
Barley (Feed) .....	Bu.	1.66	1.77	1.70
Sorghum .....	Cwt	2.99	2.82	2.94
Potatoes .....	Cwt	5.36	6.31	6.60
Dry edible beans .....	Cwt	27.00	18.30	18.60
Alfalfa hay (baled) .....	Ton	92.10	97.50	97.70
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	72.40	76.30	78.00
Onions .....	Cwt	8.58	10.60	11.10
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle .....	Cwt	86.80	91.30	92.70
Steers & heifers .....	Cwt	91.90	97.30	99.10
Cows .....	Cwt	48.60	46.00	46.60
Calves .....	Cwt	122.00	133.00	135.00
Sheep .....	Cwt	44.60	45.40	<sup>2/</sup>
Lambs .....	Cwt	101.00	107.00	<sup>2/</sup>
Hogs .....	Cwt	52.40	43.60	45.50
Milk sold to plants .....	Cwt	16.40	15.10	14.70
Broilers .....	Lb.	0.390	0.420	0.390

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> Mid-month prices discontinued. <sup>3/</sup> Discontinued resumed in 2005.

(Continued from page 2)

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.08 billion eggs during November 2005, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 326 million, was also up 1 percent from a year ago.

## COLD STORAGE NOVEMBER 30, 2005

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, frozen vegetables and eggs. Butter stocks were down 37 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were down 2 percent from last month and down 3 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 3 percent from last month and down 1 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 89 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from last year.

**Total frozen poultry supplies** on November 30, 2005 were down 12 percent from the previous month, but up 1 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 52 percent from last month and down 32 percent from November 30, 2004.

**Public cooler occupancy** on November 30, 2005, was at 52 percent of capacity, up 2 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 65 percent, up 4 points from last year.

## Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 2004	Oct. 31, 2005	Nov. 30, 2005
<b>1,000 Pounds</b>			
Butter .....	57,177	98,112	61,324
Cheese, total natural.....	704,251	750,930	716,784
Eggs, frozen .....	17,324	17,619	17,593
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,064,635	1,224,511	1,074,748
Chicken.....	769,185	804,192	870,961
Turkey.....	294,868	417,605	200,901
Fruits, frozen.....	1,181,257	1,213,294	1,131,878
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,741,581	1,393,806	1,301,672
Vegetables, total frozen ..	2,423,744	2,606,753	2,454,160
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,219,345	1,199,971	1,123,153
Meats, total red .....	912,602	905,928	885,021
Beef, total frozen.....	463,297	439,186	430,588
Pork, total frozen.....	436,332	446,476	433,578

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

Colorado and U.S. 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.usda.gov/nass/>

- Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
- Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
- Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat Seeding - 2006 Crop
- Jan. 17 - Potato Stocks
- Jan. 18 - Milk Production
- Jan. 20 - Cattle On Feed
- Jan. 20 - Livestock Slaughter
- Jan. 24 - Fruit Crops - Annual
- Jan. 27 - Vegetables - Annual

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