



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
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AG UPDATE

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Released: January 4, 2007

Vol. 27 No. 1

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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER NOVEMBER 2006

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during November 2006 totaled 150.6 million pounds, 5 percent above the same month last year but 1 percent below October 2006. **Beef** slaughter was up 4 percent from a year ago to 171,300 head and the average live weight increased 24 pounds to 1,331. **Hog** slaughter decreased 27 percent to 800 head and the average live weight decreased 94 pounds to 210. Accumulated production of all red meat for the January-November 2006 period totaled 1.69 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the 1.61 billion pounds produced during the same period in 2005.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.14 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in November 2005. **Beef production**, at 2.22 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.84 million head, up 6 percent from November 2005. The average live weight was up 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.3 million pounds, 15 percent above November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,800 head, up 18 percent from November 2005. The average live weight was 14 pounds below last year, at 351 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.89 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.37 million head, 3 percent above November 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.3 million pounds, was down 3 percent from November 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,800 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 3 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2006 commercial red meat production was 43.5 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down slightly, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States

Area And Specie	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.	January-November	
	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006
	Million Pounds				
Colorado	143.2	151.8	150.6	1,619.2	1,699.9
United States	3,943.0	4,182.0	4,137.0	41,757.0	43,548.0
Beef	2,071.0	2,228.0	2,217.0	22,625.0	24,031.0
Veal	12.4	14.1	14.3	142.3	141.8
Pork	1,843.0	1,924.0	1,890.0	18,819.0	19,205.0
Lamb & Mutton	15.8	15.6	15.3	170.6	169.7

^{1/} Totals may not add due to rounding.

CATTLE ON FEED DECEMBER 1, 2006

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 1,120,000 head as of December 1, 2006. The latest inventory was down 1 percent from November 1, 2006 but up 5 percent from the 1,070,000 on feed on December 1, 2005. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 150,000 head of fed cattle during November 2006. This was 11 percent above a revised October 2006 marketings of 135,000 head and 30 percent above a year ago. An estimated 150,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during November, 9 percent below a year ago and 30 percent below a revised October 2006 placements of 215,000. Of the number placed in November, 30 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 30 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 20 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for November, at 10,000 head is unchanged from last month and 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 12.0 million head on December 1, 2006. The inventory was 2 percent above December 1, 2005 and 6 percent above December 1, 2004. This is the highest December 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.89 million, 8 percent below 2005 but 8 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.81 million. This is the second lowest placements for the month of November since the series began in 1996. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 555,000, 600-699 pounds were 565,000, 700-799 pounds were 404,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 365,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.80 million, 6 percent above 2005 and 10 percent above 2004. This is the second highest fed cattle marketings for the month of November since the series began in 1996. Other

disappearance totaled 83,000 during November, 9 percent below 2005 and 23 percent below 2004.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States,
1,000 Plus Capacity, Nov. 1 to Dec. 1, 2005-2006**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head			
On Feed Nov. 1	1,030	1,130	11,473	11,959
Placements During Nov.	165	150	2,045	1,889
< 600 pounds	45	45	660	555
600 - 699 Pounds	60	45	650	565
700 - 799 Pounds	35	30	420	404
800 Plus Pounds	25	30	315	365
Marketings During Nov.	115	150	1,701	1,802
Other Disap. During Nov.	10	10	91	83
On Feed Dec 1.	1,070	1,120	11,726	11,973

**HOG AND PIG INVENTORY
DECEMBER 1, 2006**

Colorado's December 1, 2006 inventory of all hogs and pigs, at 830,000 head, decreased 2 percent from a year ago and was down 1 percent from the September 2006 total. The **breeding hog** inventory of 155,000 head increased 7 percent from December 1, 2005 and September 2006. The **market hog** inventory for December 1, 2006 was 675,000 head, down 4 percent from a year earlier and down 3 percent from September 1, 2006.

Colorado's 2006 pig crop of 2.92 million head was 6 percent above 2005. There were 329,000 sows farrowed during the December 2005 through November 2006 time period compared with 314,000 sows farrowed during the comparable period a year earlier. The 2006 average litter size was 8.88 pigs this year, up from 8.74 pigs per litter in 2005.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2006 was 62.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from December 1, 2005, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2006. **Breeding inventory**, at 6.09 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and up slightly from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 56.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2006 pig crop, at 26.6 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005 and up 3 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.91 million head, up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.13 for the September-November 2006 period, compared to 9.03 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the December 2006-February 2007 quarter, up 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in

both 2006 and 2005. Intended farrowings for March-May 2007, at 2.93 million sows, are up 1 percent from 2006 and up 2 percent from 2005.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, down from 39 percent last year.

Revisions: All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2005 through September 2006 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, a small adjustment of less than one-half of one percent was made to the June 2006 inventory and September 2006 inventory, along with an adjustment of slightly larger than one-half of one percent to the March-May 2006 pig crop.

Hogs and Pigs, December 1, 2005-2006

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Head			
All Hogs & Pigs	850	830	61,449	62,149
Kept for breeding	145	155	6,011	6,088
Market	705	675	55,438	56,061
Under 60 lbs	390	370	20,055	20,334
60-119 lbs	95	80	13,524	13,603
120-179 lbs	85	90	11,293	11,544
180 lbs. & over	135	135	10,567	10,580
Sows Farrowed ^{1/}	314	329	11,535	11,590
Pigs per litter ^{1/}	8.74	8.88	9.01	9.10
Pig Crop ^{1/}	2,745	2,920	103,965	105,423

^{1/} Annual: December previous year - November current year

**CHICKENS AND EGGS
NOVEMBER 2006**

Colorado laying flocks produced 85 million eggs during November 2006, down 8 percent from a month earlier but 4 percent above 89 million eggs produced during November 2005. The number of layers during November 2006 totaled 3.75 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier and down 1 percent from the previous month. The average rate of lay for November 2006, at 2,266 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,345 eggs per 100 layers during November 2005 and 2,427 for October 2006.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.52 billion during November 2006, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.49 billion table eggs, and 1.03 billion hatching eggs, of which 969 million were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2006 averaged 346 million, down slightly from last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from November 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2006 totaled 347 million, down slightly from last year. The 347 million

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES
DECEMBER 15, 2006

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers** in December, at 121 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.8 percent) from November. The Crop Index is up 6 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, corn, grapes, and broccoli. Lower prices were received for turkeys, cattle, hogs, and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of oranges, wheat, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

The **December All Crops Index** is 129, up 4.9 percent from November and 16 percent above December 2005. The December all wheat price, at \$4.59 per bushel, is unchanged from November but \$1.06 above December 2005. The corn price, at \$3.01 per bushel, is up 14 cents from last month and \$1.09 above December 2005. The all hay price, at \$108 per ton, is \$2.00 above November and up \$16.00 from last December. The soybean price, at \$6.14 per bushel, increased 7 cents from November and is 36 cents above December 2005. The all potato price, at \$7.22 per cwt, is up 55 cents from November and up 39 cents from last December. The all dry bean price, at \$21.60 per cwt, is unchanged from the previous month but \$3.50 above December 2005.

The December **Livestock and Products Index**, at 113, is 2.6 percent below last month and down 5.8 percent from December 2005. The December hog price, at \$43.20 per cwt, is down \$1.60 from November and \$1.10 lower than a year ago. The December beef cattle price of \$83.70 per cwt is down \$1.00 from last month and \$9.60 lower than December 2005. The December all milk price of \$14.20 per cwt is up 30 cents from last month but down 60 cents from December 2005.

Prices Received and Paid Summary, United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2005		2006	
	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
	Percent			
Prices Received.....	112	115	120	121
Prices Paid.....	142	143	146	148
Ratio ^{1/}	79	80	82	82

^{1/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

Colorado's December 2006 crop prices averaged higher from a year ago except for potatoes. All livestock prices averaged below a year ago except for milk which was unchanged. Mid-December 2006 wheat, at \$4.62 per bushel, decreased 12 cents from the previous month but was \$1.08 above December a year ago. Corn prices increased 30 cents from November to \$3.10 per bushel and averaged 99 cents above December 2005. Potatoes remained unchanged at \$7.95 per cwt but averaged 30 cents per cwt below the \$8.25 per cwt received in December 2005. Dry bean prices averaged \$20.70 per cwt in

December, down 30 cents from the previous month and \$3.00 below the same month in 2005. Mid-December 2006 alfalfa hay prices increased \$2.00 from the previous month at \$140.00 and increased \$40.00 per ton from a year ago. Other hay prices were \$1.00 above the previous month at \$124.00 and increased \$26.00 from December 2005. Steer and heifer prices, at \$99.00 per cwt decreased \$2.00 from November and were \$20.00 per cwt below December 2005. December 2006 cow prices, at \$43.70 per cwt, averaged 10 cents above the November prices but \$3.10 below December a year ago. Calves, at \$111.00 per cwt, were down \$1.00 from the previous month and \$26.00 per cwt below December 2005. The December all milk price of \$14.30 is up 10 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers ^{1/}

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Dec. 2005	Nov. 2006	Dec. 2006
Crops				
Dollars				
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.54	4.74	4.62
Corn.....	Bu.	2.11	2.80	3.10
Barley (All).....	Bu.	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>
Potatoes.....	Cwt	8.25	7.95	7.95
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	17.70	21.00	20.70
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	100.00	138.00	140.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	99.00	124.00	125.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	118.00	100.00	98.40
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	119.00	101.00	99.00
Cows.....	Cwt	46.80	43.60	43.70
Calves.....	Cwt	137.00	112.00	111.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	44.40	30.00	<u>2/</u>
Lambs.....	Cwt	102.00	94.00	<u>2/</u>
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	14.30	14.20	14.30
United States				
Dollars				
Wheat.....	Bu.	3.53	4.59	4.59
Corn.....	Bu.	1.92	2.87	3.01
Soybeans.....	Bu.	5.78	6.07	6.14
Barley (All).....	Bu.	2.48	2.92	3.25
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	1.76	2.85	3.14
Sorghum.....	Cwt	2.91	5.83	6.05
Potatoes.....	Cwt	6.83	6.67	7.22
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	18.10	21.60	21.60
Alfalfa hay (baled).....	Ton	96.90	109.00	112.00
Other hay (baled).....	Ton	82.10	98.10	99.30
Onions.....	Cwt	12.30	12.40	15.50
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	93.30	84.70	83.70
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	99.60	90.20	89.20
Cows.....	Cwt	47.10	43.40	42.90
Calves.....	Cwt	137.00	118.00	115.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	49.30	30.90	<u>2/</u>
Lambs.....	Cwt	100.00	95.00	<u>2/</u>
Hogs.....	Cwt	44.30	44.80	43.20
Milk sold to plants.....	Cwt	14.80	13.90	14.20
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.390	0.400	0.400

^{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/} Mid-month prices discontinued ^{3/} Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

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layers consisted of 290 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2006, averaged 72.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from December 1, 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2006 totaled 347 million, down slightly from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 290 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.82 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2006, averaged 72.9 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from December 1, 2005.

**COLD STORAGE
NOVEMBER 30, 2006**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2006 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, beef, cheese, and pork. Butter stocks were down 36 percent from last month, but up 47 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from last month and up 11 percent from the previous year. Frozen pork supplies were down 1 percent from last month, but up 6 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 96 percent from last month and up 8 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on November 30, 2006 were down 20 percent from the previous month and down 16 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 4 percent from the previous month and down 21 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 48 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from November 30, 2005.

Special Note - Mandatory reporting for dairy products in cold storage has improved the reporting on the Cold Storage Survey. As a result, additional data for some commodities have been collected that were not previously reported on the survey. In order to maintain the month-to-month and year-to-year comparisons, estimates have been adjusted to exclude the newly acquired data in the summary tables. The September estimates have been revised accordingly for selected commodities. NASS will provide data for these commodities in a new table found on the contents page. This table will be updated monthly until the end of the calendar year. All commodities for 2006 will be further revised, if necessary, in the annual Cold Storage report issued in February 2007.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 2005	Oct. 31, 2006	Nov. 30, 2006
1,000 Pounds			
Butter.....	60,430	138,788	88,567
Cheese, total natural.....	720,722	794,932	768,733
Eggs, frozen.....	17,601	16,262	17,095
Poultry, total frozen.....	1,074,168	1,128,712	907,200
Chicken.....	876,573	718,964	692,766
Turkey.....	194,715	404,171	209,308
Fruits, frozen.....	1,124,369	1,179,839	1,187,689
Fruit Juices, frozen.....	1,300,230	976,536	946,381
Vegetables, total frozen.....	2,460,549	2,592,243	2,479,498
Potatoes, total frozen.....	1,122,457	1,066,599	1,055,466
Meats, total red.....	888,210	964,643	986,915
Beef, total frozen.....	429,894	475,563	503,214
Pork, total frozen.....	437,406	470,691	464,175

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.nass.usda.gov>

- 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. 23 - Fruit Crops - Annual
- Jan. 26 - Cattle On Feed
- Jan. 26 - Livestock Slaughter
- Jan. 26 - Vegetables - Annual

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