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## CATTLE ON FEED

### APRIL 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 1,020,000 head as of April 1, 2005. The latest inventory was down 2 percent from March 1, 2005 but up 5 percent from April 1, 2004. The inventory included 620,000 steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 390,000 head, were unchanged while cows and bulls were up 5,000 head from last year. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 185,000 head of fed cattle during March 2005. This was equal to February 2005 marketings but 3 percent below a year ago. An estimated 175,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March, 17 percent above a year ago but unchanged from February 2005. Of the number placed in March, 9 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 20 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 40 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 31 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance during March, at 10,000 head, was unchanged from last month and March 2004.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2004 and 1 percent above April 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.99 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, down 6 percent from 2004. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 13 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.69 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 614,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 527,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, up

slightly from 2004 and 9 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 3 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.

### Cattle on Feed, 1,000+ Feedlots, Colorado and United States, April 1, 2004-2005

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<b>1,000 head</b>			
On Feed March 1	1,020	1,040	10,987	11,152
Placements During Mar.				
< 600 pounds	15	15	347	299
600 - 699 pounds	30	35	347	320
700 - 799 pounds	60	70	646	614
800 plus pounds	45	55	470	527
Marketings During Mar.	190	185	1,967	1,973
Other Disap. During Mar.	10	10	67	69
On Feed April 1	970	1,020	10,763	10,870
Steers & Steer Calves	575	620	6,630	6,989
Heifers & Heifer Calves	390	390	4,066	3,803
Cows & Bulls	5	10	67	78

## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

### MARCH 2005

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2005 totaled 141.9 million pounds, 17 percent below the same month a year earlier but 10 percent above February 2005. Beef slaughter decreased 19 percent from March 2004 to 167,000 head, but the average live weight of 1,253 pounds was 19 pounds heavier than a year ago. Hog slaughter was decreased 18 percent to 900 head, but the average live weight increased 50 pounds to 286. Accumulated production for the first three months of 2005 totaled 407.0 million pounds, 13 percent below the 466.8 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004. **Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

**January to March 2005 commercial red meat production** was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

### Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Mar. 2004	Feb. 2005	Mar. 2005	January-March	
				2004	2005
	<b>Million Pounds</b>				
<b>Colorado:</b>	170.8	128.6	141.9	466.8	407.0
<b>United States:</b>	3,945.0	3,423.0	3,879.0	11,065.0	10,950.0
Beef . . . . .	2,108.0	1,767.0	2,043.0	5,837.0	5,726.0
Veal . . . . .	14.1	12.1	13.3	44.6	38.7
Pork . . . . .	1,801.0	1,629.0	1,803.0	5,131.0	5,136.0
Lamb & Mutton .	22.2	15.2	19.5	52.5	49.1

### MILK PRODUCTION MARCH 2005 - 23 STATES

**Colorado** dairy herds produced 193 million pounds of milk during March, up 10 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. The average number of cows was 101,000, up 1 percent from the previous year. Production per cow averaged 1,910 pounds for March, 4 percent above the 1,830 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from March 2004. February revised production, at 12.3 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from February 2004. However, production was up 3.1 percent on a per day basis after adjusting for the leap year. The February revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,704 pounds for March, 43 pounds above March 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.10 million head, 38,000 head more than March 2004, and 21,000 head more than February 2005.

### Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States

Item	March 2004	Feb. 2005	March 2005
<b>Colorado</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u> . .	100	99	101
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u> . . . . .	1,830	1,720	1,910
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u> . . . .	183	170	193
<b>23 States</b>			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u> . .	8,059	8,076	8,097
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u> . . . . .	1,661	1,519	1,704
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u> . . . .	13,387	12,270	13,799

1/ Average number during year, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### MILK PRODUCTION JANUARY – MARCH 2004 -05

**Colorado** dairy herds produced 551 million pounds of milk during the first three months of 2005, up 19 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. The average number of cows for the first quarter was 100,000, unchanged from the first quarter average the previous year.

Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 43.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 2,000 head more than the same period last year.

### Milk Production January - March, 2004-2005

Item	Unit	2004	2005
<b>Colorado:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> . . . . .	000 head	100	100
Production <u>2/</u> . . . . .	mil. lbs.	532	551
<b>United States:</b>			
Milk Cows <u>1/</u> . . . . .	000 head	8,993	8,995
Production <u>2/</u> . . . . .	mil. lbs.	42,759	43,238

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### POTATO STOCKS APRIL 1, 2005

**Colorado** growers and commercial storage facilities in the San Luis Valley had 8.5 million cwt of potatoes on hand as of April 1, 2005, up 13 percent from the 7.5 million cwt on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 37 percent of the 23.15 million cwt produced in 2004. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock accounted for 69 percent of the total production

during the 1999-2003 period. The remaining 31 percent of the production is utilized for seed, processing, and home use or is lost through shrinkage.

The **15 Major Potato States** held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2005, up 3 percent from both last year and April 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 32 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 274 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 26.8 million cwt, is up 6 percent from last year and 11 percent above the same date in 2003. Processors have used 136 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. March usage, at 16.6 million cwt, is 3 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

**Western States** held 91.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are both up 13 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 26 percent, Montana's sheds hold 13 percent less than last year, and California's stocks decreased 10 percent from a year ago.

**Central States** accounted for 29.6 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, down 8 percent from last year but 14 percent above two years ago. Michigan's potato stocks are down 16 percent, Minnesota potato sheds stored 14 percent less than last year, and North Dakota's stocks decreased 8 percent. Nebraska and Ohio's potato stocks combined decreased 8 percent from last year.

**Eastern States** stored 8.42 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 17 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Maine's potato sheds hold 15 percent more than last year, Pennsylvania's stocks are up 50 percent, and New York's sheds increased 7 percent from a year ago.

## ONIONS

## 2005 CROPS

Total planted onion acreage for all seasons in 2005 is forecast at 172,300 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Spring onions will be harvested from 37,100 acres in 2005, up 4 percent from 2004. Georgia and Texas combined production is forecast at 7.59 million cwt, 1 percent below last year. Summer non-storage

onion planted acreage, at 24,000 acres, is virtually unchanged from a year ago. Total summer onion acreage, at 133,000 acres, is down 3 percent from the previous year.

**Spring Onions:** Producers intend to harvest 37,100 acres, up 4 percent from last year. Arizona growers have been unable to get into fields due to increased rainfall. Some growers are having to spray for mold because of the wet conditions. Some locations throughout California report mild temperatures and good conditions that have led to good stands. Some areas of California, however, are two weeks behind schedule because of below normal temperatures and rain. Some intended acreage was not planted due to wet field conditions.

**Summer Non-Storage Onions:** Non-storage planted acreage is 24,000 acres, up less than 1 percent from last year. The California summer onion crop was planted with some delays due to rain. Recent mild temperatures and timely rainfall have helped the crop to progress. No major problems have been reported. Planting in Nevada is underway with some growers having difficulty due to wet field conditions. New Mexico planting was 90 percent complete as of the last week of March with the crop reported in mostly good condition. The Texas summer onion crop is doing well due to milder weather conditions and the recent decrease in rainfall.

**Summer Storage Onions:** Storage planted acreage is 109,000 acres, down 4 percent from comparable States in 2004. California acreage, which is primarily dehydrated or otherwise processed, is forecast at 29,000 acres, down 1 percent from 2004. The California storage onion crop was planted with some rain delays but no major problems are reported. Mild temperatures in addition to recent rains have helped crop development. Colorado growers remain optimistic for a more normal crop this year due to an above-average snow pack. March precipitation was also above normal this year. Idaho onion planting has already begun due to early spring-like conditions. Irrigation supplies for the State are expected to be short. However, growers expect water supplies to be adequate for this year's crop. New York acreage is expected to be about the same as last year. Oregon acreage in Malheur is expected to decrease while acreage in other areas is expected to increase. In Utah, drought conditions have lessened due to good snowfall in the mountains and recent rain and snow in the growing areas.

**Colorado** producers intend to plant 12,000 acres of summer storage onions in 2005. If realized, this would be 500 acres below last year. In spite of some uncertainty about irrigation water supplies, planting began on schedule and has progressed at a normal pace because there have been no major delays from spring rains. The mid-April rain and snow along the Front Range provided limited relief to dry conditions but did not significantly improve irrigation water prospects for this year.

**Onions for Fresh Market 2003-2005 Crops**

Crop	Area Planted		
	2003	2004	2005
	<b>Acres</b>		
Spring 1/ .....	36,000	39,900	39,300
Summer: 1/			
Non-Storage			
CA .....	7,800	8,800	9,000
NV .....	3,100	3,400	3,300
NM .....	7,700	7,300	7,400
TX .....	2,700	2,900	2,900
WA .....	1,400	1,500	1,400
Total .....	22,700	23,900	24,000
Storage			
CA 2/ .....	36,000	29,400	29,000
<b>CO</b> .....	<b>10,500</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,000</b>
ID .....	10,000	11,000	9,900
MI .....	3,700	3,700	3,500
MN .....	280	3/	3/
NY .....	12,100	13,500	13,300
OH .....	380	3/	3/
OR:			
Malheur .....	12,400	13,500	11,400
West .....	6,900	7,000	7,300
UT .....	1,900	1,600	3/
WA .....	18,000	19,000	19,000
WI .....	2,100	2,000	1,800
Other states .....	...	700	1,800
Total .....	114,260	113,900	109,000
Total Summer .....	136,960	137,800	133,000
U.S. ....	172,960	177,700	172,300

1/ Primarily fresh market.

2/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

3/ Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**TURKEYS**

**APRIL 1, 2005**

Turkey eggs in incubators on April 1, 2005, in the United States totaled 29.1 million, 4 percent below April 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 4 percent above the March 1, 2005 total of 28.1 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down slightly, West North Central down 1 percent, North and South Atlantic down 11 percent, South Central down 13 percent, and West up 11 percent.

The 23.4 million poults placed during March 2005 in the United States were down 3 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 10 percent from February 2005. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 8 percent, West North Central up 1 percent, North and South Atlantic down 8 percent, South Central down 14 percent, and West up 15 percent.

**R. René Picanso**  
Director

**Steve Anderson**  
Deputy Director

**COLD STORAGE**

**MARCH 31, 2005**

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on March 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, vegetables, chicken, and fruit. Butter stocks were up 20 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from a year ago.

**Total red meat supplies** in freezers were down 2 percent from last month, but up 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up slightly from last month and up 21 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 8 percent from last month and up 62 percent from last year.

**Public cooler occupancy** on March 31, 2005, was at 51 percent of capacity, up 12 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 58 percent, up 5 points from last year.

**Stocks in Storage, United States**

Commodity	Mar. 31, 2004	Feb. 29, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
	<b>1,000 Pounds</b>		
Butter .....	158,118	110,897	132,673
Cheese, total natural .....	759,546	715,772	746,945
Eggs, frozen .....	19,247	17,865	18,548
Poultry, total frozen .....	1,110,545	1,016,982	1,090,660
Chicken .....	604,738	634,579	671,808
Turkey .....	504,561	381,934	418,532
Fruits, frozen .....	715,709	879,606	750,954
Fruit Juices, frozen .....	2,139,579	1,888,634	1,898,739
Vegetables, total frozen ..	1,591,734	1,994,038	1,788,477
Potatoes, total frozen .....	1,192,451	1,152,818	1,094,950
Meats, total red .....	879,358	956,021	932,584
Beef, total frozen .....	416,772	400,285	373,636
Pork, total frozen .....	447,346	541,023	543,400

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. 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/>

- Apr. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Apr. 26 - Floriculture Crops
- Apr. 28 - Dairy Products - Annual
- Apr. 28 - Meat Animals - Prod, Disp, Income
- Apr. 28 - Poultry Production and Value
- Apr. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- May 12 - Crop Production
- May 16 - Potato Stocks
- May 17 - Milk Production
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