

Contents of This Issue

- ▶Livestock Slaughter
 - ▶Farm Labor
- ▶Chickens and Eggs
- ▶Agricultural Prices
 - ▶Cattle on Feed

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
OCTOBER 2005**

Red meat production in **Colorado** during October 2005 totaled 138.8 million pounds, down 18 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent below the previous month. **Cattle** kill during October was down 20 percent from a year earlier to 159,800 head but the average live weight increased 52 pounds to 1,307 pounds per head. **Hog** slaughter was up 10 percent to 1,200 head and the average live weight increased 3 pounds to 266. **Accumulated production** for the January-October period this year, at 1.68 billion pounds, is 12 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004. **Beef production**, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 228,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged 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 ^{1/}**

Area And Specie	Oct. 2004	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	January-October	
				2004	2005
Million Pounds					
Colorado:	168.9	149.9	138.8	1,681.9	1,476.0
United States:	3,921	3,933	3,925	37,718	37,822
Beef.....	2,114.0	2,161.0	2,081.0	20,564	20,564
Veal.....	12.4	13.2	12.6	138.1	129.9
Pork.....	1,779.0	1,743.0	1,816.0	16,854	16,973
Lamb & Mutton	16.3	15.6	15.8	160.6	154.9

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

**FARM LABOR
OCTOBER 9-15, 2005**

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation s farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In California, tightened security at the Mexican border and increased competition from the higher paying construction industry caused farm worker shortages.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Corn Belt II, California, Appalachian II, Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

The 2005 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.51, up 3 percent from the 2004 annual average wage rate of \$9.23. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$8.70, up 25 cents from last year's annual average.

The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate at the U.S. level was \$8.84, up 3 percent from last year's annual average wage rate of \$8.56.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers, Number of Workers, and Number of Hours Worked by Region and United States, October 9-15, 2005¹						
U.S. and Region ²	Type of Worker			All Hired Workers		
	Field	Livestock	Field & Lvstk Combined	Wage Rates	Number of Workers	Number of Hours Worked
	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>Dollars per Hour</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Hours per Week</i>
Northeast I	9.42	9.42	9.42	10.19	38	40.1
Northeast II	9.21	8.62	9.09	10.00	39	39.6
Appalachian I.....	8.17	8.91	8.43	8.89	36	36.7
Appalachian II	8.48	8.26	8.40	9.03	24	38.1
Southeast.....	8.51	8.86	8.60	9.05	37	37.0
FL.....	8.60	8.45	8.58	9.33	42	39.4
Lake	9.96	9.49	9.80	10.35	72	40.6
Cornbelt I.....	8.88	8.68	9.57	10.10	50	42.1
Cornbelt II.....	9.21	10.89	10.02	11.16	29	40.1
Delta.....	7.04	7.95	7.26	7.70	34	42.2
Northern Plains	10.14	9.37	9.86	10.12	35	44.4
Southern Plains	7.60	7.84	7.68	8.38	64	39.1
Mountain I	8.26	9.27	8.55	8.91	29	51.4
Mountain II	7.94	8.39	8.14	8.75	22	45.9
Mountain III.....	7.27	8.87	7.67	8.28	25	44.8
Pacific	8.96	9.58	9.00	9.62	76	43.1
CA.....	9.21	10.40	9.36	10.12	181	44.7
HI ³	10.10		10.18	11.73	7	39.7
US ⁴	8.90	9.14	8.96	9.61	840	42.0

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² Regions consist of the following States. Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. ³ Insufficient data for livestock. ⁴ Excludes AK.

CHICKENS AND EGGS OCTOBER 2005

Colorado laying flocks produced 90 million eggs during October 2005 up 3 percent from the previous month but down 2 percent from October 2004. The average number of layers during October 2005 totaled 3.73 million, down 3 percent from the previous month and 7 percent below October 2004. The rate of lay, at 2,411 eggs per 100 layers increased 7 percent from a month earlier and up 5 percent during October a year ago.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2005, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during October 2005 averaged 344 million, down slightly from a year earlier.

October egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 287 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2004.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.22 billion eggs during October 2005, up nearly 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during October, at 323 million, was nearly unchanged from a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES NOVEMBER 15, 2005

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 1 point (1.0 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers, and tomatoes.

The November **All Crops Index** is 104, up 1.0 percent from October but 7.1 percent below November 2004. The November all wheat price, at \$3.36 per bushel, is down 7 cents from October and down 10 cents from November 2004. The corn price, at \$1.79 per bushel, is down 3 cents from last month and 26 cents below November 2004. The soybean price, at \$5.68 per bushel, increased 1 cent from October and is 32 cents above November 2004. The all potato price, at \$6.09 per cwt, is up 55 cents from October and \$1.07 from last November. The all dry bean price, at \$18.90 per cwt, is up 10 cents from the previous month but \$7.00 below November 2004.

The November **Livestock and Products Index**, at 121, is 0.8 percent below last month but up 1.7 percent from November 2004. The November hog price, at \$44.70 per cwt, is down \$2.30 from October and \$10.90 lower than a year ago. The November beef cattle price of \$91.60 is up 50 cents from last month and \$6.20 higher than November 2004. The November all milk price, at \$15.10, is down 40 cents from last month and down \$1.10 from November 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2004		2005	
	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov.
	Percent			
Prices Received	114	115	111	113
Prices Paid	136	135	144	143
Ratio 1/	84	85	77	79

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

Colorado mid-November prices for crop items averaged lower than a year ago except potatoes, alfalfa hay and other hay which averaged higher. Compared with October 2005, decreases were recorded for all crop items except other hay which remained unchanged. All livestock items averaged higher than a year ago and October 2005, except for cows which averaged lower. Wheat, at \$3.27 per bushel was down 13 cents from the previous month and averaged 8 cents below November 2004. Corn was down 18 cents from October to \$2.10 per bushel and averaged 32 cents below November 2004. Potato prices, at \$8.55 per cwt, decreased 45 cents from October but increased \$3.75 from a year ago. Alfalfa hay prices decreased \$3.00 from October at \$101.00

per ton but other hay was unchanged at \$100.00 per ton. Steers and heifers up \$2.00 to \$118.00 per cwt from October and \$8.00 higher than November 2004. Cow prices decreased \$1.30 to \$48.20 per cwt and \$1.40 below a year earlier. Calves were up \$2.00 to \$135.00 per cwt and \$8.00 above November 2004. The all milk price, at \$14.70, is down 70 cents from last month.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 2005
Crops				
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.40	3.27
Corn	Bu.	2.42	2.28	2.10
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.99	3.15	2/
Potatoes	Cwt	4.80	9.00	8.55
Dry edible beans	Cwt	28.70	18.40	18.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	86.00	104.00	101.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	81.00	100.00	100.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	109.00	115.00	117.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	110.00	116.00	118.00
Cows	Cwt	49.60	49.50	48.20
Calves	Cwt	127.00	133.00	135.00
Sheep	Cwt	43.00	42.40	3/
Lambs	Cwt	98.90	109.00	3/
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	4/	15.40	14.70
United States				
Dollars				
Wheat	Bu.	3.46	3.43	3.36
Corn	Bu.	2.05	1.82	1.79
Soybeans	Bu.	5.36	5.67	5.68
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.45	2.41	2.49
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	1.78	1.81	1.88
Sorghum	Cwt	3.06	2.99	2.81
Potatoes	Cwt	5.02	5.54	6.09
Dry edible beans	Cwt	25.90	18.80	18.90
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	95.20	106.00	97.50
Other hay (baled)	Ton	73.50	76.50	76.30
Onions	Cwt	9.01	11.30	10.60
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	85.40	91.10	91.60
Steers & heifers	Cwt	90.20	96.60	97.40
Cows	Cwt	48.70	46.60	45.80
Calves	Cwt	123.00	134.00	132.00
Sheep	Cwt	41.40	43.70	3/
Lambs	Cwt	99.90	108.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	55.60	47.00	44.70
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	16.20	15.50	15.10
Broilers	Lb.	.390	.430	.420

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/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

3/ Mid-Month prices discontinued.

4/ Not published

CATTLE ON FEED NOVEMBER 1, 2005

Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots October 1 to November 1, 2004-2005

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 1,030,000 head as of November 1, 2005. The latest inventory was up 14 percent from October 1, 2005 but down 6 percent from the 1,090,000 on feed on November 1, 2004. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 155,000 head of fed cattle during October 2005. This was 7 percent above September 2005 marketings of 145,000 head but 16 percent below a year ago. An estimated 290,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during October, 12 percent above a year ago and 4 percent above September 2005 placements of 280,000. Of the number placed in October, 26 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 22 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 29 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for October, at 5,000 head, is unchanged from last month and 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 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2004 and 4 percent above November 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Net placements were 2.74 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 880,000, 600-699 pounds were 790,000, 700-799 pounds were 600,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000. Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 head			
On Feed Oct. 1	1,020	900	10,502	10,482
Placements During Oct.	260	290	2,701	2,795
< 600 pounds	85	75	912	880
600 - 699 Pounds	65	65	764	790
700 - 799 Pounds	50	65	529	600
800 Plus Pounds	60	85	496	525
Marketings During Oct.	185	155	1,803	1,744
Other Disap. During Oct.	5	5	66	58
On Feed November 1	1,090	1,030	11,334	11,475

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 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/>

- Dec. 9 - Crop Production
- Dec. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Dec. 16 - Milk Production
- Dec. 21 - Cold Storage
- Dec. 23 - Cattle on Feed
- Dec. 23 - Livestock Slaughter
- Dec. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Dec. 28 - Hogs and Pigs
- Dec. 29 - Agricultural Prices
- Jan. 9 - Vegetables
- Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
- Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
- Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat Seedings

R. René Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director