



Keystone Ag Digest

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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<i>This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."</i>			

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

MUSHROOM PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania growers led all states by producing 63 percent or 496.7 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms during the 2007-08 season, virtually no change from last year's production. Pennsylvania growers received, on average, 91.2 cents per pound for all Agaricus mushroom sales. Pennsylvania's Agaricus crop was valued at \$453 million, up 2 percent from the 2006-07 crop.

Commonwealth mushroom producers sold 405 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market. Fresh market sales tallied \$399.7 million. In addition, Pennsylvania growers supplied 78 percent or 92 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms sold in the U.S. for processing. Processing sales in Pennsylvania totaled \$53.3 million for the 2007-08 season. Prices for mushroom sales are the average price that the producer receives at the point of first sale.

Chester County, PA, accounted for 60 of the 69 Agaricus mushroom growers in Pennsylvania. Chester County growers produced 340 million pounds that were valued at \$306 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.3 million square feet and the total fillings were 53 million square feet.

Nationally, Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 793 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2006-07 season and 5 percent below two years ago. Pennsylvania accounted for 63 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at \$914 million, down slightly from the 2006-07 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 105 million pounds, up 6 percent from last season but 11 percent lower than the 2005-06 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 13 percent of the total Agaricus volume

sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2007-08 season is \$143 million, 16 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2007-08 is \$50 million, up 9 percent from the 2006-07 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area. Sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 9.90 million pounds for the 2007-08 season, up 42 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.81, down 55 cents from 2006-07. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.30 million pounds, down 16 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.87, is up 46 cents from the previous season. Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, are 2.01 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.86, is up 2 cents from 2006-07.

Growers sold 39.8 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2007-08 growing season, 9 percent above 2006-07 season. Out of the 39.8 million pounds, 13.3 million pounds, or 33 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 8.78 million pounds, or 24 percent sold as certified organic during the 2006-07 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 84 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 2 percent of the 2007-08 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 42, up 1 from the previous season. These growers represent 15 percent of the 286 total mushroom producers.

PA & U.S.: AGARICUS MUSHROOM SALES BY TYPE, JULY 1, 2005 - JUNE 30, 2008

Year	Fresh Market			Processing			All Sales			Growers Number
	Volume of Sales 1,000 Lbs.	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Sales 1,000 Dols	Volume of Sales 1,000 Lbs.	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Sales 1,000 Dols.	Volume of Sales 1,000 Lbs.	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Sales 1,000 Dols	
2005-06										
Pennsylvania	390,887	0.866	338,508	101,539	0.386	39,194	492,426	0.767	377,702	76
United States	704,584	1.130	793,538	129,093	0.428	55,298	833,677	1.020	848,836	123
2006-07										
Pennsylvania	403,564	0.960	387,421	93,002	0.590	54,871	496,566	0.891	442,292	73
United States	696,709	1.210	840,560	117,140	0.640	75,001	813,849	1.120	915,561	117
2007-08										
Pennsylvania	404,971	0.987	399,706	91,750	0.581	53,307	496,721	0.912	453,013	69
United States	675,184	1.240	837,732	117,662	0.645	75,854	792,846	1.150	913,586	108

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUGUST 2008

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Aug 2007	Jul 2008	Aug 2008 ¹	Aug 2007	Jul 2008	Aug 2008 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	3.98	6.27	5.56	3.26	5.24	4.90
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	5.66	7.10	7.70
Oats	Bu.	2.13	3.72	3.51	2.24	3.46	3.17
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.55	5.11	5.00
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	7.72	13.30	12.10
Hay, Dry All.....	Ton	151.00	182.00	173.00	124.00	164.00	165.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	171.00	210.00	201.00	135.00	177.00	180.00
Dry Other.....	Ton	147.00	174.00	168.00	105.00	130.00	126.00
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	0.360	⁶	0.496	0.344	0.446	0.534
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	51.70	59.50	60.10	51.50	56.40	57.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	87.90	92.20	91.30	95.70	99.60	100.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	119.00	110.00	112.00	127.00	115.00	114.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	46.10	50.40	55.90	52.10	56.00	61.10
Sows.....	Cwt.	35.80	20.40	31.50	36.10	20.10	33.10
Sheep	Cwt.	41.40	34.40	-	28.30	26.90	-
Lambs.....	Cwt.	112.00	118.00	-	97.90	103.00	-
Eggs ³	Doz.	0.680	0.670	0.790	0.722	0.668	0.815
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	23.70	21.40	-	21.60	19.40	18.50
Manufactured Grade ⁴ ..	Cwt.	-	-	-	19.90	18.90	18.10
All.....	Cwt.	23.70	21.40	20.40	21.60	19.40	18.50
Milk Cows ⁵	Head	-	2,000.00	-	-	1,990.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. ⁵ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). ⁶ Apples insufficient sales to establish a price.

AUGUST FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECLINED 4 POINTS FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August, at 155 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 4 points (2.5 percent) from July. The Crop Index is down 7 points (3.8 percent) and the Livestock Index declined 1 point (0.7 percent). Producers received lower prices for corn, broilers, soybeans, and milk. Higher prices were realized for wheat, hogs, eggs, and strawberries. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and potatoes offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 points (12 percent) from August 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 153, decreased 3 points (1.9 percent) from last month but increased 11 points (7.7 percent) from August 2007.

Feed Grains & Hay: The August index is 216, down 4.0 percent from last month but 44 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$4.90 per bushel, is down 34 cents from last month but \$1.64 above August 2007. The all hay price, at \$165 per ton, is up \$1.00 from July and \$41.00 from last August.

Fruits & Nuts: The August index, at 157, is up 3.3 percent from July and 4.7 percent higher than a year ago. Price increases for strawberries, apples, peaches, and lemons more than offset price decreases for grapes, pears, oranges, and grapefruit.

Commercial Vegetables: The August index, at 140, is down 3.4 percent from last month and 4.8 percent below August 2007. Price declines for sweet corn, tomatoes, onions, and celery more than offset price increases during August for cauliflower and carrots.

Dairy Products: The August index, at 142, is down 4.7 percent from a month ago and 14 percent lower than August last year. The August all milk price of \$18.50 per cwt is down 90 cents from last month and \$3.10 from August 2007. The fluid grade milk price is down 90 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is down 80 cents from the previous month.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS, JULY 31, 2008

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 258,000 bushels on July 31, 2008, compared to 318,000 bushels on July 31, 2007. Individual varieties were not disclosed to protect the confidentiality of storage operators and because of the low volume of apples in stocks.

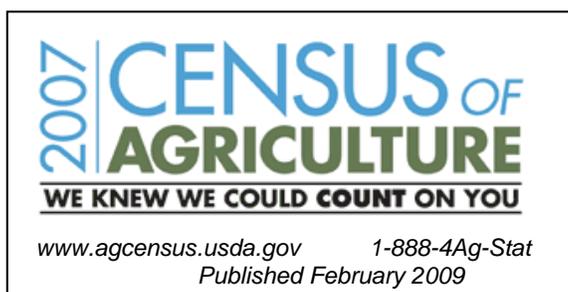
Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 10,836,000 pounds on July 31, 2008, compared to 13,356,000 pounds on July 31, 2007.

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2008 were greater than year earlier levels for turkey, chicken, pork, and cheese.

Butter stocks were down 4 percent from last month and down 9 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from the previous month and down slightly from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 5 percent from the previous month but up 8 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 20 percent from last month but up 87 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2008 were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 16 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down 3 percent from the previous month but up 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 10 percent from last month and up 23 percent from July 31, 2007.



**HIRED WORKERS DOWN 3 PERCENT,
WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian II, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Delta, and Mountain I regions. In the Appalachian II and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger proportion of nursery and greenhouse workers. Also, a larger percentage of equine workers in the Appalachian II region contributed to the increase. Salaried workers in the Mountain III region were putting in fewer hours, due to unusually wet conditions, which caused the average wage to be higher. In the

Delta and Mountain I regions, the higher wages were due to a lower percentage of part time workers.

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF July 6-12, 2008¹

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers	35	828
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More	20	585
149 Days or Less	15	243
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired	41.5	40.5
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers	10.10	10.34
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined	9.50	9.74
Field	9.66	9.66
Livestock	8.68	9.98

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE (BUSHEL), JULY 2008

Variety	July 31, 2007					July 31, 2008				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
<i>Bushels</i>										
Braeburn										
Cortland										
Empire										
Fuji										
Gala										
Golden Delicious										
Granny Smith										
Idared										
Jonagold										
Jonathan										
McIntosh										
Mutsu/Crispin										
Northern Spy										
Pink Lady										
Red Delicious										
Rome										
Rome Sport										
Spartan										
Stayman										
Winesap										
York										
All Other Varieties										
Not Segregated	0	37,000	0	281,000	318,000	0	0	500	257,500	258,000
All Varieties	0	37,000	0	281,000	318,000	0	0	500	257,500	258,000

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified.



MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Jul 2007	Jun 2008	Jul 2008	Jul 2007	Jun 2008	Jul 2008
Layers.....	Thous.	21,884	21,829	21,865	340,035	338,612	336,101
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,417	2,359	2,424	2,235	2,177	2,262
Eggs Produced.....	Million	529	515	530	7,599	7,370	7,601
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	4,040	5,087	4,892	35,952	42,538	37,929
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	14,267	15,565	15,935	818,983	806,202	806,555
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	27,258	25,557	26,793

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during July 2008 totaled 530 million eggs, slightly up from the 529 million eggs produced in July 2007. The total number of layers averaged 21.9 million during July, slightly down from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,424 eggs during the month, an increase of 7 eggs from July 2007. Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2008 totaled 4.9 million, up 21 percent from the 4.0 million hatched the previous July. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 15.9 million during July 2008, up 12 percent from the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.60 billion during July 2008, up slightly from last year. The total number of layers during July averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,262 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2007. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during July totaled 37.9 million, up 5 percent from July 2007. Broiler-type hatch totaled 807 million, down 2 percent from July 2007. There were 26.8 million turkey poults placed in the United States during July 2008, down 2 percent from July 2007.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during July 2008 totaled 112.6 million pounds, up 8 percent from July 2007. Beef production, at 106.5 million pounds live weight, was up 8 percent from July 2007. Total head slaughtered was 86,700, up 9 percent. Live weight averaged 1,240 pounds, down 3

pounds from last year. Veal production was 4.6 million pounds live weight, down 13 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 12,400 head was down 12 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 8 pounds to 367 pounds. Pork production was 63.7 million pounds live weight, up 13 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 254,400, up 13 percent from July 2007. Average live weight increased 1 pound from last year to 251 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during July 2008 was 442,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,500, up 2 percent from last year. Average live weight decreased 1 pound to 98 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JUL 2008

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	112.6	4,251.6
Cattle	1,000 Head	86.7	3,064.0
	1,000 pounds live	106,528	3,888,150
Calves	1,000 Head	12.4	87.9
	1,000 pounds live	4,557	21,052
Hogs	1,000 Head	254.4	9,465.2
	1,000 pounds live	63,688	2,480,080
Sheep & Lambs....	1,000 Head	4.5	207.8
	1,000 pounds live	442	27,411

County estimates for 2008 can now be found online for hay, forage, barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum.

Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass and click on 'QuickSTATS'

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