



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Rhonda Brandt, Director (803)765-5333
Stan Cheek, Agricultural Statistician
nass-sc@nass.usda.gov

SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 109 million eggs during December, down 4 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 88 million table eggs and 21 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,875,000 birds, down 2 percent from 4,999,000 a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,236 eggs, compared with 2,260 in 2005.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.78 billion during December 2006, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.68 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2006 averaged 348 million, down slightly from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,234 eggs, down slightly from December 2005.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of December, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 19.5 million chicks, up 5 percent from last year's 18.5 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2006 totaled 795 million, down 2 percent from December 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 652 million on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from a year earlier.