



PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 102 million eggs during September, down 3 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 81 million table eggs and 21 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,865,000 birds, down less than 1 percent from 4,881,000 a year ago. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,097 eggs, compared with 2,151 in September 2005.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.42 billion during September 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.38 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 977 million were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2006 averaged 343 million, up slightly from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,165 eggs, down 3 percent from September 2005.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of September, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 18.6 million chicks, up 3 percent from last year's 18.1 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during September 2006 totaled 772 million, up slightly from September 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 632 million on October 1, 2006, up slightly from a year earlier.