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News Release

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South Carolina Field Office . 1835 Assembly St, Rm 1008 . Columbia, SC 29201 . (803) 765-5333
www.nass.usda.gov

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

SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 93 million eggs during November, down 4 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 70 million table eggs and 23 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,415,000 birds, down 3 percent from 4,566,000 a year ago. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,106 eggs, compared with 2,124 in 2007.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.51 billion during November 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.47 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 970 million were broiler-type and 71 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2008 averaged 339 million, down 2 percent from last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,217 eggs, up 1 percent from November 2007.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of November, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 18.6 million chicks, up 2 percent from last year's 18.4 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during November 2008 totaled 706 million, down 7 percent from November 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 629 million on December 1, 2008, down 7 percent from a year earlier.