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News Release

In Cooperation with Clemson University

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 94 million eggs during March down 4 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 72 million table eggs and 22 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,276,000 birds, down 9 percent from 4,711,000 a year ago. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,198 eggs, compared with 2,080 in 2008.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.72 billion during March 2009, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.63 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 75 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2009 averaged 340 million, down slightly from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,269 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2008.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY DOWN

During the month of March, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 20.0 million chicks, down 1 percent from the 20.3 million hatched in March 2008.

The UNITED STATES Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2009 totaled 783 million, down 6 percent from March 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 625 million on April 1, 2009, down 7 percent from a year earlier.