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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 84 million eggs during February, down 3 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 64 million table eggs and 20 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,394,000 birds, up less than 1 percent from 4,389,000 a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,912 eggs, compared with 1,982 in 2009.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 6.90 billion during February 2010, down slightly from last year. Production included 5.92 billion table eggs, and 983 million hatching eggs, of which 915 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2010 averaged 339 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,038 eggs, up 1 percent from February 2009.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES SLIGHTLY

During the month of February, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 18.32 million chicks, up less than 1 percent from last year's 18.26 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2010 totaled 700 million, down slightly from February 2009. Eggs in incubators totaled 643 million on March 1, 2010, up 1 percent from a year earlier.