



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during February, down 9 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 73 million table eggs and 19 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,807,000 birds, down 4 percent from 5,075,000 a year ago. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,914 eggs, compared with 1,990 in 2006.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.92 billion table eggs, and 998 million hatching eggs, of which 937 million were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2007 averaged 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,992 eggs, down slightly from February 2006.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of February, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 17.7 million chicks, up 4 percent from last year's 17.0 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2007 totaled 724 million, down 1 percent from February 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 664 million on March 1, 2007 down slightly from a year earlier.