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News Release

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SOUTH CAROLINA EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 99 million eggs during November down 10 percent from last year, according to the USDA-NASS, South Carolina Field Office. Production totaled 77 million table eggs and 22 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,487,000 birds, down 8 percent from 4,883,000 a year ago. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,206 eggs, compared with 2,253 in 2006.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.76 billion during December 2007, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.63 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2007 averaged 344 million, down 1 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,256 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2006.

SOUTH CAROLINA BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION INCREASES

During the month of December, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 19.5 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2007 totaled 35.5 million, up 7 percent from December 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.8 million on January 1, 2008 up 4 percent from a year ago.