



PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTH CAROLINA TURKEYS RAISED UP FROM 2005

SOUTH CAROLINA'S turkeys raised during 2006 are estimated at 11,000,000, up 38 percent from 2005, according to the USDA NASS South Carolina Field Office.

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the **UNITED STATES** during 2006 is 265 million, up 3 percent from the number raised during 2005.

The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2006:

Minnesota, at 45.0 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, showing a 1 percent increase from last year.

North Carolina ranks second with 37.0 million birds, up 3 percent from 2005.

Arkansas is in third place by producing 30.0 million birds, 3 percent more than a year ago.

Virginia, at 22.5 million birds is up 7 percent from 2005.

Missouri growers expect to produce 21.5 million birds in 2006, up 5 percent from the previous year.

California expects to raise 16.0 million turkeys, 7 percent more than a year earlier.