United States Department of Agriculture
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Utah Agriculture

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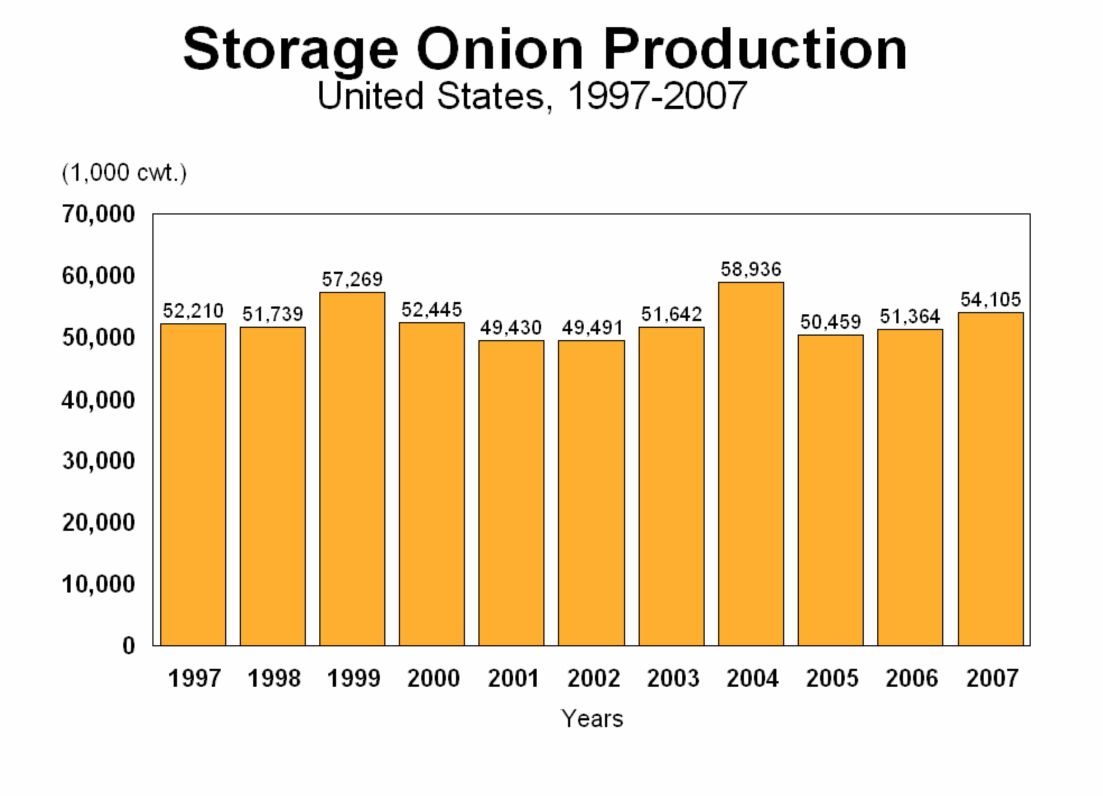
U.S. Summer Storage Onion Production Up 5 Percent

UNITED STATES; Summer storage onion production is forecast at 54.1 million hundredweight (cwt), up 5 percent from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 105,680 acres, down 4 percent from 2006. The yield, at 512 cwt per acre, is up 46 cwt from last year. Planting of California's storage onion crop was on schedule despite some delays due to rainfall. After planting, early mild temperatures and timely rainfall helped the crop to progress well initially. However, cool temperatures in the San Joaquin region slowed crop development, delaying harvest up to several weeks. No major disease problems were reported. In Colorado, restrictions on irrigation water and labor shortages led to lower acreage this year. Hail damage and disease outbreaks during the season further reduced acreage and negatively impacted yield. In Idaho, growing conditions have been favorable. In Michigan, the onion crop has been in excellent condition this season. Harvest began on schedule in August. Late season plantings benefitted from timely rainfall during August. However, early planted onions were smaller in size due to drought conditions in June and July. No major problems have been reported. New York received sufficient rainfall in the eastern and central areas of the State. However, the western region received very little rainfall which resulted in some loss of acreage due to abandonment. Malheur and Other Oregon producers expect higher yields this season due to less damage from thrip and the yellow spot virus. In Washington, harvest is underway and quality of the storage onion crop is reported to be very good. Wisconsin experienced hot and dry conditions during the early part of the year, then too much moisture later in the season.



Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Mid-October 2007 prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers for baled alfalfa hay remained the same as last month, but were up $33.00 per ton from last year. Other hay, at $110.00 per ton, was down $4.00 from September 2007, but was $39.00 higher than October 2006. Barley was up 3 cents from September, and was up $1.79 cents from October 2006. The average price of all milk purchased in September 2007 from Utah farmers was $21.40 per hundred wt. (Cwt) up slightly from August 2007, and up 63.4 percent from September 2006.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in October, at 142 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.7 percent) from September. The Crop Index is up 7 points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 7 points (5.0 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, wheat, soybeans, and tomatoes and lower prices were received for broilers, hogs, cattle, and eggs. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of soybeans, corn, cotton, and grain sorghum offset decreased marketings of milk, wheat, grapes, and broilers. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 27 points (23 percent) from October 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 145, increased 1 point (0.7 percent) from last month and increased 29 points (25 percent) from October 2006.

Average Prices Received by Farmers [1]

Commodity	Utah						United States					
	Barley[2]		Alfalfa Hay[3] Baled		Other Hay[3] Baled		Barley[2]		Alfalfa Hay Baled[3]		Other Hay Baled[3]	
Month	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
January	([4])	3.65	95.00	105.00	80.00	79.00	2.42	3.03	96.40	115.00	84.30	102.00
February	2.11	3.91	100.00	107.00	85.00	81.00	2.57	3.10	99.20	117.00	83.20	105.00
March	2.17	3.70	96.00	113.00	85.00	87.00	2.71	3.10	100.00	120.00	86.60	108.00
April	2.29	3.18	106.00	113.00	90.00	85.00	2.67	3.07	110.00	128.00	93.20	113.00
May	2.20	3.72	98.00	120.00	77.00	90.00	2.97	3.12	117.00	144.00	95.80	116.00
June	([4])	([4])	99.00	121.00	87.00	92.00	2.78	3.30	115.00	137.00	90.10	111.00
July	2.36	3.38	104.00	123.00	80.00	105.00	2.71	3.45	113.00	137.00	89.30	113.00
August	2.39	3.39	105.00	130.00	81.00	118.00	2.70	3.54	110.00	137.00	91.50	118.00
September	2.58	4.71	95.00	132.00	71.00	114.00	2.56	4.04	112.00	135.00	93.00	124.00
October	2.95	4.74	99.00	132.00	71.00	110.00	2.76	5.18	112.00	137.00	93.80	122.00
November	2.72		99.00		75.00		2.92		109.00		98.10	
December	3.40		105.00		79.00		2.95		112.00		99.30	

[1] July 2007 is mid-month. [2] Dollars per bushel. [3]Dollars per ton. [4] Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

Commodity[1]	Utah		United States	
	All Milk		All Milk	
Month	2006	2007	2006	2007
January	14.00	14.50	14.50	14.50
February	13.70	14.80	13.50	14.90
March	12.70	15.60	12.60	15.60
April	11.60	16.00	12.10	16.60
May	11.50	17.80	11.90	18.00
June	11.40	20.10	11.90	20.20
July	11.40	21.20	11.80	21.70
August	11.50	21.00	12.00	21.60
September	13.10	21.40	12.90	21.70
October	13.30		13.50	21.20[2]
November	13.80		13.90	
December	14.10		14.10	

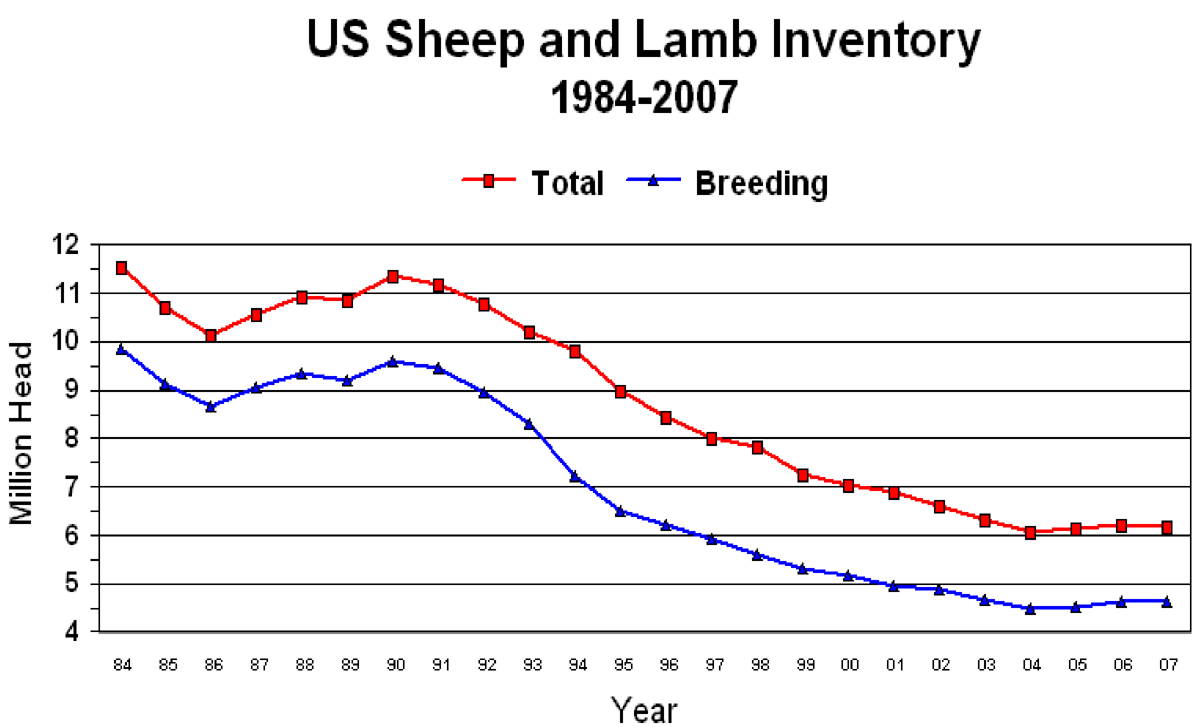
[1] Dollars per hundred wt.(CWT) [2] preliminary

OVERVIEW OF THE U.S. SHEEP INDUSTRY

The sheep industry has a long history in the United States. One of the few multi-purpose animals, sheep are still bred for both meat and wool production, while some producers raise sheep for milking. With declining wool demand and production, mainly due to the development and acceptance of man made synthetic fibers, some producers have shifted their efforts to raising hair sheep which require little to no shearing, while still producing high quality carcasses. One important aspect of the sheep industry that often goes without mention is their value in grazing vegetation. Sheep help prevent wildfires by eating grass and brush that fuel these fires. They also help control invasive and noxious weeds on public and private lands throughout the nation.

Sheep numbers have shown a steady decline since peaking at 56.2 million in 1942. There have been many cycles throughout the past 100 years. At the beginning of the 20th century sheep numbers were just above 48 million head. By 1940 those numbers had grown to just over 52 million head. Inventory numbers fell following World War II, declining below 30 million head for the first time in 1950. During the 1950s, sheep numbers generally leveled off before showing some modest growth late in the decade and into 1960. During the 1960s, sheep numbers fell each year and numbers at the end of the decade were just over 21 million head. The 1970s also were a decade of declining sheep numbers. By 1979 inventories had slipped to just over 12 million. The 1980s started off with sheep inventories showing growth in the first three years followed by 4 years of decline. By the end of the 1980s sheep numbers hovered just below 11 million head. The decade of the 1990s was another marked by declining sheep inventory. In 1994 inventory dipped below 10 million head for the first time. From the start of the century to the end of the century sheep numbers were down 85 percent.

In 2005 sheep inventory numbers increased for the first time since 1990 and sheep inventory increased in consecutive years (2005 and 2006) for the first time since 1987 and 1988. The Farm Service Agency's ewe retention program attributed to the modest growth in sheep numbers. Unfortunately, dry conditions in the major sheep states during the time of program limited the number of ewe lambs producers could hold back to help rebuild the breeding flock. U.S. lamb prices are nearly $40.00 per cwt higher than they were in 1984 and since 2003 prices have been higher than anytime in history. Although sheep numbers have declined, the value per head has increased to hold gross income around 500 million dollars. Despite the large decreases in inventory over the past 25 years there are some reasons to be optimistic about the future of the sheep industry. Even though sheep numbers have shown a general decline the past two decades, in recent years the declines have been less drastic and there have even been some periods of growth. As mentioned earlier, lamb prices are currently strong compared to any time during the past two decades.



Manufactured Dairy Products

UTAH: **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) in August 2007, at 9.6 million pounds, was 13.1 percent above August 2006, and 2.0 percent above July 2007. **Hard ice cream** production at 2.3 million gallons, was 13.9 percent below August 2006, and was 4.1 percent below July 2007. **UNITED STATES:** **Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) was 795 million pounds, 0.1 percent below August 2006 and 0.1 percent below July 2007. **Italian type cheese** production totaled 334 million pounds, 0.2 percent above August 2006 but 0.4 percent below July 2007. **American type cheese** production totaled 312 million pounds, 1.8 percent below August 2006 and 3.1 percent below July 2007. **Butter** production was 110 million pounds, 23.6 percent above August 2006 but 4.9 percent below July 2007. **Hard Ice Cream** production at 82.5 million gallons was down 7.7 percent from August 2006, and down 4.0 percent from July 2007.

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U.S. September Milk Production Up 3.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during September totaled 13.7 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from September 2006. August production, unrevised at 14.3 billion pounds, was up 3.6 percent from August 2006. **Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,644 pounds for September, 31 pounds above September 2006. **The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.34 million head, 91,000 head more than September 2006, and 12,000 head more than August 2007.

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: **Commercial red meat production** totaled 42.9 million pounds in September 2007, down slightly from the same month of the previous year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for September 2007 totaled 52,700 head, 2.4 percent below a year earlier. The average live weight was 1,302 pounds, up 1 pound from September 2006. **Hog slaughter** totaled 5,300 head up 17.8 percent from the previous year. The average live weight was 182 pounds, down 30 pounds from the previous year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during September 2007 totaled 2,600 head, remained the same as the previous year. Average live weight, at 137 pounds, was up 1 pound from the previous year.
UNITED STATES: **Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.86 billion pounds in September, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in September 2006. **Beef production,** at 2.09 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, down 4 percent from September 2006. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 1,290 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 9.4 million pounds, 22 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,000 head, down 3 percent from September 2006. The average live weight was down 68 pounds from last year, at 283 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.75 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.77 million head, down 1 percent from September 2006. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 266 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production,** at 13.6 million pounds, was down 5 percent from September 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 210,600 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, unchanged from September a year ago. **January to September 2007 commercial red meat production** was 35.7 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up slightly from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.