

POULTRY

CHICKENS

The total number of chickens on hand December 1, 2003 (excluding broilers), was 2.06 million head, down slightly from the revised number of head in 2002. The value per head at \$4.70 was unchanged from the value of 2002. Total inventory value was \$9.68 million, less than 1 percent below the revised 2002 total value. Value of sales of chickens (excluding commercial broilers) was \$937,000, down 15 percent from the revised value of \$1.10 million in 2002.

EGGS

Egg production in West Virginia during the production year (December 1, 2002 - November 30, 2003) totaled 270 million eggs. This was 3 percent above the revised 2002 production of 262 million eggs. Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 1.23 million, up slightly from the revised average number of layers in 2002. The average annual production per layer was 220 eggs, 6 eggs more than the 2002 average. The average price per dozen was \$1.51, up 11 cents from 2002. The total value of production was \$34.0 million, up 11 percent from the revised total value of production in 2002.

BROILERS

There were 87.2 million broilers produced in West Virginia during 2003, 3 percent below the 2002 production of 89.7 million. Total pounds produced was 357.5 million pounds, down from the 358.8 million pounds in 2002. Value of production totaled \$121.6 million, up 13 percent from the \$107.6 million in 2002. The average live weight equivalent price of \$0.34 per pound was up \$0.04 from the \$0.30 per pound in 2002.

TURKEYS

Turkeys raised in West Virginia totaled 4.3 million birds, up 8 percent from the revised 2002 total. Total pounds produced was 92.0 million pounds, up 3 percent from the revised 89.2 million pounds produced in 2002. Value of production totaled \$33.1 million, up slightly from the revised \$33.0 million in 2002. The average live weight equivalent price of \$0.36 per pound was down from the \$0.37 per pound the previous year.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION AND SALES

The combined value of production from eggs, broilers and turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2003 was \$189.6 million, up 10 percent from the revised combined value of \$172.3 million in 2002.

EGGS: Production, Disposition and Income, 1994-2003

Year	Layers ^{1/}	Eggs Produced Per Layer ^{2/}	Total Eggs Produced	Price Per Dozen	Value of Production
	(000) Birds	Number	Million Eggs	Dollars	(000) Dollars
1994	1,107	226	250	1.15	23,958
1995	1,100	217	239	1.18	23,502
1996	1,046	217	227	1.19	22,511
1997	1,081	227	245	1.21	24,704
1998	1,147	213*	244*	1.24*	25,179*
1999	1,099	218*	240*	1.25*	25,037*
2000	1,051	240*	252*	1.45*	30,379*
2001	1,092	215	235	1.41	27,575*
2002	1,223*	214	262*	1.40	30,602*
2003	1,226	220	270	1.51	33,975

^{1/} Average number during the year. ^{2/} Eggs produced during year divided by average layers on hand during year. *Revised.