MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

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JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during June 2006 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was down 9 percent from June 2005 and down 18 percent from May 2006 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 349,000 pounds live weight, down 40,000 pounds from June 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 300 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,124 pounds, was up 58 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 98,000 pounds live weight, down slightly from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 233 pounds, was up 15 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production totaled 4.12 billion pounds in June, up 4 percent from the 3.96 billion pounds produced in June 2005.

Beef production, at 2.43 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.16 million head, up 8 percent from June 2005. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,259 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 1 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,700 head, down slightly from June 2005. The average live weight was 4 pounds below last year, at 365 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.66 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.34 million head, 2 percent below June 2005. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.6 million pounds, was down 5 percent from June 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,800 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, down 1 pound from June a year ago.

January to June 2006 commercial red meat production was 23.3 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 7 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

June 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. June 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKEN AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.64 billion during July 2006, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.56 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 66 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2006 averaged

341 million, up 1 percent from last year. **July egg production** per 100 layers was 2,241 eggs, up slightly from July 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2006, totaled 341 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.0 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.76 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2006, averaged 71.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from August 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2006 totaled 33.2 million, down 5 percent from July 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 31.4 million on August 1, 2006, down 14 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 320,000 during July 2006, up 32 percent from July 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2006 totaled 800 million, down 1 percent from July 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 660 million on August 1, 2006, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.46 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during July 2006, down 3 percent from July 2005.

EGG PRODUCTS

United States - Shell eggs broken totaled 177 million dozen during June 2006, down 4 percent from June a year ago, but 1 percent above the 176 million broken last month.

During calendar year 2006 through June, shell eggs broken totaled 1.01 billion dozen, down 1 percent from the comparable period in 2005. Total edible liquid from eggs broken in 2006 was 1.32 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2005.

CATTLE

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2006, totaled 105.7 million head, 1 percent above the 104.5 million on July 1, 2005 and 2 percent above the 103.4 million two years ago. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 43.0 million, were up slightly from the 42.8 million on July 1, 2005 and 1 percent above the 42.4 million two years ago. **Beef cows**, at 33.9 million, were up slightly from July 1, 2005 and up 1 percent from two years ago. **Milk cows**, at 9.15 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2005 and up 2 percent from two years ago. Other class estimates on July 1, 2006 and the changes from July 1, 2005, are as follows: **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, up 2 percent. **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.0 million, unchanged. **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.8 million, up 3 percent. **Other heifers**, 7.7 million, up 3 percent. **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.9 million, up 3 percent. **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 29.2 million, up 1 percent. **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 12.5 million, up 4 percent.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States - Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on August 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above August 1, 2005 and 10 percent above August 1, 2004. This is the second highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.96 million, 17 percent above 2005 and 14 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.91 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 570,000, 600-699 pounds were 403,000, 700-799 pounds were 490,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 500,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.96 million, 2 percent above 2005 and 2 percent above 2004.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during July, 5 percent below 2005 but unchanged from 2004.

CROP PRODUCTION

West Virginia - All Other Hay production is forecast at 1,120,000 tons, up 15 percent from 2005. The area harvested is expected to total 560,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2005. Average yield per acre is forecast at 2.0 tons, up 0.2 of a ton from 2005.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 90 million pounds, up 3 percent or 3 million pounds from 2005. **Peach** production of 6,000 tons is carried forward from the July forecast.

United States, August 1, 2006 Forecast, With 2005 Comparisons

–Corn for grain production – 11.0 billion bushels, down 1 percent.
–Corn yield – 152.2 bushels per acre, up 4.3 bushels.
–Oats production – 107.4 million bushels, down 6 percent.
–Winter wheat production - 1.28 billion bushels, down 14 percent.
–Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production – 71.2 million tons, down 6 percent.
–Other hay production – 71.1 million tons, down 5 percent.
–Apple production – 9.62 billion pounds, down 2 percent.
–Peach production (Including Clingstone) – 1.05 million tons, down 11 percent.
–Peach production (Excluding Clingstone) – 673.8 thousand tons, down 4 percent.
–All tobacco production – 745.3 million pounds, up 15 percent.
–Burley tobacco production – 218.3 million pounds, up 7 percent.
–Soybean production – 2.93 billion bushels, down 5 percent.
–Barley production – 183.0 million bushels, down 14 percent.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

United States - Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,900 per acre on January 1, 2006, up 15 percent from 2005. The $1,900 per acre is a record high and $250 more than a year earlier.

Cropland and pasture values rose by 13 and 22 percent, respectively, since January 1, 2005. Cropland values averaged $2,390 per acre and pasture values averaged $1,000 per acre on January 1, 2006, compared with $2,110 and $820 per acre, respectively, a year earlier.

The **increase** in farm real estate values continues to be driven by a combination of mostly nonagricultural factors, including relative low interest rates and strong demand for nonagricultural land uses. Demand for farm real estate as an investment continues to be a strong market influence.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 8.9 percent in the Delta region to 35 percent in the Mountain region. The highest farm real estate values are in the Northeast region, where urban influences have pushed the average value to $4,550 per acre. In the Corn Belt region farm real estate values rose 12 percent, to $3,040 per acre. The Northern Plains region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, had the lowest farm real estate value, at $834 per acre.

The **Southeast region** had the highest average increase in **cropland value**, at $4,550, up $890 per acre. In the Corn Belt region cropland values rose 12 percent, to $3,230 per acre. The Lake States region also increased 12 percent, to $2,550 per acre. Together, the Corn Belt and Lake States regions account for nearly one-third of the U.S. total cropland acres.

The **Southeast region** had the highest average increase in **pasture value**, up $1,510 per acre. In the Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Mountain, and Pacific regions (17 western states) pasture values per acre increased 15 percent, 24 percent, 54 percent, and 13 percent, respectively. Together, the 17 western states account for about 89 percent of the total pasture acres on farms in the 48 States.

AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS

United States - Cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland rose 1.3 percent while pasture rents increased 4.9 percent for the 2006 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2006 averaged $79.00 per acre, compared with $78.00 per acre for 2005. Pasture cash rents averaged $10.80 per acre, 50 cents higher than 2005. The increases in cropland and pasture rental rates continue to reflect producers' optimism following the combination of high production and price levels of major U.S. agricultural commodities in 2005.

Cropland cash rents reported in 2006 increased in all regions except the Appalachian, Delta, and Southern Plains regions where rental rates declined marginally. Appalachian cropland cash rents declined by $2.00 from $58.00 to $56.00 per acre in 2006. Delta cropland cash rents decreased by $1.00 per acre to $69.50 in 2006 while cropland cash rents in the Southern Plains decreased by $1.50 to $29.00 per acre for 2006. Cash rents for cropland in the Southeast region at $48.00 per acre remained unchanged from last year. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions, which together accounted for slightly more than one half of cash-rented cropland acreage, increased 1.7 percent and 0.9 percent respectively from 2005. Cropland cash rents increased $2.00 per acre to $119.00 in the Corn Belt and 50 cents per acre to $53.50 in the Northern Plain.

The **major corn and soybean producing** States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases ranging from 1.5 to 2.3 percent for cropland cash rents. Illinois and Iowa cropland cash rents averaged $132.00 and $133.00 per acre, respectively.

Cash rents for pasture land increased in all regions except the Southern Plains. Pasture cash rents increased by $1.00 per acre to $20.00 in the Southeast and by $2.00 per acre to $26.00 in the Northeast region. In the Northern Plains and Southern Plains regions, which account for two-thirds of the cash-rented pasture acreage, changes were marginally higher and lower, respectively. Northern Plains cash rents for pasture increased 50 cents per acre to $12.50 while cash rents for pasture decreased by 20 cents per acre to $8.20 in the Southern Plains. Wisconsin, at $38.00 per acre and unchanged from 2005, continues to lead the Nation with the highest per acre pasture rent.

SEPTEMBER AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

West Virginia Agricultural Statistics will be conducting the September Agricultural Survey from August 31 - September 14. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data for the 2006 winter wheat crop and grain stocks.

The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable, and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly agricultural marketing system, so that informed decisions can be made. Only a sample of farmers in West Virginia will be selected for the survey and those farmers will be notified by mail.

We depend upon the voluntary cooperation of those farmers selected in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented.

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