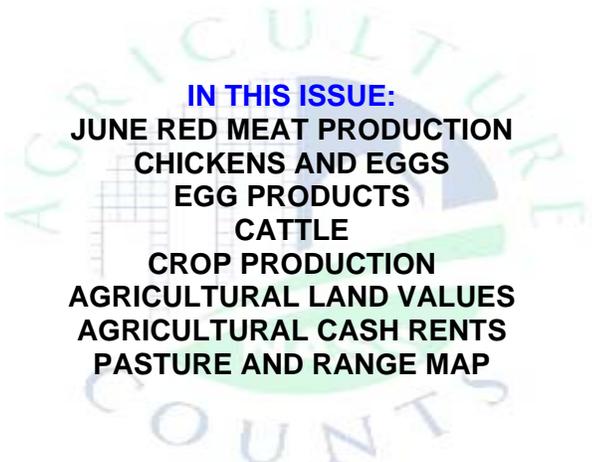


Mountain State Reporter

RELEASED: AUGUST 2008

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 8



IN THIS ISSUE:

**JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION
CHICKENS AND EGGS
EGG PRODUCTS
CATTLE
CROP PRODUCTION
AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES
AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS
PASTURE AND RANGE MAP**

JUNE RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during June 2008 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was down 4 percent from June 2007 and down 17 percent from May 2008 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 19 percent from June 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 300 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,133 pounds, was down 62 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 120,000 pounds live weight, up 3 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 235 pounds, was down 10 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 44,000 pounds live weight, slaughter totaled 300 head, and the average live weight was 138 pounds for June 2008, comparison data not available.

United States -Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in June, up 1 percent from the 4.03 billion pounds produced in June 2007.

Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.96 million head, down 4 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,261 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.7 million pounds, 5 percent above June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 75,400 head, up 23 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 41 pounds from last year, at 266 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.88 million head, up 7 percent from June 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 266 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from June 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 192,400 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, unchanged from June a year ago.

January to June 2008 commercial red meat production was 25.0 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 10 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

June 2007 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. June 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.37 billion during June 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.27 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2008

averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,176 eggs, up slightly from June 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2008 totaled 337 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 337 million layers consisted of 278 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.1 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2008, averaged 73.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from July 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June 2008 totaled 42.5 million, up 5 percent from June 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.9 million on July 1, 2008, up 9 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 231 thousand during June 2008, down 23 percent from June 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during June 2008 totaled 806 million, down slightly from June 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on July 1, 2008, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.77 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2008, down slightly from June 2007.

EGG PRODUCTS

United States - Shell eggs broken totaled 168 million dozen during June 2008, down 2 percent from June a year ago, and 5 percent below the 178 million broken last month.

During calendar year 2008 through June, shell eggs broken totaled 1,010 million dozen, up 3 percent from the comparable period in 2007. To date, cumulative total edible product from eggs broken in 2008 was 1,320 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2007.

CATTLE

United States - All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2008, totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007 and down 1 percent from the 105.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million, was down slightly from both July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2006.

Beef cows, at 33.2 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent below two years ago. **Milk cows**, at 9.25 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2007 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2008 and the changes from July 1, 2007, are as follows: **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, down 1 percent. **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.6 million, down 2 percent. **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.9 million, unchanged. **Other heifers**, 8.0 million, unchanged. **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.7 million, down 1 percent. **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 28.6 million, down slightly. **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 5 percent.

The 2008 calf crop is expected to be 37.3 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.1 million, down slightly from 2007 and 1 percent below 2006.

CROP PRODUCTION

West Virginia - All Other Hay production is forecast at 1,218,000 tons, up 41 percent from 2007. The area harvested is expected to total 580,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from 2007. Average yield per acre is forecast at 2.10 tons, up 0.6 of a ton from 2007.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 88 million pounds, up 10 percent or 8 million pounds from 2007. **Peach** production of 5,600 tons is carried forward from the July forecast. The forecast is up 33 percent, or 1,400 tons from the 2007 crop, and up 400 tons from the 2006 crop.

United States, August 1, 2008 Forecast, With 2007 Comparisons:

Corn for grain production-12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent.

Corn yield-155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels.

Oats production-89.9 million bushels, down 2 percent.

Winter wheat production-1.87 billion bushels, up 24 percent.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures hay production-70.9 million tons, down 2 percent.

Other hay production-77.0 million tons, down 1 percent.

Apple production-9.17 billion pounds, up slightly.

Peach production (Including Clingstone)-1.09 million tons, down 3 percent.

Peach production (Excluding Clingstone)-713.9 thousand tons, up 14 percent.

All tobacco production-796.0 million pounds, up 2 percent.

Burley tobacco production-199.7 million pounds, down 4 percent.

Soybean production-2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent.

Barley production-218.0 million bushels, up 3 percent.

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

United States - Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$2,350 per acre on January 1, 2008, up 8.8 percent from 2007. The \$2,350 per acre is a record high and \$190 more than a year earlier. **Both cropland and pasture values** for 2008 are record highs. Cropland values rose by 10 percent to \$2,970 per acre, up from the previous high of \$2,690 in 2007. Pasture value rose by 6 percent to \$1,230 per acre.

While commercial and residential development has slowed in many regions, **farm real estate values continue to increase**. Strong commodity prices and farm programs, outside investments, favorable interest rates, and tax incentives continue to be the factors that drive farm real estate values to record levels. Livestock prices, recreational use, and urban development remain the predominant influences that increase pasture land values.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 1.6 percent in the Northeast region to 15.5 percent in the Northern Plains region. **The highest farm real estate values remained in the Northeast region**, where development pressure continued to push the average value to \$5,080 per acre. The Northern Plains region had the lowest farm real estate value, at \$1,110 per acre, up 15.5 percent from the previous year. In the Corn Belt region cropland values rose 14.8 percent, to \$4,260 per acre. The Southern Plains region increased 12 percent from the previous year, to \$1,490 per acre.

The **Northern Plains region** also had the highest average percentage increase in **pasture value**, 19.7 percent above 2007. In the Southern Plains

and Mountain regions, which account for more than half of the pasture in the U.S., pasture values per acre increased 17.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively.

AGRICULTURAL CASH RENTS

United States - Nationally, cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland rose \$11.00 (13 percent), while pasture rents increased \$1.00 (8.3 percent) for the 2008 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2008 averaged \$96.00 per acre, compared with \$85.00 per acre for 2007. Pasture cash rents averaged \$13.00 per acre, compared with \$12.00 per acre for 2007. The increases in cropland and pasture land rental rates are the result of producers receiving strong commodity prices.

The Delta region had the highest percentage increase for cropland, 21 percent above 2007. **Cropland cash rents** increased \$14.00 per acre to \$140.00 in the Corn Belt region and \$6.00 per acre to \$64.00 in the Northern Plains region. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions account for slightly more than one half of cash rented cropland acreage in the U.S.

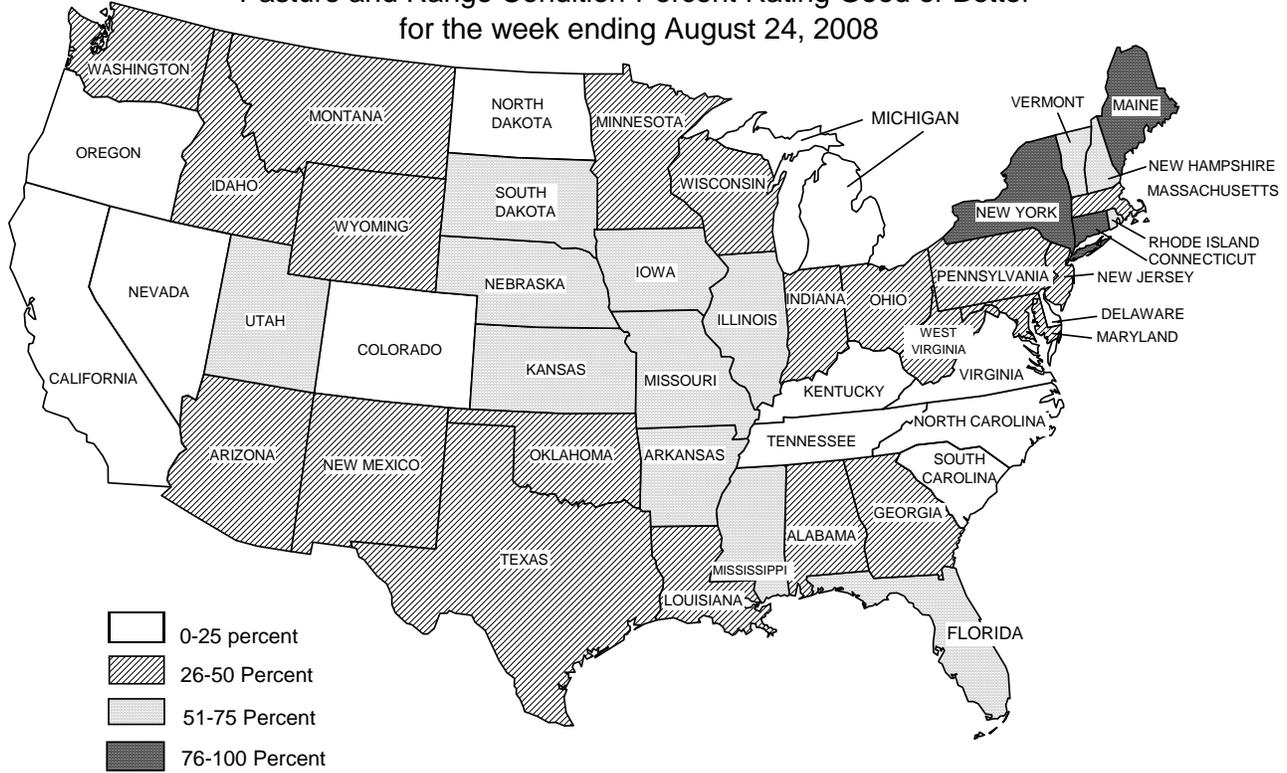
The **major corn and soybean producing States** of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases of 13, 13, and 18, percent respectively, for cropland cash rents. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa cropland cash rents averaged \$160.00, \$135.00, and \$165.00 per acre, respectively.

While pasture rent in the Northern Plains remained unchanged from the previous year, rents in the Southern Plains, and Mountain regions both increased by 30 cents. **The Northern Plains, Southern Plains, and Mountain region** account for nearly 85 percent of the cash rented pasture acreage in the U.S. The cash rent paid for pasture in the **Corn Belt region** increased \$4.50 to \$36.00 per acre, which is the highest cash rent paid for pasture in the U.S.

SEPTEMBER AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The West Virginia Field Office will be conducting the September Agricultural Survey from August 30 - September 14. Representatives from our office will be contacting selected farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data for the 2008 winter wheat crop and grain stocks. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

Pasture and Range Condition-Percent Rating Good or Better
for the week ending August 24, 2008



NEXT ISSUE:
Red Meat Production
Turkeys Raised
Crop Production
Mushrooms
Pasture and Range Map

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER
DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305