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OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during October 2007 totaled 1,000,000 pounds. This was up 10 percent from October 2006 and up 65 percent from September 2007 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 1,652,000 pounds live weight, up 16 percent from October 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, up 300 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 988 pounds, was down 43 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 265,000 pounds live weight, up 11 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 258 pounds, was down 11 pounds from the previous year.

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

United States -Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.61 billion pounds in October, up 10 percent from the 4.20 billion pounds produced in October 2006. This is an all time record high for total red meat production.

Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.10 million head, up 8 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,300 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.1 million pounds, 16 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,200 head, up 3 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was down 59 pounds from last year, at 288 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.14 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.7 million head, up 11 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds. This is an all time record high for pork production.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.4 million pounds, was up 5 percent from October 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from October a year ago.

January to October 2007 commercial red meat production was 40.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

October 2006 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States -Egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2007, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.57 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during October 2007 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. **October egg production** per 100 layers was 2,253 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2006.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2007 totaled 343 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.87 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2007, averaged 72.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2006.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2007 totaled 35.8 million, down 1 percent from October 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.5 million on November 1, 2007, up 9 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 184 thousand during October 2007, down 17 percent from October 2006.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2007 totaled 795 million, up 3 percent from October 2006. Eggs in incubators totaled 634 million on November 1, 2007, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.97 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2007, up 3 percent from October 2006.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

United States - Poultry certified wholesome during October 2007 (**ready-to-cook weight**) totaled 3.99 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the amount certified in October 2006. The September 2007 revised certified total at 3.39 billion pounds, was down slightly from September 2006. The September revision represented an increase of 1.13 million pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary **total live weight of poultry** inspected during October 2007 was 5.37 billion pounds, up 5 percent from 5.10 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.55 billion pounds, up 5 percent from October 2006. Mature chickens, at 75.0 million pounds, were up 8 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 729 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.1 million pounds, up 5 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during October 2007 averaged 5.61 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from October 2006. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.16 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during October 2007 averaged 27.7 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from October 2006.

Ante-mortem condemnations during October 2007 totaled 16.7 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.31 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.30 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.7 million pounds, were 1.13 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 1.18 percent a year earlier.

TURKEY HATCHERY

United States – Turkey eggs in incubators on December 1, 2007 in the United States totaled 30.3 million, up 3 percent from December 1, 2006. Eggs in incubators were down 3 percent from the November 1, 2007 total of 31.1 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 9 percent, West North Central up 7 percent, North and South Atlantic up 8 percent, and South Central and West down slightly.

Turkey poults hatched during November 2007 in the United States totaled 25.8 million, up 8 percent from November 2006. Poults hatched were up slightly from October 2007. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 1 percent, West North Central up 6 percent, North and South Atlantic up 12 percent, and South Central and West up 14 percent.

The 25.1 million **net poults** placed during November 2007 in the United States were up 5 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were down 1 percent from the October 2007 total of 25.2 million.

MILK PRODUCTION

United States – Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 13.8 billion pounds, up 3.8 percent from November 2006. October production, unrevised at 14.2 billion pounds, was up 4.1 percent from October 2006.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,654 pounds for November, 40 pounds above November 2006.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.36 million head, 101,000 head more than November 2006, and 8,000 head more than October 2007.

CROP PRODUCTION

United States – Corn harvest continued to progress ahead of the normal pace. By November 18, growers had harvested 97 percent of their acreage, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Harvest was at or ahead of normal in all States but lagged slightly behind last year's pace in the Dakotas. Harvest was complete or nearly complete in all States except Michigan, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Winter wheat planting was nearly complete by November 11, one point behind last year's pace but the same as the 5-year average. Planting was complete or nearly complete everywhere except Arkansas, California, Missouri, North Carolina, and Texas. Emergence of the crop remained behind the pace of last year and normal throughout the month. By November 25, eighty-nine percent of the acreage had emerged, 4 points behind both last year and normal. Development lagged behind normal by 12 or more points in Oklahoma and Texas, where producers were late getting fall seedings in the ground and rainfall has been light.

The Nation's **soybean** crop was 97 percent harvested by November 11, ahead of last year and the 5-year average by 3 percent. Growers had completed harvest in Louisiana, Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Ohio. Elsewhere, all remaining soybean States were nearing harvest completion with no more than 11 percent of their crop remaining in the fields, except in North Carolina, where producers only had 39 percent of their acreage reaped on November 11, ahead of their normal pace of 31 percent. As harvest was winding down, producers in Kentucky and Tennessee were well ahead of their normal harvest pace.

2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The end of December is typically marked by crowds of people returning holiday gifts that don't fit or won't work, but this year farmers across the country and in West Virginia can give themselves a gift that won't be returned and will keep on giving even after the holiday season – a voice for their industry and their community.

By filling out the 2007 Census of Agriculture farmers are investing in the future of rural America. Their responses will provide law makers, government organizations, town planners and individual farm operations with valuable information used to plan for services, facilities and other investments to benefit the industry and local communities.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census covers virtually every aspect of U.S. agriculture, providing a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches and the people who operate them.

Respondents are guaranteed by law (Title 7, U.S. Code) that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals.



**CENSUS OF
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2007

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other related topics across the country and in West Virginia, right down to the county level. NASS will mail out Census forms on December 28, 2007 to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the Census online.

“Participating in the Census of Agriculture is one gift West Virginia producers can give themselves and their local communities this holiday season,” said Dale R. King, Director of the NASS West Virginia Field Office. “It’s a valuable investment into the future and well-being of agriculture and to the local communities here in West Virginia.”

For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828. The Census is your voice, your future, and your responsibility.

JANUARY AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the January Cattle and Sheep and Goat surveys from December 27, 2007 through January 10, 2008. Survey data is collected across the country and used to set state and national estimates for cattle, sheep and goats.

Interviewers from the West Virginia Field Office will be collecting data on farm acreage, cattle, sheep and goat inventories. The cattle questions will cover milk and beef cow numbers including replacement heifers, steers, cattle on feed, and calf crop during 2007. Sheep and goat questions will include breeding and market sheep and goats, lamb and kid crops, 2007 wool, mohair and milk production and death losses. Results of the surveys will be released in February. **Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

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