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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

OCTOBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA – Commercial red meat production during October 2005 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was down 11 percent from October 2004 but up 68 percent from September 2005 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 1.4 million pounds live weight, up less than 1 percent from October 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 909 pounds, was up 18 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 223,000 pounds live weight, unchanged from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 259 pounds, was up 5 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 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 228,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

October 2004 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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CHICKENS & EGGS

October Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during October 2005, up one percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during October 2005 averaged 344 million, down slightly from a year earlier. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,239 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on November 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, down slightly from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 287 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.46 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from November 1, 2004.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 1 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2005 totaled 35.4 million, up 1 percent from October 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.1 million on November 1, 2005, down 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 189,000 during October 2005, down 29 percent from October 2004.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 3 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2005 totaled 776 million, up 3 percent from October 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 624 million on November 1, 2005, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.94 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2005, up 8 percent from October 2004.

EGG PRODUCTS

Shell Eggs Broken Up 5 Percent

Shell eggs broken totaled 173 million dozen during October 2005, up 5 percent from October a year ago but 3 percent below the 178 million broken last month.

During calendar year 2005 through October, **shell eggs broken** totaled 1.72 billion dozen, up 7 percent from the 1.60 billion dozen broken in the comparable period in 2004. Total edible liquid from eggs broken in 2005 was 2.22 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2004.

Data presented in this report were compiled from inspection reports of the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The best available data at time of publication were used.

MILK PRODUCTION

November Milk Production Up 4.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from November 2004. October revised production, at 13.3 billion pounds, was up 4.0 percent from October 2004. The October revision represented a decrease of 17 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,590 pounds for November, 59 pounds above November 2004.

The **number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 60,000 head more than November 2004, and 2,000 head more than October 2005.

TURKEY HATCHERY

Eggs in Incubators on December 1 Up 2 Percent

Turkey eggs in incubators on December 1, 2005, in the United States totaled 28.3 million, up

2 percent from December 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 3 percent above the November 1, 2005 total of 27.4 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 3 percent, West North Central up 1 percent, North and South Atlantic up 15 percent, South Central down 32 percent, and West down 1 percent.

Poults Placed During November Down 2 Percent From Last Year

The 21.8 million poults placed during November 2005 in the United States were down 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 2 percent from October 2005. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 10 percent, West North Central up 3 percent, North and South Atlantic down 8 percent, South Central down 15 percent, and West down 9 percent.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

Ready-to-Cook Weight Up 4 Percent

Poultry certified wholesome during October 2005 (**ready-to-cook weight**) totaled 3.58 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the amount certified in October 2004. Updated totals for September 2005 show that 3.52 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary **total live weight of poultry** inspected during October 2005 was 4.79 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 4.61 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.10 billion pounds, up 4 percent from October 2004, and mature chickens at 66.3 million pounds, were down 6 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 606 million pounds, up 3 percent. Ducks totaled 16.1 million pounds, up 14 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during October 2005 averaged 5.50 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight of mature chickens was 5.92 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during October 2005 averaged 26.9 pounds per bird, down slightly from October 2004.

Ante-mortem condemnations during October 2005 totaled 14.6 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.31 percent of the live weight inspected, compared to 0.37 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 44.0 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.02 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.25 percent a year earlier.

DECEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

Highlights

The corn harvest continued to progress ahead of the normal pace. By mid month, growers had combined 95 percent of their crop, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of normal. Harvest progress was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except Ohio and Texas, which were only 1 and 2 points behind normal, respectively. Only in Colorado, the northern Corn Belt, and Ohio River Valley was harvest less than 95 percent complete.

On November 6, ninety-five percent of the **winter wheat** crop had been sown, 4 points ahead of last year and 3 points ahead of normal. Planting was at or ahead of the normal pace in all States, except North Carolina and the Pacific Coast States. Emergence of the crop also progressed ahead of normal, reaching 94 percent by month's end. In California, Oregon, and Washington, the crop emerged behind the normal pace due to cool weather, while in Texas, dry conditions slowed emergence. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all other States.

The soybean harvest reached 96 percent complete on November 6, compared with 87 percent last year and 91 percent for the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all States, exceeding the average pace by 28 points in Tennessee. Harvest was complete in Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, and the Dakotas and was over 90 percent complete in all States, except Kentucky, at 87 percent, and North Carolina, at 32 percent.

COLD STORAGE**Highlights**

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on November 30, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, frozen vegetables and eggs. Butter stocks were down 37 percent from last month, but up 7 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from last month and down 3 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 3 percent from last month and down 1 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 89 percent from last month, but down 16 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on November 30, 2005 were down 12 percent from the previous month, but up 1 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 8 percent from the previous month and up 13 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 52

percent from last month and down 32 percent from November 30, 2004.

**JANUARY AGRICULTURAL
SURVEYS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the January Cattle and Sheep and Goat surveys from December 29, 2005 through January 10, 2006. 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 Agricultural Statistics Service 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 2005. Sheep and goat questions will include breeding and market sheep and goats, lamb and kid crops, 2005 wool, mohair and milk production and death losses.

Next Issue:

**December Ag Survey Results
Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
Hogs & Pigs
Milk Production
Annual Crop Production
Turkeys Raised**

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