MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

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APRIL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during April 2006 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 5 percent from April 2005 and down 14 percent from March 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 542,000 pounds live weight, down 1,000 pounds from April 2005. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,083 pounds, was up 97 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 100,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 236 pounds, was up 4 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 3.61 billion pounds in April, down slightly from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in April 2005.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.61 million head, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,246 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.9 million pounds, 16 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 47,500 head, down 23 percent from April 2005. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 379 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.61 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.96 million head, 6 percent below April 2005. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from April 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,500 head, 13 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2006 commercial red meat production was 15.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 6 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.
April 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

CHICKEN AND EGGS

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during April 2006, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 998 million were broiler-type and 68 million were egg-type. The number of layers during April 2006 averaged 348 million, up 1 percent from last year. **April egg production** per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, up slightly from April 2005.

All layers in the U.S. on May 1, 2006, totaled 347 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table-

type eggs, 55.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.86 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on May 1, 2006, averaged 71.5 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from May 1, 2005.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2006 totaled 34.6 million, down 9 percent from April 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 37.0 million on May 1, 2006, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 255,000 during April 2006, down 17 percent from April 2005.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2006 totaled 787 million, down 1 percent from April 2005. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on May 1, 2006, down 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.59 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during April 2006, down 3 percent from April 2005.

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

United States - Poultry certified wholesome during April 2006 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 3.31 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the amount certified in April 2005. Updated totals for March 2006 show that 3.70 billion pounds were certified.

The preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during April 2006 was 4.42 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 4.49 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 3.79 billion pounds, down 1 percent from April 2005. Mature chickens, at 64.5 million pounds, were down 10 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 548 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.0 million pounds, up 9 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during April 2006 averaged 5.46 pounds per bird, up 2 percent from April 2005. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.03 pounds per bird, up 10 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during April 2006 averaged 28.3 pounds per bird, 2 percent below April 2005.

Ante-mortem condemnations during April 2006 totaled 14.0 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.32 percent of the live weight inspected, the same as a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 45.8 million pounds (N.Y. dressed weight), were 1.15 percent of quantities inspected, compared with 1.16 percent a year earlier.

CROP ACREAGE 'JUNE SURVEY RESULTS'

West Virginia - Winter wheat planted in West Virginia for 2006 is estimated at 8,000 acres, up 14 percent, or 1,000 acres from 2005. The projected harvest for grain is 5,000 acres, unchanged from 2005.

Corn planted is estimated at 44,000 acres, down 2 percent, or 1,000 acres from last year. Growers expect to harvest 26,000 acres for grain, down 7 percent, or 2,000 acres from last year.

Soybean planted acreage is estimated at 18,000, unchanged from 2005. Harvested acreage is projected at 17,000, also the same as 2005.

All hay harvested is forecast at 590,000 acres, up 3 percent, or 15,000 acres from last year. **Alfalfa hay** harvested is expected to total 30,000 acres, down 14 percent, or 5,000 acres from last year. **Other hay** harvested is expected to be 560,000 acres, up 4 percent, or 20,000 acres from last year's harvest.

These estimates were based on results from the June 1, 2006, Agricultural Survey.

United States With 2005 Comparisons:

--Corn planted for all purposes – 79.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2005 and 2 percent from 2004.
Biotechnology varieties as a percent of corn planted:
Bt - 25% of 2006 crop, 26% of 2005 crop;
Herbicide Resistant - 21% of 2006 crop, 17% of 2005 crop;
Stacked Gene - 15% of 2006 crop, 9% of 2005 crop;
All Biotech varieties - 61% of 2006 crop, 52% of 2005 crop.
--Corn harvested for grain – 72.1 million acres, down 4 percent.
--Winter wheat planted – 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent.
--Winter wheat harvested for grain – 31.1 million acres, down 8 percent.
--Oats planted - 4.31 million acres, up 2 percent.
--Oats harvested for grain - 1.91 million acres, up 5 percent.
--All tobacco harvested - 336,430 acres, up 13 percent.
--Burley tobacco harvested – 105,100 acres, up 3 percent.
--All hay for harvest - 62.7 million acres, up 2 percent.
--Alfalfa hay for harvest - 22.4 million acres, up slightly.
--Other hay for harvest – 40.3 million acres, up 3 percent.
--Soybeans planted – 74.9 million acres, up 4 percent.
Biotechnology varieties as a percent of all soybeans planted:
Herbicide Resistant only - 89% of 2006 crop, 87% of 2005 crop;
All Biotech varieties - 89% of 2006 crop, 87% of 2005.
--Soybeans for harvest – 73.9 million acres, up 4 percent.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Corn: Nitrogen was applied to 96 percent of the 2005 corn planted acreage in the 19 Program States: Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. Corn growers applied an average of 138 pounds of **nitrogen** per acre per crop year. **Phosphate** was applied to 81 percent of the corn acreage in the Program States at an average rate of 58 pounds per acre per crop year. **Potash,** applied at 84 pounds per acre per crop year, was applied to 65 percent of the acreage planted to corn. For the first time, **sulfur** use was included in the survey and 13 percent of the acres planted received an application at an average rate of 12 pounds per acre per crop year.

Herbicides were applied to 97 percent of the corn planted acreage in 2005 in the Program States. **Atrazine** continues to be the most widely applied herbicide with 66 percent of the planted acreage being treated. It was applied at an average rate of 1.133 pounds per acre per crop year. **Glyphosate isopropylamine salt** (formerly recorded as Glyphosate) was applied to 31 percent of planted acres, up from 19 percent in 2003, at an average rate of 0.963 pounds per acre per crop year. In terms of area applied, that was followed closely by **S-Metolachlor** and **Acetochlor**, at 23 percent of the planted corn acreage treated in the Program States.

In 2005, 23 percent of the corn planted acreage was treated with insecticides in the Program States. **Tefluthrin**, **Cyfluthrin, and Tebupirimphos** were the most widely applied insecticides, at 7, 7, and 6 percent, respectively, to the acres planted to corn in the States surveyed. Chlorpyrifos was only applied to 2 percent of the acres, but total applied is more than 3 times greater than next highest at 2.0 million pounds.

Oats: Fifteen States were included in the 2005 survey: California, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin. This compares to 1998 when oats were last surveyed in which an area survey was conducted drawing possible samples from any of the 48 states. **Nitrogen** recorded 107.4 million pounds applied to 56 percent of the oats acreage in these States. Approximately 50 million pounds each of **Phosphate** and **Potash** were applied to 40 and 28 percent, respectively, of the oats acreage in the States surveyed. For the first time, **sulfur** usage data were collected and 3.2 million pounds were applied to 9 percent of the acres planted.

Herbicides were applied to 31 percent of the oat acreage in 2005 with **2,4-D dimethylamine salt** being the most widely applied herbicide on 9 percent of the planted acreage for a total of 147 thousand pounds. It was followed by **Glyphosate isopropylamine salt** (formerly recorded as Glyphosate) and **2,4-D, 2-EHE** (formerly recorded as Acetic Acid), at 117 and 79 thousand pounds, respectively, to 5 percent of the planted acreage.

Lambda-cyhalothrin was the only insecticide with enough reports to publish usage data. It was applied to less than one half of one percent of the 2005 oats planted acreage, at an average application rate of 0.027 pounds per acre per crop year.

Soybeans: This year, soybeans were included in this report to capture farmers' reactions to Asian Soybean Rust. However, data were only available from the CEAP survey for 17 states (Arkansas, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia), because soybeans were not selected as a target crop for ARMS.

Asian Soybean Rust is a fungus, therefore, we focused on farmers' use of fungicides. For 2005, farm operations reported 6 active ingredients applied to 2 percent of the planted soybean acreage, versus 4 active ingredients reported on 1 percent of the planted acreage in 2004. In the Agricultural Chemical Usage 2004 Field Crops Summary, **Azoxystrobin** was the only publishable fungicide at the Program State level. All 6 of the active ingredients reported for 2005 are recommended for Asian Soybean Rust.

Herbicides were applied to 98 percent of the Program State acreage though 1 active ingredient clearly dominated. **Glyphosate isopropylamine salt** (formerly recorded as Glyphosate) was used on 88 percent of all the acres treated. The average application rate of 1.101 pounds was applied per acre per crop year for a total of 63.0 million pounds applied. No other herbicide was applied to more than 4 percent of the total planted acres.

Insecticides were used on 14 percent of the Program State acres, but individual active ingredients only covered a maximum of 6 percent of soybean Program State acreage.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 956,000 **hired workers** on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on

farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an **average wage** of $9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned $9.30 per hour compared with $9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The **number of hours worked** averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago.

The **largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers** from last year occurred in California and in the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In California, eight consecutive weeks of rain and unseasonably cool weather caused major delays in fieldwork across the northern two-thirds of the State. These factors, along with the ongoing worker shortages due to the continued tight security at the Mexican border and the controversy over immigration, have combined to keep the number of hired workers much lower than last year. Persistent dryness over the Southeast region has kept soil moisture levels inadequate for field preparation and planting, reducing the need for field workers. Pasture growth in the region has been severely curtailed by the lack of rain, delaying movement of cattle to grazing and decreasing the demand for livestock workers. In the Appalachian II region, late thunderstorms just prior to the reference week left soils too wet to work and caused delays in field activity. Therefore, fewer hired workers were needed.

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