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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

West Virginia- Commercial red meat production during January 2008 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 7 percent from January 2007 and down 10 percent from December 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 1,056,000 pounds live weight, up 13 percent from January 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,021 pounds, was down 31 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 159,000 pounds live weight, down 1 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 270 pounds, was up 33 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 4.42 billion pounds in January, up 8 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in January 2007.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 4 percent from January 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.3 million pounds, 21 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, 4 percent below January 2007. The average live weight was down 55 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.16 billion pounds, 14 percent above the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.6 million head, 13 percent above January 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was 2 percent below January 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,400 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

January 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2008 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

West Virginia- Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 6.7 million pounds during 2007. This was 14 percent above the 2006 production of 5.9 million. The number of Federally and Non- Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 27 on January 1, 2008, an increase of 1 plant from January 1, 2007.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2007 was 1054 pounds, down 11 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 255 pounds, down 2 pounds. The average live weight for sheep and

lambs was 106 pounds, up 5 pounds.

Calf slaughter information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

West Virginia with 2006 Comparisons:

Beef production - 9.93 million pounds, up 16 percent.

Cattle slaughtered - 9,400 head, up 16 percent.

Pork production - 2.14 million pounds, up 16 percent.

Hogs slaughtered - 8,400 head, up 17 percent.

Mutton and lamb production - 50 thousand pounds, up 19 percent.

Sheep and lambs slaughtered - 500 head, up 25 percent.

United States - Total red meat production for the United States totaled 48.8 billion pounds in 2007, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 48.7 billion pounds. **On-farm** production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 146 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 22.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 188 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2006.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2007 totaled 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from 2006, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,269 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 51.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, **heifers** 30.3 percent, **dairy cows** 7.4 percent, **other cows** 9.4 percent, and **bulls** 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 758,100 head, 7 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 303 pounds, down 39 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 109.2 million head, 4 percent higher than 2006 with 99.1 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 269 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.5 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.69 million head, was down slightly from the previous year with 93.9 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from 2006 at 136 pounds. **Lambs and yearlings** comprised 95.4 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2008 compared with 795 last year. Of these, 626 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2007 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 11 largest plants accounting for 51 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 comprised 68 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2007, similar to 2006.

CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 533,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 percent below 2006.

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2007 totaled 272 million eggs. This was 1 percent below the 2006 production of 274 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2007 averaged 1.19 million, down slightly from 2006. The average annual production per layer was 229 eggs, 1 egg less than the 2006 average. Pullets for 2007 totaled 667,000, down 9 percent from 2006. Other chickens totaled 133,000 in 2007, down 5 percent from 2006.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2007 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.01 million head, down 5 percent from 2006.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2007 was \$11.7 million, up 4 percent from the December 1, 2006 value of \$11.2 million. The average value of \$5.80 per bird on December 1, 2007 was up 50 cents from the 2006 value.

United States - Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2007 totaled 90.6 million eggs, down 1 percent from 2006. Table egg production, at 77.3 million eggs, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.3 million eggs, was up 2 percent from 2006.

Layer numbers during 2007 averaged 344 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2007 was 263 eggs, unchanged from 2006.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2007 (excluding commercial broilers) was 455 million birds, up slightly from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2007 was \$1.34 billion, up 13 percent from December 1, 2006. The average value increased from \$2.61 per bird on December 1, 2006, to \$2.95 per bird on December 1, 2007.

TROUT SALES

West Virginia - There were 27 operations that produced trout for sale and/or distribution in 2007. Eighteen operations were commercial producers,

while 12 operations distributed trout/trout eggs for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes. The total value of fish sales for 2007 was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. In 2006, the 18 commercial trout producers in West Virginia had a total value of fish sales of 235 thousand dollars for the 12 month period from January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006. Trout losses for the period totaled 26,000 pounds, down from the 2006 total of 54,000 pounds.

United States - The total value of fish sales received by trout growers in the United States totaled 87.5 million dollars for 2007, an increase of 9 percent from 2006. Idaho accounted for 53 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of **trout 12 inches and longer** sold during 2007 totaled 59.7 million fish, up 14 percent from the previous year. The average price per pound was \$1.15, up 4 cents from 2006. The value of sales for the 2007 marketing year was 80.0 million dollars, up 10 percent from 2006. Based on the dollar value, 67 percent were sold to processors and 16 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of **6"- 12" trout** sold during 2007 totaled 4.99 million fish, a decrease of 20 percent from 2006. The average price per pound was \$2.95 during 2007, up 40 cents from the 2006 price. The total value of sales was 5.84 million dollars during 2007, a 9 percent decrease from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6"-12" trout was to fee and recreational fishing establishments accounting for 45 percent of total sales, followed by other producers with 16 percent.

The number of **1"- 6" trout** sold during 2007 totaled 9.56 million, a 10 percent increase from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$177 during 2007, unchanged from 2006. The total value of sales was 1.70 million dollars, up 10 percent from last year's total.

Distributed Trout - Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 8.20 million 12" or longer fish, 68.7 million 6"-12" fish, and 78.9 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 102 million dollars, up 16 percent from 2006.

Trout Losses - Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 34.3 million fish during 2007. The top three categories were 86 percent lost to disease, 8

percent lost to predators, and 4 percent lost to drought.

HONEY PRODUCTION

West Virginia - Honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 240,000 pounds, up 30,000 pounds from 2006. There were 5,000 producing colonies in 2007, unchanged from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 48 pounds, up 6 pounds from 42 in 2006. Honey stocks on December 15, 2007, were reported at 79,000 pounds, up 22,000 pounds from the amount reported in 2006.

Prices for the 2007 crop averaged 196 cents per pound, compared to 202 cents per pound in 2006. Value of production totaled 470,000 dollars, up 46,000 dollars from 2006.

United States - Honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were

not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

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March Agricultural Survey Results

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