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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA- Commercial red meat production during November 2004 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was down 6 percent from October 2004, but up 10 percent from November 2003 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 1,249,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent from November 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1300 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 947 pounds, was up 17 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 259,000 pounds live weight, up 5 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 279 pounds, was up 26 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 5,000 pounds live weight. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 100 head. The average live weight was 94 pounds. No comparison data was available for November 2003.

UNITED STATES-Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.77 billion pounds in November,

up 7 percent from the 3.53 billion pounds produced in November 2003.

Beef production, at 1.94 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.54 million head, up 4 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was up 35 pounds from the previous year, at 1,271 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.8 million pounds, 9 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 68,000 head, down 13 percent from November 2003. The average live weight was 14 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, a new monthly record, and was up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.96 million head, 4 percent above November 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.5 million pounds, was up 1 percent from November 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,100 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, down 2 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2004 commercial red meat production was 41.5 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

November 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. **November 2004** contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

November Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.46 billion during November 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.42 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 980 million were broiler-type and 59 million were

egg-type. The total number of layers during November 2004 averaged 343 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,170 eggs, up slightly from November 2003.

November 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 4 Saturdays and 2 holidays compared to **November 2003** contained 20 weekdays, 5 Saturdays and 2 holidays.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2004, totaled 343 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 343 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.51 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2004, averaged 72.8 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.98 billion eggs during November 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during November, at 321 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 27 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during November totaled 38.4 million, up 27 percent from November 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.9 million on December 1, 2004, up 10 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 225,000 during November 2004, down 29 percent from November 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The November 2004 **hatch of broiler-type chicks**, at 731 million, was up 3 percent from November of the previous year. There were 645 million eggs in incubators on December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.01 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2004, up 1 percent from November 2003.

ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION DECEMBER AG SURVEY RESULTS

WEST VIRGINIA 2004 ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION, WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS, GRAIN AND HAY STOCKS

WEST VIRGINIA -- Wheat planted acres totaled 8,000 in 2004, down 4,000 acres from 2003. Area harvested for grain totaled 5,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2003. The average yield for 2004 was estimated to be 52.0 bushels per acre. This was up 11 bushels from 2003. Production was estimated at 260,000 bushels, down 9 percent from 2003, or 27,000 bushels.

Winter wheat seedings for the 2005 crop are estimated at 7,000 acres, down 1,000 acres, or 22 percent, from 2004.

All forage area harvested acres totaled 594,000, up 6 percent from 2003. Dry equivalent yield averaged 1.88 tons per acre, down 0.17 ton from 2003. Total dry equivalent production was 1,115,000 tons, down 2 percent. All forage production includes haylage and greenchop production converted to a dry weight equivalent basis (13 percent moisture) along with dry hay production.

All alfalfa forage area harvested totaled 49,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2003. Dry equivalent yield averaged 2.59 tons per acre, down 0.18 ton. Total dry equivalent production was 127,000 tons, down 6,000 tons from 2003.

All hay harvested area in 2004 totaled 575,000 acres, up 30,000 from 2003. The average yield of 1.85 tons per acre was down 0.1 ton from 2003. Production totaled 1.062 million tons, down from 1.063 million tons in 2003. **December on Farm Hay Stocks** was 1,030,000 tons, up 73,000 tons from 2003.

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 45,000 acres in 2004, unchanged from 2003. Yields in 2004 averaged 2.4 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2003. Production totaled 108,000 tons, down 5,000 from 2003. New seedings of alfalfa in 2004 are estimated at 3,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2003 seedings.

All other hay area harvested totaled 530,000 acres in 2004, up 30,000 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 1.8 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from 2003. Production totaled 954,000 tons, up 4,000 tons from 2003.

Area planted to **corn** for all purposes in 2004 totaled 48,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. Harvested area for grain totaled 29,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 2003. The average yield of 131.0 bushels per acre was up 16 bushels from 2003's yield. Production was 3.8 million bushels, up 22 percent from 2003.

Corn for silage area harvested was 18,000 acres in 2004, down 1,000 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 17.0 tons per acre which was up 1.5 tons from 2003's yield. Silage production was estimated at 306,000 tons, up 4 percent from 2003.

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,300 acres in 2004, up 100 acres from 2003. Yields averaged 1,300 pounds per acre, the same as 2003. Production for burley tobacco totaled 1.69 million pounds in 2004, up 8 percent from 2003.

Area planted to **soybeans** totaled 19,000 acres, up 3,000 acres from 2003. Area harvested for beans totaled 18,000 acres, also up 3,000 acres from 2003. The yield for soybeans in 2004 averaged 46.0 bushels per acre, up 5

bushels from 2003. Production was estimated at 828,000 bushels, up 35 percent from 2003.

The total area planted to **principal crops** in West Virginia totaled 651,000 acres in 2004, up 29,000 acres from 2003. Area harvested totaled 646,000 acres, up 32,000 acres from 2003. Principal crops include acres planted to corn, soybeans and wheat, and acres harvested for hay and tobacco.

UNITED STATES WITH PREVIOUS YEAR COMPARISONS

- All wheat production - 2.16 billion bushels, down 8%.
- Winter wheat production - 1.5 billion bushels, down 13%.
- 2005 winter wheat seedings - 41.6 million acres, down 4% from 2004.
- 2004 alfalfa seedings - 2.8 million acres, down 10% from 2003.
- Alfalfa hay production - 75.4 million tons, down 1%.
- All other hay production - 82.4 million tons, up 1%.
- All hay production - 157.8 million tons, up slightly.
- Corn planted for all purposes area - 80.9 million acres, up 3%.
- Corn for grain harvested area - 73.6 million acres, up 4%.
- Corn for grain production - 11.8 billion bushels, up 17%, largest on record.
- Corn for grain yield - 160.4 bushels per acre, up 18.2 bushels, largest on record.
- Corn for silage harvested area - 6.1 million acres, down 7%.
- Corn for silage production - 107.3 million tons, down slightly.
- Corn for silage yield - 17.6 tons per acre, up 1.3 tons.
- Soybeans production - 3.14 billion bushels, up 28%, largest in history.
- All tobacco production - 883.2 million pounds, up 10%.
- Oats production - 115.9 million bushels, down 20%.
- Area planted to principal crops - 322.4 million acres, down 1%.
- Area harvested for principal crops - 304.6 million acres, down 1%.

U.S. STOCKS TOTALS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2004

- Hay stocks on-farm - 114.3 million tons, up 3%.
- Corn stocks on-farm - 6.14 billion bushels, up 16%.
- Corn stocks off-farm - 3.30 billion bushels, up 24%.
- All wheat stocks on-farm - 531 million bushels, up 8%.
- All wheat stocks off-farm - 900 million bushels, down 13%.
- Soybean stocks on-farm - 1.30 billion bushels, up 59%.
- Soybean stocks off-farm - 1.00 billion bushels, up 16%.
- Oats stocks on-farm - 60.4 million bushels, down 6%.
- Oats stocks off-farm - 44.6 million bushels, down 19%.

HOGS AND PIGS

WEST VIRGINIA HOG INVENTORY

WEST VIRGINIA -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs on

December 1, 2004, was 10,000 head, unchanged from December 1, 2003. Of the 10,000 head, 2,000 were for breeding; unchanged from 2003. The breakdown of the remaining 8,000 market hogs and pigs was as follows: 2,000 head were under 60 pounds; 1,000 were from 60-119 pounds; 1,000 were from 120-179 pounds; and 4,000 were 180 pounds and over.

Annual pig crop totaled 18,200 head, 2 percent below the 2003 pig crop. Sows farrowing from December 2003 through November 2004 totaled 2,300 head, down 8 percent from the previous year. Pigs per litter averaged 7.91 pigs, up 7 percent from 2003, at 7.40 pigs.

UNITED STATES -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2004 was 60.5 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2003, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2004

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2003, but up slightly from last quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 54.5 million head, was up slightly from last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

The September-November 2004 U.S. pig crop, at 25.6 million head, was up slightly from 2003 and up 2 percent from 2002. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.85 million head, down slightly from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.96 for the September-November period, compared to 8.93 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.86 million sows farrow during the December 2004-February 2005 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrows during the same period in 2004, and 3 percent above 2003. Intended farrowings for March-May 2005, at 2.87 million sows, are down slightly from the same period in 2004, and down 1 percent from the same period in 2003.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 38 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 35 percent last year.

Revisions - All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2003 through September 2004 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small revisions, not exceeding one-half of one percent were made to the June 2004 total inventory, March-May 2004 pig crop, December-February 2004 pig crop, September-November 2003 pig crop, June-August 2003 pig crop and the September 2003 total inventory. Adjustments of less than one-tenth of one percent were made to the remaining quarters.

TURKEY'S RAISED**West Virginia Turkeys Raised**

West Virginia -- Turkeys raised in West Virginia during 2004 totaled 3.2 million birds, down 26 percent from 2003. Growers' intentions for 2005 are to raise the same number of birds.

United States -- Turkeys raised in the United States during 2004 totaled 264 million birds, down 4 percent from the 274 million raised in 2003.

Minnesota ranked first in the number raised with 46.5 million, followed by North Carolina with 39.0 million, Arkansas with 28.5 million, Missouri with 21.5 million, Virginia with 19.7 million, California with 15.7 million, and Indiana with 13.3 million. These States accounted for 70 percent of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2004.

Turkey Growers Plan 2 Percent Decrease in 2005

Turkey growers in 23 States intend to decrease the number of birds raised by 2 percent in 2005. These states produced over 99% of the turkeys raised in 2004. Intentions for the top seven producing States compared with 2004 are as follows: Minnesota up 2 percent, North Carolina down 5 percent, Arkansas down 2 percent, Missouri up 5 percent, Virginia up 2 percent, California down 4 percent, and Indiana up 2 percent.

The number of turkeys actually raised in 2005 may vary from growers' intentions shown in this report depending on feed costs, supply of hatching eggs, cost of poults, and prices growers receive for turkeys during the next few months.

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

MILK PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Milk production in West Virginia totaled 49 million pounds during the October - December quarter of 2004. This was down 3 million pounds from the same quarter last year and 2 million pounds below the July - September 2004 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and down 1,000 head the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES -- Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

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Farms & Land in Farms**

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