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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA—Commercial red meat production during December 2004 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from November 2004, and down 5 percent from December 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 1,132,000 pounds live weight, down 4 percent from December 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 960 pounds, was up 69 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 183,000 pounds live weight, down 18 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 268 pounds, was up 18 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 December, up 1 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in December 2003.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.69 million head, up 1 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,268 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.9 million pounds, 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,700 head, down 23 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 334 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.25 million head, 1 percent below December 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from December 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,400 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2004 commercial red meat production was 45.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 6 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. **December 2004** contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

2004 ANNUAL CHICKENS & EGGS

WEST VIRGINIA—Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled 273 million eggs. This was 1 percent above the 2003 production of 271 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2004 averaged 1.26 million, up 2 percent from 2003. The average annual production per layer was 217 eggs, 3 eggs less than the 2003 average. Pullets for 2004 totaled 816,000, up 8 percent from 2003. Other chickens totaled 175,000 in 2004, up 36 percent from 2003.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.26 million head, up 10 percent from 2003.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$12.7 million, up 31 percent from the December 1, 2003 value of \$9.68 million. The average value of \$5.60 per bird on December 1, 2004 was up \$0.90 from 2003.

UNITED STATES—Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled a record high 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 2003. Table egg production, at 76.2 billion eggs, was up 2 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, was up slightly from 2003.

Layer numbers during 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2004 was 260 eggs, up slightly from the 2003 average of 259.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 454 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$1.12 billion, up slightly from December 1, 2003. The average value decreased from \$2.48 per bird on December 1, 2003, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2004.

CROP VALUES

WEST VIRGINIA—Corn for grain value of production totaled \$8.0 million in 2004, a 6 percent decrease from 2003. The marketing year average price received per bushel for corn was \$2.10, down 62 cents from 2003.

Tobacco value of production totaled \$3.4 million, up 9 percent from 2003. The average price received per pound for tobacco was \$1.99, up 1.2 cent from 2003.

The value of **winter wheat** production in 2004 was \$819 thousand, a 9 percent decrease from the 2003 crop. Growers received an average of \$3.15 per bushel for the 2004 crop, up 2 cents from 2003.

Soybeans value of production totaled \$4.3 million, an 8 percent decrease from 2003. The average price received per bushel for soybeans was \$5.15. This was down \$2.39 from the 2003 average price.

The value of **all hay** production totaled \$60.0 million in 2004, 2 percent less than 2003. The average price received per ton was \$56.50, \$1.00 less than the 2003 average price.

The value of **alfalfa hay** production totaled \$11.3 million in 2004, 3 percent less than 2003. The average price received per ton was \$105.00, \$2.00 more than the 2003 average price.

The value of all **other hay** production totaled \$48.7 million in 2004, 2 percent less than 2003. The average price received per ton was \$51.00, \$1.00 less than the 2003 average price.

The 2004 **total value of production of principal crops** (including fruits) was \$87.3 million, down 4 percent from the 2003 value of \$90.7 million, and down 9 percent from the 2002 value of \$95.7 million.

United States Value and Marketing Year Average Price With 2003 Comparisons

- **Corn for grain** value of production - \$23.03 billion, down 6%; \$1.95 per bushel, down 47 cents.
- **Tobacco** value of production - \$1.75 billion, up 11%; \$1.984 per pound, up 1.7 cents.
- **Winter wheat** value of production - \$4.92 billion, down 12%; \$3.30 per bushel, up 3 cents.
- **Soybeans** value of production - \$16.10 billion, down 11%, \$5.10 per bushel, down \$2.24.
- **All hay** value of production - \$12.20 billion, up 2%; \$89.70 per ton, up \$4.20.

-- **Alfalfa hay** value of production - \$6.98 billion, up 4%; \$97.50 per ton, up \$6.70.

-- **Other hay** value of production - \$5.22 billion, down 1%; \$70.00 per ton, down \$0.90.

-- **All crops** (including fruits, nuts and vegetables) value of production - \$103.83 billion, down 3 percent.

JANUARY 1 SHEEP & GOATS

WEST VIRGINIA—All sheep and lamb inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2005, was 31,000 head, down 3,000 head from January 1, 2004.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 29,000 head on January 1, 2005, down 1,000 head from 2004. Ewes, one year and older, at 23,000 head, were down 2,000 head from 2004. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2004. Replacement lambs totaled 5,000 head, up 1,000 head from 2004.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005 totaled 2,000 head, down 2,000 head from January 1, 2004. Market lambs totaled 2,000 head, down 1,500 head from the previous year. Of these, 500 were under 65 pounds, 500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 500 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The **2004 lamb crop** totaled 29,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 116 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2004, compared to 138 in 2003.

Shorn wool production during 2004 was 134,000 pounds, down 16 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 24,000 head, down 4,000 head from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.43 per pound for a total value of \$58,000 dollars, up 29 percent from \$45,000 dollars in 2003.

WEST VIRGINIA—Meat and other goat inventory on January 1, 2005 was estimated at 11,700 head. **Milk goat** inventory was estimated at 1,100 head. **Angora goat** inventory was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES—All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990.

Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total inventory. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep.

The **2004 lamb crop** of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs

shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

All **goat inventory** in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. **Breeding goat inventory** totaled 2.1 million head and **market goats** totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, **meat and all other goats** totaled 1.97 million head, **milk goats** totaled 283,500 head and **angora goats** totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 **kid crop** was 1.67 million head for all goats.

Mohair production in the United States during 2004 was 1.94 million pounds. **Goats and kids clipped** totaled 269,500 head. Average weight per clip was 7.2 pounds. **Mohair price** was \$1.97 per pound with a value of 3.8 million dollars.

JANUARY 1 CATTLE

WEST VIRGINIA -- Cattle inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2005 totaled 405,000 head, up 25,000 head or 7 percent from the January 1, 2004 inventory of 380,000 head. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 210,000 head, up 10,000 head or 5 percent from January 1, 2004.

Comparing January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2004: **Beef cows** totaled 197,000 head, up 11,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 13,000, down 1,000 head; all **heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 70,000 head, up 5,000 head; **beef replacement heifers**, 45,000 head, up 5,000 head; **milk replacement heifers**, 4,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers**, at 21,000 head, unchanged; **steers 500 pounds and over** at 35,000 head, unchanged; **bulls 500 pounds and over** at 15,000 head, unchanged; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 75,000, up 10,000 head. **Cattle on feed** totaled 7,000 head, up 2,000 head from 2004.

The 2004 **calf crop** totaled 190,000 head, up 5,000 head from the 2003 calf crop.

UNITED STATES --All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2004.

Comparing January 1, 2005, to January 1, 2004: **Beef cows** totaled 33.06 million head, up 1 percent; **milk cows** totaled 9.01 million, were up slightly; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 19.7 million, up 2 percent; **beef replacement heifers**, 5.75 million, up 4 percent; **milk replacement heifers**, 4.13 million, up 3 percent; **other heifers**, 9.79 million, down slightly; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 16.5 million, up 1 percent; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 2.22 million, up 1 percent; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 15.4 million, up 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** totaled 13.7 million, down slightly.

The 2004 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.6 million head, down 1 percent from 2003. **Calves born** during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, down 1 percent from 2003.

2004 FARM NUMBERS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS

WEST VIRGINIA --The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,800 in 2004. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres. The

average farm size was 173 acres. These numbers were unchanged from the previous 3 years.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,200, the same as 2003. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.07 million acres, a decrease of 30,000 acres from 2003.

The **number of operations with cattle and calves** totaled 12,500, down 4 percent, or 500 farms, from 2003. Beef cow operations totaled 10,900, down slightly less than 1 percent, or 100 farms, from 2003. Milk cow operations totaled 480, down 4 percent, or 20 farms, from 2003.

The **number of operations with hogs and pigs** totaled 800, down 11 percent, or 100 farms, from 2003.

The **number of operations with sheep and lambs** totaled 1,100, unchanged from 2003.

UNITED STATES -- The **number of farms** in the United States in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres, or 0.2 percent, from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and transfers of agricultural land to competing uses.

Compared to 2003, the number of farms in 2004 declined in 19 states, remained unchanged in 30 states and increased only in Alaska (10 farms). The largest decline in number of farms occurred in Kentucky and Tennessee (each losing 2,000 farms), California and North Carolina (each losing 1,500 farms), and Alabama, Florida, and New York, which lost 1,000 farms per state.

The **number of operations with cattle** totaled 989,460 during 2004, down 2 percent from 2003 and 5 percent below 2002. Beef cow operations in 2004 were down 2 percent from 2003 and 4 percent below 2002. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 11 percent below two years ago. Texas, with 150,000, had the largest number of operations with all cattle while Wisconsin, with 15,900, had the most milk cow operations.

The **number of operations with hogs** totaled 69,420 during 2004, down 6 percent from 2003 and 9 percent from 2002. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 79 percent of the inventory. Iowa, with 9,200, had the largest number of hog operations.

The **number of operations with sheep** totaled 67,160 during 2004, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 92.0 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 6.5 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.5 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 30.3 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 22.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.7 percent of the inventory. Texas, with 7,200, had the largest number of sheep operations in the nation.

NONCITRUS FRUITS & NUTS PRELIMINARY

WEST VIRGINIA --Total apple production for 2004 was 86.0 million pounds, 1 percent less than the 2003 estimate of 87.0 million pounds. Utilized production totaled 85.0 million pounds, which was unchanged from 2003. Bearing acres in the State were estimated at 6,000, unchanged from 2003, with an average yield per acre of 14,300 pounds, 200 pounds less than 2003. The average price per pound for apples was 9.5 cents, compared

with 9.7 cents the previous year. Value of utilized production totaled \$8.08 million, down 2 percent from 2003.

Peach production totaled 6,000 tons, down 4 percent or 250 tons from 2003. Utilized production in 2004 totaled 5,800 tons, down 2 percent or 100 tons from last year. Bearing acres were estimated at 1,100, unchanged from 2003, with an average yield of 5.45 tons per acre, a decrease of 0.23 tons. The price received per ton was estimated at \$478- a decrease of \$262 from 2003. Value of utilized production totaled \$2.77 million - a 37 percent decrease from 2003.

UNITED STATES –Total apple production in the U.S. during 2004 was estimated at 10.08 billion pounds, 16 percent more than 2003. Of the total production, 9.93 billion pounds were utilized, up 15 percent from the 2003 level. Bearing acres were estimated at 386,490 down 2,460 acres from 2003, with an average yield per acre of 26,100 pounds, 3,700 pounds more than 2003. Growers received an average of 17.7 cents per pound, a decrease of 3.3 cents from 2003. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.76 billion, a decrease of 3 percent from 2003.

The U.S. total **peach production** (including California Clingstone) in 2004 was estimated at 1.28 million tons, up 2 percent from 2003. Of this production, 1.23 million tons were utilized, also up 2 percent from the previous year. Bearing acres were estimated at 146,300, up 770 acres from 2003, with an average yield of 8.74 tons per acre, an increase of 0.09 tons. The average price received per ton for peaches was \$376 per ton, down \$1 from 2003. Value of utilized production totaled \$461.2 million, up 2 percent from 2003.

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MARCH AGRICULTURAL SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the March Agricultural Survey from March 4 - March 10, 2005. Survey data are collected across the nation and used to set estimates of farmers' planting intentions for the 2004 crop year. The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics office will be collecting data on crops that will be grown and harvested during 2004, acres expected to be cut for hay and inventories of on-farm grains stored as of March 1.

In an effort to reduce costs, most farmers selected to participate will be mailed a questionnaire. Farmers are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire to us as promptly as possible in the postage paid envelope, which will be enclosed. A representative from our office will contact those not responding by mail. All data will remain confidential and will only be combined with other operations in the state to arrive at state totals. West Virginia Agricultural Statistics depend on the voluntary cooperation of the state's farmers to provide data for this survey.

Results of the survey will be released beginning on March 31, 2005.

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US & Canadian Cattle
Trout Production
Annual Poultry Slaughter

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