

MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

RELEASED: MAY 2005

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

MARCH RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during March 2005 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from March 2004, but up 4 percent from February 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 642,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from March 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 980 pounds, was up 62 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 121,000 pounds live weight, down 17 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 244 pounds, was down 13 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 3.88 billion pounds in March, down 2 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in March 2004.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 5 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was up

21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,238 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 6 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,900 head, down 11 percent from March 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds above last year, at 328 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.95 million head, 1 percent below March 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was down 12 percent from March 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 280,300 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, down 5 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2005 commercial red meat production was 11.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 7 percent.

March 2004 contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. **March 2005** contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

March Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.73 billion during March 2005, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.60 billion table eggs, and 1.13 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 63 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2005 averaged 347 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,225 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on April 1, 2005, totaled 345 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 345 million layers consisted of 286 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2005, averaged 71.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

March 2005 contained 23 weekdays and four Saturday. **March 2004** also contained 23 weekdays and four Saturday.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 6 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 40.0 million, up 6 percent from March 2004. **Eggs in incubators** totaled 34.1 million on April 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 314,000 during March 2005, down 22 percent from March 2004.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The March 2005 hatch of **broiler-type chicks**, at 816 million, was up 3 percent from March of the previous year. There were 658 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.08 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2005, up 4 percent from March 2004.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME

2004 MILK PRODUCTION AND DISPOSITION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **Milk production** totaled 194 million pounds during 2004, down 22 million pounds from the revised number in 2003. The average number of milk cows was 13,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2003. Average milk production per cow was 14,923 pounds, up 523 pounds from the revised number of 14,400 pounds for 2003.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2004 totaled \$31.5 million, up 16 percent from the revised 2003 cash receipts. Producer returns averaged \$16.50 per hundredweight, up \$3.70 from 2003. Milk marketed by producers totaled 191 million pounds in 2004, down 22 million pounds from the revised number in 2003. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

UNITED STATES -- **Milk production** increased 0.2 percent in 2004 to 170.8 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,957 pounds, was 197 pounds above 2003. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.01 million head, was 73,000 head less than 2003.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2004 totaled \$27.4 billion, 29 percent above 2003. Producer returns averaged \$16.13 per hundredweight, 29 percent above 2003. Marketings totaled 170 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2003. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.11 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 1.3 percent less than 2003. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

MAY CROP PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **On farm hay stocks**, as of May 1, 2005, totaled 212,000 tons. This is 21,000 tons, or 11 percent more than what was on hand last year at this time, and 117,000 tons above May 1 stocks on hand in 2003. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, was 818,000 tons, 7 percent more than the 2003 crop disappearance of 766,000 tons for the same period.

Final 2004 burley tobacco production totaled 1.69 million pounds, up 130,000 pounds or 8 percent from 2003. Yield per acre averaged 1,300 pounds, unchanged from 2003. Area harvested in 2004 totaled 1,300 acres, a 100 acre increase from the previous year. The 2004 season average price for tobacco was \$1.970 per pound, down slightly from the 2003 price of \$1.978. The value of production totaled \$3.33 million, up 8 percent from the 2003 value of \$3.09 million.

UNITED STATES -- **Winter wheat** production, as of May 1, is forecast at 1.59 billion bushels, up 6 percent from 2004. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 45.4 bushels per acre, 1.9 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Stocks of all hay on farms totaled 27.7 million tons on May 1, 2005, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2004 - May 1, 2005, totaled 86.6 million tons, 2 percent greater than the disappearance of 85.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Twenty-six of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Many of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the northern Great Plains and the central Corn Belt. Stocks declined in the western and southeastern States.

Total U.S. tobacco production for 2004 is revised down less than 1 percent from the January preliminary estimate. Harvested acreage is down less than 1 percent, while the average yield decreased 4 pounds per acre. Total production, at 879 million pounds, is up 10 percent from 2003. Growers harvested 408,040 acres in 2004, down 1 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 1874. **Burley** production - which accounted for 98 percent of all light air-cured tobacco, is revised down 2 percent from the January preliminary estimate to 292 million pounds. This is 4 percent above 2003 when 282 million pounds were produced. Producers of burley tobacco harvested 153,150 acres in 2004, up 1 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,908 pounds per acre, 58 pounds greater than 2003. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 207 million pounds, 71 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION & INCOME

2004 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **The 2004 gross income** from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs was \$97.6 million, down 2 percent from the revised gross income of \$99.5 million in 2003. Gross income from cattle and calves was down 3 percent. Hogs and pigs increased 24 percent. Sheep and lambs increased 8 percent from the 2003 income.

Production of meat animals in West Virginia during 2004 totaled 127.8 million pounds, up 2 percent from last year. Cattle and calves production increased 2 percent. Hogs and pigs were unchanged from the previous year. Sheep and lambs decreased 12 percent. The value of production of meat animals was up 22 percent to \$88.2 million compared to \$72.2 million in 2003.

Total 2004 cash receipts from marketings for all meat animals was \$91.4 million, down 2 percent from the revised cash receipts of \$92.9 million in 2003. Cattle and calves accounted for 96 percent of the total cash receipts, sheep and lambs 2 percent and hogs and pigs 2 percent.

Cattle and calves: Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased 2 percent during 2004. Receipts totaled \$87.4 million compared with the \$89.5 million in 2003. All cattle and calf marketings during 2004 reached 116.6 million pounds, down from the 145.0 million pounds in 2003. The 2004 annual average price of cattle at \$67.20 per 100 pounds live weight, was up \$10.30 from the 2003 price. The average price for calves at \$101.00 per 100 pounds live weight, was up \$19.30 from the 2003 price.

Hogs and pigs: Cash receipts from marketings of hogs and pigs were \$1.8 million during 2004, up 35 percent from the revised 2003 cash receipts of \$1.3 million. Marketings of 3.9 million pounds during 2004 were 6 percent above the 2003 total marketings of 3.7 million pounds. The annual average price per 100 pounds live weight at \$46.10 increased \$10.00 from the price last year.

Sheep and lambs: Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 totaled \$2.2 million, up 8 percent from the 2003 cash receipts of \$2.1 million. The average price of sheep in 2004 was \$36.90 per 100 pounds of live weight, up from \$31.40 in 2003. Lamb prices increased from \$90.60 in 2003 to \$102.00 in 2004. Marketings of sheep and lambs at 2.7 million pounds were down 3 percent from the 2003 marketings of sheep and lambs.

UNITED STATES – The 2004 gross income from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled \$62.6 billion, up 11 percent from 2003. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 5 percent, hogs and pigs increased 35 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 3 percent.

Total 2004 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals increased 11 percent to \$62.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 76 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 23 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production decreased for all cattle and calves and sheep and lambs, but increased for hogs and pigs. Average prices were up for all three species.

Cattle and Calves: Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from \$45.1 billion in 2003 to \$47.3 in 2004, a 5 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 53.8 billion pounds in 2004, down 5 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$85.90, an increase of \$6.20 from 2003. For calves, the annual average price increased \$17.00 to \$119.00.

Hogs and Pigs: Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$14.3 billion during 2004, up 35 percent from 2003. Marketings totaled 27.8 billion pounds in 2004, up 2 percent from 2003. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight increased from \$37.20 in 2003 to \$49.30 in 2004.

Sheep and Lambs: Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2004 were \$521 million, up 3 percent from 2003. Marketings decreased 6 percent to 572 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep increased from \$34.90 in 2003 to \$38.80 in 2004, while for lambs, the annual average price increased \$94.40 to \$101.00.

Terms and Definitions

Cash Receipts: Receipts from marketings and any sale of farm-slaughtered meats. For hogs and pigs, includes an allowance for feeder pig outshipments. U.S. prices received for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs were published in "Agricultural Prices", released February 28, 2005.

Farm Slaughter: Animals slaughtered on farms primarily for home consumption. Excludes custom slaughter for producers at commercial establishments.

Gross Income: Sum of cash receipts and value of home consumption.

Inshipments: Livestock shipped into States for feeding or breeding. Excludes animals brought in for immediate slaughter.

Inventory Value: The value of inventory on hand as of January 1 (cattle and sheep) or December 1 (hogs). Values per head are based on information reported by respondents to the respective inventory surveys.

Marketings: Includes animals for slaughter market and younger animals shipped to other States for feeding and breeding purposes. Excludes interfarm sales within the same State and farm slaughter. Number of head marketed includes all custom slaughter, but live weight marketed, shown in pounds, excludes custom slaughter consumed on farms where produced.

Production: Includes total live weight of animals marketed, farm slaughter, and custom slaughter consumed on farms where produced, minus live weight of inshipments, with an adjustment for any increase or decrease in live weight of inventory.

Value of Home Consumption: Total value of on-farm slaughter and custom slaughter consumed on the farm where produced.

2004 POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

WEST VIRGINIA -- There were 86.4 million **broilers produced** in West Virginia during 2004, 1 percent below 2003. Total live weight was 354.2 million pounds, down from the 357.5 million pounds in 2003. Value of production totaled \$155.8 million, up 28 percent from the \$121.6 million in 2003. The average live weight equivalent price of 44.0 cents per pound was up 10.0 cents from the previous year.

Turkeys raised in West Virginia totaled 3.2 million, down 26 percent from 2003. Total live weight was 70.7 million pounds, down 23 percent from 2003. Value of production totaled \$29.7 million, down 10 percent from 2003. The average live weight equivalent price was 42.0 cents per pound, up 6.0 cents from the 2003 price.

Egg production in West Virginia totaled 273 million eggs during 2004, up 1 percent from the revised number of 271 million eggs in 2003. The average price per dozen was 142.0 cents, down 9.0 cents from 2003. The total value of production was \$32.3 million, down 5 percent from the revised total value of \$34.1 million in 2003.

The **number of chickens sold** (excluding broilers) totaled 1.66 million head, 4 percent above the number sold in 2003. The number of pounds sold was 12.3 million pounds, virtually unchanged from 2003. Value of sales totaled \$1.1 million up 19 percent from 2003. Prices averaged 9.1 cents per pound, compared with 7.6 cents in 2003.

The **combined value of production and value of sales** from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2004, was \$219.0 million, up 15 percent from the revised combined value of \$189.7 million in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 15 percent from eggs, 14 percent from turkeys and less than 1 percent from sales of other chickens.

UNITED STATES – The **combined value of production** from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2004, was \$28.9 billion, up 24 percent from the \$23.3 billion in 2003. Of the combined total, 71 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 11 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of **broilers produced** during 2004 was \$20.4 billion, up 34 percent from 2003. The total number of broilers produced in 2004 was 8.74 billion, up 3 percent from 2003. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2004 was 45.8 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2003. The 2004 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 44.6 cents per pound, compared with 34.6 cents in 2003.

Value of all **egg production** in 2004 was \$5.30 billion, down 1 percent from the \$5.33 billion in 2003. Egg production totaled 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from the 87.5 billion eggs produced in 2003. In 2004, all eggs averaged 71.4 cents per dozen, compared with 73.2 cents in 2003.

The value of **turkeys produced** during 2004 was \$3.07 billion, up 14 percent from the \$2.70 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2004 totaled 7.30 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the 7.49 billion pounds produced in 2003. The average price received by producers during 2004 was 42.0 cents per pound, compared with 36.1 cents in 2003.

The value of **sales from chickens** (excluding broilers) in 2004 was \$58.0 million, up 21 percent from the \$47.8 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 4.9 cents in 2003. The number of chickens sold in 2004 totaled 192million, up 1 percent from the total sold during the previous

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year.

JUNE 2005 AGRICULTURAL SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the June Agricultural Survey from May 28 through June 14. Representatives from this office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. The information gathered is confidential and will be used to set State, Regional and National estimates of crops and grain stocks. Response to the survey is voluntary and farmers selected for the survey will be notified by mail. The survey provides information necessary to make objective, reliable and comprehensive estimates that are essential to an orderly marketing system. Only NASS, through its network of State Statistical Offices, can provide impartial statistics to farmers, agribusiness policy makers and the general public.

We depend on the cooperation of the producers in our sample. A high response rate will ensure that West Virginia agriculture is fully and accurately represented in the regional and national picture.

The results of this survey will be released beginning June 30. These results will appear in the July edition of the Mountain State Reporter.

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
Chickens & Eggs
June Crop Production
Farm Labor
Agricultural Chemical Usage-Field Crops
Poultry Slaughtered**

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER