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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

August Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA-Commercial red meat production during August 2005 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from August 2004 but up 105 percent from July 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 561,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from August 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,090 pounds, was up 98 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, down 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 252 pounds, was down 5 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 4.10 billion pounds in August, up 6 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in August 2004.

Beef production, at 2.32 billion pounds, was 8 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, up 6 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 1,267 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.7 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,600 head, down 10 percent from August 2004. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 347 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.98 million head, 3 percent above August 2004. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 263 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was up 1 percent from August 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 229,300 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 4 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2005 commercial red meat production was 30.0 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

August 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays. **August 2005** contained 23 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

August Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.56 billion during August 2005, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.46 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2005 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,219 eggs, up 1 percent from August 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2005, totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 341 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2005, averaged 71.6 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from August 2004.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 6 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during August 2005 totaled 39.0 million, up 6 percent from August 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.5 million on September 1, 2005, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 261,000 during August 2005, down 18 percent from August 2004.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up Slightly

Broiler-type chicks hatched during August 2005 totaled 812 million, up slightly from August 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 652 million on August 1, 2005, down slightly from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.48 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2005, up 3 percent from August 2004.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

October Crop Production

WEST VIRGINIA - The forecast for the 2005 **apple** production is 85 million pounds (2.02 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), down 3 million pounds from the August 1 forecast, but up 4 million pounds or 5 percent from the 2004 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 918,000 tons, down 4 percent from the 2004 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 540,000 acres in 2005, up 10,000 acres from 2004. Yield is expected to average 1.7 tons per acre, down from last year's yield of 1.8 tons. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2006.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is a record low 850,000 pounds, down 50 percent from 2004. This estimate, reflecting the 'tobacco buyout', is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

UNITED STATES - Apples: The final production forecast for the 2005 crop year is 9.38 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the August 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2004. Decreases in production were shown for all 7 forecasting States: Michigan, New York,

North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. Production forecasts for Arkansas, Kansas, and New Mexico are no longer available. Growers in the Eastern, Central, and Western apple producing regions are expecting decreases in production compared to the August 1 forecast.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures: Production is forecast at 75.9 million tons, up 3 percent from the August forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.43 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton from August but down 0.04 ton from 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 22.1 million acres, unchanged from August but up 2 percent from last year.

Other Hay: Production is forecast at 76.9 million tons, up 1 percent from August but down 7 percent from 2004. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.94 tons, up 0.02 ton from August but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 39.6 million acres, is unchanged from August but down 2 percent from the previous year.

Corn: Production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month but 8 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 146.1 bushels per acre, up 2.9 bushels from September but 14.3 bushels below last year. Forecast yields are either unchanged or higher than last month in all forecasting States, except Alabama and Mississippi. As harvest progresses, producers are finding the warm, dry conditions during July and August did not reduce yields as much as originally expected. Yields are better than last year in the northern tier States but are still well below last year's record highs in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 74.3 million acres of corn for grain, up 15,000 acres from September and up 1 percent from 2004.

Soybean: Production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the September forecast but 5 percent below 2004. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average 41.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from September but 0.6 bushel below last year's record high yield. Area planted is now estimated at 72.2 million acres, down 903,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 71.3 million acres, down 914,000 acres from September.

Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 640 million pounds, down 1 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent below 2004. Area for harvest is forecast at 307,010 acres, unchanged from September but down 25 percent from last year. If realized, this would be the smallest production since 1889 and the smallest acreage on record. Yields for 2005 are expected to average 2,083 pounds per acre, 16 pounds below last month's forecast and down 72 pounds from 2004.

Burley: Production is expected to total 192 million pounds, unchanged since the September forecast but down 34 percent from 2004. Growers plan to harvest 105,300 acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but 31 percent below last year. Yields are expected to average 1,826 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September forecast but 82 pounds less than a year ago.

SMALL GRAINS – ANNUAL SUMMARY
‘September Ag Survey Results’

2005 Small Grains Summary

WEST VIRGINIA - Winter wheat production for 2005 totaled 300,000 bushels, up 15 percent from 260,000 bushels in 2004. Harvested area for grain totaled 5,000 acres, unchanged from 2004. Area planted totaled 7,000 acres, down 12 percent from last year. The average yield of 60.0 bushels was up 8 bushels from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

UNITED STATES - All wheat production totaled 2.10 billion bushels in 2005, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 3 percent below 2004. Grain area is 50.0 million acres, down fractionally from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the August forecast and down 1.2 bushels from a year ago. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, down slightly; other spring wheat, 504 million bushels, down 11 percent; Durum wheat, 100 million bushels, up 11 percent.

Oat production is estimated at 115 million bushels, 10 percent below the August 1 forecast and 1 percent below last year's 116 million bushels. The estimated yield is 63.1 bushels per acre, down 1.6 bushels from August and also down 1.6 bushels from a year ago. Compared with last year, yields declined in all States except for those in the Southeast, central and northern Great Plains, and the middle Mississippi Valley. Harvested area is 1.82 million acres, 8 percent below the August 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year.

Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 24 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 64.8 bushels, is down 3.4 bushels from the previous forecast and 4.8 bushels below 2004. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.28 million acres, down 6 percent from August and 19 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1890, while production is the lowest since 1936. Area planted, area harvested, and production is down from last year in the 13 largest-producing States. However, the U.S. yield is the second highest on record and the yield for Colorado and Maryland are at record highs.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Highlights

Field Crops: Field crop data on restricted use pesticides were compiled from two surveys, the Agricultural Resource Management Survey and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project. Data collection occurred primarily during the months of September to December of 2004. Targeted crops included peanuts, soybeans, other spring wheat, and winter wheat. The Program States accounted for 81 to 99 percent of the U.S. acreage for these crops. Durum wheat does not appear in the publication because there were no restricted use chemicals applied to the crop.

A limited number of restricted use herbicides were applied to field crops in 2004. Paraquat was the most widely used restricted active ingredient, covering 36 percent of the peanut acres. The next most utilized herbicides were imazaquin and atrazine, both applied to 1 percent of the acreage and used on soybeans and winter wheat, respectively.

Several restricted use insecticides were used on peanuts. Aldicarb was the most commonly used restricted insecticide, applied to 27 percent of the acreage; followed by phorate, applied to 24 percent; and lambda-cyhalothrin and methomyl, both applied to 9 percent of the acreage. With the exception of chlorpyrifos, which was used to treat 3 percent of the winter wheat acreage, all other active ingredients were applied to 1 percent or less for the other program commodities.

Vegetable Crops: Growers in 20 Program States were surveyed to obtain restricted chemical use data on 23 selected vegetable crops in 2004. The data on restricted use applications cover the period immediately following harvest of the 2003 crop through harvest of the 2004 crop. There were no restricted use chemicals applied to the following crops: processed carrots, garlic, honeydews, and processed green peas. There was not enough application coverage to publish any restricted use chemical data for fresh market carrots.

A wide variety of restricted use pesticides were applied to vegetable crops in 2004. Atrazine was used on 69 percent of the processed sweet corn acreage and on 67 percent of the fresh market sweet corn acreage. Pronamide was the next most utilized restricted herbicide, applied to 35 percent of the other lettuce acreage and 25 percent of the head lettuce acreage. Paraquat was applied to 31 percent of the fresh market tomato acres, followed by applications of 10 percent for both asparagus and fresh market cucumbers.

Several restricted use insecticides were used extensively on vegetable crops in the Program States. Lambda-cyhalothrin was applied to 65 percent of processed lima beans, 59 percent of fresh market sweet corn, and 46 percent of bulb onions, while 37 percent of

the processed sweet corn, 34 percent of the head lettuce, and 32 percent of the other lettuce acreage were also reported as treated with this restricted active ingredient. Methomyl was used on 46 percent of the fresh market sweet corn acreage, as well as on 33 percent of the bulb onion acres, 32 percent of the head lettuce, 31 percent of the bell pepper acres, and 30 percent of the other lettuce acres. Oxydemeton-methyl, a restricted use insecticide, was used on 55 percent of the broccoli acreage, 39 percent of the cauliflower acres, and 35 percent of the head lettuce acreage. Other restricted use insecticides applied to more than 30 percent of the planted acres were permethrin on other lettuce and spinach, disulfoton on asparagus, and oxamyl on celery.

Other restricted use insecticides applied to 20 percent or more of planted acres were lambda-cyhalothrin on cauliflower and fresh market tomatoes, permethrin on head lettuce, methomyl on strawberries, alachlor on processed sweet corn, and cyfluthrin on fresh market tomatoes.

The only restricted use fungicides was chlorothalonil, applied to 2 percent of strawberries. Restricted use pesticides used as "other chemicals" included methyl bromide and chloropicrin. Methyl bromide was used on 42 percent of the fresh market tomato acreage, 33 percent of the strawberry acres, and 31 percent of the bell pepper acreage. Chloropicrin was used on 48 percent of the fresh market tomato acreage, 32 percent of the strawberry acres, and 21 percent of the bell pepper acreage.

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MILK PRODUCTION

Third Quarter Milk Production

WEST VIRGINIA-Milk production in West Virginia totaled 48 million pounds during the July - September quarter of 2005. This was up 1 million pounds from the same quarter last year, but down 1 million pounds from the revised April - June 2005 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES-Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 44.0 billion pounds, up 4.2 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 27,000 head more than the same period last year.

**Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
November Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Agricultural Chemical Usage**

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER