



AG UPDATE

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January to September 2004 commercial red meat production was 33.8 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

Red Meat Production, Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Sept. 2003	Aug. 2004	Sept. 2004	January-September	
				2003	2004
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	165.2	176.1	176.2	1,560.6	1,513.0
United States:	4,014.3	3,878.4	3,905.3	35,001.0	33,793.0
Beef	2,314.0	2,151.0	2,104.0	20,265.0	18,449.0
Veal	15.3	14.0	13.0	141.2	126.0
Pork	1,668.0	1,698.0	1,772.0	14,447.0	15,074.0
Lamb & Mutton	16.9	15.1	16.3	147.5	143.9

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER SEPTEMBER 2004

Red meat production in **Colorado** during September 2004 totaled 176.2 million pounds, up 7 percent from 165.2 million pounds a year earlier but unchanged from one month ago. **Cattle** kill during September was up 2 percent from a year earlier to 210,300 head and the average live weight increased 42 pounds to 1,270 per head. **Hog** slaughter, at 1,800 head, was up 100 head from a year earlier but the average live weight of 237 pounds was 20 pounds below the previous year. **Accumulated red meat production** for the January-September period this year, at 1.51 billion pounds, is 3 percent below the same period last year.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 3.91 billion pounds in September, down 3 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in September 2003. **Beef production**, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.74 million head, down 13 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was up 38 pounds from the previous year, at 1,266 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 15 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,300 head, down 18 percent from September 2003. The average live weight was 13 pounds above last year, at 321 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.77 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.00 million head, 5 percent above September 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 265 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.3 million pounds, was down 4 percent from September 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 243,600 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 2 pounds from September a year ago.

CATTLE ON FEED OCTOBER 1, 2004

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,020,000 head as of October 1, 2004. The latest inventory was up 10 percent from September 1, 2004 and up 7 percent from the 950,000 on feed on October 1, 2003. The inventory included 605,000 steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 410,000 head, was up 12 percent while cows and bulls were unchanged at 5,000 head. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 180,000 head of fed cattle during September 2004. This was 20 percent above August 2004 marketings of 150,000 head but 10 percent below a year ago. An estimated 275,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September, up 8 percent from a year ago and 34 percent above August 2004 placements of 205,000. Of the number placed in September, 11 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 47 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from September 2003 and August 2004.

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,020,000 head as of October 1, 2004. The latest inventory was up 10 percent from September 1, 2004 and up 7 percent from the 950,000 on feed on October 1, 2003. The inventory included 605,000 steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 410,000 head, was up 12 percent while cows and bulls were unchanged at 5,000 head. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or

larger capacity marketed an estimated 180,000 head of fed cattle during September 2004. This was 20 percent above August 2004 marketings of 150,000 head but 10 percent below a year ago. An estimated 275,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during September, up 8 percent from a year ago and 34 percent above August 2004 placements of 205,000. Of the number placed in September, 11 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 24 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 47 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for September, at 5,000 head, was unchanged from September 2003 and August 2004.

**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000 Plus Capacity, Sept. 1 to Oct 1, 2003-2004**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 head			
On Feed Sept. 1	900	930	9,839	9,973
Placements During Sept.	255	275	2,474	2,374
< 600 pounds	41	30	698	623
600 - 699 Pounds	46	50	545	474
700 - 799 Pounds	78	65	610	557
800 Plus Pounds	90	130	621	720
Marketings During Sept.	200	180	2,032	1,800
Other Disap. During Sept.	5	5	63	61
On Feed Oct 1.	950	1,020	10,218	10,486
Steers & Steer Calves	580	605	6,243	6,462
Heifers & Heifer Calves	365	410	3,911	3,964
Cows & Bulls	5	5	64	60

**CHICKENS AND EGG PRODUCTION
SEPTEMBER 2004**

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during September 2004 compared with 87 million during the same month a year earlier and 95 million during August of this year. The average number of layers for the month, at 3.94 million, was 2 percent above September 2003 and 1 percent above August 2004. The rate of lay for September 2004 was 2,336 eggs per 100 layers compared with 2,256 during September 2003 and 2,437 in August 2004.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.32 billion during September 2004, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.26 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2004 averaged 343 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,133 eggs, up slightly from September 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on October 1, 2004, totaled 344 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 344 million layers consisted of 285 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2004, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.84 billion eggs during September 2004, up 3 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during September, at 321 million, was up 3 percent from a year ago.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Field crop data on restricted use pesticides were compiled from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) in 35 Program States. Targeted crops in the 2003 ARMS included barley, corn, fall potatoes, sorghum, and upland cotton. The Program States accounted for 80 to 96 percent of the U.S. acreage for these crops.

Acetic acid was the most widely used restricted use herbicide on acres planted to barley. When reviewing total pounds of insecticide applied, methyl parathion and disulfoton were applied at the highest rates and highest total pounds applied of the other restricted use insecticides used on barley.

Atrazine was again the most widely used restricted use herbicide applied to corn, with 68 percent of the corn acres treated. Acetochlor was used on 26 percent of the corn acres. Restricted use insecticides were applied to a range of less than 1 percent to 7 percent of the corn planted acres. Cyfluthrin and tebufos were both applied to 7 percent of the acres planted to corn. Though one of the smaller percentages of area applied, terbufos had the largest total pounds applied, at 1,660,000.

EPTC, a restricted use herbicide, was applied on 20 percent of the fall potatoes planted acreage. Cyfluthrin, esfenvalerate, and methamidophos were the three most commonly applied active ingredients reported in the restricted insecticides class for fall potatoes. Metam-sodium, a soil fumigant, was applied to 25 percent of the fall potato acres.

Sorghum at 70 percent of the acres treated, atrazine was not only the highest herbicide restricted use active ingredient, but it was also applied on the highest percentage of acres as compared to all the restricted use pesticides on the five field commodities in this publication. Alachlor was the next most widely used restricted use herbicide, applied to 11 percent of the sorghum planted acres.

Fruit crop growers in 12 Program States were surveyed to obtain chemical use data on 24 selected fruit crops in 2003. The data on restricted use applications cover the period immediately following harvest of the 2002 crop through harvest of the 2003 crop. A limited number of restricted use herbicides were applied to fruit crops in 2003. Paraquat was applied to many of the targeted crops, at application percentages ranging up to 74 percent of the raspberries acreage.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

OCTOBER 15, 2004

The preliminary **All Farm Products Index of Prices Received** in October, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 4 points (3.5 percent) below the September Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 6 points (5.4 percent) from September while

the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, oranges, grapes, and cucumbers. Lower prices were received for corn, soybeans, hogs, broilers, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of soybeans, corn, and cotton offset decreased marketings of dairy, grapes, and sweet corn. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from October 2003.

The October **All Crops Index** is 106, down 5.4 percent from September and 4.5 percent from October 2003. The October all wheat price, at \$3.38 per bushel, is up 2 cents from September but down 6 cents from October 2003. The corn price, at \$1.89 per bushel, is down 31 cents from September and 23 cents below the October 2003 price. The soybean price, at \$5.07 per bushel, decreased 77 cents from September and is \$1.53 below October 2003. The all potato price, at \$4.74 per cwt, is down 53 cents from the previous month and 29 cents below last October. The dry edible bean price, at \$25.30 per cwt, rose \$2.40 from the September average price and is \$7.50 above a year ago.

The October **Livestock & Products Index**, at 117, is down 0.8 percent from last month but up 0.9 percent from October 2003. The October hog price of \$51.40 per cwt is down \$3.40 from September but up \$14.70 from a year ago. The October beef cattle price of \$86.40 is up \$0.60 from last month but down \$5.10 from October 2003. The October all milk price of \$15.50 per cwt is up \$0.10 from last month and up \$0.50 from October 2003.

**Prices Received and Paid Summary
United States**

Index 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004	
	Sept.	Oct.	Sept.	Oct.
	Percent			
Prices Received	111	113	115	111
Prices Paid	128	129	134	134
Ratio 1/	87	88	86	83

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates.

Colorado's mid-October prices for most crop items averaged lower than a year ago except for corn, potatoes, and alfalfa hay. Compared with September 2004, declines were noted for all crop items except all barley and hay which was unchanged. All livestock items averaged higher than a year ago but were either unchanged or declined from the previous month. Wheat, at \$3.13 per bushel, averaged 17 cents below October 2003 and 6 cents below September of this year. Corn averaged \$2.36 per bushel in mid-October this year, up 9 cents from the previous year but down 36 cents from last month. Potato prices decreased 5 cents per cwt from last month to \$5.90 per cwt but averaged 90 cents above the October 2003 average of \$5.00 per cwt.

Alfalfa hay prices unchanged from last month but were \$1.00 above a year ago to \$86.00 per ton. Other hay prices, at \$80.00 per ton, were unchanged per ton from September 2004 but

were down \$16.00 from October 2003. Steer and heifer prices were unchanged from September at \$111.00 per cwt but averaged \$11.00 per cwt above last year. Cows, at \$52.00 per cwt, were down \$4.10 from last month but averaged \$3.50 above October 2003. Calves averaged \$130.00 for mid-October, down \$5.00 from last month but up \$16.00 per cwt from a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Oct. 2003	Sept. 2004	Oct. 2004
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.30	3.19	3.13
Corn	Bu.	2.27	2.72	2.36
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.20	3.11	3.14
Potatoes	Cwt	5.00	5.95	5.90
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.00	26.20	2/
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	85.00	86.00	86.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	96.00	80.00	80.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	99.50	110.00	110.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	100.00	111.00	111.00
Cows	Cwt	48.50	56.10	52.00
Calves	Cwt	114.00	135.00	130.00
Sheep	Cwt	34.60	44.40	3/
Lambs	Cwt	96.30	96.60	3/
		United States		
Crops		Dollars		
Wheat	Bu.	3.44	3.36	3.38
Corn	Bu.	2.12	2.20	1.89
Soybeans	Bu.	6.60	5.84	5.07
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.74	2.43	2.36
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.24	1.64	1.57
Sorghum	Cwt	3.98	3.59	3.06
Potatoes	Cwt	5.03	5.27	4.74
Dry edible beans	Cwt	17.80	22.90	25.30
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	89.10	95.50	97.80
Other hay (baled)	Ton	69.20	65.70	68.60
Onions	Cwt	12.60	11.80	11.20
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	91.50	85.80	86.40
Steers & heifers	Cwt	97.80	89.30	91.10
Cows	Cwt	44.60	53.10	50.40
Calves	Cwt	112.00	129.00	127.00
Sheep	Cwt	35.00	41.80	3/
Lambs	Cwt	96.80	101.00	3/
Hogs	Cwt	36.70	54.80	51.40
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	15.00	15.40	15.50
Broilers	Lb.	0.370	0.400	0.390

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

3/ Mid-month prices discontinued.

(Continued from page 2)

Nursery and floriculture data include pesticide use in calendar year 2003 related to the production of nursery and floriculture crops in 6 major producing states: California, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Trained enumerators personally interviewed nursery and floriculture operators or managers to obtain information on chemical applications made on sampled operations. A wide variety of restricted use active ingredients were reported for all nursery and floriculture. The most common restricted use herbicide applied by producers in the 6 Program States to nursery and floriculture products was atrazine, at 40,100 total pounds. Numerous restricted use insecticide active ingredients were reported on nursery and floriculture products. When comparing total pounds applied, permethrin and diflubenzuron were the two most heavily applied restricted use insecticides.

COLD STORAGE SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on September 30, 2004 were greater than year earlier levels for chicken, beef, eggs, fruit, orange juice, and cheese. Butter stocks were down 16 percent from last month and down 35 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 6 percent from last month and up 9 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 9 percent from last month, but down 2 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 25 percent from last month, but up 12 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on September 30, 2004 were 1 percent below the previous month, but 3 percent above a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 7 percent from the previous month and up 27 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 12 percent from last month and down 18 percent from September 30, 2003.

Public cooler occupancy on September 30, 2004, was at 51 percent of capacity, up 11 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 64 percent, up 6 points from last year.

Stocks in Storage, United States

Commodity	Sept. 30,	Aug. 31,	Sept. 30,
	2003	2004	2004
1,000 Pounds			
Butter	207,175	161,025	134,858
Cheese, total natural . .	762,153	811,521	788,368
Eggs, frozen	16,640	17,267	18,705
Poultry, total frozen . .	1,254,960	1,316,623	1,297,527
Chicken	604,501	715,469	766,608
Turkey	647,535	600,185	530,046
Fruits, frozen	930,374	1,039,966	1,029,147
Fruit Juices, frozen . . .	1,813,012	2,205,431	2,000,396
Vegetables, total frozen	2,433,463	1,996,980	2,428,333
Potatoes, total frozen .	1,151,698	1,127,031	1,186,886
Meats, total red	832,125	849,458	904,620
Beef, total frozen . . .	379,828	445,994	463,191
Pork, total frozen . . .	435,152	389,667	426,406

Data for this report are collected from public and private refrigerated warehouses storing commodities for 30 days or more. Stocks in space owned or leased by the Armed Forces are excluded. Food stocks held under bond are included in the storage data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide

Web at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- Nov. 12 - Crop Production
- Nov. 16 - Milk Production
- Nov. 19 - Cold Storage
- Nov. 19 - Cattle on Feed
- Nov. 19 - Livestock Slaughter
- Nov. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Nov. 30 - Agricultural Prices

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