



AG UPDATE - SPECIAL ISSUE

2003 ANNUAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

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L L SURVEY RESULTS

Special thanks to those who continue to supply the basic data needed to prepare reliable agricultural statistics for all data users.

This special issue of **AG UPDATE** is prepared primarily for those producers who requested survey results through their participation in one or more of the numerous agricultural surveys conducted by this office during the October 2003--January 2004 time period. If you are not already receiving **AG UPDATE** twice each month and would like to receive future issues, please notify this office by returning the address portion from this issue or by calling the toll free number in Lakewood at (800-392-3202). This report as well as other NASS and Colorado reports are also available on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass>

FIELD CROPS

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The estimated value of production for Colorado's principal field crops (excluding sugar beets) totaled just over \$1.18 billion in 2003, up 5 percent from the comparable value of \$1.13 billion in 2002. The 2002 crop of sugar beets was valued at \$29.2 million but no value has yet been determined for the 2003 crop. The value of production from the state's four leading crops (hay, corn, wheat and potatoes) totaled \$1.09 billion for the 2003 crops and accounted for 92.2 percent of the total value from all crops (excluding sugar beets). The severe drought conditions during 2002 improved somewhat in 2003 and resulted in higher production than the previous year for each crop except corn silage, spring wheat, sugar beets, dry beans and fall potatoes. The hot dry weather and water shortages continued into 2003, especially along the South Platt River, the southeast and in the San Luis Valley where potato growers voluntarily reduced plantings of that crop by 7 percent.

Hay continued to be Colorado's leading crop in value of production. The value of all hay production dropped 2 percent from the previous year to \$352.2 million but still accounted for 29.8 percent of the total value from all crops produced excluding sugarbeets. Value of the 2003 alfalfa hay crop, at \$230.4 million, was down 11 percent from the previous year as a 21 percent drop in the average price per ton more than offset a 13 percent increase in the total production. Producers harvested 800,000 acres of alfalfa in 2003 and increased per acre yields to 3.20 tons per acre. However, prices for the 2003 crop averaged \$90 per ton compared with \$114 per ton for the 2002 crop which more than offset the larger crop produced.

The value of production for all other hay increased 21 percent to \$121.8 million as a 42 percent increase in production to 1.05 million tons more than offset a 15 percent drop in the average price per ton. While the drought conditions continued into 2003 in some areas of the state, other areas experienced better haying

conditions in 2003 than they did in 2002 resulting in more acres harvested and improved per acre yields. These factors increased production from the previous year but prices for the 2003 crop averaged \$116 per ton compared with \$136 per ton average for the 2002 crop.

Corn was the state's second leading crop produced in the state in terms of total value of production. The combined value of corn for grain and corn for silage was estimated at just under \$348.0 million for the 2003 crop, down 5 percent from the comparable value of \$367.0 million for the 2002 crop. The 2003 corn for grain crop was valued at \$306.4 million, representing 25.9 percent of the total value from all crops excluding sugar beets. Producers harvested 890,000 acres of corn for grain in 2003, up 24 percent from the previous year. However, total production was up only 7 percent to 120.2 million bushels because the average yield of 135.0 bushels per acre was 21.0 bushels per acre below the 2002 crop average. The lower per acre yield resulted from an increase in dryland corn acres harvested as well as a shortage of irrigation water in some areas. Prices for the 2003 crop are expected to average \$2.55 per ton, only slightly better than the previous year. Producers harvested a more normal number of acres of **corn for silage** in 2003, down 55 percent to 90,000 acres from 200,000 acres a year earlier. However, production declined only 47 percent to 1.89 million tons as producers averaged 21.0 tons per acre for the 2003 crop compared with 18.0 tons the previous year. Much of the decline in silage acres came from the large number of acres of dryland corn in 2002 which was planted for grain but was harvested as silage because it had no chance to make a grain crop due to the drought. A slightly lower average price received for corn silage in 2003 resulted in a total value of production of \$41.6 million, down 50 percent from the value of the 2002 crop.

Wheat moved up to a third place ranking in value of production for 2003 with a total value of \$262.6 million even though the latest crop was valued at nearly double the \$139.7 million received for the drought reduced 2002 crop. The value of the winter wheat crop, at just under \$258.0 million, was up 96 percent while the value of the spring wheat crop declined 41

percent to \$4.6 million. The 2003 winter wheat crop of 77.0 million bushels was more than double the 36.3 million bushel crop produced in 2002 which was the smallest crop since 1967. The 2.2 million acres harvested in 2003 was 33 percent above the previous year. In addition, producers averaged 35.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop compared with 22.0 bushels in 2002 which further contributed to the larger production. The 2003 spring wheat crop totaled 1.16 million bushels, down 46 percent from the previous year. Growers harvested 29,000 acres last year compared with 24,000 acres in 2002. However, the average yield for all harvested acres dropped from 90 bushels per acre in 2002 to just 40.0 bushels per acre from the 2003 crop. Much of the decline resulted from fewer acres of spring wheat being produced in the usually high yielding San Luis Valley combined with water shortages in other producing areas. Overall wheat prices for the 2003 crop are expected to average \$3.35 per bushel, down \$0.28 per bushel from the average of \$3.63 received for the 2002 crop.

Potatoes ranked fourth in terms of value of production with the 2003 crop value estimated at just under \$126.8 million, down 34 percent from \$192.2 million received for the 2002 crop. The summer potato crop was 12 percent larger than the 2002 crop but the fall potato crop declined 15 percent from the previous year. Prices for both summer and fall potatoes are expected to average below the previous year, causing the total value of production for all potatoes to drop significantly below the previous year. The acreage harvested for fall potatoes was down 8 percent from a year earlier to 65,700 acres and overall production was pushed even lower as per acre yields averaged 360 cwt per acre, 30 cwt per acre below the 2002 crop. Fall potatoes are expected to average \$4.80 per cwt this year compared with \$6.25 per cwt a year earlier. Total value of the 2003 fall crop is estimated at \$113.5 million, down 35 percent from the \$174.3 million received from the 2002 crop. Summer potato harvested area, at 6,700 acres, increased 6 percent from the previous year. Per acre yields increased 20 cwt per acre from the previous year to 380 cwt per acre. However, summer potato prices are expected to average only \$5.20 per cwt for the 2003 crop, \$2.70 per cwt below the previous year. The 2003 crop was valued at \$13.2 million, down 26 percent from the previous year.

The 2003 **barley** crop has an estimated value of \$27.3 million, up 25 percent from the 2002 crop value of \$21.9 million. Producers harvested 82,000 acres in 2003, up 10,000 acres (14 percent) from a year earlier and experienced a 9.0 bushel increase in the average yield from the previous year to 109.0 bushels per acre. The 24 percent increase in production to 8.9 million bushels was also accompanied by slightly higher prices which averaged \$3.05 per bushel for the latest crop compared with \$3.04 for the 2002 crop.

Sugarbeet production totaled just 644,000 tons in 2003, down 19 percent from the 2002 crop of 794,000 tons to the smallest crop since 1985. The 27,400 acres harvested represented a decline of 31 percent from the previous year as potential water shortages at planting time caused many producers to shift to lower water use crops. Producers averaged 23.5 tons per acre from the 2003 crop, up 3.4 tons per acre from the previous year. The 2002 crop was valued at \$29.2 million. No value has yet been determined for the 2003 crop, but it is expected to be lower due to the lower production.

The **dry edible bean** crop produced in 2003 was valued at \$20.4 million, down 24 percent from the previous year. Dry edible bean producers harvested the lowest acreage of that crop since 1921, even though the acreage was up 3,000 acres (4 percent) from the previous year to 73,000 acres in 2003. However, an average yield of 16.00 cwt per acre was obtained for the 2003 crop which was 5.70 cwt below a year earlier. The lower yield reflects more acres of dryland beans being harvested in 2003 than were harvested in the drought of 2002 when very few acres of dryland beans were harvested. Total production of 1.17 million cwt was down 23 percent from the 2002 crop. In addition, prices received for the latest crop are expected to average \$17.50 per cwt, down \$0.20 per cwt from the average of \$17.70 per cwt received for the previous year's crop.

Proso millet production in 2003 had an estimated value of \$14.6 million, more than double the value of the 2002 crop. Producers harvested 285,000 acres of proso millet in 2003, three times more acres than they did in 2002. In addition, per acre yields averaged 19.0 bushels per acre from the latest crop compared with just 10.0 bushels per acre for the 2002 crop. Total production, at 5.4 million bushels, was nearly six times larger than the 2002 crop. However, prices for the 2003 crop averaged just \$2.70 per bushel, well below the \$7.40 per bushel average received for the 2002 crop which partially offset the large increase in production.

The 2003 crop of **sunflowers** was valued at \$13.6 million, up 76 percent from the 2002 crop value of \$7.8 million. Producers harvested 48 percent more acres of all sunflowers in 2003 than they did in 2002. In addition, per acre yields also averaged 34 percent higher than the previous year, resulting in a 97 percent increase in production. Production of oil varieties, at 85.0 million pounds, more than doubled that of a year earlier and non-oil production increased 59 percent to 33.3 million pounds. Although prices for the 2003 crop averaged lower than the previous year, value of the oil crop is estimated at \$9.0 million and the non-oil crop is placed at \$4.6 million, up 85 percent and up 60 percent, respectively.

The combined production of **grain and silage sorghum** had an estimated value of just under \$13.6 million for the 2003 crop compared with \$6.8 million the previous year. Sorghum for grain production in 2003 totaled 4.3 million bushels, up from 1.8 million produced a year earlier. Producers harvested 160,000 acres for grain in 2003, up from 90,000 acres a year earlier. In addition, the 2003 crop averaged 27.0 bushels per acre compared with 20.0 bushels in 2002. Total value of production of grain sorghum totaled \$9.9 million compared with \$4.1 million the previous year. Sorghum silage production, at 210,000 tons, increased 56 percent from 2002 as producers harvested the same number of acres but realized higher per acre yields. Total value of the 2003 crop was estimated at \$3.7 million, up 40 percent from the \$2.6 million crop produced in 2002.

The value of **oats** production in Colorado for the 2003 crop totaled \$2.0 million, up 77 percent from \$1.2 million for the 2002 crop. The harvested acreage increased from 8,000 acres in 2002 to 15,000 acres in 2003. Per acre yields averaged 65.0 bushels per acre for the 2003 crop compared with 50.0 bushels the previous year. Total production, at 975,000 bushels was more than double the 400,000 bushel crop produced in 2002.

HAY STOCKS

DECEMBER 1, 2003

Stocks of all hay on farms across the **United States** as of December 1, 2003 totaled 111 million tons, up 7 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from May 2003 - December 2003 totaled 68.5 million tons, compared to 69.8 million tons for the same period a year ago. Disappearance is down from last year due to improved pasture conditions, which decreased the need for supplemental hay feeding. Thirty of the 48 reporting states had higher hay stocks than last year. Most of the states reporting an increase in stocks were located in the northern and central Rocky Mountains, northern and central Great Plains, eastern Corn Belt, Ohio Valley, and the Southeast.

Colorado farm and ranch operators had 1.84 million tons of hay on hand as of December 1, 2003, up 18 percent from the 1.56 million tons on hand one year earlier but 7 percent below two years ago. While May 1, 2003 stocks were 33 percent below the previous year, hay production during 2003 increased 20 percent which increased total hay supplies.

GRAIN STOCKS

DECEMBER 1, 2003

All Wheat stocks in **Colorado's** farm and commercial storage facilities as of December 1, 2003 totaled 47.1 million bushels, up 20 percent from 39.2 million bushels on hand a year earlier. Farm stocks increased 36 percent to 15.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks were up 14 percent to 32.1 million. All wheat stocks for the **United States** on December 1, 2003 totaled 1.52 billion bushels, up 15 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 492 million bushels, up 28 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 1.03 billion bushels, are up 10 percent from a year ago. The indicated September - November 2003 disappearance is 518 million bushels, up 20 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Colorado corn stocks were down 9 percent from the previous year to 74.5 million bushels. Farm stocks were down 11 percent to 47.0 million bushels and off-farm stocks declined 4 percent to 27.5 million bushels. The **U. S.** corn stocks totaled 7.94 billion bushels, up 4 percent from December 1, 2002. Of the total stocks, 5.29 billion bushels are stored on farms, up 10 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.66 billion bushels, are down 6 percent from the previous year. The September - November 2003 indicated disappearance is 3.26 billion bushels, compared with 2.97 billion bushels during the same period last year.

Soybeans stored in all positions in the **United States** on December 1, 2003 totaled 1.69 billion bushels, down 20 percent from December 1, 2002. On-farm stocks totaled 820 million bushels, down 30 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 866 million bushels, are down 8 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance for September - November 2003 totaled 910 million bushels, up 8 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Barley stocks in the **U.S.** on December 1, 2003 totaled 198 million bushels, up 16 percent from December 1, 2002. On-farm stocks are estimated at 97.2 million bushels, 17 percent above a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 101 million bushels, are

16 percent above December 2002. Indicated disappearance during the September - November 2003 quarter totaled 43.7 million bushels, down 19 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions in the **U.S.** on December 1, 2003 totaled 234 million bushels, up 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 45.2 million bushels, are down 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 189 million bushels, are up 6 percent from December 1, 2002. The September - November 2003 indicated disappearance from all positions is 221 million bushels, up 11 percent from the same period in 2002.

Oats stored in all positions in the **U.S.** on December 1, 2003 totaled 119 million bushels, 15 percent above the stocks on December 1, 2002. Of the total stocks on hand, 64.3 million bushels are stored on farms, 22 percent more than a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 54.9 million bushels, 7 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during September - November 2003 totaled 12.5 million bushels, up 58 percent from the same period a year ago.

Colorado's on farm storage capacity was rated at 170 million bushels as of December 1, 2003, down from 180 million bushels one year earlier. The **off-farm storage capacity** increased 3 percent from December 1, 2002 to 117.1 million bushels. On farm capacity for the **United States** declined slightly from a year ago to 11.0 billion bushels and off-farm storage capacity was down fractionally to 8.50 billion bushels as of December 1, 2003.

Grain Stocks
Colorado and United States, December 1, 2002-2003

Grain and Position 1/	Colorado		United States	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
1,000 Bushels				
All wheat				
On farms . . .	11,000	15,000	384,800	491,925
Off farms . . .	28,200	32,130	935,069	1,029,159
Total	39,200	47,130	1,319,869	1,521,084
Corn				
On farms . . .	53,000	47,000	4,800,000	5,286,000
Off farms . . .	28,480	27,470	2,837,971	2,658,779
Total	81,480	74,470	7,637,971	7,944,779
Barley				
On farms . . .	2/	2/	83,400	97,200
Off farms . . .	6,875	8,630	86,601	100,684
Total	2/	2/	170,001	197,884
Oats				
On farms . . .	2/	2/	52,500	64,300
Off farms . . .	86	107	51,284	54,918
Total	2/	2/	103,784	119,218
Sorghum				
On farms . . .	2/	2/	53,600	45,200
Off farms . . .	1,175	1,685	178,252	188,507
Total	2/	2/	231,852	233,707
Soybeans				
On farms . . .	3/	3/	1,170,000	820,000
Off farms . . .	2/	2/	943,373	866,381
Total	2/	2/	2,113,373	1,686,381

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

2/ Not published separately.

3/ Not estimated.

CROPS: Acreage, production and value, Colorado and United States, 2002

Area and Crop	Planted Acreage	Harvested Acreage	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price Per Unit	Value of Production
	1,000 acres			Units	1,000 Units	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Colorado:							
Corn for grain <u>1/</u>	1,200	720	Bu.	156.0	112,320	2.53	284,170
Corn for silage . . . . .	...	200	Tons	18.0	3,600	23.00	82,800
Sorghum for grain <u>1/</u>	350	90	Bu.	20.0	1,800	2.30	4,133
Sorghum for silage . . . . .	...	15	Tons	9.0	135	19.50	2,633
All Wheat	2,375	1,674	Bu.	23.0	38,460	3.63	139,675
Winter Wheat	2,350	1,650	Bu.	22.0	36,300	3.63	131,769
Spring Wheat	25	24	Bu.	90.0	2,160	3.66	7,906
Oats	65	8	Bu.	50.0	400	2.90	1,160
Barley	85	72	Bu.	100.0	7,200	3.04	21,888
Proso Millet	220	95	Bu.	10.0	950	7.40	7,030
All Hay . . . . .	...	1,350	Tons	2.22	3,003	116.00	358,644
Alfalfa Hay . . . . .	...	780	Tons	2.90	2,262	114.00	257,868
Other Hay . . . . .	...	570	Tons	1.30	741	136.00	100,776
Sugar beets	43.9	39.5	Tons	20.1	794	36.80	29,219
Dry edible beans	92.0	70.0	Cwt	21.70	1,519	17.70	26,886
All Sunflowers	130	80	Lbs.	750	60,000	<u>4/</u> 12.90	7,752
Sunflowers, Oil	95	60	Lbs.	650	39,000	<u>4/</u> 12.50	4,875
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	35	20	Lbs.	1050	21,000	<u>4/</u> 13.70	2,877
All potatoes	78.0	77.8	Cwt	388	30,153	6.40	192,198
Summer potatoes	6.4	6.3	Cwt	360	2,268	7.90	17,917
Fall potatoes	71.6	71.5	Cwt	390	27,885	6.25	174,281
United States:							
Corn for grain <u>1/</u>	79,054	69,313	Bu.	130.0	9,007,659	2.32	20,974,734
Corn for silage . . . . .	...	7,490	Tons	14.0	104,979	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
Sorghum for grain <u>1/</u>	9,580	7,299	Bu.	50.7	369,758	2.32	876,471
Sorghum for silage . . . . .	...	352	Tons	9.5	3,360	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
All wheat <u>2/</u>	60,468	45,917	Bu.	35.3	1,619,001	3.56	5,679,400
Winter Wheat	41,845	29,751	Bu.	38.5	1,145,602	3.41	3,835,339
Spring Wheat	15,714	13,463	Bu.	29.3	393,949	3.82	1,516,361
Oats	4,995	2,093	Bu.	56.7	118,628	1.81	216,127
Barley	5,071	4,129	Bu.	54.9	226,573	2.72	603,796
Rye	1,395	281	Bu.	24.8	6,955	3.38	23,511
Proso Millet	450	220	Bu.	12.5	2,755	7.22	19,882
All Hay . . . . .	...	64,497	Tons	2.34	150,962	92.40	12,450,234
Alfalfa Hay . . . . .	...	23,135	Tons	3.19	73,824	100.00	7,193,786
Other Hay . . . . .	...	41,362	Tons	1.86	77,138	73.80	5,256,448
Sugar beets	1,427.3	1,361.1	Tons	20.4	27,718	39.30	1,089,287
Dry edible beans	1,922.1	1,726.9	Cwt	17.36	29,974	17.10	513,793
All Sunflowers	2,580	2,180	Lbs.	1,142	2,489,606	<u>4/</u> 12.10	299,638
Sunflowers, Oil	2,125	1,815	Lbs.	1,140	2,069,780	<u>4/</u> 11.70	242,322
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	455	365	Lbs.	1,150	419,826	<u>4/</u> 13.70	57,316
All potatoes <u>3/</u>	1,304.6	1,270.3	Cwt	362	459,802	6.69	3,063,597
Summer potatoes	62.2	59.1	Cwt	304	17,985	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
Fall potatoes	1,138.8	1,109.4	Cwt	373	414,317	<u>5/</u>	<u>5/</u>
Soybeans	73,923	72,437	Bu.	38.0	2,749,340	5.53	15,214,595

1/ Planted all purposes. 2/ Includes Durum.

3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Dollars per hundredweight. 5/ Not available.

CROPS: Acreage, production and value, Colorado and United States, 2003

Area and Crop	Planted Acreage	Harvested Acreage	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price Per Unit	Value of Production
	1,000 acres			Units	1,000 Units	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Colorado:							
Corn for grain <u>1/</u>	1,080	890	Bu.	135.0	120,150	2.55	306,383
Corn for silage . . . . .	...	90	Tons	21.0	1,890	22.00	41,580
Sorghum for grain <u>1/</u>	270	160	Bu.	27.0	4,320	2.30	9,919
Sorghum for silage . . . . .	...	15	Tons	14.0	210	17.50	3,675
All Wheat	2,630	2,229	Bu.	35.1	78,160	3.35	262,590
Winter Wheat	2,600	2,200	Bu.	35.0	77,000	3.35	257,950
Spring Wheat	30	29	Bu.	40.0	1,160	4.00	4,640
Oats	100	15	Bu.	65.0	975	2.10	2,048
Barley	85	82	Bu.	109.0	8,938	3.05	27,261
Proso Millet	320	285	Bu.	19.0	5,415	2.70	14,621
All Hay . . . . .	...	1,500	Tons	2.41	3,610	92.50	352,200
Alfalfa Hay . . . . .	...	800	Tons	3.20	2,560	90.00	230,400
Other Hay . . . . .	...	700	Tons	1.50	1,050	116.00	121,800
Sugar beets	28.6	27.4	Tons	23.5	644	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Dry edible beans	80.0	73.0	Cwt	16.00	1,168	17.50	20,440
All Sunflowers	130	118	Lbs.	1,003	118,330	<u>5/</u> 11.50	13,610
Sunflowers, Oil	95	85	Lbs.	1,000	85,000	<u>5/</u> 10.60	9,010
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	35	33	Lbs.	1,010	33,330	<u>5/</u> 13.80	4,600
All potatoes	73.1	72.4	Cwt	362	26,198	4.85	126,769
Summer potatoes	6.8	6.7	Cwt	380	2,546	5.20	13,239
Fall potatoes	66.3	65.7	Cwt	360	23,652	4.80	113,530
United States:							
Corn for grain <u>1/</u>	78,736	71,139	Bu.	142.2	10,113,887	2.45	24,803,566
Corn for silage . . . . .	...	6,528	Tons	16.2	105,864	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Sorghum for grain <u>1/</u>	9,420	7,798	Bu.	52.7	411,237	2.46	965,822
Sorghum for silage . . . . .	...	343	Tons	10.4	3,552	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
All wheat <u>2/</u>	61,700	52,839	Bu.	44.2	2,336,526	3.35	7,954,899
Winter Wheat	44,945	36,541	Bu.	46.7	1,707,069	3.25	5,574,444
Spring Wheat	13,840	13,429	Bu.	39.7	532,820	3.60	1,972,345
Oats	4,601	2,224	Bu.	65.0	144,649	1.45	217,962
Barley	5,299	4,688	Bu.	58.9	276,087	2.90	765,783
Rye	1,368	339	Bu.	27.3	9,254	2.95	27,389
Proso Millet	730	620	Bu.	18.5	11,450	2.87	32,888
All Hay . . . . .	...	63,342	Tons	2.48	157,123	92.90	12,330,971
Alfalfa Hay . . . . .	...	23,578	Tons	3.24	76,307	98.00	6,921,508
Other Hay . . . . .	...	39,764	Tons	2.03	80,816	80.80	5,409,463
Sugar beets	1,365.4	1,347.9	Tons	22.7	30,605	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Dry edible beans	1,406.1	1,346.9	Cwt	16.72	22,515	17.80	411,930
All Sunflowers	2,344	2,197	Lbs.	1,213	2,665,226	<u>5/</u> 11.80	312,594
Sunflowers, Oil	1,998	1,874	Lbs.	1,206	2,259,666	<u>5/</u> 11.00	250,609
Sunflowers, Non-Oil	346	323	Lbs.	1,256	405,560	<u>5/</u> 15.20	61,985
All potatoes <u>3/</u>	1,275.0	1,250.3	Cwt	367	459,045	5.85	2,686,659
Summer potatoes	64.2	59.3	Cwt	324	19,199	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Fall potatoes	1,107.6	1,092.0	Cwt	377	411,386	<u>4/</u>	<u>4/</u>
Soybeans	73,404	72,321	Bu.	33.4	2,417,565	7.25	17,465,394

1/ Planted all purposes. 2/ Includes Durum. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops.

4/ Not available. 5/ Dollars per hundredweight.

WINTER WHEAT SEEDINGS

2004 CROP

Colorado producers seeded 2.3 million acres of winter wheat during the fall of 2003 for harvest in 2004, down 12 percent from the 2.6 million acres seeded for the 2003 crop. Planting began on schedule in some areas as producers took advantage of late summer moisture but planting was delayed in other areas due to dry topsoils. Germination and emergence was good in some areas but marginal in others, putting most of the crop in only fair to good condition for entering the winter. Mostly dry conditions have prevailed since seeding and overall temperatures have been warmer than usual which has resulted in additional loss of soil moisture. As usual, prospects for the 2004 crop will be heavily dependent on winter and spring weather.

United States winter wheat seedings for the 2004 crop are expected to total 43.5 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 31.0 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.3 million; and White Winter, 4.2 million.

**Winter Wheat
Area Seeded, 2002-2004 Crops 1/**

State	Crop of			04/03
	2002	2003	2004	
	1,000 Acres			%
Alabama	150	150	120	80
Arizona	10	4	6	150
Arkansas	960	700	680	97
California	530	675	600	89
Colorado	2,350	2,600	2,300	88
Delaware	60	50	45	90
Florida	19	20	20	100
Georgia	350	380	350	92
Idaho	730	760	720	95
Illinois	680	850	1,000	118
Indiana	350	460	430	93
Iowa	20	21	20	95
Kansas	9,600	10,400	9,900	95
Kentucky	550	480	480	100
Louisiana	230	155	190	123
Maryland	195	165	170	103
Michigan	500	680	600	88
Minnesota	35	25	20	80
Mississippi	250	150	190	127
Missouri	900	960	1,050	109
Montana	1,450	1,800	1,850	103
Nebraska	1,650	1,900	1,900	100
Nevada	6	7	6	86
New Jersey	38	31	24	77
New Mexico	520	500	470	94
New York	130	130	100	77
North Carolina	650	530	650	123
North Dakota	80	130	240	185
Ohio	860	1,060	900	85
Oklahoma	6,100	6,600	6,400	97
Oregon	800	970	900	93
Pennsylvania	190	175	140	80
South Carolina	210	200	195	98
South Dakota	1,300	1,600	1,700	106
Tennessee	470	430	400	93
Texas	6,400	6,600	6,200	94
Utah	140	160	150	94
Virginia	230	210	200	95
Washington	1,800	1,850	1,750	95
West Virginia	12	12	8	67
Wisconsin	190	205	240	117
Wyoming	150	160	150	94
United States	41,845	44,945	43,464	97

1/ Total area seeded for all purposes.

WINTER WHEAT VARIETIES

2004 CROP

Akron continued to be the most popular variety seeded in Colorado and was planted on 19.8 percent of the acreage seeded for the 2004 crop compared with 22.3 percent of the acreage a year earlier. **Prairie Red** remained the second most popular variety and was planted on 14.8 percent of the acreage for the 2004 crop, down from 16.0 percent for the 2003 crop. **Tam 107** kept a third place ranking by accounting for 10.7 percent of the acreage seeded for the 2004 crop compared with 13.0 percent of the 2003 crop acreage. **Jagger** maintained its fourth place ranking for the 2004 crop by accounting for 8.9 percent of the acres seeded compared with 7.7 percent of the acres a year earlier. **Above**, a new variety available to producers for the 2003 crop, kept its fifth place ranking by being planted on 5.8 percent of the acreage. Above is a Clearfield wheat which, when used with an herbicide labeled for use in Clearfield wheat, provides selective control of winter annual grasses such as downy brome, jointed goatgrass and feral rye. The top five varieties accounted for 60.0 percent of the acreage seeded for the 2004 crop. The top five varieties seeded for the 2003 crop accounted for 62.8 percent of the total acreage.

Trego replaced Yumar as the sixth leading variety for the 2004 crop by advancing to 5.7 percent of the acreage seeded compared with 3.3 percent and a seventh place ranking a year earlier. **Yumar** was planted on 3.6 percent of the acres and placed seventh compared with a sixth place ranking for the 2003 crop. **Halt** and **Lamar** shared the eighth place ranking for the 2004 crop, each with 2.6 percent of the 2004 crop seeded acreage. **Alliance**, **Prowers 99**, and **Yuma** shared a tenth place ranking with each variety accounting for 2.1 percent of the seeded acres for the 2004 crop. These 12 varieties represented 80.8 percent of the state's total acreage seeded for the 2004 crop. In 2003, the top ten varieties accounted for 79.8 percent of the total seeded acreage.

**Winter Wheat: Percent planted By Variety,
Colorado, 1999-2004 1/**

Variety	1999 Crop	2000 Crop	2001 Crop	2002 Crop	2003 Crop	2004 Crop
	Percent					
Akron	19.1	24.3	24.4	25.3	22.3	19.8
Prairie Red ..	---	3.1	11.5	13.9	16.0	14.8
Tam 107	39.7	33.6	24.9	13.6	13.0	10.7
Jagger	1.2	2.1	2.9	6.7	7.7	8.9
Above	---	---	---	---	3.8	5.8
Trego	---	---	0.3	2.4	3.3	5.7
Yumar	1.0	3.0	4.6	4.8	3.6	3.6
Halt	3.9	6.6	5.1	2.6	2.4	2.6
Lamar	7.5	5.1	4.4	3.6	3.3	2.6
Alliance	0.5	1.2	1.0	2.3	1.8	2.1
Prowers 99 ..	---	---	1.1	2.4	2.6	2.1
Yuma	7.3	3.9	3.2	2.1	1.3	2.1
Prowers	0.7	2.3	2.9	3.5	1.3	1.9
Platte	---	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.5	1.8
Fairview	0.6	1.1	0.5	1.5	0.9	1.3
Other 2/	18.5	13.2	12.8	14.5	15.2	14.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Dashes indicate either none or minor amount reported.

2/ Includes minor and older varieties that have become less popular.

FRUIT CROPS

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Utilized production of the state's four fruit crops had a combined value of \$18.6 million for 2003, up 19 percent from \$15.7 million a year earlier. Total utilized production, at 47.2 million pounds, was up 8 percent as each fruit had a higher production than the previous year. In addition, producers received higher prices per unit for each crop produced in 2003 than they received for their crops in 2002 except tart cherries.

Utilized peach production, at 20.0 million pounds, was up 8 percent from the previous year and the value of production increased 16 percent to \$12.16 million as producers received an average price of 60.8 cents per pound for the latest crop compared with 56.7 cents in 2002. Utilized apple production totaled 21.0 million pounds in 2003, up 5 percent from the 2002 crop. The apple crop was valued at \$4.55 million, up 23 percent from the 2002 crop.

The 2003 pear crop totaled 2,800 tons, up 17 percent from 2,400 tons produced in 2002. Producers received \$600 per ton for their 2003 crop compared with \$576 per ton in 2002, increasing the total value of the crop 21 percent from the previous year to \$1.68 million. Tart cherry production in 2003 totaled 600,000 pounds, double the 300,000 pound crop produced in 2002. The 2003 crop was valued at \$228,000, up 90 percent from the \$120,000 received for the 2002 crop. Producers received an average of 38.0 cents per pound in 2003 compared with 40.0 cents per pound for the 2002 crop.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

In 2003, the Nation's utilized production of the leading noncitrus fruit crops totaled 16.5 million tons, down 4 percent from the 2002 utilized production. Utilized production increased from 2002 for apples, apricots, bananas, wild blueberries, California raspberries, sweet cherries, tart cherries, cranberries, olives, pears, prunes & plums and strawberries.

Value of utilized production for noncitrus fruit crops totaled 8.35 billion dollars, up 3 percent from 2002. The value of apples and strawberries increased 10 percent and 14 percent, respectively, from the previous year. However, the value of grapes decreased 11 percent and peaches lost 7 percent from 2002.

Utilized apple production in 2003 is estimated at 8.47 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2002. Utilized grape production for 2003 totaled 6.32 million tons, down 14 percent from the 2002 crop. The California crop, which accounts for 89 percent of the 2003 U.S. utilized grape production, is down 16 percent from the previous year.

Utilized peach production in 2003 is estimated at 2.41 billion pounds, 2 percent below the previous year but 3 percent above 2001. The California crop, accounting for 75 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, is down 3 percent from 2002. Utilized pear production for 2003, at 921,450 tons, is up 6 percent from the previous year. The value of grapes, apples and strawberries represented 67 percent of the total value of the non-citrus fruit production in the United States in 2003.

FRUIT CROPS: Production, price, and value, Colorado and United States, 2002-2003

Area and Crop		Bearing Acreage	Yield Per Acre	Unit	Total Production	Utilized Production	Price Per Unit	Value of Production
		Acres	Units		Million Units		Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Colorado:								
Apples	2002	1,800	11,700	Pounds	21.0	20.0	0.184	3,686
	2003	1,700	12,900	Pounds	22.0	21.0	0.217	4,550
Peaches	2002	1,900	10,000	Pounds	19.0	18.5	0.567	10,490
	2003	1,900	11,100	Pounds	21.0	20.0	0.608	12,160
Pears	2002	1/	1/	Tons	* 2.40	* 2.40	576.00	1,383
	2003	1/	1/	Tons	* 2.80	* 2.80	600.00	1,679
Tart Cherries	2002	1/	1/	Pounds	0.3	0.3	0.400	120
	2003	1/	1/	Pounds	0.6	0.6	0.380	228
United States:								
Apples	2002	401,700	21,200	Pounds	8,525.4	8,375.0	0.188	1,572,202
	2003	395,350	22,800	Pounds	9,014.6	8,897.5	0.194	1,729,949
Peaches	2002	153,170	16,800	Pounds	2,574.9	2,471.5	0.204	503,827
	2003	150,170	16,800	Pounds	2,523.1	2,413.8	0.193	466,681
Pears	2002	63,615	13.70	Tons	* 868.45	* 867.00	295.00	255,605
	2003	63,150	14.60	Tons	* 923.05	* 921.45	306.00	282,073
Tart Cherries	2002	38,300	1,630	Pounds	62.5	62.2	0.448	27,879
	2003	37,300	6,070	Pounds	226.5	226.5	0.371	83,922

1/ Not Estimated. * Thousand Units.

VEGETABLE CROPS

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The preliminary value of production during 2003 for the seven major vegetable crops estimated in Colorado was placed at \$100.2 million, down 10 percent from \$111.1 million in 2002. Onions, the state's leading vegetable crop, had a value of \$51.05 million for the 2003 crop, down 4 percent from 2002. The total value of the 2003 onion crop accounted for 51 percent of the state's total value from all vegetable crops. The 2003 sweet corn crop was valued at \$12.4 million (up 19 percent), and ranked second in value; carrots ranked third with \$11.9 million (down 17 percent); cabbage was fourth with \$10.6 million (down 2 percent); lettuce ranked fifth with \$5.7 million (down 42 percent); canteloupe ranked sixth with \$4.8 million (down 26 percent); and spinach ranked seventh with \$3.7 million (down 37 percent). Production and value data are not prepared for numerous other vegetable crops produced in Colorado.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Fresh market vegetable and melon production for the 24 selected crops estimated in 2003 totaled 463 million hundredweight. Harvested area covered 1.95 million acres. Value of the 2003

crop was estimated at \$9.67 billion, 2 percent more than a year earlier. The three largest crops in terms of production were onions, head lettuce and watermelon, which combined to account for 37 percent of the total production. Tomatoes, head lettuce and onions claimed the highest value, accounting for 35 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 24 selected fresh market vegetable and melon crops estimated in 2003, California continued to be the leading state, accounting for 44 percent of the harvested area, 49 percent of production, and 55 percent of the value.

Processing production of 8 selected vegetables estimated in 2003 totaled 15.6 million tons, down 9 percent from 2002. Area harvested is estimated at 1.34 million acres. The processing crop value is estimated at \$1.29 billion, 3 percent below 2002. The three largest crops in terms of production are tomatoes, sweet corn, and snap beans, which combine to account for 89 percent of the total. The three most valuable processed vegetables estimated in 2003 are tomatoes, sweet corn and cucumbers, accounting for 76 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 8 selected processing vegetable crops estimated in 2003, California leads the nation with 23 percent of the harvested acreage, 61 percent of the production, and 45 percent of the value.

Vegetable Crops: Acreage, Production and Value, Colorado and United States, 2002-2003 1/

Area and Crop		Planted Acreage	Harvested Acreage	Unit	Yield Per Acre	Production	Price Per Unit	Value of Production
		Acres	Acres	Units	Units	1,000 Units	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Colorado:								
Cabbage	2002	2,800	2,600	Cwt	440	1,144	9.50	10,868
	2003	2,900	2,800	Cwt	400	1,120	9.50	10,640
Cantaloupes	2002	1,700	1,600	Cwt	250	400	16.40	6,560
	2003	1,700	1,600	Cwt	190	304	15.90	4,834
Carrots	2002	3,300	2,800	Cwt	500	1,400	10.20	14,280
	2003	2,700	2,400	Cwt	480	1,152	10.30	11,866
Lettuce	2002	2,800	2,700	Cwt	300	810	12.20	9,882
	2003	2,000	1,800	Cwt	290	522	11.00	5,742
Onions	2002	12,500	11,000	Cwt	400	4,400	14.40	53,280
	2003	10,500	9,600	Cwt	410	3,936	14.90	51,047
Spinach	2002	1,900	1,800	Cwt	120	216	27.20	5,875
	2003	1,700	1,400	Cwt	90	126	29.20	3,679
Sweet corn	2002	8,800	8,500	Cwt	120	1,020	10.20	10,404
	2003	9,200	8,000	Cwt	170	1,360	9.10	12,376
United States:								
Cabbage	2002	81,530	77,380	Cwt	320	24,773	12.90	315,033
	2003	80,290	76,850	Cwt	302	23,204	12.70	290,854
Cantaloupes	2002	93,400	91,000	Cwt	248	22,595	17.60	398,498
	2003	90,700	87,800	Cwt	254	22,331	16.70	372,965
Carrots	2002	98,700	97,600	Cwt	298	29,077	19.00	552,198
	2003	94,700	93,800	Cwt	353	33,094	19.10	632,469
Lettuce	2002	185,600	184,400	Cwt	372	68,521	21.20	1,451,873
	2003	185,700	185,400	Cwt	350	64,920	18.20	1,181,330
Onions	2002	169,150	160,220	Cwt	424	67,928	12.40	767,913
	2003	166,460	159,490	Cwt	437	69,727	15.00	958,032
Spinach	2002	35,600	34,900	Cwt	153	5,330	34.10	181,836
	2003	37,800	37,200	Cwt	161	5,978	37.80	226,060
Sweet corn	2002	273,900	253,200	Cwt	107	27,106	19.20	521,480
	2003	277,900	253,300	Cwt	116	29,403	19.10	562,572

1/ All crops are for fresh market except the US totals for onions include some processing onions in CA.

LIVESTOCK

ALL CATTLE AND CALVES JANUARY 1, 2004

COLORADO

Colorado's farm and ranch operators had 2.40 million head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2004, down 9 percent from the 2.65 million head on hand one year earlier. The latest inventory was down 250,000 head from a year earlier to the lowest all cattle inventory since 1962. The total number of all cows and heifers that have calved, at 710,000 head, declined 11 percent from 800,000 head a year earlier to the lowest level since 1941. The number of beef cows declined 13 percent from the previous year to 612,000 head, the lowest level since 1949. The extreme drought during 2002 caused considerable movement of cattle off farms and ranches. Although less severe, dry conditions continued through 2003, resulting in further reduction in cattle numbers. The number of milk cows was unchanged from the previous year at 98,000 head.

There were 720,000 heifers weighing 500 pounds and over on hand at the beginning of this year, down 9 percent from a year earlier. Of that total, 95,000 were being kept for beef cow replacement (down 7 percent), and 45,000 were for milk cow replacement (up 18 percent). The remaining 580,000 were other heifers (down 11 percent) of which 410,000 were on feed for the slaughter market in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more.

The January 1, 2004 inventory also included 820,000 head of steers weighing 500 pounds or more (down 6 percent) and 625,000 of those were on feed for the slaughter market in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more. The number of bulls weighing 500 pounds or more declined 12 percent from a year earlier to 35,000 head.

The number of calves (steers, heifers, and bulls under 500 pounds) on hand January 1, 2004, at 115,000 head, was down 23 percent from the 150,000 on hand the previous year. The 2003 calf crop in Colorado, at 730,000 head, was down 11 percent from the 2002 calf crop.

Colorado feeders had 1,060,000 head of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market as of January 1, 2004, down 2 percent from the previous year. The on feed total at the beginning of this year represented 44.2 percent of the total inventory compared with 39.2 percent one year earlier.

More than 98 percent of the total number on feed (1,040,000 head) were in 165 feedlots that have a capacity of 1,000 head or more. Total marketings of fed cattle from all feedlots in the state for 2003 totaled 2,305,000 head, down 8 percent from the previous year and 15 percent below the record high of 2,725,000 head marketed during 2000.

UNITED STATES

The January 1, 2004 inventory of all cattle and calves for the United States totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on hand the previous year. The total number of all cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.9 million, was down 1 percent from the 42.1 million one year earlier. Beef cows, at 32.86

million, declined slightly from January 1, 2003. The number of milk cows, at 8.99 million were down 2 percent from January 1, 2003.

The inventory of all heifers weighing 500 pounds and over was down 1 percent to 19.3 million. Of that total, 5.52 million were being kept for beef cow replacement (down 2 percent), 4.02 million were intended for milk cow replacement (down 2 percent), and 9.80 million were other heifers (down 1 percent). The inventory of steers weighing 500 pounds and over, at 16.3 million, was down 2 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over were also down 2 percent to 2.21 million, and the number of calves under 500 pounds declined 2 percent to 15.2 million.

The 2003 calf crop was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. There were 27.7 million calves born during the first half of the year, down 1 percent from the previous year.

The January 1, 2004 number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in all states was estimated at 13.8 million, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

The number of cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 81.5 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2004, up from 80.6 percent on January 1, 2003. Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2003 represented 85.1 percent all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, down from 85.3 percent during 2002.

SHEEP AND LAMBS JANUARY 1, 2004

COLORADO

The January 1, 2004 inventory of all sheep and lambs in Colorado totaled 360,000 head, down 5 percent from the number on hand as of January 1, 2003. The number of breeding sheep and lambs was down 8 percent to 170,000 head and the number of market sheep and lambs declined 3 percent to 190,000. There was an 8 percent increase in the number of replacement lambs to 26,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older declined 10 percent to 139,000 head and the number of rams one year old and older declined 1,000 head from last year to 5,000. Of the 190,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 1,000 head were market sheep and 189,000 head were market lambs. There were 2,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, the same number as a year earlier; 4,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, down 1,000 from the previous year; 18,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 32,000 last year; and 165,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 155,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2003.

The 2003 lamb crop, at 180,000 head, was down 10 percent from the 2002 lamb crop of 200,000. Wool production in Colorado during 2003 totaled 2.58 million pounds, down 16 percent from 3.07 million pounds produced in 2002. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 360,000 head, was down 22 percent from 460,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2003 totaled \$1.91 million, up 9 percent from a year earlier as producers received 74 cents per pound of wool sold compared with 57 cents per pound the previous year.

UNITED STATES

The all sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

The breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

The number of market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent weighed over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million in 2002.

HOGS AND PIGS

DECEMBER 1, 2003

COLORADO

Colorado's inventory of all hogs and pigs as of December 1, 2003 totaled 770,000 head, down 3 percent from a year earlier. This is the fourth December to December decline following fourteen consecutive years in which inventory numbers were unchanged or higher than the previous year.

The latest inventory consisted of 110,000 breeding hogs and pigs, down 31 percent from the 160,000 on hand one year earlier. The number of market hogs and pigs, at 660,000, increased 5 percent from the previous year.

The 2003 pig crop in Colorado totaled 2.28 million head, down 12 percent from the previous year. There were 269,000 sows farrowed during the year, also down 12 percent from last year. The average litter size of 8.5 pigs in 2003 was virtually the same as a year earlier.

UNITED STATES

The U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 2002 but slightly below September 1, 2003. The breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002 but 1 percent above last quarter. The market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year but slightly below the last quarter.

The total December 2002 - November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 100.4 million head, was 1 percent below the same period a year earlier and just slightly below two years ago. Sows farrowing

during this period totaled 11.3 million head, 2 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. The average litter rate was 8.88 pigs saved per litter for the 2003 year compared with 8.83 the previous year.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2003-February 2004 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2003 but 1 percent below 2002. Intended farrowings for March-May 2004, at 2.85 million sows, are 1 percent below the same period in 2003, and 3 percent below 2002.

ALL CHICKENS

DECEMBER 1, 2003

COLORADO

The all chicken inventory in Colorado as of December 1, 2003 totaled 5.10 million birds, up 7 percent from the 4.78 million on hand one year earlier. The number of layers increased 4 percent from the previous year to 4.30 million. Of that total, 2.27 million were one year old and older (up 23 percent) and 2.03 million were less than one year of age (down 11 percent).

The total inventory also included 800,000 pullets (up 40 percent from 568,000 as of December 1, 2002) that were less than 20 weeks of age. Of that total, there were 508,000 pullets less than 13 weeks of age (up 23 percent) and 240,000 pullets between 13 and 20 weeks of age (up 54 percent). The remaining inventory of 52,000 other chickens represented a decline of 31 percent from the previous year.

During the period December 1, 2002 through November 30, 2003, Colorado laying flocks produced 1.073 billion eggs. This was up 6 percent from the 1.008 billion eggs produced during the comparable period a year earlier. The number of layers averaged 3.85 million for the year, up 3 percent from 3.74 million layers during the same period a year earlier. The annual average laying rate for the latest year was 278 eggs per layer compared with 270 eggs per layer one year earlier.

The December 1, 2003 inventory value of all chickens was estimated at \$9.69 million, up 1 percent from \$9.56 million a year earlier. The average value per bird, at \$1.90, was 10 cents per bird lower than the December 1, 2002 value per bird.

UNITED STATES

The December 1, 2002 inventory of all chickens (excluding commercial broilers) in the United States totaled 448.7 million, up 1 percent from the previous year. Potential layers (layers 20 weeks old and older, plus pullets 13 weeks and older but less than 20 weeks) on hand December 1, 2003 totaled 382 million, up 1 percent from December 1, 2002. Of the 382 million potential layers, 89 percent were 20 weeks old and older.

Egg production during the year ended November 30, 2003 totaled a record high 87.2 billion eggs, up slightly from the previous year. Table egg production, at 74.4 billion eggs, increased slightly from 2002. Hatching egg production, at 12.8 billion eggs, decreased 1 percent. The inventory value of all chickens on December 1, 2003, at \$1.11 billion, was up 5 percent from \$1.05 billion a year earlier. The average value of \$2.47 per bird as of December 1, 2003 was up 10 cents from \$2.37 per bird a year earlier.

Livestock and Poultry: Inventory by Class, Colorado and United States, 2001-2004

Specie and Class	Colorado				United States			
	January 1			2004 2003	January 1			2004 2003
	2002	2003	2004		2002	2003	2004	
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
All Cattle and Calves 1/	3,050	2,650	2,400	91	96,704	96,100	94,882	99
All cows & heifers that have calved	890	800	710	89	42,229	42,125	41,851	99
Beef cows and heifers	797	702	612	87	33,118	32,983	32,860	100
Milk cows and heifers	93	98	98	100	9,112	9,142	8,991	98
Heifers 500 pounds and over	910	790	720	91	19,678	19,628	19,341	99
For beef cow replacement	120	102	95	93	5,561	5,624	5,517	98
For milk cow replacement	40	38	45	118	4,060	4,114	4,020	98
Other heifers	750	650	580	89	10,057	9,891	9,804	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,010	870	820	94	16,790	16,554	16,280	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over	45	40	35	88	2,244	2,248	2,206	98
Steers, heifers, & bulls < 500 lbs.	195	150	115	77	15,763	15,545	15,204	98
Cattle on feed 2/	1,210	1,040	1,060	102	13,860	13,220	13,811	104
All Sheep and lambs	370	380	360	95	6,685	6,300	6,090	97
Breeding sheep and lambs	205	185	170	92	4,913	4,658	4,480	96
Ewes one year old and older	170	155	139	90	3,980	3,770	3,601	96
Rams one year old and older	6	6	5	83	200	193	189	98
Replacement lambs	29	24	26	108	734	695	691	99
Market sheep and lambs	165	195	190	97	1,772	1,642	1,610	98
Sheep	1	1	1	100	72	67	67	100
Lambs	164	194	189	97	1,700	1,575	1,543	98
Under 65 pounds	2	2	2	100	436	441	433	98
65 - 84 pounds	5	5	4	80	300	266	256	96
85 - 104 pounds	17	32	18	56	416	393	367	93
105 pounds and over	140	155	165	106	549	475	487	103
	December 1			2004 2003	December 1			2004 2003
	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003	
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
All Hogs and pigs 1/	800	790	770	97	59,804	59,513	60,040	101
Breeding hogs and pigs	175	160	110	69	6,209	6,012	5,966	99
Market hogs and pigs	625	630	660	105	53,594	53,501	54,074	101
Under 60 pounds	350	350	325	93	19,908	19,461	19,821	102
60 - 119 pounds	90	90	105	117	12,924	13,054	13,250	102
120 - 179 pounds	75	80	95	119	10,744	10,881	10,839	100
180 pounds and over	110	110	135	123	10,018	10,105	10,164	101
All Chickens	4,210	4,780	5,100	107	441,509	443,881	448,748	101
Total layers	3,557	4,137	4,300	104	338,628	339,203	339,989	100
One year old and older	1,560	1,852	2,270	123	153,357	153,027	169,263	111
Less than one year	1,997	2,285	2,030	89	185,271	186,176	170,726	92
Pullets	598	568	800	140	94,755	96,325	100,321	104
13 to 20 weeks of age	142	156	240	154	42,807	39,679	42,030	106
Less than 13 weeks of age	456	412	508	123	51,948	56,646	58,291	103
Other chickens	55	75	52	69	8,126	8,353	8,438	101

1/ U. S. total may not add due to rounding. 2/ Included in all cattle.

Calf, Lamb, and Pig Crops, Colorado and United States, 2001-2003

Specie	Colorado				United States			
	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002	2001	2002	2003	2003/2002
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
Calf Crop, annual	840	820	730	89	38,280	38,224	37,903	99
Lamb Crop, annual	190	200	180	90	4,495	4,357	4,120	95
Sows Farrowed, annual 1/	316	305	269	88	11,385	11,483	11,306	98
December- May	2/	2/	2/	...	5,619	5,779	5,645	98
June - November	2/	2/	2/	...	5,767	5,704	5,660	99
Pig Crop, annual 1/	2,667	2,581	2,283	88	99,503	101,344	100,406	99
December - May	2/	2/	2/	...	49,472	50,752	49,942	98
June - November	2/	2/	2/	...	50,031	50,592	50,464	100

1/ U.S. total may not add due to rounding. 2/ Discontinued.

This report is prepared for the thousands of Colorado farmers and ranchers who have provided the basic information for preparation of the enclosed estimates. Without the voluntary cooperation of those producers, the reliability and accuracy of the survey results for all data users would be seriously compromised. Thank you, producers, for your assistance. We trust the enclosed information will be helpful. Your comments will be appreciated.

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State Statistician

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