



USDA-NASS

# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

July 1 Cattle Inventory  
July 1 U.S. Sheep Inventory  
Cattle on Feed  
Mink Production  
Red Meat Production  
Wheat & Barley Varieties  
Quarterly Milk Production  
Egg Production

### July 1 Cattle Inventory

The all cattle and calf inventory in Montana was 3.35 million head on July 1, 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. Historic high prices for cattle and calves combined with continued drought in many areas of the State has reduced cattle inventories. Pasture and range conditions are about the same as a year ago and were rated 12% very poor, 18% poor, 38% fair, 27% good, and 5% excellent for the week ending July 18. The lack of rainfall early in the spring and continued drought in many other parts of the State have hurt pasture conditions.

The beef cow inventory in Montana dropped 1 percent from a year ago to 1.462 million head. Milk cow inventory remained unchanged from last year at 18,000 head. The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 1.52 million head, down 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2004, totaled 103.6 million head, down slightly from the 103.9 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 105.1 million two years ago.

U.S. all cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were slightly below the 42.7 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 42.9 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2003 and down 2 percent from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2004 and the changes from July 1, 2003 for the

U.S., are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 15.95 million, up slightly.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.8 million, up 4 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.6 million, unchanged.
- Other heifers, 7.55 million, down 2 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, unchanged.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.05 million, down 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 28.9 million, down slightly.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 11.8 million, down slightly.

The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 37.7 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002.

### July 1 All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2004, totaled 7.65 million head, 2 percent below July 1, 2003. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.55 million head on July 1, 2004 was 1 percent below July 1, 2003. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.11 million head, were 3 percent below last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.75 million ewes one year old and older, 180,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 3.03 million head was comprised of 1.80 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 355,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 240,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 75,000.

The 2004 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.08 million head, down 1 percent from the 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2004 totaled 3.61 million head or 88 percent of the

yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2004.

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.0 percent of all sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 20.1 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.9 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.4 percent, and Region 5 (all other States) accounted for 13.6 percent.

### U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.12 million head on July 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent above July 1, 2003 but 4 percent below July 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.37 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.70 million head, down 1 percent from 2003.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.64 million, 2 percent below 2003 and down slightly from 2002. Net placements were 1.57 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000, 600-699 pounds were 356,000, 700-799 pounds were 448,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 375,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.08 million, 7 percent below 2003 but up slightly from 2002. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during June, 15 percent above 2003 and 37 percent above 2002.

Cattle on feed July 1, 2004, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 11.8 million, down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 6 percent below July 1, 2002. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2004, up from 84 percent on July 1, 2003.

## U.S. Mink Pelt Production, Down 2 Percent, Value of Pelt Production Up 28 Percent

Mink pelt production in the United States in 2003 totaled 2.55 million pelts, down 2 percent from 2002. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing State, produced 706,000 pelts.

By color class, the number of pelts as a percent of the total U.S. production in 2003 follows: Black at 40.2 percent; Mahogany at 21.5 percent; Blue Iris at 16.1 percent; Demi/Wild at 6.4 percent; Sapphire at 5.8 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.0 percent.

Mink pelts produced during the 2003 crop year were valued at \$102 million dollars, up 28 percent from \$79.8 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2003 crop year was \$40.10, up from \$30.60 in 2002. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2004 totaled 604,800, up slightly from the previous year.

Percent of total females bred to produce kits in 2004 by color class are: Black at 45.9 percent; Mahogany at 21.0 percent; Blue Iris at 11.9 percent; Demi/Wild at 5.8 percent; Sapphire at 5.0 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 10.4 percent.

There were 307 mink farms producing pelts in 2003, down 5 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms and Minnesota with 31. There were 18 mink farms which also raised fox in 2003, down from 20 the previous year.

## June 2004 Red Meat Production up 4 Percent from 2003

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during June 2004, up 4 percent from June 2003, and 15 percent higher than the previous month's production. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, unchanged from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 1,164 pounds.

During June there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered down 100 head from a year

ago. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was down 1 pound from last year. June sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, unchanged from June 2003. The average live weight decreased 7 pounds to 123 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in June, down 1 percent from the 3.95 billion pounds produced in June 2003.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.99 million head, down 8 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 11 percent below June a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 66,400 head, down 10 percent from June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above last year, at 338 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.67 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and set records monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.50 million head, 10 percent above June 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds below the previous year, at 264 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was up 2 percent from June 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 230,900 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 2 pounds from June a year ago.

## Montana 2004 Wheat and Barley Varieties

The top four **winter wheat** varieties account for 60.8 percent of the total acreage seeded for harvest in 2004. **Rampart** acreage continues to climb, with 516,100 acres seeded this year, compared to last year's acreage of 463,400. **Neeley** remains in second place this year with 295,800 acres seeded, or 16 percent of the total winter wheat acreage in Montana. **Tiber** remains in third place with 173,200 acres seeded, which is up from last year's acreage of 170,700. **Morgan** became the fourth leading variety this year, replacing Rocky. A total of

140,400 acres were seeded, which accounts for 7.6 of the total acres seeded.

The top four **spring wheat** varieties account for 71.0 percent of the total acreage seeded for harvest in 2004. **McNeal** is the leading spring wheat variety for the seventh consecutive year, accounting for 31.7 percent of the acreage, or 903,900 acres, which is down more than 100,000 acres from 2003. **Reeder** remains in second place with 622,500 acres seeded up from last year's 525,100 acres. **Ernest** stays in third place this year with 289,100 acres seeded, or 10.2 percent of the total. **Conan** joins the top four list this year with 208,300 acres seeded, or 7.3 percent of the state's total spring wheat acreage.

The top four **durum wheat** varieties account for 85.1 percent of the total durum wheat acreage in the state for 2004. **Mountrail** overtakes Kyle this year to become the top variety in the state, with 245,300 acres seeded, or 40.9 percent of the durum wheat acreage. **Kyle** falls to second place this year, after spending seven consecutive years at the top. There were 203,600 acres seeded, accounting for 33.9 percent of the total acres. **AC Avonlea** became the third most popular variety this year with 45,100 acres seeded or 7.5 percent. **Ward** joins the top four list this year, with 16,500 acres seeded, or 2.8 percent of the state's durum wheat acreage.

Montana farmers seeded 1.0 million acres of **barley** in 2004, down 9 percent from last year. Fifty-three percent of the acres seeded to barley were malting and brewing varieties recommended by the American Malting Barley Association Inc. **Harrington** remains the top **malting** variety planted in the state for the eleventh year in a row. It was seeded on 403.3 thousand acres or 40.3 percent of Montana's barley acreage. **AC Metcalfe** came in second place with 49.5 thousand acres planted, or 5.0 percent. **Merit** moves up to third place this year, with 44.0 thousand acres seeded, or 4.4 percent. **B 1202** drops to fourth place this year, after eight consecutive years at number two. It accounts for 38.8 thousand acres seeded, or 3.9 percent. (Continued on next page)

## Montana Wheat and Barley Varieties (continued)

**Haybet** remains the most popular forage barley for the fifth year in a row, with 99.0 thousand acres seeded, or 9.9 percent of the total. **Westford** is the second most popular forage barley for the second year

in a row, with 23.2 thousand acres or 2.3 percent. **Baronesse** is the most popular feed barley again in 2004. It represents 3.9 percent of the total acreage or 38.9 thousand acres for 2004. **Gallatin** maintains its place as the second most popular feed barley grown for the second year in a row. Statewide, 34.3 thousand

acres were seeded, which is 3.4 percent of all barley acreage.

**The wheat and barley varieties data were made possible through funds provided by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.**

## Montana Wheat & Barley: Percent of Total Seeded Acreage 1998-2004 & Seeded Acreage 2003-2004 1/

Winter Wheat							
Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Rampart	1.8	9.0	13.8	15.9	19.6	25.7	27.9
Neeley	20.0	20.8	19.2	22.6	19.9	16.8	16.0
Tiber	14.2	17.3	11.3	10.9	11.2	9.5	9.4
Morgan	2.2	7.0	8.3	10.0	7.3	7.3	7.6
Vanguard	10.3	7.0	9.4	6.7	9.1	6.7	7.6
Rocky	13.4	8.2	6.9	8.9	11.1	8.0	5.9
Redwin	6.1	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.5
Big Horn	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	1.7	1.8	2.1
CDC Falcon	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.7
Tomahawk	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.5	1.5
AP 502 CL	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	1.5
Judith	4.3	1.0	2.3	0.3	0.5	--	1.3
Nufontier	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.5	1.2
Big Sky	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.9
Promontory	0.7	--	--	0.4	0.2	1.3	0.8
Pryor	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7
Winalta	2.9	1.7	1.1	2.1	0.9	1.2	0.7
Nuwest **	--	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.9	1.0	0.6
Quantum 542	1.0	1.4	2.2	2.0	1.0	1.0	0.5
Centurk	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.5
Other & Unknown	18.5	16.3	14.0	9.9	10.0	13.1	9.1
<b>All Varieties</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*\* Hard white wheat variety.

Spring Wheat							
Variety 2/	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
McNeal	26.5	40.4	48.8	49.2	38.8	35.9	31.7
Reeder	--	--	0.1	3.4	9.1	18.4	21.8
Ernest	7.6	9.4	10.7	10.1	11.4	11.0	10.2
Conan	--	--	1.0	3.1	5.0	3.7	7.3
Fortuna	6.5	5.0	4.9	5.1	7.8	3.8	4.7
Westbred Rambo	7.9	6.7	5.3	3.2	3.8	2.7	3.2
Amidon	17.2	14.2	10.9	7.8	6.2	4.0	2.9
Lew	1.8	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.8	2.8	2.4
Scholar	--	--	--	0.5	1.9	3.0	2.3
Hank	--	--	--	--	0.3	1.2	1.8
Parshall	--	--	--	0.5	1.4	1.6	1.1
Westbred 936	1.6	1.7	3.5	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0
Westbred 926	1.8	2.5	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
Grandin	6.2	3.1	3.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.8
Len	1.8	1.2	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.5
Newana	2.0	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.5
Hi-Line	3.0	1.7	1.1	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4
Gunner	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.8	0.4
Golden 86 **	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.3
Butte 86	--	--	--	--	0.5	0.2	0.3
Other & Unknown	16.1	11.6	4.8	8.1	6.0	6.5	5.4
<b>All Varieties</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*\* White wheat variety.

Durum Wheat							
Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Mountrail	--	--	0.9	9.6	26.9	35.7	40.9
Kyle	44.5	55.3	52.5	45.3	40.2	38.0	33.9
AC Avonlea	--	--	1.4	3.9	3.4	4.3	7.5
Ward	1.9	4.4	2.3	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.8
Ben	0.2	4.1	7.8	8.0	5.6	4.3	2.7
Lebsock	--	--	--	--	0.3	3.4	2.3
Monroe	7.4	4.8	2.9	3.3	1.2	3.4	1.6
Voss	4.2	--	--	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.8
Vic	8.6	8.1	2.6	1.6	1.4	--	0.7
Maier	--	--	--	--	--	0.3	0.4
Plaza	--	--	--	--	0.8	0.8	0.4
Sceptre	6.8	3.4	2.9	1.5	1.3	--	0.2
Crosby	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Kamut	--	--	--	--	--	0.4	0.2
Other & Unknown	25.7	19.0	26.3	23.1	15.5	6.0	5.4
<b>All Varieties</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Barley							
Variety	Percent of Total Seeded Acreage						
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 3/	2004
Harrington*	42.1	49.6	49.9	45.7	47.6	47.1	40.3
Haybet	3.0	4.5	6.5	10.2	10.5	9.9	9.9
AC Metcalfe	--	--	--	--	--	0.7	5.0
Merit*	0.3	1.2	1.6	1.1	2.6	3.8	4.4
B 1202*	4.7	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.6	4.9	3.9
Baronesse	12.1	7.6	6.2	5.0	3.9	4.1	3.9
Gallatin	4.6	4.0	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.9	3.4
Moravian 37	--	0.1	1.5	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.2
Legacy*	--	--	--	--	0.6	1.0	2.8
Hector	6.8	4.9	3.7	2.7	3.1	1.8	2.4
Valier	--	--	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	2.4
Westford	--	0.1	1.2	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.3
Lewis	2.1	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.9
Bowman	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.4
Horsford	2.1	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.2
Robust*	--	--	0.2	0.7	0.4	1.1	1.0
Piroline	2.2	1.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.9
Stark	0.9	1.9	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.9
Westbred Xena	--	--	--	--	--	0.9	0.8
Conlon	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.8
Other & Unknown	16.0	12.3	12.8	11.7	6.7	7.0	7.2
<b>All Varieties</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\*Variety recommended by the American Malting Barley Association for planting in Montana in 2004.

1/ Columns may not sum to all varieties due to rounding. 2/ Hard red variety unless otherwise noted. 3/ Revised.

## June Milk Production Down 0.2 Percent in 20 Major States

Milk production in the 20 major States during June totaled 12.4 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from June 2003. May revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was down 6 million pounds from May 2003. The May revision represented an increase of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,603 pounds for June, 7 pounds above June 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 44,000 head less than June 2003, but 19,000 head more than May 2004.

Milk production in the U.S. during the April-June quarter totaled 43.7 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the April-June quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.00 million head, 112,000 head less than the same period last year.

## June Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.27 billion during June 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.20 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 54.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,126 eggs, up slightly from June 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.25 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2004, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg

producing States produced 6.79 billion eggs during June 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during June, at 319 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during June totaled 38.1 million, up 4 percent from June 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.1 million on July 1, 2004, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 212,000 during June 2004, down 31 percent from June 2003.

The June 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 786 million, was up 1 percent from June of the previous year. There were 659 million eggs in incubators on July 1, 2004, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.7 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during June 2004, down slightly from June 2003.

### COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

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