



NEWS RELEASE

**Turkeys Raised
August 23, 2004**

2004 NORTH DAKOTA TURKEYS RAISED LOWEST SINCE 1985

North Dakota

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in North Dakota during 2004 is 1.00 million birds, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 23 percent from the 1.30 million birds raised in 2003, and the lowest since 1985 when 900,000 birds were raised. Since 1990, turkeys raised in North Dakota have ranged from a low of 1.15 million turkeys in 1993 and 1994 to the record high of 2.60 million turkeys in 1997.

United States

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2004 is 263 million, down 4 percent from the number raised during 2003. The following six states are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2004: Minnesota, at 46.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, showing a 3 percent increase from last year. North Carolina ranks second with 39.0 million birds, down 8 percent from 2003. Arkansas is in third place by producing 28.0 million birds, 7 percent less than a year ago. Missouri growers expect to produce 21.5 million birds in 2004, down 9 percent from the previous year. Virginia, at 19.0 million birds is down 17 percent from 2003. California expects to raise 16.0 million turkeys, 8 percent less than a year earlier.

TURKEYS RAISED

States	Total All Breeds		
	2003	2004	2004 % of 2003
	--- 1,000 Birds ---		-- Percent --
NORTH DAKOTA	1,300	1,000	77
Minnesota	45,000	46,500	103
North Carolina	42,500	39,000	92
South Dakota	4,600	4,500	98
United States	274,048	262,950	96

For More Information Contact: