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**HIGHLIGHTS:**

NASS Publications U.S. Milk Production  
 U.S. Corn for Grain U.S. Turkey Eggs  
 U.S. Cattle On Feed Mfg Dairy Products

**NASS Publications**

Information contained in Utah Agriculture comes from previously released NASS publications.

NASS conducts both **censuses and surveys**. A survey employs a sample selected from a target population and uses statistical techniques to make inferences about that population. Most NASS programs use a survey to obtain necessary data. A census is a complete enumeration of the entire population. The census of agriculture is the largest and best known census administered by NASS. However, when the target population is small, NASS will conduct a census for those programs.

A **farm** is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, set aside, or other government programs are considered operating.

An important distinction exists between **forecast and estimates**. A forecast is a projection of a value that does not yet exist. For example, NASS forecasts crop yields early in the growing season and well before harvest. An estimate is a measure of something that exists, like planted acres and livestock inventory. After harvest, yield per acre is an estimate.

Nearly all data collected by NASS must be defined with a **reference date**. This reference date may be a specific day or an extended period of time. For example, expense and income data cover a full year while prices received for crops are usually for a whole month. Acreages and final yield estimates refer to the growing season. Items that are constantly changing, such as livestock inventories and yield forecasts are measured as of a specific day. All NASS publications clearly state the reference period

Information sheets describing the major programs of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) can be found at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/nassinfo/surveyprograms/>. The sheets are designed to provide a concise description of the purpose, coverage, content, methods, products and uses of the data for each program.

The target audiences are people with limited familiarity with NASS who have occasional need to know more about specific NASS programs. The audience includes government administrators and managers, university staff, colleagues from other countries, and others with similar interests. More detailed discussion of these topics can be obtained by contacting NASS.

**U.S. Corn for Grain Production**

**Corn** production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. However, brief periods of freezing temperatures in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains raised concerns about the crop being able to fully develop before a killing frost occurs.



**Manufactured Dairy Products**

**UTAH: Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) in July 2004, at 5.3 million pounds, was down 16.7 percent from July 2003 and down 11.0 percent from June 2004. **Hard ice cream** production totaled 2.2 million gallons, up 85.2 percent from July 2003 and down 9.6 percent from June 2004.

**UNITED STATES: Total cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) was 708 million pounds, 1.5 percent below July 2003 and 1.4 percent below June 2004. **American type cheese** production totaled 303 million pounds, 1.1 percent below July 2003 and 2.6 percent below June 2004. **Butter** production was 91.5 million pounds in July, 14.3 percent above July 2003 but 5.6 percent below June 2004. **Hard ice cream** production at 79.6 million gallons, was down 5.8 percent from July 2003, and down 7.1 percent from June 2004.

Manufactured Dairy Production - July 2004 with Comparisons

Product	Utah			United States		
	Jul 2003	Jun <sup>1</sup> 2004	Jul 2004	Jul 2003	Jun <sup>1</sup> 2004	Jul 2004
	1,000 Pounds					
Total Cheese .....	6,408	5,995	5,338	718,258	717,286	707,591
	1,000 Gallons					
Hard ice cream .....	1,192	2,443	2,208	84,507	85,760	79,629

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.97 million head on September 1, 2004. The inventory was 1 percent above September 1, 2003 but 2 percent below September 1, 2002.

**Placements** in feedlots during August totaled 2.10 million, 12 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. This is the second lowest placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.04 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 506,000, 600-699 pounds were 413,000, 700-799 pounds were 565,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 615,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during August totaled 1.92 million, 7 percent below 2003 and 10 percent below 2002. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of August since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 56,000 during August, 7 percent below 2003 but 30 percent above 2002.

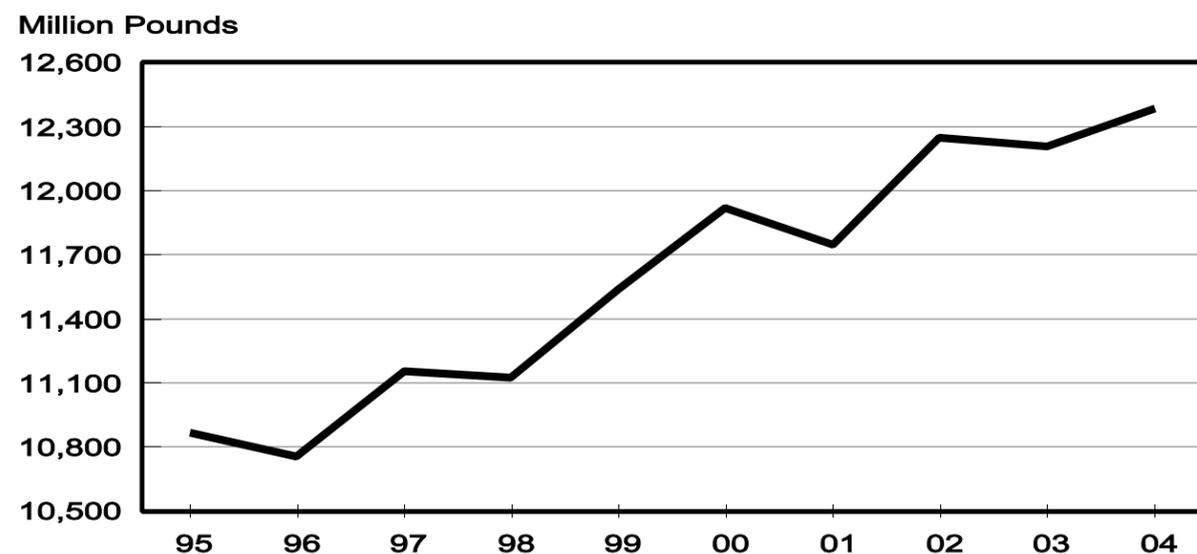
## U.S. August Milk Production Up 1.5 Percent

**Milk production** in the 20 major States during August totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from August 2003. July revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.0 percent from July 2003. The July revision represented an increase of 36 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 20 major States averaged 1,595 pounds for August, 24 pounds above August 2003.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 5,000 head less than August 2003, but 7,000 head more than July 2004.

## August Milk Production, 1995-2004 20 States



## U.S. Turkey Eggs in Incubators & Poult Placement

Turkey eggs in incubators on September 1, 2004, in the United States totaled 28.3 million, down slightly from September 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 7 percent below the August 2004 total of 30.6 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 3 percent, West North Central down 2 percent, North and South Atlantic up 3 percent, South Central up 4 percent, and West down 5 percent.

The 23.7 million poult placements during August 2004 in the United States were down 2 percent from the number placed

during the same month a year ago. Placements were down 6 percent from the July 2004 total of 25.3 million. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 1 percent, West North Central up 5 percent, North and South Atlantic down 11 percent, South Central up 10 percent, and West down 11 percent.

### Eggs in Incubators: First of Month by Region and United States, September 2004 with Comparisons

Geographic Division	Sep 1 2003	Aug 1 2004	Sep 1 2004	Percent of Previous Year	Percent of Previous Month
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Percent	Percent
E N Central	4,604	4,738	4,478	97	95
W N Central	11,341	11,497	11,147	98	97
N & S Atlantic	8,318	*9,046	8,539	103	94
S Central	2,208	*2,287	2,301	104	101
West	1,933	3,035	1,843	95	61
US	28,404	*30,603	28,308	100	93

### Poults Placements: Entire Month by Region and United States, August 2004 with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>

Geographic Division	Aug 2003	Jul 2004	Aug 2004	Percent of Previous Year	Percent of Previous Month
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Percent	Percent
E N Central	3,541	3,612	3,577	101	99
W N Central	8,795	9,295	9,262	105	100
N & S Atlantic	7,399	7,705	6,622	89	86
S Central	1,708	1,863	1,873	110	101
West	2,593	2,800	2,320	89	83
US	24,036	25,275	23,654	98	94

\*Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Regional placements refer to poults placed from hatcheries located in that region, and not the actual location of the birds after placement.

Regional Listing: North Atlantic: CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT.  
 East North Central: IL, IN, MI, OH, WI.  
 West North Central: IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD.  
 South Atlantic: DE, FL, GA, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV.  
 South Central: AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, OK, TN, TX.  
 West: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY.