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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during December 2003 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was 2 percent below November 2003 and 9 percent below December 2002 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,174,000 pounds live weight, down 5 percent from December 2002. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 891 pounds was down 30 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 222,000 pounds live weight, down 13 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 250 pounds was down 24 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial Sheep and Lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES—Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 3.86 billion pounds produced in December 2002.

Beef production, at 1.97 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled

2.67 million head, down 4 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was down 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,244 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19.0 million pounds, 6 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 97,500 head, down 1 percent from December 2002. The average live weight was 17 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.87 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.35 million head, 8 percent above December 2002. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 262,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 4 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2003 commercial red meat production was 46.5 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 9 percent.

December 2002 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

December 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

ANNUAL CHICKEN & EGGS

WEST VIRGINIA -- Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 totaled 270 million eggs. This was 3 percent above the 2002 production of 261 million eggs.

Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 1.23 million, up 1 percent from 2002. The average annual production per layer was 220 eggs, 6 eggs more than the 2002 average.

Total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) was 2.06 million head, up 5 percent from 2002.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2003 was \$9.68 million, up 5 percent from the December 1, 2002 value of \$9.24 million. The average value of \$4.70 per bird on December 1, 2003 was unchanged from 2002.

UNITED STATES-- Egg production during the year ending November 30, 2003 totaled a record high 87.2 billion eggs, up slightly from 2002. Table egg production, at 74.4 billion eggs, was up slightly from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.8 billion eggs, decreased 1 percent from 2002.

Average Number of Layers Down 1 Percent: Layer numbers during 2003 averaged 335 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2003 was 259 eggs, up one percent from the 2002 average of 257.

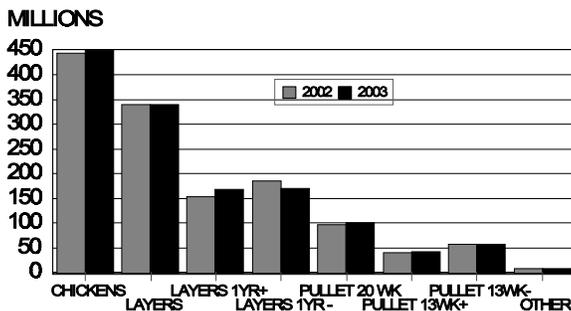
December 1 Inventory Numbers: The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2003 (excluding commercial broilers) was 449 million birds, up 1 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2003 was \$1.11 billion, up 5 percent from December 1, 2002. The average value increased from \$2.37 per bird on December 1, 2002, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2003.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates. The revised estimates may appear disjointed from historical data until the release of the 5 - year Final Estimates publications which are scheduled for April 29, 2004.

**CHICKEN INVENTORY
DECEMBER 1**



CROP VALUES

WEST VIRGINIA -- Corn for grain value of production totaled \$8.2 million in 2003, an 8 percent decrease from 2002. The marketing year average price received per bushel for corn was \$2.65, down 20 cents from 2002.

Tobacco value of production totaled \$3.1 million, down 20 percent from 2002. The average price received per pound for tobacco was \$1.97, down a fraction from 2002.

The value of winter wheat production in 2003 was \$890 thousand, a 15 percent decrease from the 2002 crop. Growers received an average of \$3.10 per bushel for the 2003 crop, unchanged from 2002.

Soybeans value of production totaled \$4.3 million, a 21 percent increase from 2002. The average price received per bushel for soybeans was \$7.00. This was up \$1.36 from the 2002 average price.

The value of all hay production totaled \$59.7 million in 2003, 11 percent less than 2002. The average price received per ton was \$56.00, \$7.50 less than the 2002 average price.

The value of alfalfa hay production totaled \$11.8 million in 2003, 17 percent less than 2002. The average price received per ton was \$104.00, \$9.00 less than the 2002 average price.

The value of all other hay production totaled \$48.0 million in 2003, 10 percent less than 2002. The average price received per ton was \$50.50, \$6.50 less than the 2002 average price.

The 2003 total value of production of principal crops (including fruits) was \$88.7 million, down 7 percent from the 2002 value of \$95.8 million, and down 10 percent from the 2001 value of \$98.1 million.

**UNITED STATES VALUE AND MARKETING YEAR
AVERAGE PRICE WITH 2002 COMPARISONS**

- Corn for grain value of production - \$24.80 billion, up 18%; \$2.45 per bushel, up 13 cents.
- Tobacco value of production - \$1.64 billion, down 4%; \$1.967 per pound, up 2.9 cents.
- Winter wheat value of production - \$5.57 billion, up 45%; \$3.25 per bushel, down 16 cents.
- Soybeans value of production - \$17.47 billion, up 15%, \$7.25 per bushel, up \$1.72.
- All hay value of production - \$12.33 billion, down 1%; \$92.90 per ton, up \$0.50.
- Alfalfa hay value of production - \$6.92 billion, down 4%; \$98.00 per ton, down \$2.00.
- Other hay value of production - \$5.41 billion, up 3%; \$80.80 per ton, up \$7.00.
- All crops (including fruits, nuts and vegetables) value of production - \$106.1 billion, up 12 percent.

FRUIT AND NUT, PRELIMINARY

WEST VIRGINIA -- Total apple production for 2003 was 90.0 million pounds, 5 percent less than the 2002 estimate of 95.0 million pounds. Utilized production totaled 90.0

million pounds, which was 2 million pounds below 2002. Bearing acres in the State were estimated at 6,500, unchanged from 2002, with an average yield per acre of 13,800 pounds, 800 pounds less than 2002. The average price per pound for apples was 9.0 cents, compared with 8.5 cents the previous year. Value of utilized production totaled \$8.10 million, up 4 percent from 2002.

Peach production totaled 12.5 million pounds, up 25 percent or 2.5 million pounds from 2002. Utilized production in 2003 totaled 11.8 million pounds, up 18 percent or 1.8 million pounds from last year. Bearing acres were estimated at 1,100, unchanged from 2002, with an average yield of 11,400 pounds per acre, an increase of 2,310 pounds. The price received per pound was estimated at 37.0 cents - an increase of 6.0 cents from 2002. Value of utilized production totaled \$4.37 million - a 41 percent increase from 2002.

UNITED STATES -- Total apple production in the U.S. during 2003 was estimated at 9.01 billion pounds, 6 percent more than 2002. Of the total production, 8.90 billion pounds were utilized, up 6 percent from the 2002 level. Growers received an average of 19.4 cents per pound, an increase of 0.6 cents from 2002. Value of utilized production totaled \$1.73 billion, an increase of 10 percent from 2002.

The U.S. total peach production (including California Clingstone) in 2003 was estimated at 2.52 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2002. Of this production, 2.41 billion pounds were utilized, also down 2 percent from the previous year. The average price received for peaches was 19.3 cents per pound, down 1.1 cents from 2002. Value of utilized production totaled \$466.7 million, down 7 percent from 2002.

JANUARY 1 CATTLE
'January Ag Survey Results'

WEST VIRGINIA -- **Cattle inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2004 totaled 380,000 head, down 25,000 head or 6 percent from the January 1, 2003 inventory. **All cows and heifers** that have calved totaled 200,000 head, down 10,000 head or 5 percent from January 1, 2003.

Comparing January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2003: **Beef cows** totaled 186,000 head, down 9,000 head; **milk cows** totaled 14,000, down 1,000 head; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 65,000 head, unchanged; **beef replacement heifers**, 40,000 head, up 5,000 head; **milk replacement heifers**, 4,000 head, down 3,000 head; **steers 500 pounds and over** at 35,000 head, down 8,000 head; **bulls 500 pounds and over** at 15,000 head, up 1,000 head; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 65,000, down 8,000 head. **Cattle on feed** totaled 5,000 head, down 2,000 head from 2003.

The 2003 **calf crop** totaled 185,000 head, down 5,000 head from the 2002 calf crop.

UNITED STATES -- **All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2004, totaled 94.9 million head, 1 percent below the 96.1 million on January 1, 2003. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 41.9 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003.

Comparing January 1, 2004, to January 1, 2003: **Beef cows** totaled 32.86 million head, down slightly; **milk cows** totaled 8.99 million, down 2 percent; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 19.3 million, down 1 percent; **beef replacement heifers**, 5.52 million, down 2 percent; **milk replacement heifers**, 4.02 million, down 2 percent; **other heifers**, 9.80 million, down 1 percent; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 16.3 million, down 2 percent; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 2.21 million, down 2 percent; **calves less than 500 pounds** totaled 15.2 million, down 2 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** totaled 13.8 million, up 4 percent.

The 2003 **calf crop** was estimated at 37.9 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. **Calves born** during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2004 and revised 2003 estimates included in this publication. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. January 1, 2003 and prior estimates contained in this publication will be republished in the Cattle, Final Estimates 1999-2003 publication which is scheduled for release on April 30, 2004.

JANUARY 1 SHEEP INVENTORY
'January Ag Survey Results'

WEST VIRGINIA -- **All sheep and lamb inventory** in West Virginia as of January 1, 2004, was 34,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2003.

Breeding sheep and lamb inventory totaled 30,000 head on January 1, 2004, up 1,000 head from 2003. Ewes, one year and older, at 25,000 head, were up 2,000 head from 2003. Rams totaled 1,000 head, unchanged from 2003. Replacement lambs totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2003.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004 totaled 4,000 head, down 20 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs totaled 3,500 head, down 500 head from the previous year. Of these, 1,500 were under 65 pounds, 500 were 65 - 84 pounds, 1,000 were 85 - 105 pounds, and 500 were over 105 pounds.

The **2003 lamb crop** totaled 33,000 head, unchanged from 2002. The 2003 lambing rate was 143 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 2003, compared to 138 in 2002.

UNITED STATES --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 downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

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.

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 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were 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

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2004 and revised 2003 estimates included in this publication. Although no significant revisions were made to the U.S. level estimates, States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series until the release of the 5-year Final Estimates publications which are scheduled for April 30, 2004.

DALE R. KING, STATE STATISTICIAN

MARCH AG SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the March Agricultural Survey from February 28 - March 15, 2004. Survey data are collected across the nation and used to set estimates of farmers' planting intentions for the 2004 crop year. The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service will be collecting data on crops that will be grown and harvested during 2004, acres expected to be cut for hay and inventories of on-farm grains stored as of March 1.

In an effort to reduce costs, most farmers selected to participate will be mailed a questionnaire. Farmers are encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire to us as promptly as possible in the postage paid envelope which will be enclosed. A representative from our office will contact those not responding by mail. All data will remain confidential and will only be combined with other operations in the state to arrive at state totals. West Virginia Agricultural Statistics depend on the voluntary cooperation of the state's farmers to provide data for this survey.

Results of the survey will be released beginning on March 31, 2004.

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
Chickens & Eggs
Honey Production
Farms & Land in Farms
Farm Labor
US and Canadian Cattle
Trout Production
Agricultural Chemical Usage**

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER

**United States Department Of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department Of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305**