

Mountain State Reporter

RELEASED: MARCH 2004

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 3

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
CHICKENS & EGGS
ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
FARMS & LAND IN FARMS
HONEY PRODUCTION
US AND CANADIAN CATTLE
TROUT PRODUCTION

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during January 2004 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was 19 percent below December 2003 and 10 percent below January 2003 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 956,000 pounds live weight, down 10 percent from January 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 934 pounds, was up 16 pounds from a year ago.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 194,000 pounds live weight, down 3 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 257 pounds, was down 9 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 3.71 billion pounds in January, down 9 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in January 2003.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was 16 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled

2.57 million head, down 14 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 1,249 pounds, down 19 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 16.0 million pounds, 10 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,000 head, down 16 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 336 pounds, up 18 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, slightly above January 2003. The average live weight was 269 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

January Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.38 billion during January 2004, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.32 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2004 averaged 338 million, down 1 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,184 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2003.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 5 Saturdays, compared to **January 2003** which contained 23 weekdays, 2 holidays, and 4 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2004, totaled 338 million, down 1 percent from a year ago. The 338 million layers consisted of 280 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 55.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.48 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2004, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, down slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 6.88 billion eggs during January 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during January, at 315 million, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 6 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during January totaled 35.4 million, up 6 percent from January 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 30.5 million on February 1, 2004, up 11 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 164,000 during January 2004, down 17 percent from January 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent

The January 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 774 million, was up 2 percent from January of the previous year. There were 636 million eggs in incubators on February 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.8 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2004, up 9 percent from January 2003.

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

WEST VIRGINIA – Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 7.1 million pounds during 2003. This was 8 percent below the 2002 production of 7.7 million. The number of Federally and Non Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2004, unchanged from January 1, 2003.

West Virginia with 2002 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** - 9.76 million pounds, down 5 percent.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 10,400 head, down 5 percent.
- **Pork production** - 2.18 million pounds, down 11 percent.
- **Hogs slaughtered** - 8,800 head, up 8 percent.
- **Lamb and mutton production** - 43 thousand pounds, not disclosed in 2002.
- **Sheep and lambs slaughtered** - 400 head, not disclosed in 2002.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2003 was 939 pounds, up 3 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 249 pounds, down 7 pounds. The average live weight for sheep and lambs was 107 pounds in 2003.

Calves information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

UNITED STATES – Red meat production for the United

States totaled 46.8 billion pounds in 2003, 1.2 percent below last year's record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 46.6 billion pounds. **On farm** production totaled 136 million pounds.

United States with 2002 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** - 26.3 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous record high set last year.
- **Veal production** - 201.1 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year, and set a new record low.
- **Pork production** - 20.0 billion pounds, 2 percent above last year, setting a new record high.
- **Lamb and mutton production** - 203.4 million pounds, 9 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 35.5 million head, down 1 percent from 2002.
- **Calves slaughtered** - 1.0 million head, down 4 percent from a year ago.
- **Hogs slaughtered** - 100.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2002.
- **Sheep and lambs slaughtered** - 2.98 million head, down 9 percent from 2002.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2003 was 1,231 pounds, down 20 pounds from a year ago. The calf slaughter average live weight was 318 pounds, up 6 pounds from the a year earlier. The average live weight for hogs was 266 pounds, up 1 pound from last year. Sheep and lambs average live weight was up 1 pound from 2002 to 134 pounds.

FARMS & LAND IN FARMS

WEST VIRGINIA -- The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,800 in 2003, same as 2002 and 2001. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres, also the same as 2002 and 2001. The average farm size was 173 acres, same as 2002 and 2001. The 2002 and 2001 numbers were revised based on the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,200. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.1 million acres. These were also unchanged from 2002 and 2001.

UNITED STATES -- The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000-\$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 declined 0.2 percent to 1,199,270 in 2003. Farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 decreased 0.7% from 2002 to 600,530. The number of farms with \$100,000-\$249,999 in sales was 167,230, a decline of 0.9 percent. In the \$250,000-\$499,999 sales class, the number of farms was unchanged from the previous year. The number of agricultural operations with \$500,000 or more of sales declined 0.4% from 2002.

Generally favorable weather, stronger commodity prices, higher value of commodities produced, farm consolidation, and competition for other uses of farmland contributed to the shifting of farms among the sales categories.

The number of farms in 2003 declined in 20 States, remained unchanged in 28 States, and increased in two States. The largest decline in farms occurred in California which lost 1,200 places followed by Missouri with 1,000. Other notable declines were: Minnesota and Nebraska, 900; Indiana, 800; North Carolina, 700; Iowa, 600; and Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin each losing 500 farms. For the two states with increased farm numbers, Mississippi added 600 and Montana 100 places.

HONEY PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 376,000 pounds, down 83,000 pounds from 2002. There were 8,000 producing colonies in 2003, down 1,000 colonies from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 47 pounds, down 4 pounds from 51 in 2002. Honey stocks on December 15, 2003, were reported at 194,000 pounds, up 43,000 pounds from the amount was reported in 2002.

Prices for the 2003 crop averaged 201 cents per pound, compared to 132 cents per pound in 2002. Value of production totaled 756,000 dollars, up 150,000 dollars from 2002.

UNITED STATES -- Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates included in this release. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Estimates for 2002 contained in the

national publication will be republished in the *Honey - Final Estimates 1998-02* publication which is scheduled for release on April 29, 2004.

US AND CANADIAN CATTLE

January Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 30, 2004.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 109.5 million head on January 1, 2004, down slightly from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.9 million head, was up slightly from a year ago.

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 was down 1 percent from the 42.1 million on January 1, 2003.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2004, totaled 14.7 million head, up 9 percent from the 13.5 million on January 1, 2003. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.1 million, was up 5 percent from the 5.8 million on January 1, 2003.

TROUT PRODUCTION

West Virginia Commercial Trout Sales Down

West Virginia -- The 17 commercial trout producers in West Virginia had fish sales of 477 thousand dollars for the 12 month period from January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003. This was an 18 percent decrease from the 583 thousand dollars in fish sales during the same period in 2002. Fish 12 inches or longer accounted for 94 percent of total sales of fish sold. Trout losses for the period totaled 50,000 pounds, down from last year's 53,000 pounds.

The value of trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes is estimated at 1.74 million dollars, up 38 percent from the 2002 value of 1.26 million dollars.

United States -- The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States totaled 66.4 million dollars during 2003, a decrease of 5 percent from 2002. Sales of fish totaled 62.3 million dollars for 2003, while egg sales totaled 4.18 million dollars. The State of Idaho accounted for 47 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of **trout 12 inches and longer** sold during 2003 totaled 45.9 million fish, down 8 percent from the previous year. The average price per pound, at 1.09, increased 1 cent from 2002. The value of sales for the 2003 marketing year was 55.4 million dollars, down 5 percent from 2002. Based on the dollar value, 68 percent were sold to processors and 20 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of **6"-12" trout** sold during 2003 totaled 6.33 million fish, a decrease of 14 percent from 2002. The average price per pound was \$2.49 during 2003, down 4 cents from the 2002 price. The total value of sales was 5.66 million dollars during 2003, up 2 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlets for 6"-12" trout were to fee and recreational fishing establishments with 54 percent of the total sales, followed by government with 14 percent, and sales to other producers at 12 percent.

The number of **1"-6" trout** sold during 2003 totaled 7.34 million, a 20 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$168.00 during 2003, a \$7.00 increase from 2002. The total value of sales was 1.23 million dollars, down 16 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2003 totaled 264 million eggs, down 12 percent from the 298 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2003 was \$15.80, up 90 cents from 2002. The total value of trout egg sales during 2003 was 4.18 million dollars, down 6 percent from the 4.45 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Distributed Trout

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 11.4 million 12" or longer fish, 43.7 million 6"-12", and 63.6 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 61.2 million dollars, up 1 percent from 2002.

Losses of Fish

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 29.2 million fish during 2003, with 81.7 percent being lost to disease and 13.1 percent lost to predators. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (71 percent) and predators (18 percent).

Next Issue:

Livestock Slaughter
Prospective Plantings-US intentions
Chickens & Eggs
Milk Production
Hogs & Pigs
Annual Poultry Slaughter

DALE R. KING, STATE STATISTICIAN

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