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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER  
CHICKENS & EGGS  
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2003 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION**

**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

**March Red Meat Production**

**WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production** during March 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was 16 percent below February 2004, and 8 percent below March 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 675,000 pounds live weight, down 11 percent from March 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 700 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 918 pounds, was down 84 pounds from a year ago.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 146,000 pounds live weight, up 9 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 257 pounds, was down 3 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 3.95 billion pounds in March, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in March 2003.

**Beef production**, at 2.11 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.87 million head, up 4 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was down 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,217 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 14.2 million pounds, 14 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 76,900 head, down 10 percent from March 2003. The average live weight was 15 pounds below last year, at 308 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year, and set a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 9.04 million head, 11 percent above March 2003. The average live weight was unchanged the previous year, at 268 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 22.1 million pounds, was up 22 percent from March 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 306,800 head, 17 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from March a year ago.

**January to March 2004 commercial red meat production** was 11.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 7 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

**March 2003** contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. **March 2004** contained 23 weekends (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

**CHICKENS & EGGS**

**March Egg Production Up 1 Percent**

U.S. egg production totaled 7.53 billion during March 2004, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.44 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 58.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 2004 averaged 341 million, up slightly from a year earlier. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,209 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2003.

March 2004 contained 23 weekdays, four Saturdays compared to March 2003 which contained 21 weekdays, and five Saturdays.

**All layers in the U.S.** on April 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 283 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.44 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2004, averaged 72.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from a year ago.

**Laying flocks** in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during March 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during March, at 318 million, was up slightly 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. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

#### **Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 2 Percent**

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from March 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.9 million on April 1, 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 401,000 during March 2004, up 26 percent from March 2003.

#### **Broiler Hatch Up 2 Percent**

The March 2004 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 791 million, was up 2 percent from March of the previous year. There were 653 million eggs in incubators on April 1, 2004, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.8 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2004, down 3 percent from March 2003.

### **MAY CROP PRODUCTION**

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2004, totaled 191,000 tons. This is 96,000 tons, or 101 percent more than what was on hand last year at this time, but 14,000 tons below May 1 stocks on hand in 2002. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, was 766,000 tons, 9 percent less than the 2002 crop disappearance of 839,000 tons for the same period.

Final 2003 burley tobacco production totaled 1.56 million pounds, down 325,000 pounds or 17 percent from 2002. Yield per acre averaged 1,300 pounds, down 150 pounds or 10 percent from 2002. Area harvested in 2003 totaled 1,200 acres, a 100 acre drop from the previous year. The 2003 season average price for tobacco was \$1.978 per pound, up slightly from the 2002 price of \$1.967. The value of production totaled \$3.09

million, down 17 percent from the 2002 value of \$3.71 million.

**UNITED STATES** -- Winter wheat production, as of May 1, is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season.

Stocks of all hay on farms totaled 25.9 million tons on May 1, 2004, up 17 percent from the previous year. This increase was mainly the result of a higher hay production in 2003. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2003 - May 1, 2004, totaled 84.9 million tons, 5 percent greater than the disappearance of 81.0 million tons for the same period a year earlier. Disappearance was up from the previous year despite the mild winter in the Corn Belt and Rocky Mountains.

Thirty-three of the 48 reporting States had higher hay stocks than a year ago. Most of the States reporting an increase in stocks were located in the eastern and central Corn Belt, Southeast, central Great Plains, central Rocky Mountains, and along the middle Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. Compared to May 2003, stocks more than doubled in the Ohio Valley due to an increase in production and mild winter weather.

Total U.S. tobacco production for 2003 is revised down 3 percent. Harvested acreage is down 1 percent, while the average yield decreased 45 pounds per acre. Total production, at 803 million pounds in 2003, is down 8 percent from 2002 and at the lowest level since 1897. Growers harvested 411,150 acres in 2003, down 4 percent from the previous year and the lowest harvested acreage since 1874. Final yields averaged 1,952 pounds per acre, down 87 pounds from 2002. Burley production - which accounted for 99 percent of all light air-cured tobacco, is revised down 6 percent from the January preliminary estimate to 282 million pounds. This is 4 percent less than 2002 when 294 million pounds were produced. Producers of burley tobacco harvested 152,300 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,850 pounds per acre, 11 pounds less than 2002. Kentucky, the leading producer of burley tobacco, produced 198 million pounds, 70 percent of all burley grown in the United States.

### **2003 MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME**

**WEST VIRGINIA** -- **Milk production** totaled 222 million pounds during 2003, down 21 million pounds from the 2002 production. The average number of milk cows was 15,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2002. Average milk production per cow was 14,800 pounds, down 388 pounds from the 15,188 pounds for 2002.

**Cash receipts from marketings** of milk during 2003 totaled \$28.0 million, down 8 percent from the 2002 cash receipts. Producer returns averaged \$12.80 per hundredweight, down \$.10 from 2002. Milk marketed by

producers totaled 219 million pounds in 2003, down 21 million pounds from 2002. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

**UNITED STATES – Milk production** increased 0.1 percent in 2003 to 170.3 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 18,749 pounds, was 141 pounds above 2002. The annual average number of milk cows on farms, at 9.08 million head, was 55,000 head less than 2002.

**Cash receipts from marketings** of milk during 2003 totaled \$21.2 billion, 3 percent above 2002. Producer returns averaged \$12.55 per hundredweight, 3 percent above 2002. Marketings totaled 169 billion pounds, 0.2 percent above 2002. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.11 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 0.4 percent less than 2002. Calves were fed 86 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

#### 2003 POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

**WEST VIRGINIA --** There were 87.2 million **broilers produced** in West Virginia during 2003, 3 percent below 2002. Total live weight was 357.5 million pounds, down from the 358.8 million pounds in 2002. Value of production totaled \$121.6 million, up 13 percent from the \$107.6 million in 2002. The average live weight equivalent price of 34.0 cents per pound was up 4.0 cents from the previous year.

**Turkeys raised** in West Virginia totaled 4.3 million, up 8 percent from the revised total in 2002. Total live weight was 92.0 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2002. Value of production totaled \$33.1 million, slightly above the \$33.0 million in 2002. The average live weight equivalent price was 36.0 cents per pound, down 1.0 cent from the 2002 price.

**Egg production** in West Virginia totaled 270 million eggs during 2003, up 3 percent from the 262 million eggs in 2002. The average price per dozen was 151.0 cents, up 11.0 cents from 2002. The total value of production was \$34.0 million, up 12 percent from the \$30.5 in 2002.

The **number of chickens sold** (excluding broilers) totaled 1.602 million head, slightly below the revised number sold in 2002 of 1.605 million head. The number of pounds sold was 12.3 million pounds, down 3 percent from the revised 2002 number of pounds sold. Value of sales totaled \$937,000 compared to the revised total of \$1.1 million in 2002 - a 15 percent decrease. Prices averaged 7.6 cents per pound, compared with 8.7 cents in 2002.

The **combined value of production and value of sales** from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2003, was \$189.6 million, up 10 percent from the revised combined value of \$172.2 million in 2002. Of the combined total, 64 percent was from broilers, 18 percent from eggs, 17 percent from turkeys and less than 1 percent from sales of other chickens.

**UNITED STATES –** The **combined value of production** from broilers, eggs, turkeys and the value of sales from chickens in 2003, was \$23.3 billion, up 14 percent from the \$20.5 billion in 2002. Of the combined total, 65 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 12 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from other chickens.

The value of **broilers produced** during 2003 was \$15.2 billion, up 13 percent from 2002. The total number of broilers produced in 2003 was 8.49 billion, down 1 percent from 2002. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2003 was 44.0 billion pounds, down slightly from 2002. The 2003 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 34.6 cents per pound, compared with 30.5 cents in 2002.

Value of all **egg production** in 2003 was \$5.32 billion, up 24 percent from the \$4.28 billion in 2002. Egg production totaled 87.2 billion eggs, down slightly from the 87.3 billion eggs produced in 2002. In 2003, all eggs averaged 73.1 cents per dozen, compared with 58.9 cents in 2002.

The value of **turkeys produced** during 2003 was \$2.72 billion, down slightly from the \$2.73 billion the previous year. Turkey production in 2003 totaled 7.55 billion pounds, compared with 7.49 billion pounds in 2002. The average price received by producers during 2003 was 36.0 cents per pound, compared with 36.5 cents in 2002.

The value of sales from **chickens** (excluding broilers) in 2003 was \$47.7 million, down 5 percent from the \$49.9 million a year ago. Prices averaged 4.8 cents per pound, the same as 2002. The number of chickens sold in 2003 totaled 188 million, down 6 percent from the total sold during the previous year.

#### 2003 MEAT ANIMAL PRODUCTION

**WEST VIRGINIA --** The **2003 gross income** from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs was \$99.5 million, up 9 percent from the revised \$91.2 million in 2002. Gross income from cattle and calves was up 9 percent. Hogs and pigs increased 34 percent. Sheep and lambs increased 18 percent from the 2002 income.

**Production of meat animals** in West Virginia during 2003 totaled 125.4 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year. Cattle and calves production decreased 3

percent. Hogs and pigs increased 25 percent. Sheep and lambs decreased 1 percent. The value of production of meat animals was up 2 percent to \$72.2 million compared with the revised \$70.8 million in 2002.

**Total 2003 cash receipts** from marketings for all meat animals was \$92.9 million, up 7 percent from the revised 2002 cash receipts. Cattle and calves accounted for 96 percent of the total cash receipts, sheep and lambs 2 percent and hogs and pigs 2 percent.

**Cattle and calves:** Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased 6 percent during 2003. Receipts totaled \$89.5 million compared with the \$84.3 million in 2002. All cattle and calf marketings during 2003 reached 145.0 million pounds, down from the 145.6 million pounds in 2002. The 2003 annual average price of cattle at \$56.90 per 100 pounds live weight, was up \$3.40 from the 2002 price. The average price for calves at \$81.70 per 100 pounds live weight, was up \$7.70 from the 2002 price.

**Hogs and pigs:** Cash receipts from marketings of hogs and pigs were \$1.4 million during 2003, up 29 percent from the revised 2002 cash receipts of \$1.0 million. Marketings of 3.7 million pounds during 2003 were 17 percent above the 2002 total marketings of 3.1 million pounds. The annual average price per 100 pounds live weight at \$36.10 increased \$4.10 from the revised price last year.

**Sheep and lambs:** Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2003 totaled \$2.1 million, up 19 percent from the 2002 revised cash receipts of \$1.7 million. The average price of sheep in 2003 was \$31.40 per 100 pounds of live weight, up from \$25.30 in 2002.

Lamb prices increased from \$77.00 in 2002 to \$90.60 in 2003. Marketings of sheep and lambs at 2.7 million pounds were up 3 percent from the 2002 revised marketings of sheep and lambs.

**UNITED STATES – The 2003 gross income** from cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled \$56.6 billion, up 17 percent from 2002. Gross income increased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves increased 18 percent, while hogs and pigs increased 11 percent, and sheep and lambs increased 18 percent.

**Total 2003 cash receipts** from marketings of meat animals increased 17 percent to \$56.2 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 80 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 19 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for hogs and pigs, but declined for both cattle and calves and sheep and lambs. Average prices were up for all three species.

**Cattle and Calves:** Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves increased from \$38.0 billion in 2002 to \$45.1 in 2003, a 19 percent increase. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 56.8 billion pounds in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$79.70, an increase of \$13.20 from 2002. For calves, the annual average price increased \$5.60 to \$102.00.

**Next Issue:**

**Livestock Slaughter  
Chickens & Eggs  
Farm Labor  
June Crop Production  
Ag Chemical Usage-Field Crops**

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