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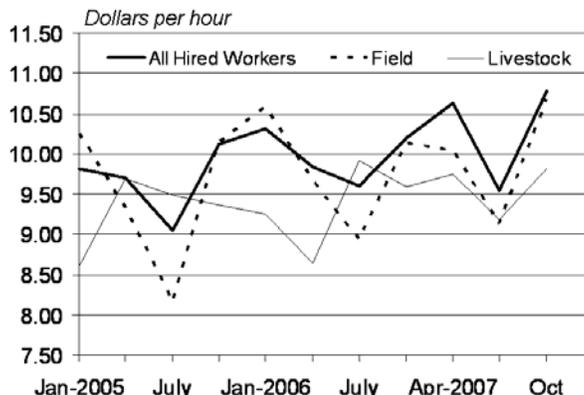
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average of \$9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year.

### Wage Rates for Hired Workers Northern Plains, 2005-2007 1/



1/ Due to budget constraints, NASS did not conduct the January 2007 Agricultural Labor Survey.

### FARM LABOR

**U**nited States Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an

**N**orthern Plains Farm operators paid their hired

workers an average wage of \$10.78 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 58 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.68 per hour, up 55 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.82 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier.

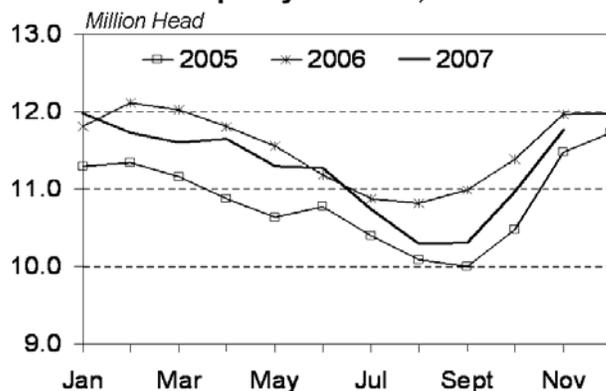
### CATTLE ON FEED

**U**nited States Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on November 1, 2007. The inventory was 2 percent below November 1, 2006 but 3 percent above November 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.72 million, 12 percent above 2006 but 3 percent below 2005. Net placements were 2.67 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 855,000, 600-699 pounds were 745,000, 700-799 pounds were 556,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 560,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.88 million, 6 percent above 2006 and 8 percent above 2005. Other disappearance totaled 47,000 during October, 42 percent below 2006 and 19 percent below 2005.

### United States Cattle on Feed 1000+ Capacity Feedlots, 2005-2007



## MILK PRODUCTION

### United States

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October 2006. September revised production at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 3.1 percent from September 2006. The September revision represented an increase of 10.0 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,699 pounds for October, 47 pounds above October 2006. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.35 million head, 98,000 head more than October 2006, and 13,000 head more than September 2007.



## DAIRY PRODUCTS PRICES

### United States

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.92 per pound for the week ending November 10. The price per pound increased 5.8 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.93 per pound, up 1.7 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.29 per pound for the week ending November 10. The U.S. price per pound increased 1.9 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.92 per pound for the week ending November 10. The U.S. price per pound decreased 14.5 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 43.9 cents per pound for the week ending November 10. The U.S. price per pound increased 1.8 cents from the previous week.



## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

### United States

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.61 billion pounds in October, up 10 percent from the 4.20 billion pounds produced in October 2006.

Beef production, at 2.44 billion pounds, was 9 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.10 million head, up 8 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,300 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.1 million pounds, 16 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 65,200 head, up 3 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was down 59 pounds from last year, at 288 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.14 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.7 million head, up 11 percent from October 2006. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.4 million pounds, was up 5 percent from October 2006. Sheep slaughter totaled 248,000 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from October a year ago.

January to October 2007 commercial red meat production was 40.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2006. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

## TURKEY HATCHERY

### United States

Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 2007 in the United States totaled 31.1 million, up 5 percent from November 1, 2006. Eggs in incubators were up 2 percent from the October 1, 2007 total of 30.4 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 5 percent, West North Central up 6 percent, North and South Atlantic up 8 percent, and South Central and West up 7 percent.

Turkey poults hatched during October 2007 in the United States totaled 25.9 million, up 3 percent from October 2006. Poults hatched were up 7 percent from the September 2007 total of 24.3 million poults. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 9 percent, West North Central up 5 percent, North and South Atlantic up 8 percent, and South Central and West up 2 percent.

The 25.4 million net poults placed during October 2007 in the United States were up 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were up 5 percent from the September 2007 total of 24.1 million.



# YOUR VOICE

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is your chance to share your voice. Your response provides vital information that impacts decisions about community development, funding availability, farm policy and other key issues.

By actively participating in the Census, you join with other voices to make positive changes.

Look for the Census in your mailbox in early January 2008. Complete and return it by February 4, 2008. Remember, when you lend your voice, you help ensure a better future for your operation, your family and your community.

United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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## COLD STORAGE

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### United States

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2007 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, turkey, pork and beef. Butter stocks were down 19 percent from last month but up 24 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 2 percent from both the previous month and last year. Frozen pork supplies were also up 2 percent from both the previous month and last year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 19 percent from last month and up 30 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2007 were down 5 percent from the previous month and down 4 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 5 percent from the previous month but down 8 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 18 percent from last month but up 2 percent from October 31, 2006.



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