

IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Labor

Cattle on Feed

Milk Production

Dairy Product Prices

Livestock Slaughter

Turkey Hatchery

International Feed Outlook

Cold Storage

FARM LABOR

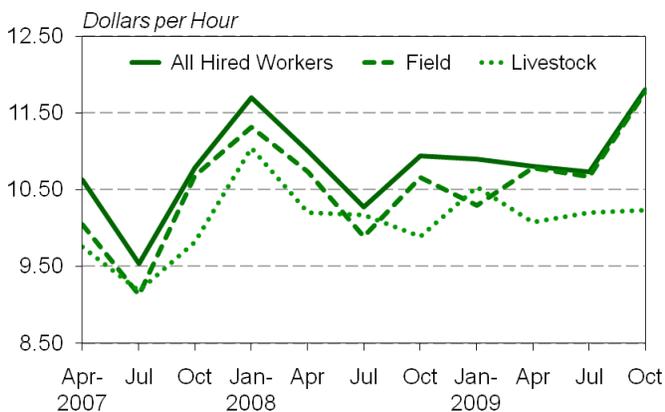
United States

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

Northern Plains

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.80 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 86 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.77 per hour, up \$1.11 from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$9.89 a year earlier.

**Wage Rates for Hired Workers
Northern Plains, 2007-2009**



CATTLE ON FEED

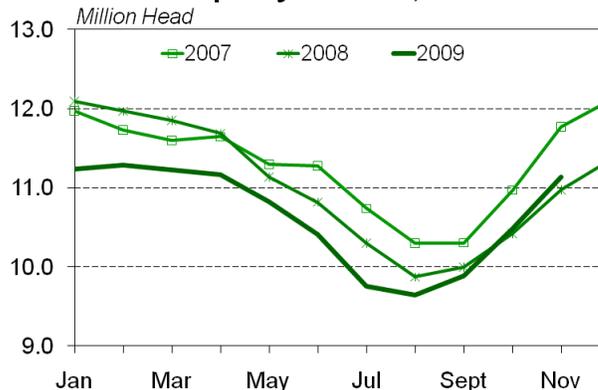
United States

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on November 1, 2009. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2008.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.47 million, 1 percent above 2008. Net placements were 2.42 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 615,000, 600-699 pounds were 645,000, 700-799 pounds were 579,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 635,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2008. Other disappearance totaled 59,000 during October, 12 percent below 2008.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1000+ Capacity Feedlots, 2007-2009**



MILK PRODUCTION

United States
Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 14.3 billion pounds, down 1.1 percent from October 2008. September revised production at 14.0 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from September 2008. The September revision represented an increase of 16 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,721 pounds for October, 21 pounds above October 2008. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.32 million head, 196,000 head less than October 2008, and 22,000 head less than September 2009.



DAIRY PRODUCT PRICES

United States
Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.50 per pound for the week ending November 14. The price per pound increased 3.0 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.51 per pound, up 0.8 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.40 per pound for the week ending November 14. The U.S. price per pound increased 8.6 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 \$1.11 per pound for the week ending November 14. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.7 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 34.7 cents per pound for the week ending November 14. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.3 cents from the previous week.



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

United States
Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.39 billion pounds in October, down 3 percent from the 4.53 billion pounds produced in October 2008.

Beef production, at 2.28 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.89 million head, down 3 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,312 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, 10 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 83,600 head, down 13 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, at 249 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.09 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.3 million head, down 4 percent from October 2008. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was down 5 percent from October 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 218,800 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 2 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2009 commercial red meat production was 41.2 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 3 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

TURKEY HATCHERY

United States
Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 2009, in the United States totaled 25.8 million, down 6 percent from November 1, 2008. Eggs in incubators were down 2 percent from the October 1, 2009 total of 26.4 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 9 percent, West North Central up 3 percent, North and South Atlantic down 18 percent, and South Central and West up 9 percent.

Turkey poults hatched during October 2009, in the United States totaled 22.0 million, down 5 percent from October 2008. Poults hatched were down slightly from September 2009 total of 22.0 million poults. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 9 percent, West North Central up 3 percent, North and South Atlantic down 12 percent, and South Central and West down 11 percent.

The 21.1 million net poults placed during October 2009 in the United States were down 5 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Net placements were up 1 percent from the September 2009 total of 20.8 million.

Competition Reduces U.S. Corn Export Prospects for 2009/10

Increased competition from Ukrainian corn and from feed-quality wheat from the Black Sea (mostly Ukraine, Russia, and parts of the EU) is contributing to a slowdown in U.S. exports and sales. Additional factors contributing to the dropoff include the flow of exports from South America, the slow pace of the U.S. corn harvest, concerns about U.S. corn quality, and increases in U.S. corn prices, partly influenced by funds investing in commodities as a hedge against inflation. U.S. exports projected for the 2009/10 October-September trade year are reduced 1.5 million tons this month to 53.0 million. The local marketing year export forecast is cut 50 million bushels to 2.1 billion. Although the marketing year started with large outstanding export sales, and September 2009 Census corn exports of 4.9 million tons was a strong start, the export pace slowed dramatically in October, with corn export inspections reported at less than 3.0 million tons. Net export sales reported during the 5 weeks of October 2009 were only 2.3 million tons, down from 3.6 million a year earlier.

Ukraine's 1.0 million ton production increase and the rapid early pace of corn exports from Ukraine support the country's 1.0 million ton increase in projected exports to 4.0 million. While projected corn exports for Argentina and Brazil are not increased this month, their governments moved to facilitate corn exports, with Argentina expanding export registration quotas and Brazil releasing funding that subsidizes the movement of government owned stocks to export positions. Israel's projected corn imports are cut 0.3 million tons this month to 1.0 million, and an offsetting increase is made for wheat imports, as feed quality wheat prices are more attractive than corn prices. The reduction in corn imports for Israel is partly offset by an increase for Venezuela, up 0.2 million tons to 1.3 million due to production problems.

In barley trade, U.S. October-September exports are reduced 0.1 million tons to 0.2 million. EU barley exports for 2009/10 projected 0.2 million tons lower to 2.3 million, and Jordan's imports are trimmed by the same amount to 0.5 million. There are no significant changes this month for 2009/10 sorghum and oats trade, but for rye, exports by Belarus and imports for Japan are reduced.

Increased Foreign Coarse Grain Production Partly Offsets U.S. Drop

World coarse grain production in 2009/10 is projected at 1,091.6 million tons, down 0.9 million this month. However, foreign production is forecast to reach 747.7 million tons, up 1.6 million, partly offsetting the U.S. decline. Foreign corn production is projected down slightly, 0.3 million tons, to 461.5 million, as several significant changes are offsetting. Foreign barley production is up 0.6 million tons to 142.9 million, foreign sorghum is increased slightly to 54.7 million tons, millet is unchanged this month at 32.8 million tons, foreign oats are up 0.3 million tons to 22.9 million, foreign

rye is up fractionally to 16.8 million tons, and mixed grains are up 1.0 million tons to 16.1 million.

Corn production for two leading exporting countries is increased significantly this month. Ukraine's corn production is up 1.0 million tons to 10 million, based on harvest reports indicating better than expected yields. South Africa, still planting, is projected to produce 11.5 million tons of corn, also up 1.0 million this month.

Despite concerns about potential drought associated with an ongoing El Nino weather pattern in the Pacific, producers are being encouraged by excellent rains during planting to expand area planted.

These increases are more than offset by several countries with reduced corn production this month. In Brazil, corn production is reduced 1.0 million tons to 51.0 million due to a reduction in expected area. The relative prices make soybeans more attractive than corn, with first crop corn area in Southern Brazil shifting to soybeans.

EU corn production is reduced 0.4 million tons to 56.1 million based on countries' official production estimates as harvest winds down. Reductions for Germany, France, the Czech Republic, Austria, and Hungary more than offset increases for Italy and Spain.

Russia's corn production prospects are cut 0.3 million tons to 4.4 million, based on lower area harvested for grain. Summer dryness and hot temperatures in Russia's Southern District hurt corn production. Venezuela's corn production is also cut 0.3 million tons to 1.8 million this month due to winter drought in the main crop area of Guarico.

Canada's corn production is trimmed 0.2 million tons to 9.5 million, as delayed development, frost, and harvest delays combine to trim yield prospects in Ontario. There are also small reductions in corn production this month for Belarus and South Korea.

EU barley production increased 0.5 million tons to 61.9 million as improved yields were reported in Spain, France, and Germany, more than offsetting a reduction in Slovakia. Barley production in Kazakhstan increased 0.4 million tons to 2.1 million as exceptionally favorable extended harvest boosted area and yield. There was also a small increase in barley production for Chile and reductions for Mexico (with several years of revisions for barley and oats), Syria, and Croatia.

EU sorghum is boosted slightly, mostly due to higher reported production in France, but this increase was partly offset by slightly reduced sorghum prospects in Venezuela. The EU also accounted for most of the increases for foreign oats, rye, and mixed grain. Poland reported a modest increase in oats production and a dramatic 1.0 million ton increase in triticale, included in USDA's mixed grains.

Source: *Feed Outlook*, USDA-ERS, November 13, 2009

COLD STORAGE

United States

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2009 were greater than year earlier levels for butter and cheese. Butter stocks were down 14 percent from last month but up 31 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 6 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from the previous month and down 1 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 4 percent from last month but up 71 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2009 were down 8 percent from the previous month and down 16 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were down slightly from the previous month and down 20 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 17 percent from last month and down 12 percent from October 31, 2008.



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