

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

- Broiler Hatchery Production
- Chickens and Egg Production
- Commercial Red Meat Production
- Dairy Production
- Milk Production
- Peanut Prices
- Peanut Stocks
- Poultry Slaughter

EGG PRODUCTION

SOUTH CAROLINA'S laying flocks produced 94 million eggs during April, down 1 percent from a year ago. Production totaled 73 million table eggs and 21 million hatching eggs. The number of layers averaged 4,349,000 birds, down less than 1 percent from 4,363,000 a year ago. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,161 eggs, compared with 2,177 in 2011.

UNITED STATES egg production totaled 7.58 billion during April 2012, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.54 billion table eggs, and 1.04 billion hatching eggs, of which 964 million were broiler-type and 73 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during April 2012 averaged 339 million, down slightly from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,233 eggs, down slightly from April 2011.

**Average Layers and Egg Production
Selected States, and U.S., April, 2012**

Selected States	Average No. of Layers	Eggs Produced	Eggs per 100 Layers
	Thousand	Million	Number
Alabama	9,270	177	1,909
Florida	8,899	207	2,326
Georgia	16,803	349	2,077
North Carolina	12,752	258	2,023
South Carolina	4,349	94	2,161
United States	339,338	7,578	2,233

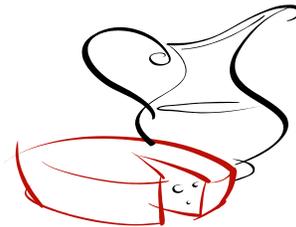
BROILER HATCHERY PRODUCTION

During the month of April, SOUTH CAROLINA'S broiler hatcheries produced 18.8 million chicks, down 1 percent from last year's 19.0 million chicks.

The UNITED STATES broiler-type chicks hatched during April 2012 totaled 748 million, down 4 percent from April 2011. Eggs in incubators totaled 619 million on May 1, 2012, down 4 percent from a year earlier.

**CHICKS HATCHED by Type
South Carolina and U.S., April 2012**

Flock Type and Area	April 2012	Jan-April 2012
	Thousand	
<i>Broiler Type:</i>		
SOUTH CAROLINA	18,796	75,185
United States	747,697	2,968,905
<i>Egg Type:</i>		
United States	39,702	159,901



DAIRY PRODUCTION

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 946 million pounds, 3.7 percent above March 2011 and 10.3 percent above February 2012.

Italian type cheese production totaled 405 million pounds, 1.4 percent above March 2011 and 10.4 percent above February 2012.

American type cheese production totaled 382 million pounds, 4.1 percent above March 2011 and 9.9 percent above February 2012.

Butter production was 176 million pounds, 6.4 percent above March 2011 and 3.9 percent above February 2012.

Dry Milk Powders: (comparisons with March 2011)
Nonfat dry milk, human --- 189 million pounds, up 49.9 percent.

Skim milk powders --- 11.9 million pounds, down 71.5 percent.

Whey products: (comparisons with March 2011)
Dry whey, total – 90.2 million pounds, down 4.3 percent.
Lactose, human and animal – 89.9 million pounds, up 5.4 percent.

Whey protein concentrate, total – 38.9 million pounds, up 5.6 percent.

Frozen products: (comparisons with March 2011)
Ice cream, Regular (hard) – 72.5 million gallons, down 3.3 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) – 39.6 million gallons, up 0.4 percent. Sherbet (hard) – 4.08 million gallons, down 8.1 percent. Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 5.67 million gallons, down 4.0 percent.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: Selected States and United States, March 2011-2012

(Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton. Totals and percentages based on unrounded data)

Selected States	Mar 2011	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	March 2012 as % of 2011
	million pounds			percent
Florida	10.1	8.0	9.6	94
Georgia	10.9	11.3	11.8	108
Iowa	600.6	532.1	564.5	94
North Carolina	219.4	204.2	205.1	94
South Carolina ...	21.6	19.1	20.6	95
Tennessee	19.9	17.4	18.3	92
United States	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	96

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: United States, March 2011-2012

(Totals, accumulated totals and percentages based on unrounded data)

Class	Mar 2011	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Mar 2012 % of	
				Mar 2011	Feb 2012
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,266.2	2,009.0	2,157.6	95	107
Veal	12.1	9.8	10.0	82	102
Pork	2,054.4	1,882.9	1,987.9	97	106
Lamb & Mutton	14.1	12.3	14.2	101	115
Total Red Meat	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	96	107

POULTRY SLAUGHTER

The Preliminary total live weight of poultry inspected during March 2012 was 4.77 billion pounds, down 7 percent from 5.12 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.06 billion pounds, down 8 percent from March 2011.

Mature chickens, at 63.5 million pounds, were down 13 percent from the previous year. Young chickens slaughtered during March 2012 averaged 5.81 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from March 2011.

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED: Number, Live Weight, and Average Live Weight, Pounds Certified, Post-Mortem Condemnations, Selected States and United States, March 2012

Selected States	Number Slaughtered	Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Total Chilled and Frozen Pounds Certified 1/	Post-Mortem Condemnations	
					Carcass and Parts	Percent 2/
	Thou.	Thou. Lbs	Pounds	Thou. Lbs	Percent	
Alabama	85,074	483,063	5.68	366,984	3,338	0.90
Georgia	100,401	542,764	5.41	403,817	3,182	0.78
North Carolina	60,763	432,325	7.11	334,695	3,117	0.92
South Carolina	22,865	156,117	6.83	115,398	716	0.62
United States	699,125	4,059,881	5.81	3,043,291	25,995	0.85

1/ Ready-to-cook weights. 2/ Pounds condemned as percent of pounds certified plus post-mortem condemnations.

MILK PRODUCTION

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION of Milk and Milkfat: Selected States and United States, 2011

Selected States	Number Of Milk Cows 1/	Production of Milk and Milkfat 2/						
		Per Milk Cows		Percent of Fat			Total	
		Milk	Milkfat	Fluid Grade	Manuf. Grade	All Milk	Milk	Milkfat
	1,000 Hd	(pounds)		(pounds)		(percent)	(million pounds)	
California	1,769.0	23,438	872	(NA)	(NA)	3.72	41,462.0	1,542.4
Florida	119.0	19,067	700	(NA)	(NA)	3.67	2,269.0	83.3
Georgia	79.0	18,354	681	(NA)	(NA)	3.71	1,450.0	53.8
North Carolina	45.0	20,044	754	(NA)	(NA)	3.76	902.0	33.9
South Carolina	16.0	17,375	692	(NA)	(NA)	3.98	278.0	11.1
Wisconsin	1,265.0	20,646	768	(NA)	(NA)	3.72	26,117.0	971.6
United States	9,194.0	21,345	792	(NA)	(NA)	3.71	196,245.0	7,284.4

(NA) Not available 1/ Average number during year, excluding heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U. S. PEANUT STOCKS

Peanut stocks reported in commercial storage on March 31, 2012 totaled 2.33 billion pounds of equivalent farmer stock, compared with 2.87 billion pounds a year ago. This total includes 1.51 billion pounds of actual farmer stock. Shelled peanuts on hand totaled 779 million pounds of farmer stock equivalent. Roasting stock totaled 41.3 million pounds. Shelled peanut stocks totaled 586 million pounds of which 539 million pounds were edible grades and 46.5 million pounds were oil stocks. Edible grade stocks by type included 78.4 million pounds of Virginias and Valencias, 451 million pounds of Runners, and 9.37 million pounds of Spanish. Millings in March totaled 403 million pounds. Millings by type were 81.7 million pounds of Virginias and Valencias, 316 million pounds of Runners, and 5.73 million pounds of Spanish.

PEANUT STOCKS

United States Stocks of Peanuts and Specified Products at Month's End, Crop of 2011-2012

Month Ending	Farmer Stock	Shelled Peanuts 1/	Roasting Stock (In Shell) 2/	Farmer Stock Equivalent	
				Shelled Peanuts	Total 3/
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds
2011					
August	471,990	485,115	54,356	645,203	1,171,549
September	613,758	452,167	37,263	601,382	1,252,403
October	2,300,132	421,590	27,359	560,715	2,888,206
November	2,780,832	434,869	30,094	578,376	3,389,302
December	2,581,188	468,945	32,994	623,697	3,237,879
2012					
January	2,239,420	498,785	35,870	663,384	2,938,674
February	1,888,496	546,535	37,540	726,892	2,652,928
March	1,514,162	585,515	41,331	778,735	2,334,228
April					
May					
June					
July					
2011					
Mar	2,066,062	561,707	53,926	747,070	2,867,058

1/ Includes shelled edible grades, shelled oil stock, and shelled seed (untreated). 2/ Cleaned and unshelled. 3/ Farmer stock + roasting stock + (actual shelled peanuts X 1.33).

PEANUT PRICES

Peanuts: Prices and Marketings by Type and Week, United States: April 14, 2012-May 12, 2012

Item and type	Week Ending				
	April 14, 2012	April 21, 2012	April 28, 2012	May 5, 2012	May 12, 2012
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>				
Average Price					
Runners	0.342	0.355	0.346	0.356	0.322
Spanish	0.320	(D)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Valencias	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Virginias	0.349	(D)	0.383	0.393	0.464
All	0.343	0.355	0.352	0.364	0.336
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>				
Marketings 1/					
Runners	93,233	123,415	77,056	37,688	53,931
Spanish	666	(D)	-	-	-
Valencias	-	-	-	-	-
Virginias	12,354	(D)	13,952	9,818	6,006
All	106,253	131,444	91,008	47,506	59,937

- Represents zero. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (X) Not applicable.

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