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National Agricultural
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West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during December 2017 totaled 800,000 pounds. This was down 1 percent from December 2016. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1,007,000 pounds live weight, down 1 percent from December 2016. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 990 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 206,000 pounds live weight, up 1 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 303 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.40 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 4.40 billion pounds produced in December 2016.

Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down 1 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,379 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.6 million pounds, 4 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 46,400 head, down 5 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.23 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down slightly from December 2016. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from December 2016. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,100 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2017 commercial red meat production was 52.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2016. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

December 2016 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays. December 2017 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 9.07 billion during December 2017, down slightly from last year. Production included 7.94 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were

broiler-type and 80.3 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2017 averaged 382 million, up 1 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,375 eggs, down 2 percent from December 2016.

All layers in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 382 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 382 million layers consisted of 321 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.33 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2018, averaged 75.8 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from January 1, 2017.

Egg-type chicks hatched during December 2017 totaled 45.8 million, up slightly from December 2016. Eggs in incubators totaled 46.7 million on January 1, 2018, up 17 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 253 thousand during December 2017, up 59 percent from December 2016.

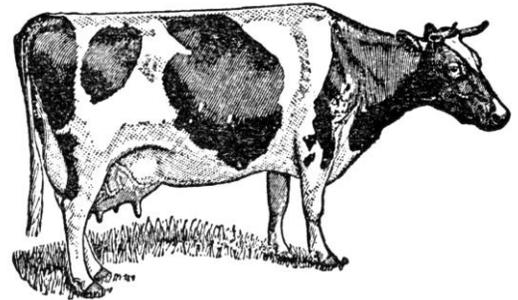
Broiler-type chicks hatched during December 2017 totaled 825 million, up 2 percent from December 2016. Eggs in incubators totaled 680 million on January 1, 2018, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.59 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2017, up 1 percent from December 2016.



FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Milk production in West Virginia totaled 29 million pounds or 3.4 million gallons during the October - December quarter of 2017. This was down 2 million pounds from the July - September 2017 quarter, and 2 million pounds or 233,000 gallons less than the October - December quarter of 2016. The number of dairy cows averaged 7,000 head, down 500 head from the previous quarter, and down 1,000 head from the same period in 2016.



United States - Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 53.1 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.40 million head, 3,000 head less than the July - September quarter, but 55,000 head more than the same period last year.

Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.

ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 'DECEMBER AG SURVEY RESULTS'

Charleston, West Virginia - Winter wheat planted acres totaled 8,000 in 2017, up 1,000 acres from 2016. Area harvested for grain totaled 4,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The average yield for 2017 was estimated to be 69.0 bushels per acre. This was up 8.0 bushels per acre from 2016. Production was estimated at 276,000 bushels, up 13 percent or 32,000 bushels from 2016. **Winter wheat seedings** for the 2018 crop are estimated at 7,000 acres, down 12 percent or 1,000 acres from 2017.

All hay area harvested in 2017 totaled 588,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2016. The average yield in 2017 was 1.83 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton per acre from 2016. Production totaled 1,078,000 tons, down 1,000 tons from 2016. **December On Farm Hay Stocks** were 950,000 tons, up 80,000 tons from the total of 870,000 tons in 2016.

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 18,000 acres in 2017, up 1,000 acres from 2016. Yields in 2017 averaged 2.90 tons per acre, down 0.2 ton per acre from 2016. Production totaled 52,000 tons, down 1,000 tons from 2016. New seedings of alfalfa in 2017 are estimated at 2,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2016.

All other hay area harvested totaled 570,000 acres in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Yields averaged 1.80 tons per acre, unchanged from 2016. Production totaled 1,026,000 tons, unchanged from 2016.

Corn area planted for all purposes in 2017 totaled 50,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2016. Harvested area **for grain** totaled 33,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from 2016. The average yield of 152.0 bushels per acre was up 7.0 bushels per acre from 2016. Production was 5,016,000 bushels, down 1 percent or 59,000 bushels from 2016.

Corn for silage area harvested was 16,000 acres in 2017, up 3,000 acres from 2016. Yields averaged 20.0 tons per acre, up 1.0 ton per acre from 2016. Silage production was estimated at 320,000 tons, up 73,000 tons from 2016.

Soybeans area planted totaled 27,000 acres in 2017, unchanged from 2016. Area harvested for soybeans totaled 26,000 acres, unchanged from 2016. The yield for soybeans in 2017 averaged 54.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels per acre from 2016. Production was estimated at 1,404,000 bushels, up 6 percent or 78,000 bushels from 2016.

Maple syrup number of taps in 2017 was 61,000, up 10,000 taps from 2016. Yield per tap was 0.148 gallons, up 0.03 gallons from 2016. Production totaled 9,000 gallons in 2017, up 50 percent or 3,000 gallons from 2016.

The total area planted to **principal crops** in West Virginia totaled 673,000 acres in 2017, up 3,000 acres from 2016. Area harvested totaled 667,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 2016. Principal crops include acres planted to corn, soybeans, wheat, and acres harvested for all hay.

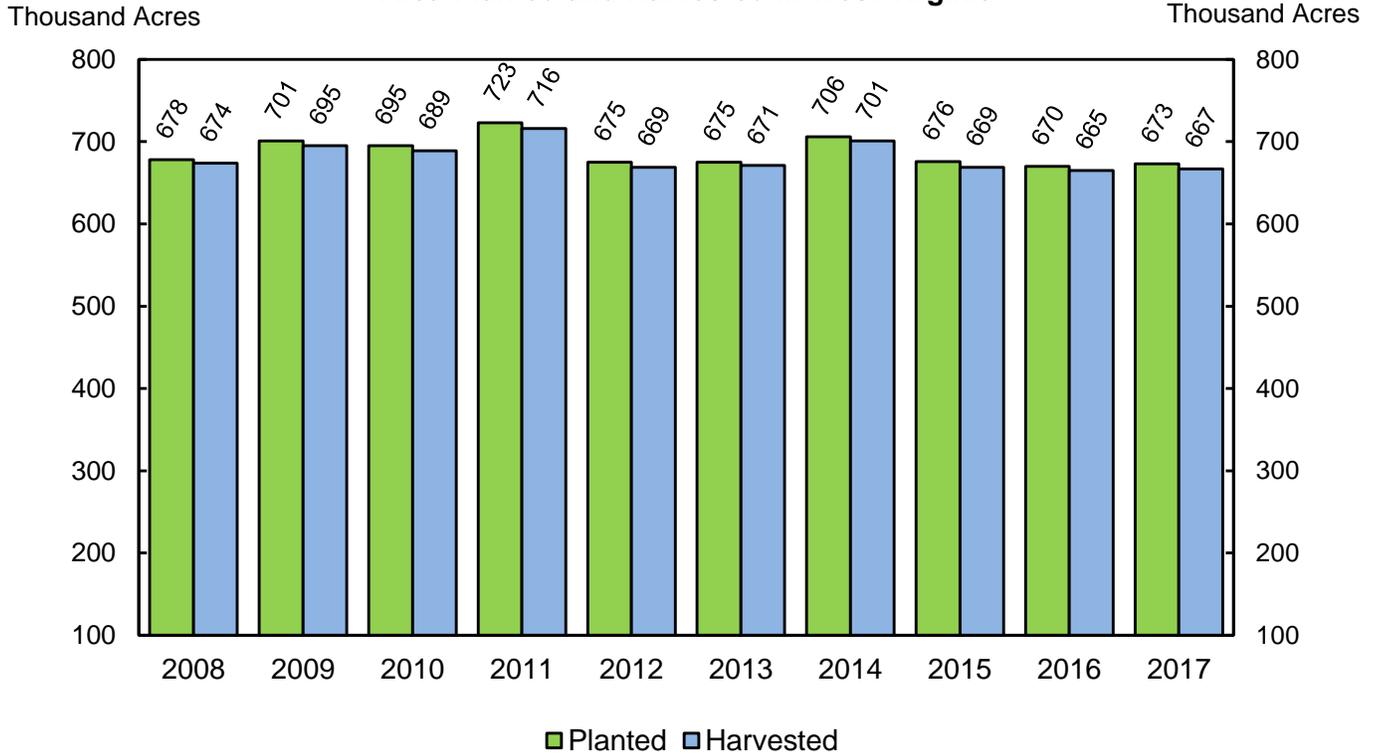
United States With Previous Year Comparisons

- All wheat production - 1.74 billion bushels, down 25%.
- Winter Wheat production - 1.27 billion bushels, down 24%.
- 2018 Winter wheat seedings - 32.6 million acres, down slightly from 2017.
- 2017 Alfalfa seedings - 2.2 million acres, down 3% from 2016.
- Alfalfa hay production - 55.1 million tons, down 5%.
- All other hay production - 76.4 million tons, down less than 1%.
- All hay production - 131.5 million tons, down 3%.
- Corn planted for all purposes area - 90.2 million acres, down 4%.
- Corn for grain area harvested - 82.7 million acres, down 5%.
- Corn for grain production - 14.6 billion bushels, down 4%.
- Corn for grain yield - 176.6 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels per acre.
- Corn for silage harvested area - 6.43 million acres, up 4%.
- Corn for silage production - 128.4 million tons, up 2%.
- Corn for silage yield - 19.9 tons per acre, down 0.4 ton per acre.
- Soybean production - 4.39 billion bushels, up 2%.
- Soybean yield - 49.1 bushels per acre, down 2.9 bushel per acre.
- All tobacco production - 710.2 million pounds, up 13%.
- Oats production - 49.4 million bushels, down 24%.
- Maple syrup production - 4.27 million gallons, up 2%.
- Area planted to principal crops - 319.1 million acres, down less than 1%.
- Area harvested for principal crops - 303 million acres, down 1%.

U.S. Stocks Totals As Of December 1, 2017

- Hay stocks on-farms - 86.2 million tons, down 10%.
- Corn stocks on-farms - 7.74 billion bushels, up 2%.
- Corn stocks off-farms - 4.78 billion bushels, up less than 1%.
- All wheat stocks on-farms - 393.2 million bushels, down 31%.
- All wheat stocks off-farms - 1.48 billion bushels, down 2%.
- Soybean stocks on-farms - 1.49 billion bushels, up 11%.
- Soybean stocks off-farms - 1.67 billion bushels, up 7%.
- Oats stocks on-farms - 23.3 million bushels, down 23%.
- Oats stocks off-farms - 43.5 million bushels, down 3%.

PRINCIPAL CROPS
Area Planted and Harvested in West Virginia



The West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the March Agricultural Survey from the end of February through mid-March. Representatives from our office will be contacting farmers by telephone and personal interview. Interviewers will be collecting data on planting intentions for 2018, and quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm. The results of this survey will be released on March 29th and will be published in the April edition of the *Mountain State Reporter* and on our website at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support!

NEXT ISSUE
 Red Meat Production
 January Cattle Inventory
 January Sheep and Goats Inventories

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