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MOUNTAIN STATE REPORTER

National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office
in cooperation with
West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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IN THIS ISSUE

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during May 2018 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 2 percent from May 2017. 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 623,000 pounds live weight, up 6 percent from May 2017. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,104 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 153,000 pounds live weight, down 19 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from the previous year, at 295 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 4.50 billion pounds in May, up 5 percent from the 4.28 billion pounds produced in May 2017.

Beef production, at 2.31 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.91 million head, up 6 percent from May 2017. The average live weight was up 8 pounds from the previous year, at 1,315 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.4 million pounds, 1 percent above May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 46,400 head, up 18 percent from May 2017. The average live weight was down 38 pounds from last year, at 237 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.17 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.2 million head, up 3 percent from May 2017. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.4 million pounds, was up 14 percent from May 2017. Sheep slaughter totaled 196,800 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 137 pounds, up 6 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2018 commercial red meat production was 21.9 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2017. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 6 percent.

May 2017 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. May 2018 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States - Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on June 1, 2018. The inventory was 4 percent above June 1, 2017. This is the highest June 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.12 million head, slightly above 2017. Net placements were 2.05 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 340,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 480,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 524,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 235,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 100,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 2.06 million head, 5 percent above 2017.

Other disappearance totaled 73,000 head during May, 4 percent above 2017.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 9.12 billion during May 2018, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 7.93 billion table eggs, and 1.19 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.11 billion were broiler-type and 81.2 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during May 2018 totaled 386 million, up 3 percent from last year. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,361 eggs, down 1 percent from May 2017.

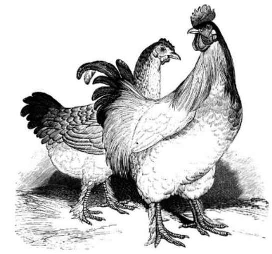
All layers in the United States on June 1, 2018 totaled 386 million, up 4 percent from last year. The 386 million layers consisted of 323 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 59.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.38 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2018, averaged 76.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from June 1, 2017.

Egg-type chicks hatched during May 2018 totaled 60.1 million, up 12 percent from May 2017. Eggs in incubators totaled 50.5 million on June 1, 2018, up 8 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 199 thousand during May 2018, down 33 percent from May 2017.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during May 2018 totaled 839 million, up 2 percent from May 2017. Eggs in incubators totaled 700 million on June 1, 2018, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.30 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during May 2018, up 2 percent from May 2017.



POULTRY SLAUGHTER

United States - Poultry certified wholesome during May 2018 (ready-to-cook weight) totaled 4.30 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the amount certified in May 2017. The April 2018 revised certified total at 3.99 billion pounds, was up 8 percent from April 2017. The April revision represented a decrease of 51 thousand pounds from last month's preliminary pounds certified.

The preliminary total live weight of all federally inspected poultry during May 2018 was 5.68 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 5.58 billion pounds a year ago. Young chickens inspected totaled 4.96 billion pounds, up 2 percent from May 2017. Mature chickens, at 70.2 million pounds, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Turkey inspections totaled 637 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. Ducks totaled 16.3 million pounds, up 8 percent from last year.

Young chickens slaughtered during May 2018 averaged 6.25 pounds per bird, up 1 percent from May 2017. The average live weight of mature chickens was 6.36 pounds per bird, up 7 percent from a year ago. Turkeys slaughtered during May 2018 averaged 30.9 pounds per bird, down 1 percent from May 2017.

Ante-mortem condemnations during May 2018 totaled 13.1 million pounds. Condemnations were 0.23 percent of the live weight inspected, as compared with 0.23 percent a year earlier. Post-mortem condemnations, at 37.5 million pounds, were 0.87 percent of quantities inspected, as compared with 0.95 percent a year earlier.

COLD STORAGE

United States - Total natural cheese stocks in refrigerated warehouses on May 31, 2018 were up 3 percent from the previous month and up 6 percent from May 31, 2017.

Butter stocks were up 10 percent from last month and up 8 percent from a year ago.

Total frozen poultry supplies on May 31, 2018 were up 4 percent from the previous month and up 7 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 1 percent from the previous month and up 12 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were up 8 percent from last month and up 1 percent from May 31, 2017.

Total frozen fruit stocks were down 5 percent from last month and down 23 percent from a year ago. **Total frozen vegetable stocks** were down 8 percent from last month and down 6 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 9 percent from last year. Total pounds of beef in freezers were down 1 percent from the previous month but up 13 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were down 2 percent from the previous month but up 6 percent from last year. Stocks of pork bellies were down 5 percent from last month but up 94 percent from last year.

MAPLE SYRUP

Charleston, West Virginia - Maple syrup production totaled 8,000 gallons in 2018, down 1,000 gallons from 9,000 gallons produced in 2017. **Number of taps** was 66,000, up 5,000 taps from 61,000 taps in 2017. **Yield per tap** was 0.121 gallons, this is down from the 2017 yield per tap of 0.148 gallons. On average, the **maple syrup season** opened on February 4, 2018 and closed on March 14, 2018. The average season length was 37 days. The first date sap was collected in West Virginia was January 19, 2018. The last date for sap collection was April 10, 2018.

Average price per gallon was $36.70 in 2017, 24 percent below 2016. The **value of production** was $330,000, 14 percent higher than 2016**.** Bulk prices in 2017 were $2.70 per pound, down from $2.80 per pound in 2016, and $29.70 per gallon, down from $30.30 per gallon the previous year. **Percent of sales by type** in 2017 was 12 percent retail, down 75 percent from the previous year, 6 percent wholesale, unchanged from 2016, and 82 percent bulk, up 78 percent from 2016.

United States - Maple syrup production totaled 4.16 million gallons in 2018, down 3 percent from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 13.7 million, up 3 percent from the 2017 total. Yield per tap is estimated to be 0.304 gallon, down 5 percent from the previous season.

The earliest sap flow reported was January 7 in Pennsylvania. The latest sap flow reported to open the season was March 1 in Minnesota. On average, the season lasted 42 days, compared with 37 days in 2017. The 2017 United States average price per gallon was $33.00, down $2.00 from 2016. Value of production, at $141 million for 2017, was down 4 percent from the previous season.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 648,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of **April 8-14, 2018**, down 4 percent from the April 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 534,000 during the week of **January 7-13, 2018**, up slightly from the January 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $13.72 per hour during the **April 2018 reference week**, up 4 percent from the April 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of $12.72 per hour, an increase of 4 percent. Livestock workers earned $12.78 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $12.74 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.2 hours during the April 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the April 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $14.08 per hour during the **January 2018 reference week**, up 5 percent from the January 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of $12.84 per hour, up 6 percent, while livestock workers earned $12.89 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $12.86 per hour, was up 4 percent from the January 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.0 hours during the January 2018 reference week, equaling the hours worked during the January 2017 reference week.

For the **April 2018 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont), regions. The Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II regions saw the largest increases, each with 17 percent more workers on regional farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 25 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

For the **January 2018 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Hawaii, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions. The Northeast I region saw the largest increase, with 40 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Florida, Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 35 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the California, Mountain II, and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

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