



Telephone: 1-800-535-7088
Email: nass-wv@nass.usda.gov



National Agricultural
Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

West Virginia
Department of Agriculture

RELEASED: AUGUST 2019

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8

IN THIS ISSUE

- RED MEAT PRODUCTION**
- CATTLE ON FEED**
- HONEY BEE COLONIES**
- AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION**
- LAND VALUES**

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during July 2019 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was down 20 percent from July 2018. 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 477,000 pounds live weight, down 19 percent from July 2018. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,170 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 156,000 pounds live weight, down 30 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from the previous year, at 270 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 4.59 billion pounds in July, up 8 percent from the 4.24 billion pounds produced in July 2018.

Beef production, at 2.36 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.94 million head, up 6 percent from July 2018. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,326 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.3 million pounds, 2 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 53,700 head, up 12 percent from July 2018. The average live weight was down 18 pounds from last year, at 205 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.6 million head, up 10 percent from July 2018. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 280 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.9 million pounds, was down 1 percent from July 2018. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,300 head, 5 percent above last year. The average live weight was 127 pounds, down 7 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2019 commercial red meat production was 31.4 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2018. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down slightly, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.

July 2018 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2019 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 11.1 million

head on August 1, 2019. The inventory was slightly above August 1, 2018. This is the highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.71 million head, 2 percent below 2018. Net placements were 1.63 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 260,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 410,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 385,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 200,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.00 million head, 7 percent above 2018.

Other disappearance totaled 71,000 head during July, 13 percent above 2018.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

Charleston, West Virginia – Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in West Virginia as of January 1, 2019 totaled 5,000, up 6 percent from January 1, 2018. During 2018, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 7,000, 7,500, and 7,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2019, were 1,300 colonies or 19 percent. During the quarter of January-March 2018, colonies lost totaled 2,500 colonies or 29 percent, the highest of any quarter in 2018. The quarter in 2018 with the lowest number of colonies lost was July-September, with 520 colonies lost or 7 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2019 were 20 colonies. During the quarter of April-June 2018, 2,300 colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2018. The quarter of October-December 2018 added 50 colonies, the lowest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2018.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January-March 2019 were 60, or 1 percent. The quarter in 2018 with the highest number of colonies renovated was July-September with 1,200 colonies renovated, or 15

percent. The quarter in 2018 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was January-March, with 60 colonies renovated. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during most quarters of 2018, except the January-March quarter where other stressors (weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.) was the highest at 20.8 percent. The quarter of July-September 2018 had highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 57.0 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January-March 2019 was 10.3 percent.

United States – Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 2.67 million colonies, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018. During 2018, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.64 million, 2.67 million, 2.96 million, and 2.87 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2019, was 408 thousand colonies, or 15 percent. During the quarter of October through December 2018, colonies lost totaled 445 thousand colonies, or 16 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter in 2018. The quarter in 2018 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April through June, with 355 thousand colonies lost, or 13 percent.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2019 was 248 thousand colonies. During the quarter of April through June 2018, 676 thousand colonies were added, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2018. The quarter of October through December 2018 added 220 thousand colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter of 2018.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2019 was 180 thousand colonies, or 7 percent. The quarter in 2018 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June with 740 thousand colonies renovated, or 28 percent. The quarter in 2018 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2018, with 155

thousand, or 5 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters of 2018. The quarter of April through June 2018 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 56.4 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2019 were 45.6 percent.

Note: Data collection for July 2019 quarterly honey bee colonies has been suspended. Before deciding to suspend data collection, NASS reviewed its estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to meet its budget and program requirements while maintaining the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – All other hay production (excluding alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures) is forecast at 960,000 tons, up 76,000 tons from 2018. The area harvested is expected to total 480,000 acres, down 40,000 acres from the previous year. Average yield per acre is forecast at 2.00 tons, up 0.30 tons per acre from 2018.

Note: Due to program changes, West Virginia estimates for apples and peaches were discontinued in 2019.

United States August 1, 2019 Forecast with 2018 Comparisons

- Corn production for grain - 13.9 billion bushels, down 4 percent.
- Corn yield - 169.5 bushels per acre, down 6.9 bushels.
- Oats production - 60.4 million bushels, up 12 percent.
- Winter wheat production for grain - 1.33 billion bushels, up 12 percent.
- Alfalfa and Alfalfa mixtures hay production - 55.4 million tons, up 5 percent.
- All other hay production - 75.7 million tons, up 7 percent.

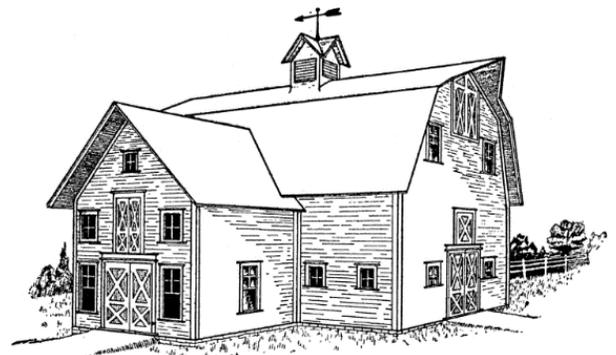
- All tobacco production - 504.0 million pounds, down 5 percent.
- Burley tobacco production - 106.0 million pounds, up 5 percent.
- Soybean production for beans - 3.68 billion bushels, down 19 percent.
- Barley production - 172.0 million bushels, up 12 percent.
- Apple production - 10.6 billion pounds, up 4 percent.
- Peach production - 733,500 tons, up 13 percent.

LAND VALUES

United States – Farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$3,160 per acre for 2019, up \$60 per acre (1.9 percent) from 2018. Regional changes in the average value of farm real estate ranged from a 5.2 percent increase in the Pacific region to 0.2 percent decrease in the Corn Belt region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Corn Belt region at \$6,100 per acre. The Mountain region had the lowest farm real estate value at \$1,220 per acre.

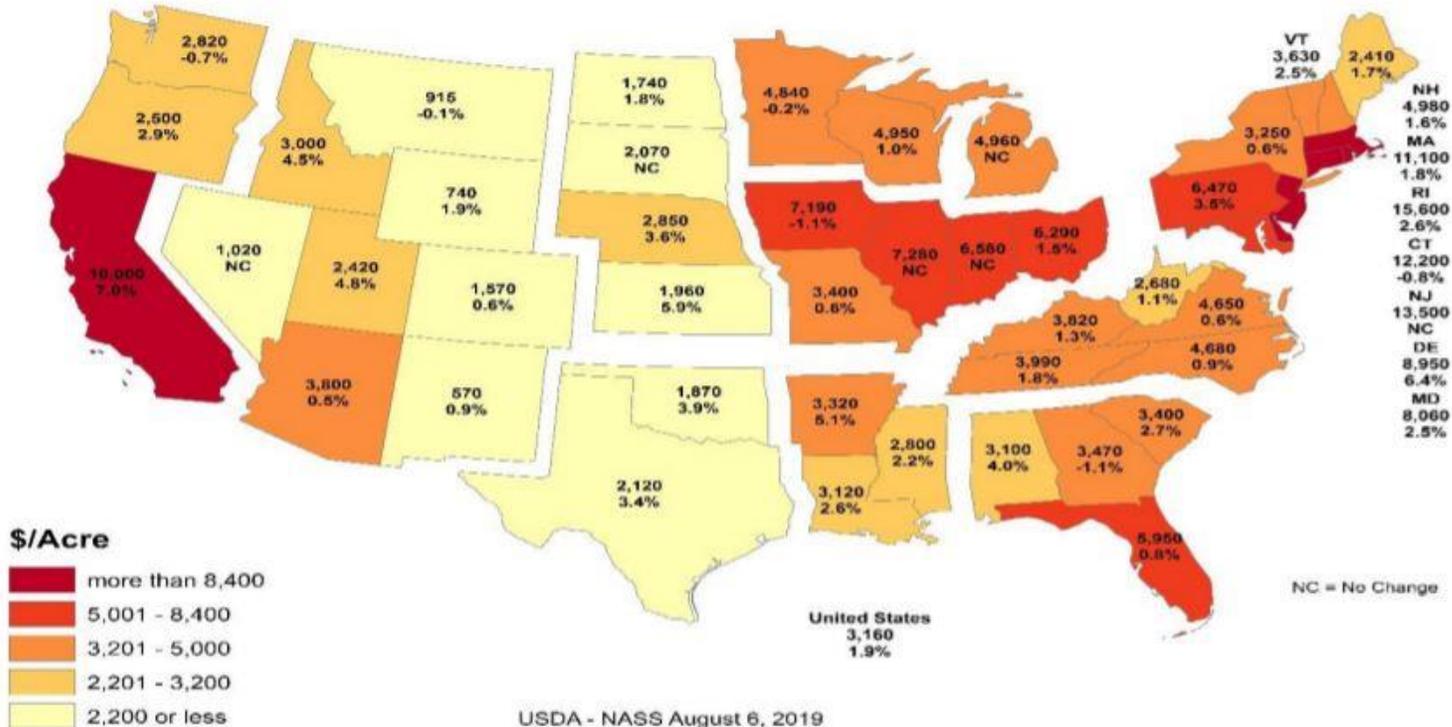
The United States cropland value averaged \$4,100 per acre, an increase of \$50 per acre (1.2 percent) from the previous year. In the Pacific region, the average cropland value increased 5.3 percent from the previous year, while in the Lake States and Southeast regions, cropland values decreased by 1.0 percent.

The United States pasture value averaged \$1,400 per acre, up \$30 (2.2 percent) from 2018. The Southern Plains region had the highest increase from 2018 at 5.2 percent. The Lake States and Southeast regions remained unchanged at \$2,080 and \$4,180 per acre, respectively.



2019 Farm Real Estate Value by State

Dollars per Acre and Percent Change from 2018



NEXT ISSUE
 Red Meat Production
 Chickens and Eggs
 Cash Receipts

KENT LEONHARDT, COMMISSIONER
CHARMAINE WILSON, STATE STATISTICIAN

United States Department of Agriculture
 National Agricultural Statistics Service
 West Virginia Department of Agriculture
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
 Charleston, West Virginia 25305