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IN THIS ISSUE

- RED MEAT PRODUCTION
- 2018 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
- HONEY PRODUCTION
- 2018 POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE
- MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME
- MAY CROP PRODUCTION

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during April 2019 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 7 percent from April 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 639,000 pounds live weight, down 2 percent from April 2018. Cattle slaughter totaled 600 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,017 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 126,000 pounds live weight, down 28 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 400 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 28 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 4.55 billion pounds in April, up 6 percent from the 4.28 billion pounds produced in April 2018.

Beef production, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, up 7 percent from April 2018. The average live weight was down 6 pounds from the previous year, at 1,328 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.0 million pounds, 2 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 42,800 head, down slightly from April 2018. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from last year, at 241 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.27 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.6 million head, up 6 percent from April 2018. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 287 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.2 million pounds, was up 22 percent from April 2018. Sheep slaughter totaled 235,900 head, 30 percent above last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, down 8 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2019 commercial red meat production was 17.9 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2018. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

April 2018 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays. April 2019 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

2018 COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Charleston, West Virginia – Red meat production in commercial plants (commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton) totaled 8.4 million pounds during 2018. This was up 6 percent from 2017 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2019, unchanged from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2018 totaled 10,500 head, up 11 percent from 2017. Total live weight was 10.72 million pounds, up 10 percent from 2017. The average live weight was 1,020 pounds, down 7 pounds from 2017.

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

Commercial hog slaughter during 2018 totaled 8,800 head, down 6 percent from 2017. Total live weight was 2.51 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2017. The average live weight was 285 pounds, down 4 pounds from the previous year.

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

United States – Total red meat production for the United States totaled 53.5 billion pounds in 2018, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 53.4 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 90.2 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.9 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 80.9 million pounds, up 1 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 26.3 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 158.2 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2017.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2018 totaled 33.0 million head, up 3 percent from 2017, with federal inspection comprising 98.5 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,350 pounds, up 1 pound from a year ago. Steers comprised 51.2 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 28.2 percent, dairy cows 9.7 percent, other cows 9.3 percent, and bulls 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 580,300 head, 13 percent higher than a year ago with 98.5 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 226 pounds, down 24 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 124.4 million head, 3 percent higher than 2017 with 99.4 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.3 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.26 million head, was up 4 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 88.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2017 at 135 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.7 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 837 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2019 compared with 834 last year. Of these, 663 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2018 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 57 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 630 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for 57 percent of the total. For calves, 5 of the 179 plants accounted for 76 percent of the total

and 3 of the 536 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2018 comprised 50 percent of the total head.

Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2018, unchanged from 2017.

HONEY PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production in 2018 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 222,000 pounds, down 18,000 pounds, or 8 percent, from the 2017 total of 240,000 pounds. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2018, unchanged from 2017. Yield per colony averaged 37 pounds, down 3 pounds from 40 pounds in 2017. Honey stocks on December 15, 2018, were reported at 38,000 pounds, down 12,000 pounds, or 24 percent, from 50,000 pounds reported in 2017.

Prices for the 2018 crop averaged 416 cents per pound, up 6 percent from the price of 393 cents per pound in 2017. Value of production totaled 924,000 dollars, down 19,000 dollars, or 2 percent, from 943,000 dollars in 2017.

United States – Honey production in 2018 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 152 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2017. There were 2.80 million colonies producing honey in 2018, up 4 percent from 2017. Yield per colony averaged 54.4 pounds, down 2 percent from the 55.5 pounds in 2017. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 29.1 million pounds on December 15, 2018, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased 2 percent during 2018 to 216.6 cents per pound, compared to 219.9 cents per pound in 2017. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2017 crop reflect honey sold in 2017 and 2018. Some 2017 crop honey was sold in 2018, which caused some revisions to the 2017 crop prices.

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2018 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$86, and \$110 respectively. For operations with five or more colonies, pollination income for 2018 was \$302 million, up 8 percent from 2017.

Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2018 was \$94.6 million, up 17 percent from 2017.

Note: Data for Operations with Less than Five Colonies has been suspended. Before deciding to suspend this data, we reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria as well as the amount of time remaining in the fiscal year to meet our budget and program requirements while maintaining the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture.

2018 POULTRY PRODUCTION AND VALUE

Charleston, West Virginia – The combined value of production and value of sales from broilers, turkeys, eggs, and the value of sales from chickens in 2018, was \$281.8 million, down 8 percent from the combined value of \$305.6 million in 2017. Of the combined total, 63 percent was from broilers, 17 percent from turkeys, 19 percent from eggs, and less than 1 percent from sales of chickens.

There were 83.3 million **broilers produced** in West Virginia during 2018, down 3 percent from the number of 86.1 million broilers produced in 2017. Total live weight was 316.5 million pounds, down from 335.8 million pounds in 2017. Value of production totaled \$176.9 million, down 3 percent from the 2017 value of \$182.7 million. The average live weight equivalent price of 55.9 cents per pound is up from the 2017 average live weight equivalent price of 54.4 cents per pound. Equivalent price is for the commercial producer, not contractees.

Turkeys raised in West Virginia totaled 3.1 million, down 16 percent from the 2017 total of 3.7 million. Total live weight was 96.4 million pounds, down 13 percent from 2017. Value of production totaled \$49.2 million, down 31 percent from the 2017 value of production of \$71.7 million. The average live weight equivalent price was 51.0 cents per pound, down 13.6 cents per pound from the 2017 price of 64.6 cents.

The **number of chickens sold** for slaughter (excluding broilers) totaled 1.74 million head, up 3 percent from the 2017 total of 1.69 million head sold. The number of pounds sold was 13.7 million pounds, up 4 percent from the 2017 number of 13.2 million pounds sold. Value of sales totaled \$1.03 million, up from \$973.4 thousand in 2017. Prices averaged 7.5 cents per pound, up from the 2017 price of 7.4 cents per pound.

Egg production in West Virginia totaled 295.9 million eggs during 2018, up 8 percent from the 2017 production of 274.7 million eggs. The average price per dozen was 221.8 cents, up from the 2017 average price per dozen of 219.5 cents. The total value of production

was \$54.7 million, up 9 percent from the 2017 total of \$50.2 million. Most eggs produced in West Virginia are hatching eggs for broilers, not for table egg consumption.

United States – The combined value of production from broilers, eggs, turkeys, and the value of sales from chickens in 2018 was \$46.3 billion, up 8 percent from \$42.7 billion in 2017. Of the combined total, 69 percent was from broilers, 23 percent from eggs, 8 percent from turkeys, and less than 1 percent from chickens.

The value of broilers produced during 2018 was \$31.7 billion, up 5 percent from 2017. The total number of broilers produced in 2018 was 9.04 billion, up 1 percent from 2017. The total amount of live weight broilers produced in 2018 was 56.8 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2017.

The value of turkeys produced during 2018 was \$3.88 billion, down 20 percent from the \$4.87 billion the previous year. The total number of turkeys raised in 2018 was 245 million, down slightly from 2017. Turkey production in 2018 totaled 7.60 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the 7.54 billion pounds produced in 2017.

The value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2018 was \$49.4 million, up 5 percent from \$47.0 million a year ago. The number of chickens sold in 2018 totaled 190 million, down slightly from the total sold during the previous year.

Value of all egg production in 2018 was \$10.6 billion, up 39 percent from \$7.60 billion in 2017. Egg production totaled 109 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 107 billion eggs produced in 2017.

MILK PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION AND INCOME

Charleston, West Virginia – Milk production totaled 111 million pounds during 2018, down 16 million pounds from the 2017 production of 127 million pounds. The average number of milk cows during the year was 7,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2017. Average milk production per cow was 15,857 pounds or around 1,844 gallons, down 18 pounds from the 2017 number of 15,875 pounds.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2018 totaled \$17.9 million, down 20 percent from the 2017 cash receipts number of \$22.3 million. Producer returns averaged \$16.40 per hundredweight, down \$1.60 from 2017. Milk marketed by producers totaled 109 million pounds or 12.7 million gallons in 2018, down 15 million pounds from the 2017 number of 124 million pounds. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers as well as milk sold directly to consumers.

United States – Milk production increased 1.0 percent in 2018 to 218 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 23,149 pounds, was 235 pounds above 2017. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.40 million head, down 7,000 head from 2017.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2018 totaled \$35.2 billion, 7.1 percent lower than 2017. Producer returns averaged \$16.28 per hundredweight, 8.0 percent below 2017. Marketings totaled 216.6 billion pounds, 0.9 percent above 2017. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.02 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 2.6 percent more than 2017. Calves were fed 91 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

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

MAY CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – On farm hay stocks, as of May 1, 2019, totaled 75,000 tons. This is 50,000 tons less than what was on hand last year at this time. The disappearance of all hay stocks on farms from December 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019, was 695,000 tons, 9 percent less than the December 1, 2017 - May 1, 2018, crop disappearance of 765,000 tons for the same period.

United States – Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.27 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2018. As of May 1, the United States yield is forecast at 50.3 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last year's average yield of 47.9 bushels per acre.

All on farm hay stocks stored on United States farms, as of May 1, 2019, totaled 14.9 million tons, down 3 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019 totaled 64.1 million tons, compared with 69.1 million tons for the same period a year earlier. This marks the lowest May 1 hay stocks since the drought of 2012 and the second lowest since records began in 1950.

Lower May 1 hay stocks are mainly the result of reduced hay production in 2018 due to the continuing decline in harvested acres of alfalfa and lower yields of other hay compared with the previous 4 years, which were some of the highest on record. Production in 2018 was the lowest since 2012 and second lowest since 1976. Additionally, the January 1, 2019 cattle inventory was the highest since 2008.

May 1 hay stocks levels were record lows in Minnesota, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

NEXT ISSUE

Red Meat Production
Meat Animals Production,
Disposition, and Income

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