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

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**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during October 2019 totaled 1.20 million pounds. This was down 11 percent from October 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 1,680,000 pounds live weight, down 11 percent from October 2018. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 16 pounds from the previous year, at 921 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 312,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,100 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 296 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 5.06 billion pounds in October, up 3 percent from the 4.90 billion pounds produced in October 2018.

**Beef production**, at 2.44 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.98 million head, up 1 percent from October 2018. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,360 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 7.0 million pounds, 2 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 55,300 head, up 3 percent from October 2018. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from last year, at 222 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.61 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 12.3 million head, up 6 percent from October 2018. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2018. Sheep slaughter totaled 205,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 124 pounds, down 7 pounds from October a year ago.

**January to October 2019 commercial red meat production** was 45.5 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2018. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

October 2018 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2019 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*

**CHICKENS AND EGGS**

**United States - Egg production** totaled 9.61 billion during October 2019, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 8.41 billion table eggs, and 1.20 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.11 billion were

broiler-type and 88.0 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during October 2019 totaled 397 million, up 1 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,422 eggs, up 1 percent from October 2018.

**Total layers** in the United States on November 1, 2019 totaled 398 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 398 million layers consisted of 336 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 58.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.56 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2019, averaged 78.7 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from November 1, 2018.

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during October 2019 totaled 52.4 million, down 5 percent from October 2018. Eggs in incubators totaled 47.9 million on November 1, 2019, up 6 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 199 thousand during October 2019, down 27 percent from October 2018.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during October 2019 totaled 815 million, up 3 percent from October 2018. Eggs in incubators totaled 674 million on November 1, 2019, up 4 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.53 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply

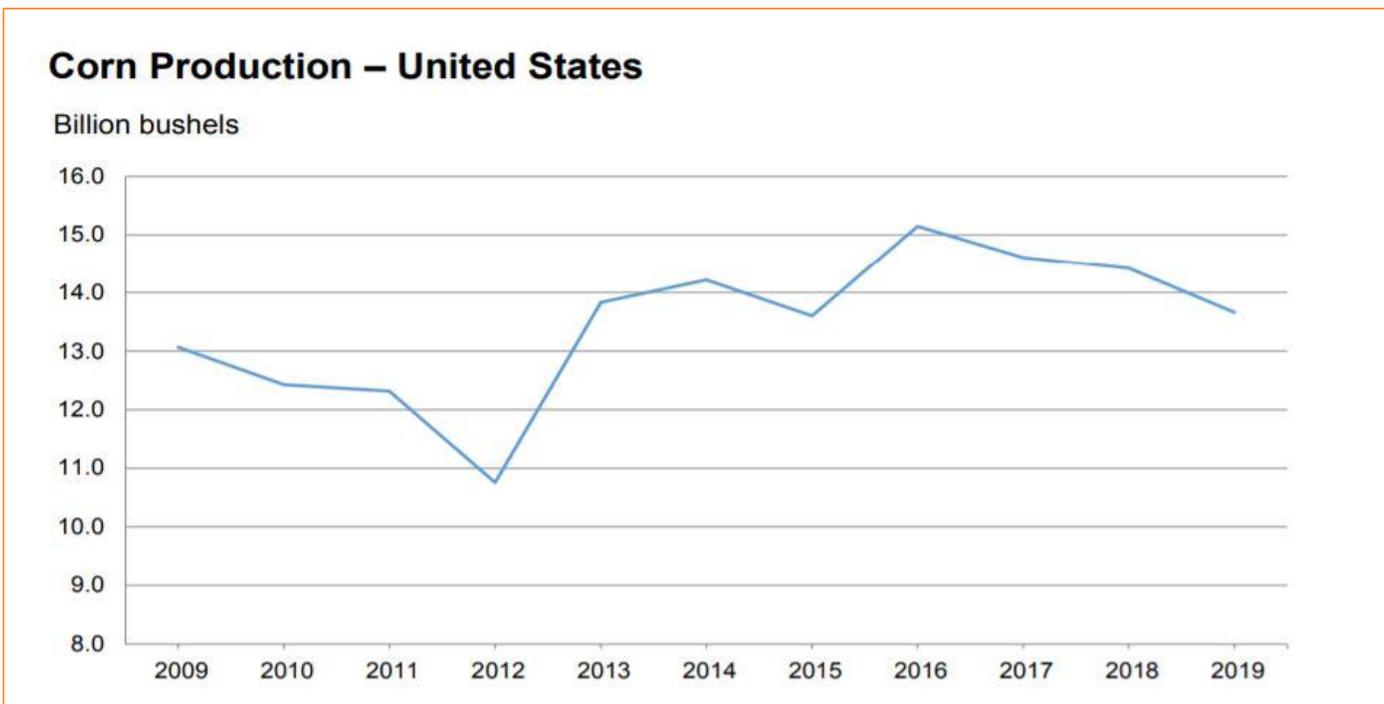
flocks during October 2019, up 4 percent from October 2018.

**NOVEMBER CROP PRODUCTION**

**United States - Corn production** for grain is forecast at 13.7 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the previous forecast and down 5 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 167.0 bushels per harvested acre, down 1.4 bushels from the previous forecast and down 9.4 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but up slightly from 2018.

The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate the lowest number of ears since 2012 for the combined 10 objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

**Soybean production** for beans is forecast at 3.55 billion bushels, down slightly from the previous forecast and down 20 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 46.9 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 3.7 bushels from 2018. Area harvested for beans in the United States is forecast at 75.6 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 14 percent from 2018.



The November objective yield data for the combined 11 major soybean-producing States (Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota) indicate a lower pod count from the previous year. Compared with final counts for 2018, pod counts are down in 10 of the 11 published States. A decrease of more than 200 pods per 18 square feet from the 2018 final pod count is expected in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota.

### FARM LABOR

**United States** - There were 809,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of **October 6-12, 2019**, up 3 percent from the October 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 802,000 during the week of **July 7-13, 2019**, down 5 percent from the July 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$15.02 per hour during the **October 2019 reference week**, up 4 percent from the October 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.38 per hour, up 5 percent. Livestock workers earned \$13.77 per hour, up 3 percent. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$14.21 per hour, was up 4 percent from the 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.5 hours during the October 2019 reference week, up 2 percent from the hours worked during the October 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$14.91 per hour during the **July 2019 reference week**, up 4 percent from the July 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.19 per hour, up 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$13.79 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$14.08 per hour, was up 4 percent from the July 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the July 2019 reference week, up 1 percent from the hours worked during the July 2018 reference week.

The 2019 all hired worker annual average gross wage rate was \$14.91 per hour, up 5 percent from the 2018 annual average gross wage rate. The 2019 field

worker annual average gross wage rate was \$14.11 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2018 annual average. The 2019 livestock worker annual average gross wage rate was \$13.74 per hour. The 2019 annual average combined gross wage for field and livestock workers was \$13.99, up 6 percent from the 2018 annual average of \$13.25 per hour.

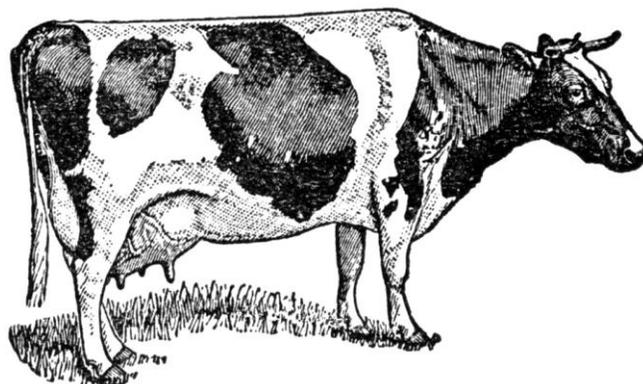
### CATTLE ON FEED

**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 11.8 million head on November 1, 2019. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2018.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.48 million head, 10 percent above 2018. Net placements were 2.42 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 600,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 540,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 517,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 475,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 230,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 115,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.88 million head, 1 percent below 2018.

**Other disappearance** totaled 59,000 head during October, 14 percent below 2018.



**JANUARY AGRICULTURAL  
SURVEYS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be conducting the January Cattle and Sheep and Goat surveys from December 30, 2019 through January 13, 2020. Survey data are collected across the country and are used to set state and national estimates for cattle, sheep and goats.

Interviewers from the West Virginia Field Office will be collecting data on cattle, sheep and goat inventories. The cattle questions will cover milk and

beef cow numbers including replacement heifers, steers, cattle on feed, milk production, and calf crop during 2019. Sheep and goat questions will include breeding and market sheep and goat numbers, lamb and kid crops, 2019 wool and mohair production, and death totals. Results of the surveys will be published in the February 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. Your information matters!***



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Red Meat Production  
Chickens and Eggs

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