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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during March 2020 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was up 59 percent from March 2019. 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 1,356,000 pounds live weight, up 89 percent from March 2019. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,300 head, up 600 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 9 pounds from the previous year, at 1,060 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 203,000 pounds live weight, up 22 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 35 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 5.00 billion pounds in March, up 13 percent from the 4.43 billion pounds produced in March 2019.

Beef production, at 2.41 billion pounds, was 14 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.92 million head, up 10 percent from March

2019. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,368 pounds.

Veal production totaled 5.8 million pounds, slightly above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 43,200 head, down 6 percent from March 2019. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from last year, at 232 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.57 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.9 million head, up 11 percent from March 2019. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 288 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.2 million pounds, was down 6 percent from March 2019. Sheep slaughter totaled 187,500 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, down 6 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2020 commercial red meat production was 14.4 billion pounds, up 8 percent from 2019. Accumulated beef production was up 8 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 9 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 5 percent.

March 2019 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays. March 2020 contained 22 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

2019 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 8.2 million pounds during 2019. This was down 2 percent from 2018 production. The number of federally and non-federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 34 on January 1, 2020, unchanged from the previous year.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2019 totaled 10,800 head, up 3 percent from 2018. Total live weight was 10.70 million pounds, down less than 1 percent from 2018. The average live weight was 990 pounds, down 30 pounds from 2018.

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

Commercial hog slaughter during 2019 totaled 7,700 head, down 13 percent from 2018. Total live weight was 2.22 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2018. The average live weight was 288 pounds, up 3 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 55.1 billion pounds in 2019, 3 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 55.0 billion pounds. On-farm slaughter totaled 93.1 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 27.2 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 79.0 million pounds, down 2 percent from last year. **Pork production**, at 27.7 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 153.2 million pounds, down 3 percent from 2018.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2019 totaled 33.6 million head, up 2 percent from 2018, with federal inspection comprising 98.6 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,344 pounds, down 6 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 49.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 29.7 percent, dairy cows 9.7 percent, other cows 9.6 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 587,000 head, 1 percent higher than a year ago with 98.6 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 221 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 129.9 million head, 4 percent higher than 2018 with 99.5 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 285 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 97.4 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.32 million head, was up 3 percent from the previous year with federal inspection comprising 87.0 percent of the total. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from 2018 at 128 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 94.3 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 835 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2020 compared with 837 last year. Of these, 670 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2019 with the 12 largest plants slaughtering 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 619 plants, with the 14 largest plants accounting for 59 percent of the total. For calves, 4 of the 187 plants accounted for 66 percent of the total and 3 of the 521 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2019 comprised 49 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2019, unchanged from 2018.

FIRST QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Milk production in West Virginia totaled 23 million pounds or 2.7 million gallons during the January - March quarter of 2020. This was down 1 million pounds from the same period in 2019, but up 2 million pounds or 233,000 gallons from the October - December 2019 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 6,000 head, down 500 head from the same period in 2019, but unchanged from the previous quarter.

United States – Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 56.0 billion pounds, up 2.9 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.37 million head, 27,000 head more than the October - December quarter, and 26,000 head more than the same period last year.

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

HONEY PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production in 2019 from producers with five or more colonies

totaled 222,000 pounds, unchanged from 2018. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2019, unchanged from 2018. Yield per colony averaged 37 pounds, unchanged from 2018. Honey stocks on December 15, 2019, were reported at 47,000 pounds, up 9,000 pounds, or 24 percent, from 38,000 pounds reported in 2018.

Prices for the 2019 crop averaged 4.50 dollars per pound, up 4 percent from the price of 4.33 dollars per pound in 2018. Value of production totaled 999,000 dollars, up 38,000 dollars, or 4 percent, from 961,000 dollars in 2018.

United States – Honey production in 2019 totaled 157 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2018. There were 2.81 million colonies producing honey in 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Yield per colony averaged 55.8 pounds, up 2 percent from the 54.5 pounds in 2018. 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 41.0 million pounds on December 15, 2019, up 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased 11 percent during 2019 to 1.97 dollars per pound, compared to 2.21 dollars per pound in 2018. 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 2018 crop reflect honey sold in 2018 and 2019. Some 2018 crop honey was sold in 2019, which caused some revisions to the 2018 crop prices.

The average prices paid in 2019 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$85, and \$100 respectively. Pollination income for 2019 was \$310 million, up 3 percent from 2018. Other income from honey bees in 2019 was \$77.7 million, down 18 percent from 2018.

**Note: Honey price per pound data have been updated to dollars per pound from cents per pound. Before deciding to update this data, NASS reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria requirements to maintain the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.*

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Charleston, West Virginia – Corn plantings in West Virginia are expected to total 56,000 acres, up 8 percent, or 4,000 acres from 2019, and up 22 percent or 10,000 acres from 2018.

All hay acreage harvested is expected to total 540,000 acres, up 5 percent or 25,000 acres from 2019, and up 1 percent or 5,000 acres from 2018.



United States with 2019 Comparisons

Corn plantings – 97.0 million acres, up 8%.
 Oat plantings – 3.01 million acres, up 7%.
 Winter wheat planted – 30.8 million acres, down 1%.
 All tobacco for harvest – 201,800 acres, down 11%.
 Burley tobacco for harvest – 44,500 acres, down 8%.
 Soybean plantings – 83.5 million acres, up 10%.
 Sorghum plantings – 5.82 million acres, up 11%.
 Barley plantings – 2.92 million acres, up 7%.
 All hay for harvest – 53.3 million acres, up 2%.

Note: These estimates were based on results from the March 1, 2020, Agricultural Survey. Forecasted estimates may change as the survey year continues and/or planting intentions by farmers are altered. Winter wheat and soybean estimates were discontinued in 2019 for West Virginia.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States – Egg production totaled 9.53 billion during March 2020, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 8.29 billion table eggs, and 1.24 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.15 billion were broiler-type and 90.3 million were egg-type. The

average number of layers during March 2020 totaled 395 million, down 3 percent from last year. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,411 eggs, up 1 percent from March 2019.

Total layers in the United States on April 1, 2020 totaled 396 million, down 3 percent from last year. The 396 million layers consisted of 331 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 61.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.40 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on April 1, 2020, averaged 78.0 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from April 1, 2019.

Egg-type chicks hatched during March 2020 totaled 55.9 million, up slightly from March 2019. Eggs in incubators totaled 57.6 million on April 1, 2020, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 322 thousand during March 2020, up 70 percent from March 2019.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during March 2020 totaled 855 million, up 2 percent from March 2019. Eggs in incubators totaled 710 million on April 1, 2020, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.82 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2020, up 7 percent from March 2019.

Thank You for Your Participation!

Data collected from surveys help shape West Virginia's farms future, shape farm programs, and boost services for West Virginia's communities and the agriculture industry.

To see additional survey results, visit www.nass.usda.gov/wv

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