



Telephone: 1-304-357-5123
Email: nass-wv@usda.gov



National Agricultural
Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office
in cooperation with
West Virginia
Department of Agriculture
Kent Leonhardt, Commissioner
Alissa Cowell-Mytar, State Statistician

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during October 2023 totaled 1.5 million pounds, this was up 12 percent from October 2022. 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 2,220,000 pounds live weight, up 11 percent from October 2022. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,035 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published because data were less than level of precision shown or not applicable.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 352,000 pounds live weight, up 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,200 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from the previous year, at 299 pounds.

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

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.77 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 4.76 billion pounds produced in October 2022.

Beef production, at 2.34 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.83 million head, down 3 percent from October 2022. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,374 pounds.

Veal production totaled 4.2 million pounds, 8 percent below October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 23,100 head, down 24 percent from October 2022. The average live weight was up 49 pounds from last year, at 308 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.42 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 11.4 million head, up 5 percent from October 2022. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 11.3 million pounds, was up 7 percent from October 2022. Sheep slaughter totaled 193,500 head, 14 percent above last year. The average live weight was 115 pounds, down 7 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2023 commercial red meat production was 45.2 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2022. Accumulated beef production was down 5 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

October 2022 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays. October 2023 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

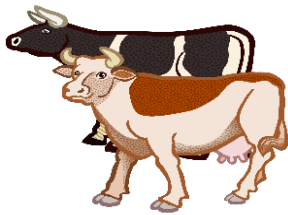
CATTLE ON FEED

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 11.9 million head on November 1, 2023. The inventory was 2 percent above November 1, 2022.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.16 million head, 4 percent above 2022. Net placements were 2.11 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 550,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 470,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 465,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 394,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 205,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 80,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.76 million head, 3 percent below 2022.

Other disappearance totaled 55,000 head during October, 2 percent above 2022.



CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 9.55 billion during October 2023, up 4 percent from last year. Production included 8.23 billion table eggs, and 1.32 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.22 billion were broiler-type and 98.0 million were egg-type. The average number of layers during October 2023 totaled 389 million, up 3 percent from last year. October egg production per 100 layers was 2,452 eggs, up slightly from October 2022.

Total layers in the United States on November 1, 2023 totaled 390 million, up 3 percent from last year. The 390 million layers consisted of 322 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 63.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on November 1, 2023, averaged 79.1 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from November 1, 2022.

Egg-type chicks hatched during October 2023 totaled 51.1 million, up 1 percent from October 2022. Eggs in incubators totaled 47.0 million on November 1, 2023, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 249 thousand during October 2023, down 1 percent from October 2022.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during October 2023 totaled 816 million, down 4 percent from October 2022. Eggs in incubators totaled 682 million on November 1, 2023, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.74 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during October 2023, up 6 percent from October 2022.

NOVEMBER CROP PRODUCTION

United States - Corn production for grain is forecast at a record high 15.2 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast and up 11 percent from 2022. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 174.9 bushels per harvested acre, up 1.9 bushels from the previous forecast and up 1.5 bushels from last year. Area harvested for grain, forecast at 87.1 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast, but up 10 percent from the last year.

The November 1 corn objective yield data indicate the highest number of ears on record for the combined objective yield States (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). Production for grain is forecast at 15.2 billion bushels, which if realized would be the highest production for grain on record for the United States. Based on conditions as of November 1, the yield is forecast at 174.9 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from last year's final estimate of 173.4 bushels. Record high yields are forecast in Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Soybean production for beans is forecast at 4.13 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the previous forecast, but down 3 percent from last year. Based on conditions as of November 1, yields are expected to average 49.9 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from both the previous forecast and 2022. Area harvested for beans in the United States is forecast at 82.8 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 4 percent from 2022.

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 higher pod count compared with the previous year. Compared with final counts for 2022, pod counts are up in 10 of the 11 published States. South Dakota showed the greatest increase, up 339 pods per 18 square feet from the previous year.



FARM LABOR

United States - There were 776,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2023, down 1 percent from the October 2022 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 781,000 during the week of July 9-15, 2023, down 2 percent from the July 2022 reference week.

Farm operators **paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$18.81 per hour during the October 2023 reference week**, up 6 percent from the October 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$18.24 per hour, up 7 percent. Livestock workers earned \$17.19 per hour, up 4 percent. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$17.95 per hour, was up 6 percent from the 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2023 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the October 2022 reference week.

Farm operators **paid their hired workers an average gross wage of \$18.61 per hour during the July 2023 reference week**, up 6 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$18.08 per hour, up 8 percent, while livestock workers earned \$16.95 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined gross wage rate, at \$17.76 per hour, was up 6 percent from the July 2022 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.2 hours during the July 2023 reference week, up slightly from the hours worked during the July 2022 reference week.

The 2023 all hired worker annual average gross wage rate was \$18.53 per hour, up 6 percent from the 2022 annual average gross wage rate. The 2023 field worker annual average gross wage rate was \$17.88 per hour, up 7 percent from the 2022 annual average. The 2023 livestock worker annual average gross wage rate was 16.85 per hour. The 2023 annual average combined gross wage for field and livestock workers was \$17.55, up 6 percent from the 2022 annual average of \$16.62 per hour.

JANUARY AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS ANNOUNCEMENT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be conducting the January Cattle and Sheep and Goat surveys from December 30th, 2023, through January 12th, 2024. Survey data are collected across the country and are used to set state and national estimates for cattle, sheep and goats.

Enumerators 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. Sheep and goat questions will include breeding and market sheep and goat numbers, lamb and kid crops, 2023 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 <https://www.nass.usda.gov/wv>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. Your information matters!



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



The flyer features a background image of a forest with tall, thin trees. A blue, semi-transparent banner is on the left side. The NRCS logo is in the top left corner. A central white box contains the text 'Need Help Managing your Forestland?'. Below this, the text 'NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service' is displayed. Further down, it says 'NRCS can help develop a plan tailored to your land and your goals.' At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'Contact your local USDA Service Center for Financial and Technical Assistance' and the website 'www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov'. A small disclaimer at the very bottom reads 'USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.'

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS can help develop a plan tailored to your land and your goals.

Contact your local USDA Service Center for Financial and Technical Assistance

www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov

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Roughly two-thirds of West Virginia's land is classified as non-industrial private forestland. NRCS can develop a plan tailored to your land and goals.

For more information or to find your local field office visit: wv.nrcs.usda.gov

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Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

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