



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

Released: January 2024

Volume 37, Number 1

**In This Issue**

- RED MEAT PRODUCTION**
- CHICKENS AND EGGS**
- FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION**
- ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION**
- 'DECEMBER AG SURVEY RESULTS'**

**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during December 2023 totaled 1.1 million pounds. This was up 11 percent from December 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 1,572,000 pounds live weight, up 16 percent from December 2022. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,500 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,043 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 199,000 pounds live weight, down slightly from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 284 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 4.55 billion pounds in December, up 2 percent from the 4.47 billion pounds produced in December 2022.

**Beef production**, at 2.19 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.59 million head, down 3 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 17 pounds from the previous year, at 1,401 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 3.9 million pounds, 14 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 22,500 head, down 32 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was up 56 pounds from last year, at 293 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.34 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.8 million head, up 5 percent from December 2022. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 291 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 10.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from December 2022. Sheep slaughter totaled 182,400 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 115 pounds, down 7 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2023 commercial red meat production** was 54.4 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 1 percent.

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

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



## CHICKENS AND EGGS

**United States - Egg production** totaled 9.45 billion during December 2023, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 8.14 billion table eggs, and 1.31 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.21 billion were broiler-type and 97.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2023 averaged 384 million, up 2 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,462 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2022.

**All layers** in the United States on January 1, 2024 totaled 379 million, up 1 percent from last year. The 379 million layers consisted of 312 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 63.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.83 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2024, averaged 79.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from January 1, 2023.

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during December 2023 totaled 48.4 million, down slightly from December 2022. Eggs in incubators totaled 49.0 million on January 1, 2024, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 219 thousand during December 2023, up 1 percent from December 2022.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during December 2023 totaled 849 million, down 1 percent from December 2022. Eggs in incubators totaled 718 million on January 1, 2024, down slightly from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.75 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2023, down 4 percent from December 2022.

## FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia - Milk production** in West Virginia totaled 16 million pounds or 1.9 million gallons during the October - December quarter of 2023. This was unchanged from the July - September 2023 quarter, but was down 2 million pounds from the October - December quarter of 2022. The number of dairy cows averaged 4,500 head, unchanged from the previous quarter, but down 500 head from the October - December quarter of 2022.

**United States - Milk production** in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 55.6 billion pounds, down 0.6 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.36 million head, 16,000 head less than the July - September quarter, and 44,000 head less than the same period last year.

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

## ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 'DECEMBER AG SURVEY RESULTS'

**Charleston, West Virginia - All hay** area harvested in 2023 totaled 610,000 acres, up 45,000 acres from 2022. The average yield in 2023 was 1.72 tons per acre, down 0.19 ton per acre from 2022. Production totaled 1,051,000 tons, down 29,000 tons from 2022. **December On Farm Hay Stocks** were 780,000 tons, unchanged from 2022.

**Alfalfa hay** area harvested totaled 10,000 acres in 2023, down 5,000 acres from 2022. Yields in 2023 averaged 3.10 tons per acre, up 0.80 ton per acre from 2022. Production totaled 31,000 tons, down 4,000 tons from 2022. New seedings of alfalfa in 2023 are estimated at 1,000 acres, unchanged from 2022.

**All other hay** area harvested totaled 600,000 acres in 2023, up 50,000 acres from 2022. Yields averaged 1.70 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton per acre from 2022. Production totaled 1,020,000 tons, down 25,000 tons from 2022.

**Corn area planted** for all purposes in 2023 totaled 44,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 2022. Harvested area **for grain** totaled 32,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 2022. The average yield of 145.0 bushels per acre was down 23 bushels per acre from 2022. Production was 4,640,000 bushels, down 400,000 bushels from 2022.

**Corn for silage** area harvested was 9,000 acres in 2023, unchanged from 2022. Yields averaged 17.0 tons per acre, down 4.0 tons per acre from 2022. Silage production was estimated at 153,000 tons, down 36,000 tons from 2022.

**Maple syrup number of taps** in 2023 was 69,000, down from 77,000 taps in 2022. Yield per tap was 0.159 gallon, down from 0.169 gallon in 2022. Production totaled 11,000 gallons in 2023, down from 13,000 gallons in 2022. Maple data were released by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture in cooperation with NASS.

The total area planted to **principal crops** in West Virginia totaled 654,000 acres in 2023, up 49,000 acres from 2022. Area harvested totaled 651,000 acres, up 47,000 acres from 2022. Principal crops include acres planted to corn and acres harvested for all hay.

### **United States With Previous Year Comparisons**

- All wheat production - 1.81 billion bushels, up 10%.
- Winter Wheat production - 1.25 billion bushels, up 13%.
- 2024 Winter Wheat seedings - 34.4 million acres, down 6% from 2023.
- 2023 Alfalfa seedings - 1.74 million acres, up 4% from 2022.
- Alfalfa hay production - 49.9 million tons, up 2%.
- All other hay production - 68.9 million tons, up 9%.
- All hay production - 119.0 million tons, up 6%.
- Corn planted for all purposes area - 94.6 million acres, up 7%.
- Corn for grain area harvested - 86.5 million acres, up 10%.
- Corn for grain production - 15.3 billion bushels, up 12%.
- Corn for grain yield - 177.3 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels per acre.
- Corn for silage harvested area - 6.47 million acres, down 6%.
- Corn for silage production - 130.0 million tons, up 1%.
- Corn for silage yield - 20.1 tons per acre, up 1.4 tons per acre.
- Soybean production - 4.16 billion bushels, down 2%.
- Soybean yield - 50.6 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel per acre.
- All tobacco production - 432.0 million pounds, down 1%.
- Oats production - 57.0 million bushels, down 1%.
- Maple syrup production - 4.18 million gallons, down 30%.
- Area planted to principal crops - 319.6 million acres, up 3%.
- Area harvested for principal crops - 296.0 million acres, up 4%.

### **U.S. Stocks Totals As Of December 1, 2023**

- Hay stocks on-farms - 76.7 million tons, up 7%.
- Corn stocks on-farms - 7.83 billion bushels, up 16%.
- Corn stocks off-farms - 4.34 billion bushels, up 7%.
- All wheat stocks on-farms - 395.0 million bushels, up 9%.
- All wheat stocks off-farms - 1.02 billion bushels, up 7%.
- Soybean stocks on-farms - 1.45 billion bushels, down 2%.
- Soybean stocks off-farms - 1.55 billion bushels, up slightly.
- Oats stocks on-farms - 24.0 million bushels, down 1%.
- Oats stocks off-farms - 38.5 million bushels, up 31%.



**Census Release Date:**  
February 13, 2024

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



**CSP**



USDA Increases Minimum Annual Payment for  
**Conservation Stewardship Program**  
**Apply by March 15, 2024**  
[www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov)



**WILDLIFE HABITAT**  
Assistance



[www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov)

**NEXT ISSUE**  
Red Meat Production  
Cattle Inventory  
Sheep and Goat Inventories  
Farm Numbers and Land in Farms

**988**   
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline