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Released: March 2024

Volume 37, Number 3

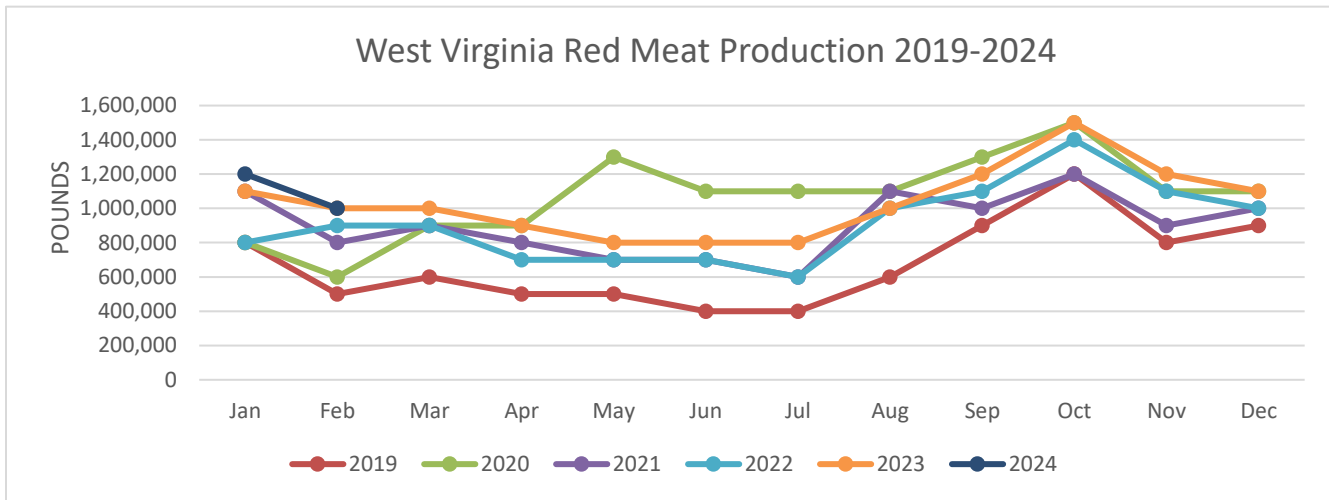
**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Commercial red meat production** in West Virginia during February 2024 totaled 1.0 million pounds. This was down 5 percent from February 2023. 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 1,365,000 pounds live weight, down 8 percent from February 2023. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,200 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,168 pounds.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 204,000 pounds live weight, up 8 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 700 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 12 pounds from the previous year, at 303 pounds.

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.55 billion pounds in February, up 7 percent from the 4.26 billion pounds produced in February 2023. **Beef production**, at 2.17 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 3.6 million pounds, 6 percent below February a year ago. **Pork production** totaled 2.37 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 10.9 million pounds, was up 8 percent from February 2023.



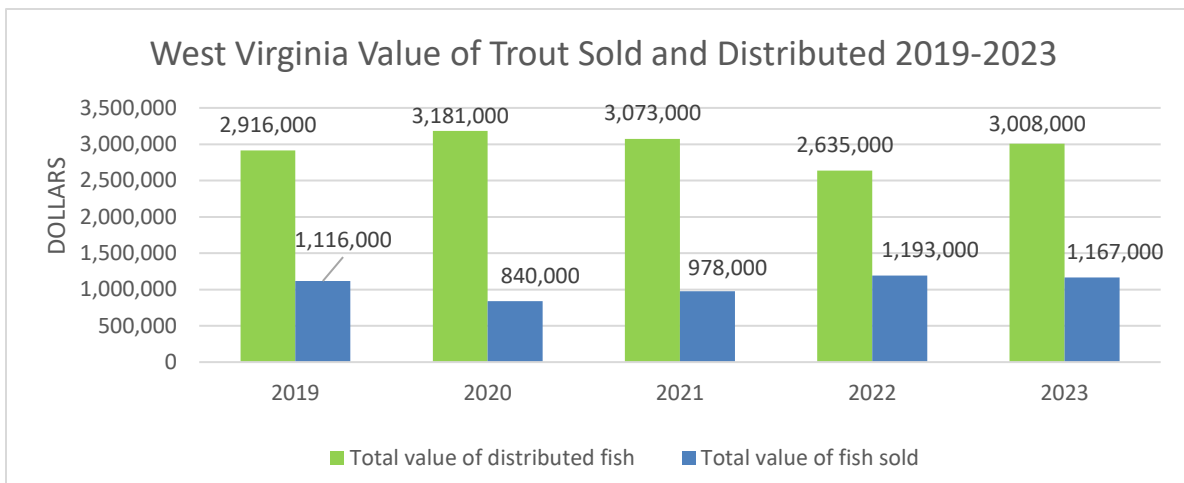
**CHICKENS AND EGGS SUMMARY**

The number of **layers** in West Virginia during 2023 averaged 1.23 million, down 6 percent from the 2022 average of 1.31 million. The average annual production per layer was 238 eggs, up 4 eggs per layer from 2022. Pullets for 2023 totaled 722,000, down 6 percent from the 2022 total of 766,000. Other chickens totaled 134,000 in 2023, up 24 percent from the 2022 total of 108,000.

**Egg production** during the year ending November 30, 2023, totaled 293.9 million eggs. This was 4 percent down from the 2022 production of 306.2 million eggs.

West Virginia Chicken Inventory, Value per Head, and Total Value –December 1, 2019-2023						
	Total layers	Total pullets	Other chickens	Chicken inventory	Value per head	Total value
	(1,000 layers)	(1,000 pullets)	(1,000 other)	(1,000 head)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2019	1,377	747	90	2,214	7.90	17,914
2020	1,295	779	106	2,180	7.30	15,914
2021	1,364	825	98	2,287	7.90	18,067
2022	1,231	766	108	2,105	9.40	19,787
2023	1,250	722	134	2,106	11.00	23,166

### TROUT PRODUCTION



The total value of fish sold in West Virginia for 2023 was 1.17 million dollars, a decrease of 2 percent from the 2022 total value of 1.19 million dollars. **Trout losses** of all trout intended for sale were 62,000 fish during 2023, up 48,000 fish from the total of 14,000 fish in 2022.

### West Virginia Trout Distributed by Size

	Number of Fish	Total Live Weight <sup>1</sup>	Total Value <sup>2</sup>	Average Value Per Pound <sup>3</sup>
	(1000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)
Fish 12" or longer	310	314	1099	3.5
Fish 6" - 12"	500	280	1736	6.2
Fish 1" - 6"	115	2	173	1500

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, total number of fish multiplied by the average pounds per unit may not exactly equal total live weight

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, total number or live weight multiplied by average value per unit may not exactly equal total value.

<sup>3</sup> For Fish 1" -6" the average value is per 1,000 fish

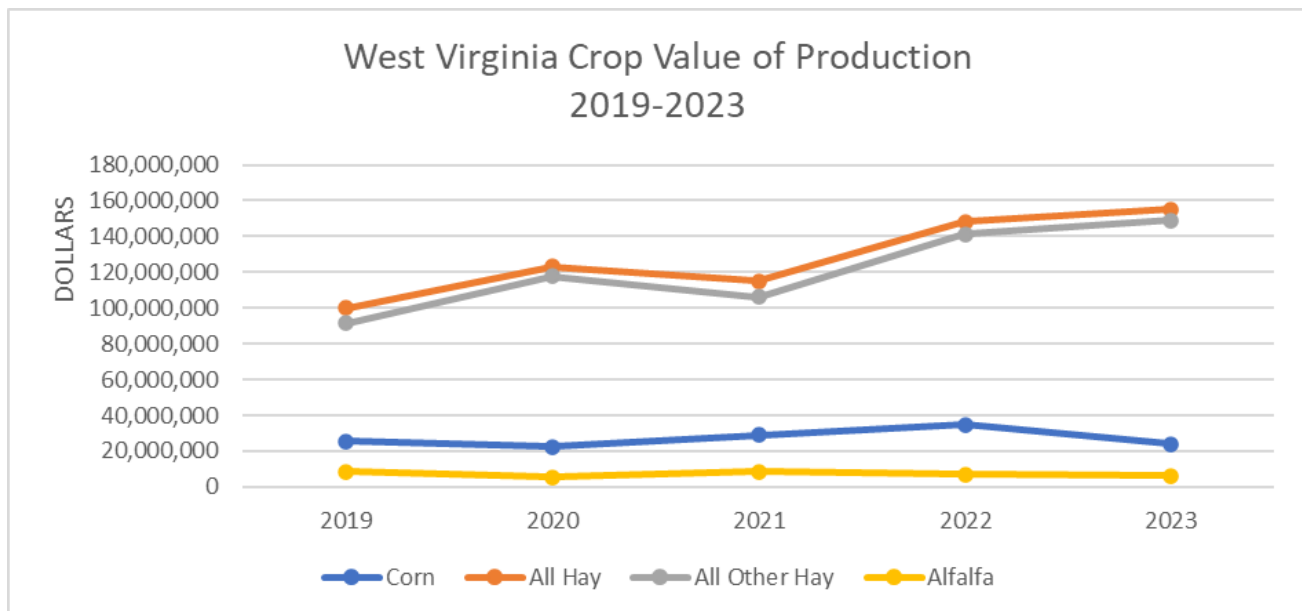
### HONEY PRODUCTION

**Honey production** from West Virginia producers in 2023 with five or more colonies totaled 306,000 pounds, up 12 percent from 273,000 pounds in 2022. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2023, down 14 percent from 7,000 in 2022. Yield per colony averaged 51 pounds, up 31 percent from the yield per colony of 39 pounds in 2022. Honey stocks on December 15, 2023, were reported at 177,000 pounds, up 81 percent from 98,000 pounds in 2022. **Prices** for the 2023 crop averaged \$6.35 per pound, up 7 percent from the price of \$5.91 per pound in 2022. Value of production totaled \$1,943,000, up \$330,000, or 20 percent, from \$1,613,000 in 2022.

	Honey Producing Colonies <sup>1</sup>	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks December 15 <sup>2</sup>	Average price per pound <sup>3</sup>	Value of production <sup>4</sup>
	(1000)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(dollars)	(dollars)
West Virginia	6,000	51	306,000	177,000	6.35	1,943,000
United States <sup>5</sup>	2,509,000	55.2	138,571,000	44,016,000	2.52	349,199,000
<sup>1</sup> Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year						
<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.						
<sup>3</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales						
<sup>4</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.						
<sup>5</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.						

### VALUE OF PRODUCTION OF 2023 CROPS

**Corn for grain** value of production totaled \$24.13 million in 2023, a decrease of 31 percent from 2022. The marketing year average price received per bushel for corn was \$5.20, down \$1.70 per bushel from the 2022 average price of \$6.90 per bushel. The value of **all hay** production totaled \$155.09 million in 2023, a 5 percent increase from 2022. The average price received per ton was \$148.00. This was up \$11.00 per ton from the 2022 average price. The value of **alfalfa hay** production totaled \$6.17 million in 2023, a 12 percent decrease from 2022. The average price received per ton was \$199.00. This was down \$2.00 per ton from the 2022 average price. The value of all **other hay** production totaled \$148.92 million in 2023, a 6 percent increase from 2022. The average price received per ton was \$146.00. This was up \$11.00 per ton from the 2022 average price.



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2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

THE AG CENSUS COUNTS BECAUSE WE COUNT ON U.S. AGRICULTURE.

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**988**  
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**NEXT ISSUE**  
Red Meat Production  
First Quarter Milk Production  
Prospective Plantings