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 Statistics Service
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 in cooperation with
 West Virginia
 Department of Agriculture

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during July 2015 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was up 16 percent from July 2014. 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 410,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from July 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,167 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 212,000 pounds live weight, up 31 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 800 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 18 pounds from the previous year, at 256 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 4.04 billion pounds in July, up 3 percent from the 3.91 billion pounds produced in July 2014.

Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.49 million head, down 4 percent from July

2014. The average live weight was up 26 pounds from the previous year, at 1,346 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.9 million pounds, 11 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 36,500 head, down 25 percent from July 2014. The average live weight was up 47 pounds from last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.40 million head, up 11 percent from July 2014. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 280 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.9 million pounds, was down 7 percent from July 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 187,100 head, 11 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 6 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2015 commercial red meat production was 27.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was down 18 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

July 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. July 2015 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holidays) 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 10.0 million head on August 1, 2015. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.55 million head, 1 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.49 million head. During July, placements of

cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 235,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 327,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 620,000 head. Placements are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.73 million head, 3 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during July, 11 percent below 2014.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.67 billion during July 2015, down 10 percent from last year. Production included 6.53 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 83 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2015 averaged 329 million, down 9 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,333 eggs, down 1 percent from July 2014.

All layers in the United States on August 1, 2015 totaled 329 million, down 9 percent from last year. The 329 million layers consisted of 271 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.30 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2015, averaged 75.0 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from August 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during July 2015 totaled 42.6 million, up 1 percent from July 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 44.4 million on August 1, 2015, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 267 thousand during July 2015, down 3 percent from July 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during July 2015 totaled 805 million, up 2 percent from July 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 646 million on August 1, 2015, up slightly from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.43 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply

flocks during July 2015, up 20 percent from July 2014.

AUGUST CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - All other hay production (excluding alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures) is forecast at 1,054,000 tons, down 26,000 tons from 2014. The area harvested is expected to total 620,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from the previous year. Average yield per acre is forecast at 1.70 tons, down 0.10 tons from 2014.

Based on August 1 conditions, **apple** production is forecast at 90.0 million pounds, up 8 million pounds from 2014.

Based on August 1 conditions, **peach** production is forecast at 5,700 tons (11.4 million pounds). The forecast is up 340 tons (0.68 million pounds) from the 2014 crop.

UNITED STATES, AUGUST 1, 2015 FORECAST, WITH 2014 COMPARISONS

- Corn for grain production - 13.69 billion bushels, down 4 percent.
- Corn yield - 168.8 bushels per acre, down 2.2 bushels.
- Oats production - 85.46 million bushels, up 23 percent.
- Winter wheat production - 1.44 billion bushels, up 4 percent.
- Alfalfa and Alfalfa mixtures hay production - 62.09 million tons, up 1 percent.
- All other hay production - 80.01 million tons, up 2 percent.
- All tobacco production - 717.34 million pounds, down 18 percent.
- Burley tobacco production - 157.27 million pounds, down 26 percent.
- Soybean production - 3.92 billion bushels, down 1 percent.
- Barley production - 209.69 million bushels, up 19 percent.
- Apple production - 10.17 billion pounds, down 11 percent.
- Peach production (including CA Clingstone) - 804,600 tons, down 6 percent.
- Peach production (excluding CA Clingstone) - 498,600 tons, down 4 percent.

FARM COMPUTER USAGE

United States - When United States producers were asked to respond to questions for USDA-NASS's biennial *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* report, 70 percent report having access to the Internet, up 3 percentage points from 2013. A DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) connection is the most common method of accessing the Internet, with 30 percent of the farms in the United States using it, down from 35 percent in 2013. A wireless connection, at 29 percent, and a satellite connection at 21 percent, increased 5 and 4 percentage points, respectively. Other reported methods of accessing the Internet include cable modem service (12 percent), dial-up service (3 percent), and other or unknown (5 percent).

Farms with computer access at 73 percent is slightly higher than the 71 percent of the farms that reported owning or leasing a computer. Computer access by sales class is 71 percent for sales class \$1,000--\$9,999; 70 percent for sales class \$10,000--\$99,999; 73 percent for Sales Class \$100,000--\$249,999; and 85 percent for Sales Class \$250,000 or more.

Computer usage for farm business at 43 percent nationally, is up 3 percentage points from 2013. This compares with usage by the four geographic regions: West (48 percent), North Central (46 percent), Northeast (45 percent), and the South (36 percent). Comparing computer usage by crop and livestock farms, 47 percent of the crop producers use the computer for farm business compared to 39 percent of the livestock producers. Computer uses include:

- Purchasing agricultural inputs: 19 percent
- Marketing activities: 16 percent
- Accessing USDA-NASS reports: 10 percent
- Accessing other USDA reports/services: 17 percent
- Accessing other federal government websites: 17 percent
- Conducting business with any USDA website: 9 percent
- Conducting business with any other federal government website: 7 percent
- Conducting business with a non-agricultural website: 44 percent

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Representatives from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, West Virginia Field Office will be in attendance at the 2nd Annual Women in Agriculture Conference, at the Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center, Davis, WV, October 23-24, 2015.

The conference will provide networking opportunities, promote leadership development, provide tours of diverse operations, support positive agriculture and natural resources policy development, and provide production and marketing education for agricultural service providers, female agriculture producers, and agribusiness women across West Virginia.

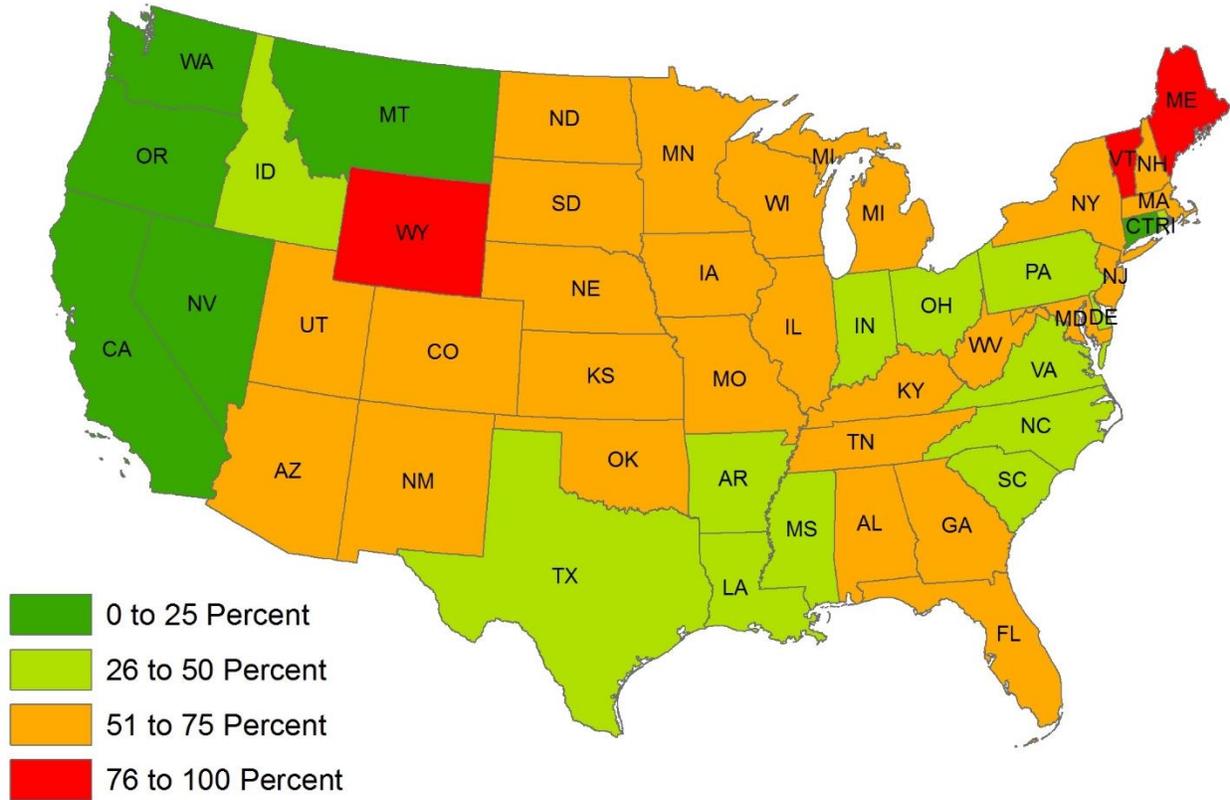
NASS will be setting up a booth at the event with an assortment of agricultural literature and will highlight data from West Virginia and across the nation. Members of our team will be available on site to answer questions.

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://anr.ext.wvu.edu/ag-women/wia-conference>



**PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION – PERCENT RATED GOOD OR EXCELLENT
FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 30, 2015**



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