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**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during December 2015 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 2 percent from December 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 949,000 pounds live weight, up 4 percent from December 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 42 pounds from the previous year, at 1,008 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 166,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 303 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 4.27 billion pounds in December, up 3 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in December 2014.

**Beef production**, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.45 million head, up slightly from December 2014. The average live weight was up 25 pounds from the previous year, at 1,388 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 7.8 million pounds, 2 percent above December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 45,200 head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 8 pounds from last year, at 295 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.21 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.36 million head, up 5 percent from December 2014. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 285 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.2 million pounds, was down 1 percent from December 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 199,600 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, down 2 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2015 commercial red meat production** was 48.4 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 7 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

December 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. December 2015 contained 23 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 10.6 million head on January 1, 2016. The inventory was slightly below January 1, 2015. The inventory included 7.16 million steers and steer calves, up 3 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 68 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.41 million head, down 7 percent from 2015. January 1, 2016 heifers and heifer calves inventory is the lowest percent of total January inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.53 million head, 1 percent below 2014. Net placements

were 1.45 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 355,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 355,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.67 million head, 1 percent above 2014.

**Other disappearance** totaled 78,000 head during December, 8 percent above 2014.

January 1, 2016, up 14 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 215 thousand during December 2015, down 13 percent from December 2014.

**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during December 2015 totaled 798 million, up slightly from December 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 645 million on January 1, 2016, up slightly from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 7.54 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during December 2015, up 11 percent from December 2014.

**CHICKENS AND EGGS**

**United States - Egg production** totaled 8.05 billion during December 2015, down 8 percent from last year. Production included 6.91 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 91 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2015 averaged 345 million, down 6 percent from last year. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,333 eggs, down 2 percent from December 2014.

**All layers** in the United States on January 1, 2016 totaled 347 million, down 5 percent from last year. The 347 million layers consisted of 288 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.63 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2016, averaged 74.8 eggs per 100 layers, down 2 percent from January 1, 2015.

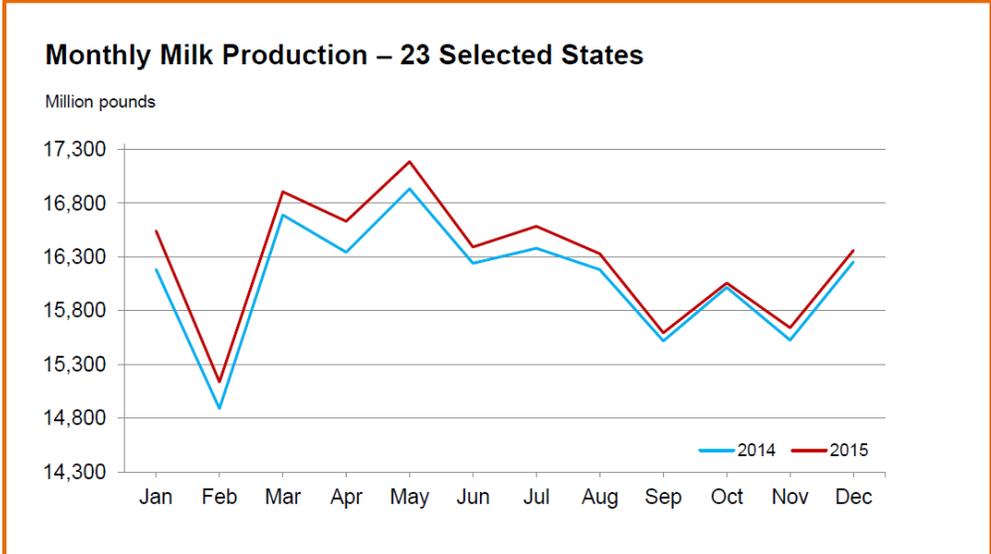
**Egg-type chicks** hatched during December 2015 totaled 47.3 million, up 10 percent from December 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 48.0 million on

**FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Milk production** in West Virginia totaled 33 million pounds or 3.8 million gallons during the October - December quarter of 2015. This was a decrease of one million pounds from the July - September 2015 quarter and the October - December quarter of 2014. The number of dairy cows averaged 8,500 head, unchanged from the previous quarter, but down 500 head from the same period in 2014.

**United States - Milk production** in the United States during the October - December quarter of 2015 totaled 51.2 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from the October - December quarter of 2014. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.32 million head, 6,000 head more than the July - September quarter, and 33,000 head more than the October - December quarter of 2014.

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



## ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 'December Ag Survey Results'

**Charleston, West Virginia - Winter wheat** planted acres totaled 9,000 in 2015, down 1,000 acres from 2014. Area harvested for grain totaled 4,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from 2014. The average yield for 2015 was estimated to be 60.0 bushels per acre. This was down 4.0 bushels per acre from 2014. Production was estimated at 240,000 bushels, down 46 percent or 208,000 bushels from 2014. **Winter wheat seedings** for the 2016 crop are estimated at 8,000 acres, down 11 percent or 1,000 acres from 2015.

**All hay** area harvested in 2015 totaled 590,000 acres, down 28,000 acres from 2014. The average yield in 2015 was 1.75 tons per acre, down 0.08 ton per acre from 2014. Production totaled 1,035,000 tons, down 97,000 tons from 2014. **December On Farm Hay Stocks** were 850,000 tons, down 60,000 tons from the total of 910,000 tons in 2014.

**Alfalfa hay** area harvested totaled 20,000 acres in 2015, up 2,000 acres from 2014. Yields in 2015 averaged 3.30 tons per acre, up 0.4 ton from 2014. Production totaled 66,000 tons, up 14,000 tons from 2014. New seedings of alfalfa in 2015 are estimated at 2,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2014.

**All other hay** area harvested totaled 570,000 acres in 2015, down 30,000 acres from 2014. Yields averaged 1.70 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton per acre from 2014. Production totaled 969,000 tons, down 111,000 tons from 2014.

**Corn area planted** for all purposes in 2015 totaled 50,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2014. Harvested area **for grain** totaled 35,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2014. The average yield of 148.0 bushels per acre was down 1.0 bushels per acre from 2014. Production was 5,180,000 bushels, down 3 percent or 184,000 bushels from 2014.

**Corn for silage** area harvested was 14,000 acres in 2015, unchanged from 2014. Yields averaged 18.0 tons per acre, unchanged from 2014. Silage production was estimated at 252,000 tons, unchanged from 2014.

**Soybeans area planted** totaled 27,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. Area harvested for soybeans totaled 26,000 acres, unchanged from 2014. The yield for soybeans in 2015 averaged 48.0 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels per acre from 2014. Production was

estimated at 1,248,000 bushels, down 6 percent or 78,000 bushels from 2014.

The total area planted to **principal crops** in West Virginia totaled 676,000 acres in 2015, down 30,000 acres from 2014. Area harvested totaled 669,000 acres, down 32,000 acres from 2014. Principal crops include acres planted to corn, soybeans, wheat, and acres harvested for all hay.

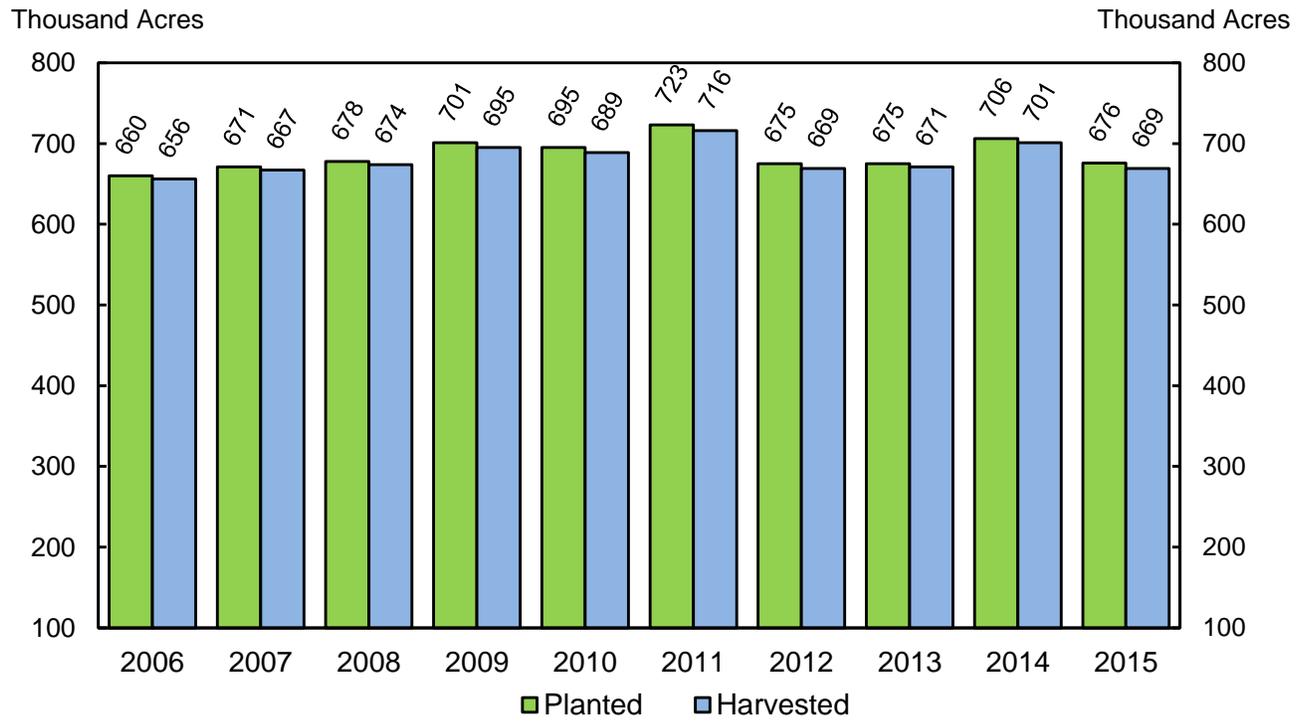
### United States With Previous Year Comparisons

- All wheat production - 2.05 billion bushels, up 1%.
- Winter wheat production - 1.37 billion bushels, down less than 1%.
- 2016 winter wheat seedings - 36.6 million acres, down 7% from 2015.
- 2015 alfalfa seedings - 2.54 million acres, down less than 1% from 2014.
- Alfalfa hay production - 59.0 million tons, down 4%.
- All other hay production - 75.4 million tons, down 4%.
- All hay production - 134.0 million tons, down 4%.
- Corn planted for all purposes area - 88.0 million acres, down 3%.
- Corn for grain area harvested - 80.7 million acres, down 3%.
- Corn for grain production - 13.6 billion bushels, down 4%.
- Corn for grain yield - 168.4 bushels per acre, down 2.6 bushels per acre.
- Corn for silage harvested area - 6.22 million acres, down 2%.
- Corn for silage production - 127.0 million tons, down less than 1%.
- Corn for silage yield - 20.4 tons per acre, up 0.3 ton per acre.
- Soybean production - 3.93 billion bushels, up less than 1%.
- Soybean yield - 48.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel per acre.
- All tobacco production - 711.0 million pounds, down 19%.
- Oats production - 89.5 million bushels, up 27%.
- Area planted to principal crops - 318.5 million acres, down 2%.
- Area harvested for principal crops - 304.5 million acres, down 1%.

### U.S. Stocks Totals As Of December 1, 2015

- Hay stocks on-farms - 95.0 million tons, up 3%.
- Corn stocks on-farms - 6.83 billion bushels, down 4%.
- Corn stocks off-farms - 4.38 billion bushels, up 6%.
- All wheat stocks on-farms - 503.0 million bushels, up 6%.
- All wheat stocks off-farms - 1.23 billion bushels, up 17%.
- Soybean stocks on-farms - 1.31 billion bushels, up 8%.
- Soybean stocks off-farms - 1.41 billion bushels, up 7%.
- Oats stocks on-farms - 36.8 million bushels, up 17%.
- Oats stocks off-farms - 46.1 million bushels, up 29%.

**PRINCIPAL CROPS-  
Area Planted and Harvested in West Virginia**



NEXT ISSUE  
 Red Meat Production  
 January Cattle Inventory  
 January Sheep and Goat Inventories

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