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National Agricultural
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West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

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RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during May 2016 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was up 17 percent from May 2015. 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 504,000 pounds live weight, up 25 percent from May 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 44 pounds from the previous year, at 1,125 pounds.

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

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 164,000 pounds live weight, up 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 299 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 4.00 billion pounds in May, up 5 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in May 2015.

Beef production, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter

totaled 2.51 million head, up 6 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,333 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.0 million pounds, 9 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 35,500 head, up 7 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was down 49 pounds from last year, at 286 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.95 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.18 million head, up 5 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 283 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from May 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 185,300 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 1 pound from May a year ago.

January to May 2016 commercial red meat production was 20.2 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

May 2015 contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays. May 2016 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 10.8 million head on June 1, 2016. The inventory was 2 percent above June 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.88 million head, 10 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.81 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 305,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 479,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 850,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.79 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 74,000 head during May, 4 percent below 2015.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 8.52 billion during May 2016, up 5 percent from last year. Production included 7.36 billion table eggs, and 1.16 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 100 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during May 2016 averaged 361 million, up 4 percent from last year. May egg production per 100 layers was 2,362 eggs, up 1 percent from May 2015.

All layers in the United States on June 1, 2016 totaled 360 million, up 8 percent from last year. The 360 million layers consisted of 302 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.85 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on June 1, 2016, averaged 76.2 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from June 1, 2015.

Egg-type chicks hatched during May 2016 totaled

57.1 million, up 18 percent from May 2015. Eggs in incubators totaled 54.9 million on June 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 198 thousand during May 2016, down 16 percent from May 2015.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during May 2016 totaled 808 million, down slightly from May 2015. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on June 1, 2016, up slightly from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.08 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during May 2016, up 7 percent from May 2015.

HONEY BEE COLONIES

Charleston, West Virginia - Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in West Virginia as of January 1, 2016 totaled 6,500. This is 38 percent above the 4,700 colonies on January 1, 2015. During 2015, honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 4,700, 7,000, and 7,000, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016, were 1,700 colonies or 23 percent lost. The quarter of January-March 2015 had a loss of 1,800 colonies or 30 percent, the highest honey bee colonies loss of the five quarters. The quarter of July-September 2015, at 300 colonies or 4 percent, showed the least amount of lost honey bee colonies.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies in West Virginia

Quarter	Number of colonies ¹	Maximum colonies	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Jan-Mar 15	4,700	6,000	1,800	30	570	60	1
Apr-Jun 15	4,700	4,700	570	12	2,900	590	13
Jul-Sep 15	7,000	7,000	300	4	300	270	4
Oct-Dec 15	7,000	7,000	610	9	190	140	2
Jan-Mar 16	6,500	7,500	1,700	23	0	10	<1

¹ Number of colonies at the beginning of quarter plus all colonies moved into the state during the quarter. ² Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies. ³ Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package. ⁴ Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 were zero colonies. This is the lowest number of colonies added during the five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, added 2,900 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added of the five quarters.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies during the quarter of January-March 2016 were 10. This is the lowest number of colonies renovated during the five quarters. The number of colonies renovated during the quarter of April-June 2015 was 590, the highest number of honey bee colonies renovated. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during each of the quarters surveyed. The quarter of January-March 2016 showed varroa mites at 21.9 percent. This was the highest percent of varroa mites during the five quarters. The quarter of April-June 2015, at 15.6 percent, showed the least amount of varroa mites.

United States - Honey bee colonies for operations with less than five colonies in the United States on January 1, 2015 were 50.0 thousand. Honey bee colonies on April 1, July 1, and October 1, 2015 were 43.0 thousand, 52.0 thousand, and 49.0 thousand, respectively. Unknown colony health stressors (includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.), at 20.8 percent, were the highest for operations with less than five colonies during 2015. Varroa mites were the next ranked stressor at 19.8 percent.

MAPLE SYRUP

Charleston, West Virginia - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service announced the results of the first-ever West Virginia maple syrup report, pulled from the survey done earlier this spring.

“Survey estimates help others really see what the producers are doing in the state,” said Charmaine Wilson, West Virginia state statistician. “The more people who respond to surveys, the better and more accurate the data. We’re excited to have worked with

the West Virginia Department of Agriculture on this and are looking forward to how future results will show the growth of the maple syrup industry in West Virginia.”

“The maple syrup data collection period in West Virginia was April 28 through May 17, 2016,” Wilson said. “Survey participation was good with a 90 percent response rate to help give us the accurate data producers need.”

West Virginia maple syrup production totaled 6,000 gallons in 2016. **Number of taps** was 48,000. **Yield per tap** was 0.125 gallons. **Maple syrup season** opened on February 9, 2016 and closed on March 12, 2016. The average season length was 32 days. The first date sap was collected in West Virginia was January 1, 2016. The last date for sap collection was April 2, 2016.

Average price per gallon, value of production, price by type of sale and size of container, and percent of sales was not reported for 2015 due to being prior to the first survey.

FARM LABOR

United States - There were 703,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation’s farms and ranches during the week of **April 10-16, 2016**, up 2 percent from the April 2015 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 582,000 during the week of **January 10-16, 2016**, up 6 percent from the January 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.75 per hour during the **April 2016 reference week**, up 4 percent from the April 2015 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.00 per hour, an increase of 6 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.01 per hour, up 4 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.00 per hour, was up 5 percent from the 2015 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.4 hours during the April 2016 reference week, compared with 39.9 hours worked during the April 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.83 per hour during the **January 2016 reference week**, up 2 percent from the January 2015

reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.84 per hour, up 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$12.02 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.91 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2015 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.8 hours during the January 2016 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours worked during the January 2015 reference week.

For the **April 2016 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. The Cornbelt I region saw the largest increase, with 31 percent more workers on the region's farms.

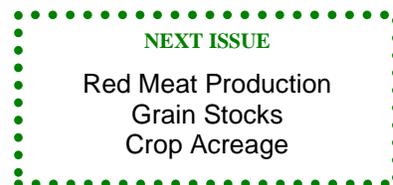
The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 23 percent from the 2015 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Florida, Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. January Reference Week.

For the **January 2016 reference week**, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Cornbelt I region saw the largest increase, with 35 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 25 percent from the 2015 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the California and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.



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