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**RED MEAT PRODUCTION**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production** during August 2015 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was up 2 percent from August 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 611,000 pounds live weight, down slightly from August 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 53 pounds from the previous year, at 1,170 pounds.

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

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 253,000 pounds live weight, up 6 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 257 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 3.90 billion pounds in August, up 3 percent from the 3.79 billion pounds produced in August 2014.

**Beef production**, at 1.93 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.32 million head, down 7 percent from August 2014. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,363 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.5 million pounds, 9 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 34,500 head, down 21 percent from August 2014. The average live weight was up 41 pounds from last year, at 318 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.95 billion pounds, up 11 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.35 million head, up 13 percent from August 2014. The average live weight was down 4 pounds from the previous year, at 278 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 11.7 million pounds, was up slightly from August 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 175,100 head, 3 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 5 pounds from August a year ago.

**January to August 2015 commercial red meat production** was 31.7 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was down 17 percent, pork was up 8 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

August 2014 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 Saturdays. August 2015 contained 21 weekdays (including 0 holidays) and 5 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 9.99 million head on September 1, 2015. The inventory was 3 percent above September 1, 2014.

**Placements** in feedlots during August totaled 1.63 million head, 5 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.57 million head. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 395,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 215,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 362,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 660,000 head. Placements are the lowest for August since the series began in 1996.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during August totaled 1.59 million head, 6 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for August since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 head during August, 9 percent below 2014.

### QUARTERLY HOGS AND PIGS

**United States - Inventory** of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 2015 was 68.4 million head. This was up 4 percent from September 1, 2014, and up 2 percent from June 1, 2015. This is the highest inventory of all hogs and pigs since quarterly United States estimates began in 1988.

**Breeding inventory**, at 5.99 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up 1 percent from the previous quarter. **Market hog inventory**, at 62.4 million head, was up 4 percent from last year, and up 2 percent from last quarter. This is the highest market hog inventory since quarterly United States estimates began in 1988.

**The June - August 2015 pig crop**, at 30.6 million head, was up 1 percent from 2014. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.94 million head, down 2 percent from 2014. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 10.39 for the June-August period, compared to 10.16 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 8.00 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.40 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.



### CHICKENS AND EGGS

**United States - Egg production** totaled 7.69 billion during August 2015, down 9 percent from last year. Production included 6.55 billion table eggs, and 1.15 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.06 billion were broiler-type and 82 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2015 averaged 330 million, down 9 percent from last year. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,329 eggs, down 1 percent from August 2014.

**All layers** in the United States on September 1, 2015 totaled 331 million, down 9 percent from last year. The 331 million layers consisted of 273 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.17 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2015, averaged 75.1 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from September 1, 2014.

**Egg-type chicks** hatched during August 2015 totaled 46.9 million, up 18 percent from August 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 47.2 million on September 1, 2015, up 13 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 228 thousand during August 2015, down 9 percent from August 2014.

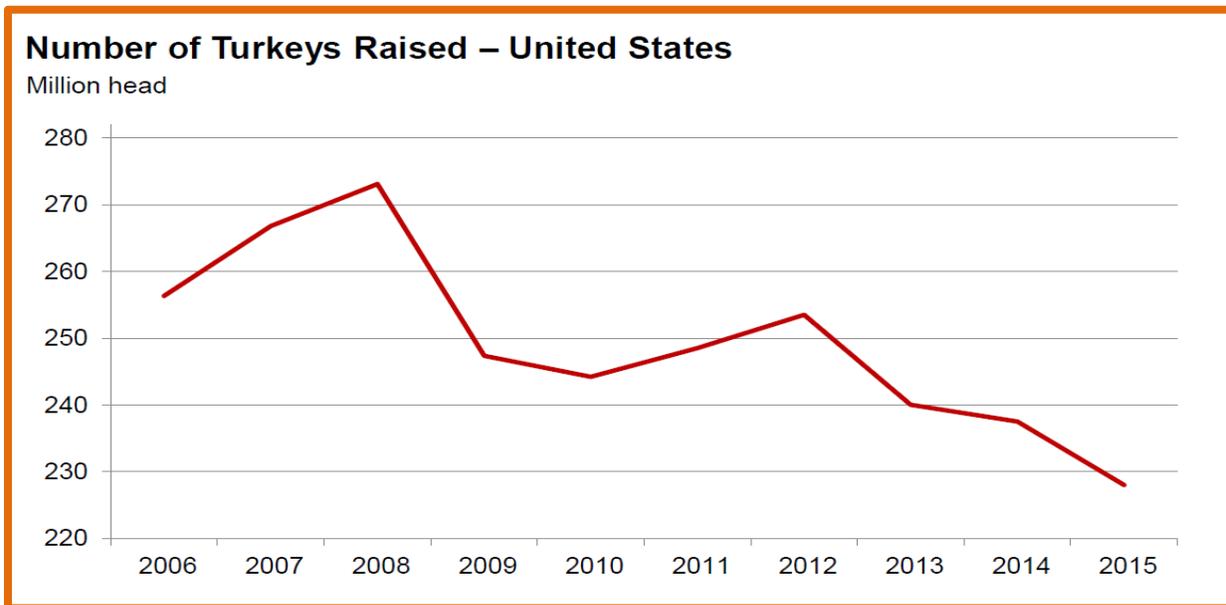
**Broiler-type chicks** hatched during August 2015 totaled 798 million, up 1 percent from August 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 635 million on September 1, 2015, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed placed 7.91 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2015, up 6 percent from August 2014.

### TURKEYS RAISED

**Charleston, West Virginia - Turkeys raised** in West Virginia during 2015 is forecasted to be 3.1 million birds, unchanged from 2014.

**United States - Turkeys raised** in the United States



during 2015 is forecasted at 228 million, down 4 percent from the number raised during 2014.

A combination of six states account for nearly two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2015. The largest turkey producing state is Minnesota, at 40.0 million turkeys, down 12 percent from the previous year. North Carolina is up 2 percent from last year, producing 29.0 million turkeys. Arkansas produced 27.0 million turkeys, which is down 10 percent from the previous year. Indiana is up 1 percent from a year ago to 19.1 million turkeys. Missouri is up 6 percent from last year, producing 18.0 million turkeys. Virginia is up compared to the previous year by 4 percent at 17.4 million turkeys.

**2015 SMALL GRAINS SUMMARY**

**Charleston, West Virginia - Winter wheat** production for 2015 totaled 240,000 bushels, down 46 percent from 448,000 bushels in 2014. Area harvested for grain totaled 4,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from 7,000 acres in 2014. Area planted totaled 9,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from last year. The average yield of 60.0 bushels per acre was down 4 bushels per acre from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

**United States - All wheat** production totaled 2.05 billion bushels in 2015, up 1 percent from the revised

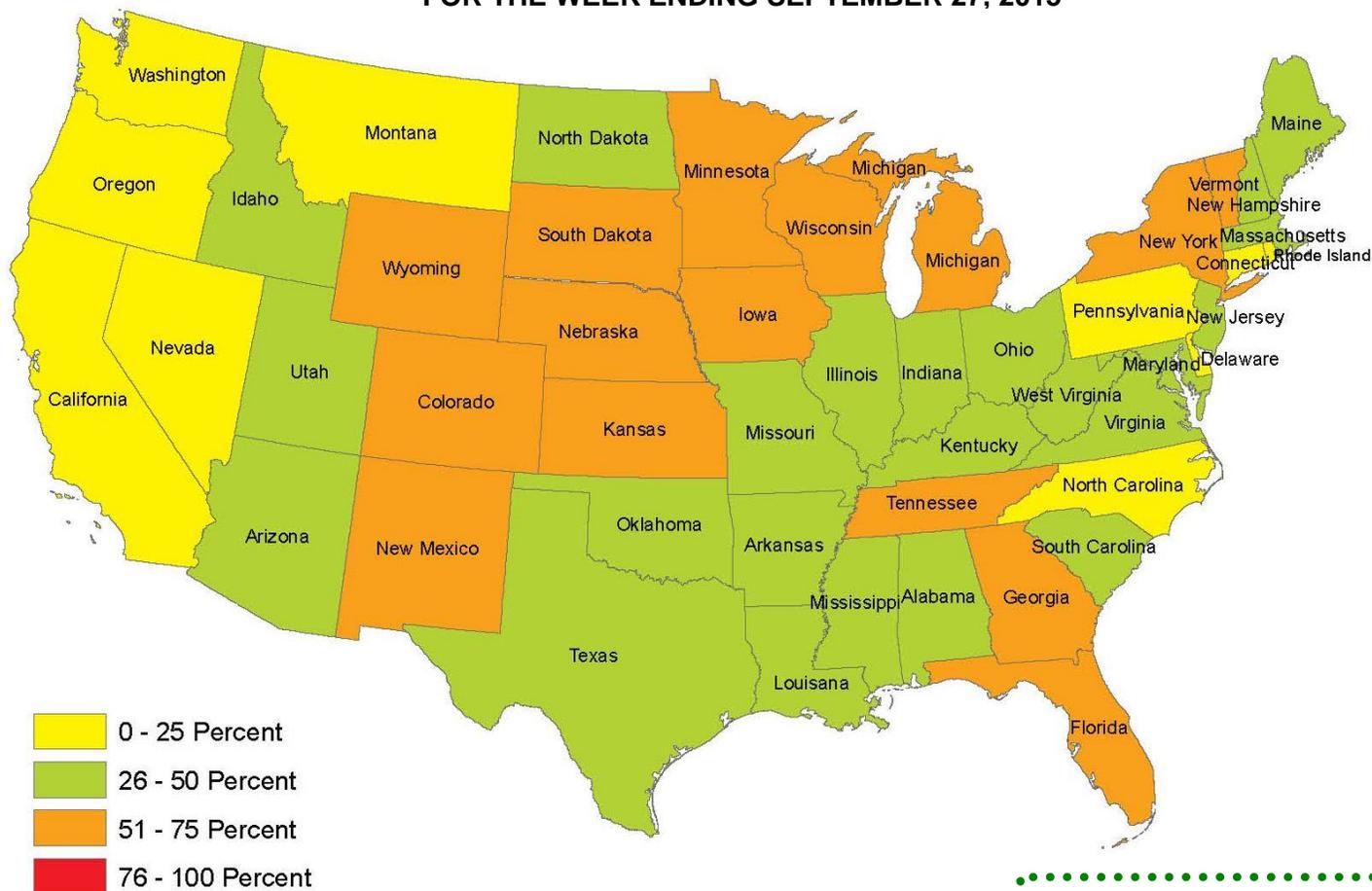
2014 total. Area harvested for grain totaled 47.1 million acres, up 2 percent from the previous year. The United States yield is estimated at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.1 bushel from the previous year. The levels of production and changes from 2014 by type are winter wheat, 1.37 billion bushels, down less than 1 percent; other spring wheat, 599 million bushels, up less than 1 percent; and Durum wheat, 82.5 million bushels, up 53 percent.

**Oat** production is estimated at 89.5 million bushels, up 27 percent from the revised 2014 total of 70.2 million bushels. Yield is estimated at 70.2 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from the previous year and represents a new record high for the United States. Harvested area, at 1.28 million acres, is 23 percent above last year.

**Barley** production is estimated at 214 million bushels, up 18 percent from the revised 2014 total. Average yield per acre, at 68.9 bushels, is down 3.8 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 3.56 million acres in 2015, up 17 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 3.11 million acres, is up 25 percent from 2014.

**Rye** production for 2015 is estimated at 11.5 million bushels, up 60 percent from the 2014 total. Harvested area totaled 360,000 acres, up 102,000 acres from 2014. The United States yield, at 31.9 bushels per acre, is up 4 bushels from the previous year. Favorable weather conditions in the Southern Great Plains and the Southeast led to an increase in harvested acres from a year earlier.

### PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION-PERCENT RATED GOOD OR EXCELLENT FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 2015



**NEXT ISSUE**  
Red Meat Production  
October Crop Production  
Organic Farms in WV

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