



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- U.S. Mushroom Sales
- Red Meat Production
- All Cattle County Estimates
- Beef Cow County Estimates
- All Hay County Estimates
- U.S. Milk Production
- Farm Labor
- Cattle on Feed
- July Egg Production
- U.S. & Canadian Cattle

### U.S. Mushroom Sales-2007-08

Sales of the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop are 809 million pounds, down 2 percent from the 2006-07 season and 4 percent below two years ago. Value of sales for the 2007-08 U.S. mushroom crop is \$964 million, virtually unchanged from the previous season but 8 percent above the 2005-06 season. The number of growers, at 286, is up 6 from last season. The average price is \$1.19 per pound, up 3 cents from 2006-07.

Volume of sales reported by growers of Agaricus mushrooms for fresh market is 675 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Volume of sales of Agaricus mushrooms for processing is 118 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last season. Value of sales for all Agaricus mushrooms totaled \$914 million, down slightly from the previous season but 8 percent above 2005-06.

Agaricus mushroom volume of sales totaled 793 million pounds, down 3 percent from the 2006-07 season and 5 percent below 2005-06. Pennsylvania accounted for 63 percent of the total volume of sales and second-ranked California contributed 14 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop was estimated at \$914 million dollars, down slightly from the 2006-07 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 105 million pounds, up 6 percent from last season but 11 percent lower than the 2005-06 crop year. Brown mushrooms accounted for 13 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2007-08 season is \$143 million dollars, 16 percent of the total Agaricus value.

The total number of Agaricus growers in the U.S., at 108, is 9 fewer growers than last season and 15 less than two seasons ago. Growers with sales exceeding 10 million pounds accounted for 65 percent of U.S. Agaricus production, or 514 million pounds. The number of growers by sales categories are as follows:

Over 20.0 million pounds, 9 growers; 10.0 million to 19.9 million pounds, 15 growers; 5.0 million to 9.9 million pounds, 19 growers; 2.5 million to 4.9 million pounds, 23 growers; 1.0 million to 2.4 million pounds, 22 growers; 0.5

million to 1.0 million pounds, 8 growers; less than 0.5 million pounds of sales, 12 growers.

The growing area is 28.4 million square feet, down 5 percent from the previous season but virtually unchanged from 2005-06. Total fillings are 140 million square feet, down 4 percent from last season and 2 percent below 2005-06. Yields averaged 5.67 pounds per square foot, 2 percent above last season. Producers received an average return of \$6.54 per square foot, up 26 cents from last season and 59 cents above the 2005-06 season. U.S. fresh market production, at 675 million pounds, is down 3 percent from the previous season, while processed production, at 118 million pounds, is slightly above the previous season. U.S. fresh market production accounted for 85 percent of total sales volume, with processed production making up the remaining 15 percent. Grower total filling intentions for the 2008-09 crop are nearly identical to the 2007-08 season.

The 60 growers of Agaricus mushrooms in Chester County, Pennsylvania produced 340 million pounds of Agaricus mushrooms valued at \$306 million. The growing area in Chester County was 11.3 million square feet. Total fillings were 53 million square feet.

Value of sales for commercially grown specialty mushrooms in 2007-08 is \$50 million, up 9 percent from the 2006-07 season. A specialty grower is defined as having at least 200 natural wood logs in production or some commercial indoor growing area, and \$200 dollars or more in sales. The average price per pound received by growers, at \$3.08, is down 16 cents from the previous season.

Volume of sales of Shiitake mushrooms totaled 9.90 million pounds for the 2007-08 season, up 42 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.81 per pound, is down 55 cents from 2006-07. Sales volume of Oyster mushrooms, at 4.30 million pounds, is down 16 percent from the previous season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$2.87 per pound, is up 46 cents from the previous season. Volume of Sales of exotic mushrooms, other than Shiitake or Oyster, is 2.01 million pounds, down 3 percent from last season. Price per pound received by growers, at \$4.86 per pound, is up 2 cents from 2006-07.

Growers sold 39.8 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2007-08 growing season, 9 percent above 2006-07. Out of the 39.8 million pounds, 13.3 million pounds, or 33 percent of the total were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares with 8.78 million pounds, or 24 percent sold as certified organic during the 2006-07 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for

84 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent 2 percent of the 2007-08 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 42, up 1 from the previous season. These growers represent 15 percent of the 286 total mushroom producers.

### U.S. and Montana July 2008 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.8 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during July 2008, up 48 percent from July 2007, and up 93 percent from June 2008. Cattle slaughter totaled 2,100 head, up 700 head from one year ago. The average live weight decreased 28 pounds to 1,192 pounds.

There were 1,800 hogs slaughtered in Montana during July, up 400 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 235 pounds, decreased 2 pounds from last year. July sheep slaughter totaled 400 head, up 200 head from July 2007. The average live weight decreased 10 pounds to 126 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.25 billion pounds in July, up 8 percent from the 3.94 billion pounds produced in July 2007.

Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 6 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,273 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.3 million pounds, 16 percent above July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 87,900 head, up 41 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 46 pounds from last year, at 243 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.85 billion pounds, up 12 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.47 million head, up 13 percent from July 2007. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.7 million pounds, was up 1 percent from July 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 207,800 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 132 pounds, up 1 pound from July a year ago.

January to July 2008 commercial red meat production was 29.3 billion pounds, up 6 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 3 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**All Cattle and Beef Cows: Inventory by Counties, January 1, 2006-2008**

County and District	All Cattle and Calves				Beef Cows and Heifers That Have Calved			
	2006	2007	2008	Rank	2006	2007	2008	Rank
Deer Lodge	8,000	7,500	8,200	52	5,900	5,600	5,100	51
Flathead	12,600	9,400	9,600	51	7,000	5,900	4,900	53
Granite	21,600	21,600	24,500	42	16,300	15,500	17,000	41
Lake	48,000	45,100	50,200	22	32,700	29,000	30,000	21
Lincoln	2,700	2,700	--	--	1,800	1,600	1,500	55
Mineral	600	800	--	--	400	400	300	56
Missoula	8,300	8,600	7,900	53	6,100	5,900	5,000	52
Powell	41,000	44,100	45,500	28	28,900	28,400	32,300	16
Ravalli	32,000	30,400	34,000	35	18,200	17,700	18,300	39
Sanders	16,200	17,800	20,500	46	11,700	12,000	15,600	44
Other	--	--	2,600	--	--	--	--	--
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>191,000</b>	<b>188,000</b>	<b>203,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>129,000</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Blaine	71,000	69,400	76,000	9	45,000	43,200	52,500	6
Chouteau	33,000	40,000	36,600	32	20,700	22,000	25,700	30
Glacier	42,000	41,700	47,300	26	29,600	24,600	29,300	22
Hill	25,000	27,900	31,500	37	18,000	18,800	19,700	38
Liberty	12,900	13,500	14,100	50	9,000	8,300	8,600	50
Phillips	68,000	80,000	85,200	6	46,000	45,400	54,200	3
Pondera	28,000	31,300	34,700	34	17,600	17,200	20,400	36
Teton	48,000	53,400	56,100	19	24,100	25,600	27,700	25
Toole	16,100	16,800	19,500	48	11,000	10,900	13,900	45
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>344,000</b>	<b>374,000</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>221,000</b>	<b>216,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Daniels	15,800	15,700	24,100	43	12,100	10,800	17,700	40
Dawson	39,000	42,200	45,900	27	27,000	25,900	28,700	23
Garfield	69,000	54,600	64,300	16	45,000	40,900	41,000	10
McCone	27,500	32,800	31,600	36	20,700	18,800	20,400	36
Richland	56,000	61,200	56,800	18	27,900	26,100	27,500	26
Roosevelt	31,700	36,100	42,000	31	21,000	20,700	31,000	18
Sheridan	24,000	28,500	30,800	38	15,300	18,400	20,700	34
Valley	86,000	78,900	65,500	13	51,000	48,400	39,000	12
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>349,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>361,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>220,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>226,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Broadwater	17,300	15,600	18,400	49	12,100	10,700	12,900	47
Cascade	69,000	81,100	88,200	5	46,000	45,100	53,800	4
Fergus	104,000	101,900	111,100	3	68,000	66,100	70,100	2
Golden Valley	13,800	15,700	20,000	47	8,700	9,300	11,400	49
Judith Basin	62,000	59,500	65,400	14	31,800	29,600	38,800	13
Lewis & Clark	41,000	39,400	47,700	25	22,500	23,100	27,400	27
Meagher	47,000	48,500	47,800	24	26,000	25,300	28,300	24
Musselshell	39,000	43,100	53,800	20	23,200	24,600	30,100	20
Petroleum	18,000	21,000	24,700	41	12,700	13,000	16,400	43
Wheatland	27,900	30,200	34,900	33	19,000	18,200	22,800	32
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>439,000</b>	<b>456,000</b>	<b>512,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>265,000</b>	<b>312,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Beaverhead	135,000	129,000	136,200	1	81,000	78,000	74,700	1
Gallatin	62,000	51,900	64,600	15	25,900	24,800	26,700	28
Jefferson	22,900	23,200	25,000	40	15,500	15,600	16,700	42
Madison	76,000	68,800	66,900	12	46,000	43,900	47,200	7
Silver Bow	6,100	5,100	5,300	54	4,600	3,700	3,700	54
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>278,000</b>	<b>298,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>173,000</b>	<b>166,000</b>	<b>169,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Big Horn	83,000	85,400	98,500	4	52,000	50,900	53,500	5
Carbon	54,000	47,400	52,800	21	24,100	27,300	26,200	29
Park	42,000	40,400	44,100	29	27,500	27,500	32,100	17
Stillwater	49,000	47,400	48,000	23	23,500	23,700	22,200	33
Sweetgrass	40,000	36,600	43,100	30	28,800	25,400	30,300	19
Treasure	23,000	19,800	21,000	45	10,100	10,300	12,700	48
Yellowstone	116,000	109,000	112,500	2	33,000	29,900	23,000	31
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>407,000</b>	<b>386,000</b>	<b>420,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>199,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>--</b>
Carter	56,000	57,600	70,100	10	37,000	35,300	41,000	10
Custer	67,000	65,600	78,600	8	34,000	30,300	36,600	14
Fallon	51,000	50,000	57,900	17	33,000	32,300	36,600	14
Powder River	56,000	60,900	67,500	11	36,000	35,600	41,900	9
Prairie	35,000	31,600	30,700	39	21,000	18,100	20,600	35
Rosebud	84,000	82,300	79,000	7	46,000	45,200	43,700	8
Wibaux	19,000	20,000	21,200	44	12,000	11,200	13,600	46
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>368,000</b>	<b>368,000</b>	<b>405,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>208,000</b>	<b>234,000</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>2,400,000</b>	<b>2,600,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,431,000</b>	<b>1,382,000</b>	<b>1,523,000</b>	<b>--</b>

-- Counties with no head or counties that are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

**All Hay Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2007**

County and District	ALL				IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Harvested	Yield	Production		Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Tons	Tons	Rank	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons
Deer Lodge	10,000	2.28	22,800	51	9,500	2.35	22,300	--	--	--
Flathead	25,500	2.74	69,800	33	10,500	3.55	37,300	15,000	2.17	32,500
Granite	25,000	2.36	59,100	39	23,000	2.45	56,400	2,000	1.35	2,700
Lake	39,000	2.49	97,100	26	29,000	2.97	86,000	10,000	1.11	11,100
Lincoln	6,000	1.38	8,300	55	2,000	2.00	4,000	4,000	1.08	4,300
Mineral	2,000	1.65	3,300	56	500	2.00	1,000	1,500	1.53	2,300
Missoula	14,500	2.28	33,100	49	12,000	2.54	30,500	2,500	1.04	2,600
Powell	52,000	2.34	121,900	15	47,000	2.41	113,200	5,000	1.74	8,700
Ravalli	34,000	3.01	102,400	23	33,500	3.04	102,000	--	--	--
Sanders	22,000	1.53	33,700	48	11,000	2.35	25,800	11,000	0.72	7,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	0.90	900
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<b>230,000</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>551,500</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>178,000</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>478,500</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>73,000</b>
Blaine	75,000	2.11	158,600	5	40,500	2.85	115,600	34,500	1.25	43,000
Chouteau	35,000	1.89	66,100	35	10,000	2.97	29,700	25,000	1.46	36,400
Glacier	35,000	1.45	50,900	42	11,000	2.40	26,400	24,000	1.02	24,500
Hill	23,000	1.43	32,800	50	3,000	2.60	7,800	20,000	1.25	25,000
Liberty	12,000	1.46	17,500	53	3,500	2.71	9,500	8,500	0.94	8,000
Phillips	67,000	1.82	122,100	14	26,000	2.52	65,500	41,000	1.38	56,600
Pondera	32,000	1.96	62,800	36	22,000	2.51	55,200	10,000	0.76	7,600
Teton	58,000	2.48	144,100	10	40,500	3.10	125,500	17,500	1.06	18,600
Toole	18,000	1.17	21,100	52	3,500	2.80	9,800	14,500	0.78	11,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>355,000</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>676,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>445,000</b>	<b>195,000</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>231,000</b>
Daniels	26,000	1.34	34,900	47	--	--	--	25,000	1.21	30,300
Dawson	47,000	1.57	74,000	31	6,500	4.02	26,100	40,500	1.18	47,900
Garfield	59,000	1.38	81,700	28	--	--	--	56,500	1.34	75,600
McCone	39,000	1.37	53,600	41	5,000	2.44	12,200	34,000	1.22	41,400
Richland	59,000	1.96	115,800	18	10,500	4.66	48,900	48,500	1.38	66,900
Roosevelt	62,000	1.55	96,400	27	7,000	3.79	26,500	55,000	1.27	69,900
Sheridan	49,000	1.48	72,700	32	4,500	3.60	16,200	44,500	1.27	56,500
Valley	72,000	1.98	142,400	11	36,000	2.78	99,900	36,000	1.18	42,500
Other	--	--	--	--	3,500	3.06	10,700	--	--	--
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	<b>413,000</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>671,500</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>240,500</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>431,000</b>
Broadwater	28,000	4.03	112,800	19	27,000	4.15	112,100	1,000	0.70	700
Cascade	75,000	1.94	145,300	9	16,500	3.47	57,200	58,500	1.51	88,100
Fergus	166,000	1.73	287,600	1	17,500	3.01	52,600	148,500	1.58	235,000
Golden Valley	25,000	1.56	39,000	45	8,500	2.88	24,500	16,500	0.88	14,500
Judith Basin	78,000	2.01	157,000	6	9,500	3.41	32,400	68,500	1.82	124,600
Lewis & Clark	44,000	2.84	125,000	13	33,000	3.28	108,400	11,000	1.51	16,600
Meagher	46,000	2.12	97,600	25	38,000	2.37	89,900	8,000	0.96	7,700
Musselshell	31,000	1.74	54,000	40	9,500	3.27	31,100	21,500	1.07	22,900
Petroleum	32,000	2.14	68,400	34	14,000	3.13	43,800	18,000	1.37	24,600
Wheatland	37,000	1.70	62,800	36	20,500	2.22	45,500	16,500	1.05	17,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>CENTRAL</b>	<b>562,000</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>1,149,500</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>194,000</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>597,500</b>	<b>368,000</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>552,000</b>
Beaverhead	105,000	2.47	259,000	2	103,000	2.47	254,800	--	--	--
Gallatin	65,000	3.18	206,600	3	42,500	3.98	169,100	22,500	1.67	37,500
Jefferson	23,000	2.67	61,500	38	21,000	2.83	59,400	2,000	1.05	2,100
Madison	63,000	2.96	186,200	4	59,000	3.06	180,400	4,000	1.45	5,800
Silver Bow	6,000	2.12	12,700	54	5,500	2.24	12,300	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,500	1.84	4,600
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<b>262,000</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>726,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>231,000</b>	<b>2.93</b>	<b>676,000</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>50,000</b>
Big Horn	64,000	2.35	150,700	7	17,500	3.90	68,200	46,500	1.77	82,500
Carbon	44,000	2.54	111,600	20	28,000	3.28	91,900	16,000	1.23	19,700
Park	50,000	2.39	119,300	16	39,000	2.74	107,000	11,000	1.12	12,300
Stillwater	52,000	1.45	75,200	29	13,500	2.58	34,800	38,500	1.05	40,400
Sweetgrass	41,500	1.79	74,300	30	22,500	2.46	55,300	19,000	1.00	19,000
Treasure	12,500	3.45	43,100	44	5,000	5.98	29,900	7,500	1.76	13,200
Yellowstone	51,000	2.31	117,800	17	17,500	3.99	69,900	33,500	1.43	47,900
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	<b>315,000</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>692,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>457,000</b>	<b>172,000</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>235,000</b>
Carter	95,000	1.54	146,400	8	4,000	2.25	9,000	91,000	1.51	137,400
Custer	58,000	1.90	110,300	21	16,000	4.06	64,900	42,000	1.08	45,400
Fallon	79,000	1.29	102,000	24	1,000	3.70	3,700	78,000	1.26	98,300
Powder River	83,000	1.58	130,800	12	11,000	2.75	30,300	72,000	1.40	100,500
Prairie	22,000	1.63	35,800	46	3,500	4.11	14,400	18,500	1.16	21,400
Rosebud	47,000	2.33	109,400	22	18,000	3.65	65,700	29,000	1.51	43,700
Wibaux	29,000	1.51	43,800	43	500	1.00	500	28,500	1.52	43,300
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	<b>413,000</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>678,500</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>54,000</b>	<b>3.49</b>	<b>188,500</b>	<b>359,000</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>490,000</b>
<b>MONTANA</b>	<b>2,550,000</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>5,145,000</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1,033,000</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>3,083,000</b>	<b>1,517,000</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>2,062,000</b>

-- Counties with no acres harvested or counties that are combined into "other" counties/districts to avoid disclosure of individual information.

## July U.S. Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from July 2007. June revised production at 14.7 billion pounds, was up 3.2 percent from June 2007. The June revision represented a decrease of 19 million pounds or -0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,742 pounds for July, unchanged from July 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 143,000 head more than July 2007, and 5,000 head more than June 2008.

## July Farm Labor

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.66 per hour, up 42 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.73 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.74 per hour, was up 37 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia) regions. In California, lack of available irrigation water caused much acreage to be left fallow. Planted acreage of cotton, dry beans, and sugar beets declined sharply from 2007. Therefore, the demand for field workers was considerably lower. Rain and wet conditions in the Lake and Corn Belt I regions severely hampered most field activities and lessened the need for field workers. In the Appalachian I and II regions, wet conditions compared with the previous year's drier reference week reduced the demand for field workers. Lower cattle inventories in both regions led to fewer livestock workers being needed.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah) regions. Increased acreage of cherries, berries, and grapes in the Pacific region heightened the demand for hired workers. In the Delta region, a drier reference week compared with last year caused more field workers to be hired, and larger cattle and hog inventories increased the demand for livestock workers. Strong demand from the nursery and greenhouse industry in the Southeast region kept worker numbers above the previous year. In the Mountain I region, more acreage planted to field crops led to a greater demand for field workers. Dry conditions caused pastures to deteriorate which required more cattle to be moved and increased the need for livestock workers. Harvests of wheat and hay in the Mountain II region were peaking during the reference week, and vegetable harvest was accelerating. Therefore, more field workers were required.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Appalachian II, Mountain II, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Delta, and Mountain I regions. In the Appalachian II and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger proportion of nursery and greenhouse workers. Also, a larger percentage of equine workers in the Appalachian II region contributed to the increase. Salaried workers in the Mountain III region were putting in fewer hours, due to unusually wet conditions, which caused the average wage to be higher. In the Delta and Mountain I regions, the higher wages were due to a lower percentage of part time workers.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.87 million head on August 1, 2008. The inventory was 4 percent below August 1, 2007 and 9 percent below August 1, 2006.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent above 2007 but 15 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.62 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 476,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 505,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.04 million, 2 percent above 2007 and 5 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 45,000 during July, 26 percent below 2007 and 22 percent below 2006.

## July U.S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 7.60 billion during July 2008, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.49 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2008 averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,262 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on August 1, 2008 totaled 335 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 335 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.69 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on August 1, 2008, averaged 72.5 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from August 1, 2007.

## U.S. - Canadian Cattle

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on July 25, 2008.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 119.5 million head on July 1, 2008, down 1 percent from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.2 million head, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2008, totaled 104.3 million head, slightly below the 104.8 million on July 1, 2007 and 1 percent below the 105.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.4 million head, was down slightly from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of July 1, 2008, totaled 15.2 million head, down 4 percent from the 15.9 million on July 1, 2007, and 5 percent below the 16.0 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.84 million, was down 4 percent from the 6.08 million on July 1, 2007, and 5 percent below the 6.17 million from two years ago.

## COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Milk Cow County Estimates	Wheat Supply & Demand
All Sheep & Lambs County Estimates	
Ag Prices Received	
Wheat & Barley Movement	

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