



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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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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