

Commercial hatcheries in USDA's 19-state weekly program set 196 million eggs in incubators during the week ended Feb. 11, down 4 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier.

Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 85 percent.

Broiler growers in the program placed 162 million chicks for meat production during that week, down 3 percent from the comparable week a year earlier.

Cumulative placements from Jan. 1 through Feb. 11 were 970 million, down 4 percent from the same period a year earlier.