



United States Department of Agriculture
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Agriculture in Idaho



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Mid-February Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of February showed increases for alfalfa hay, dry beans, all wheat, beef cattle, cows, and calves. Prices decreased for all barley, feed barley, malting barley, potatoes, steers and heifers, and all milk.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 145 percent, was unchanged from January. U.S. producers received higher prices for wheat, soybeans, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for milk, lettuce, broccoli, and tomatoes.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Feb. 2007-Feb. 2008

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		February 2007	January 2008	February 2008 ^{1/}	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	118.00	145.00	153.00	115.00	135.00	138.00	--
Barley, All	Bu	3.22	4.35	3.99	3.09	4.34	4.06	48
Feed	Bu	3.18	4.69	4.50	3.15	4.85	4.29	--
Malting	Bu	3.23	4.22	3.85	3.08	4.11	3.97	--
Dry Beans	Cwt	25.30	29.40	31.50	25.40	27.30	29.50	47
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt	5.90	5.70	5.65	7.42	7.33	7.14	38
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	6.40	6.80	--	10.10	9.26	--	--
Processing	Cwt	5.60	5.20	--	6.04	6.17	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu	4.57	6.80	8.92	4.71	7.93	10.40	85
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt	80.20	78.20	80.60	86.10	87.30	87.80	38
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt	44.60	42.70	45.30	47.00	46.30	49.70	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	90.20	91.30	90.60	91.40	93.40	93.20	--
Calves	Cwt	110.00	102.00	105.00	114.00	117.00	118.00	35
Lambs	Cwt	83.00	93.00	--	94.80	97.50	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt	13.80	18.80	17.30	14.90	20.50	19.30	44 ^{7/}

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 4/ "Cows" and "steers & heifers" combined. 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 7/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	January 2007	February 2007	January 2008		February 2008 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	123	128	150	145	145
Prices Paid	155	156	168	170	172
Ratio ^{1/}	79	82	89	85	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

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Idaho Sheep Down 8 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 2008, totaled 240,000 head, down 20,000 head from the previous year. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2008, totaled 200,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 162,000 head, down 16,000 head from January 1, 2007. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008 totaled 40,000 head. The 2007 lamb crop of 220,000 head was up 10,000 head from 2006.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2008, totaled 6.06 million head, down 2 percent from 2007. After consecutive increases in 2005 and 2006, inventory has now declined for the past two years. Breeding sheep inventory decreased to 4.51 million head on January 1, 2008, down 2 percent from 4.61 million head on January 1, 2007. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.62 million head, were 2 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2008, totaled 1.55 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2007. Market lambs comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 14 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, and 36 percent were over 105 pounds. Market sheep comprised the remaining 5 percent of total marketings. The 2007 lamb crop of 4.05 million head, was down slightly from 2006. The 2007 lambing rate was 110 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2007, down 1 percent from 2006.

Sheep and Lambs: Inventory by Class, Selected States and U.S., January 1, 2007-2008

State	Total Sheep		Market Sheep and Lambs		Breeding Sheep and Lambs						Lamb Crop 1/	
					Total		Ewes 1+		Replacement Lambs			
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2006	2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>											
Arizona	110.0	120.0	38.0	50.0	72.0	70.0	58.0	59.0	10.0	7.0	44.0	42.0
California	610.0	600.0	270.0	260.0	340.0	340.0	280.0	280.0	50.0	50.0	250.0	240.0
Colorado	400.0	420.0	210.0	230.0	190.0	190.0	152.0	150.0	32.0	34.0	190.0	180.0
Idaho	260.0	240.0	40.0	40.0	220.0	200.0	178.0	162.0	37.0	33.0	210.0	220.0
Montana	290.0	290.0	25.0	25.0	265.0	265.0	209.0	209.0	49.0	49.0	270.0	270.0
Nevada	75.0	70.0	10.0	12.0	65.0	58.0	53.0	47.0	10.0	9.0	52.0	47.0
New Mexico	130.0	130.0	20.0	18.0	110.0	112.0	90.0	89.0	15.0	17.0	75.0	75.0
Oregon	215.0	220.0	71.0	73.0	144.0	147.0	115.0	118.0	22.0	22.0	140.0	150.0
Texas	1,050.0	1,000.0	240.0	230.0	810.0	770.0	665.0	630.0	105.0	100.0	500.0	450.0
Utah	295.0	275.0	25.0	25.0	270.0	250.0	220.0	210.0	40.0	32.0	245.0	235.0
Washington	51.0	49.0	9.5	8.5	41.5	40.5	33.0	32.0	6.0	6.0	53.0	52.0
Wyoming	460.0	440.0	110.0	100.0	350.0	340.0	280.0	272.0	60.0	59.0	310.0	290.0
U.S.	6,165.0	6,055.0	1,555.0	1,550.0	4,610.0	4,505.0	3,696.0	3,617.0	719.0	695.0	4,065.0	4,050.0

1/Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

Cold Storage

Frozen stocks of french fries in the United States on January 31, 2008, totaled 878 million pounds, up 7 percent from December 31, 2007, and up 6 percent from January 31, 2007. Other frozen potatoes, at 211 million pounds, increased 10 percent from December 31, 2007 stocks, but decreased 2 percent from January 31, 2007.

United States stocks of butter on January 31, 2008, totaled 188 million pounds, up 21 percent from December 31, 2007, and up 26 percent from January 31, 2007. Stocks of total American cheese totaled 494 million pounds, down 3 percent from December 31, 2007, and down 10 percent from January 31, 2007.

Commodity	Jan 31, 2007	Dec 31, 2007	Jan 31, 2008	2008 2007
		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		
POTATOES:				
French Fries	826,127	820,461	878,145	106
Other Frozen	215,206	191,894	210,506	98
TOTAL	1,041,333	1,012,355	1,088,651	105
DAIRY:				
Butter	148,703	155,162	187,934	126
Natural Cheese				
American, Total	546,650	508,659	493,744	90

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers \$4.66 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 34,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.66 million, in 2007. This is an increase from sheep and lambs lost last year, at 32,000 head valued at \$4.63 million.

Predator losses at 32.9 percent, accounted for 11,200 losses worth a value of \$1.54 million. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 7,200 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$986,000. Dogs claimed 600 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$82,000 while bears claimed 700 head valued at \$96,000. Wolves claimed 500 head of sheep and lambs, valued at \$69,000. Cougars killed 400 head, valued at \$55,000 and foxes took 100 head valued at \$14,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats and eagles, accounted for an additional 1,700 head of sheep and lambs.

Non-predator losses accounted for 22,800 losses worth a value of \$3.13 million. Disease claimed 6,400 sheep and lambs in 2007 valued at \$877,000. Lambing complications claimed 4,500; weather killed 3,000 head; old age killed 1,600 and poison killed 800 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 1,400 sheep and lamb deaths during 2007 while unknown causes claimed 4,800 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$658,000.

All Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho, 2005-2007 ^{1/}

Cause of Loss	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Value ^{3/ 4/ 5/}		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
	1,000 Dollars								
Coyote	6,100	4,900	7,200	19.1	15.3	21.2	878	708	986
Dog	500	600	600	1.6	1.9	1.8	72	87	82
Bear	900	600	700	2.8	1.9	2.1	130	87	96
Wolves	500	600	500	1.6	1.9	1.5	72	87	69
Cougar	500	400	400	1.6	1.3	1.2	72	58	55
Fox	200	200	100	0.6	0.6	0.3	29	29	14
Other Animals ^{6/}	100	100	200	0.3	0.3	0.6	14	14	27
Unknown Predators	1,100	700	1,500	3.4	2.2	4.4	158	101	206
Total Predators	9,900	8,100	11,200	30.9	25.3	32.9	1,425	1,171	1,535
Weather Conditions	3,500	3,300	3,000	10.9	10.3	8.8	504	477	411
Disease	5,200	5,700	6,400	16.3	17.8	18.8	749	824	877
Poison	1,000	900	800	3.1	2.8	2.4	144	130	110
Lambing Complications	5,000	5,300	4,500	15.6	16.6	13.2	720	766	617
Old Age	1,700	1,700	1,600	5.3	5.3	4.7	245	246	219
Theft	100	1,400	200	0.3	4.4	0.6	14	202	27
On Back	100	100	100	0.3	0.3	0.3	14	14	14
Other Causes ^{7/}	1,400	1,500	1,400	4.4	4.7	4.1	202	217	192
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	4,100	4,000	4,800	12.8	12.5	14.1	590	578	658
TOTAL	32,000	32,000	34,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,607	4,625	4,660

^{1/} Includes lamb deaths before docking of 12,000 in 2005, 13,000 in 2006 and 13,000 in 2007. ^{2/} Percentages may not add due to rounding. ^{3/} Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2005 - \$144.00, 2006 - \$144.50, and 2007 - \$137.00. ^{4/} Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, ^{5/} Dollar values were rounded to add to total. ^{6/} Includes bobcats and eagles. ^{7/} Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. ^{8/} Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

Idaho Wool Production

Idaho wool production in 2007 totaled 1.88 million pounds, down 5 percent from last year. The number of sheep shorn, at 200,000 head, is down 7 percent from a year ago. The average weight per fleece in 2007 is 9.4 pounds, up 0.2 pounds from 2006.

The total value of 2007 Idaho wool production was 1.77 million dollars, compared to 1.41 million dollars in 2006. The average price received per pound was 94 cents, up 23 cents per pound from 2006.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2007 was 34.5 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 4.71 million head, down 3 percent from 2006. The average price paid for wool sold in 2007 was \$0.88 per pound for total value of 30.3 million dollars up 23 percent from 24.5 million dollars in 2006.

