

ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



**ILLINOIS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, IL 62794-9283

Phone: (217)492-4295

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<http://www.agstats.state.il.us>

RELEASED: DECEMBER 22, 2004 IFR-04-16

VOL. 25, NO. 16

HIGHLIGHTS

MILK PRODUCTION
LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION
CROPPING PRACTICES
AGRICULTURAL PRICES
FARM LABOR

The staff of IASS wishes to thank the farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses that responded to the November & December Milk Production Surveys, the September, October and November Layers & Egg Production Survey, the November Prices Received Survey and the October Labor Survey. Your responses to these surveys are important to the agricultural community.

MILK PRODUCTION

Total milk production in Illinois during **October 2004** was down four percent from a year earlier and November's production was down five percent. When compared to the same months in 2003, the number of milk cows decreased three percent for October and November. Milk production per cow decreased 15 pounds in October and decreased 35 pounds in November from the same months a year earlier.

Estimated milk production in the United States during October and November was up one percent in both months. The number of milk cows on farms was virtually unchanged for both October and November. Milk production per cow in October increased 18 pounds from 2003. In November, production per cow increased 11 pounds from the same month a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2003-2004

		October					
		Illinois			United States		
		2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	109	106	97	9,034	9,038	100
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,495	1,480	99	1,538	1,556	101
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	163	157	96	13,898	14,067	101
		November					
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	109	106	97	9,005	9,030	100
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,485	1,450	98	1,496	1,507	101
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	162	154	95	13,470	13,611	101

LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION

LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION, ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2003-2004

		Illinois					
		September		October		November 1/	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		3,689	4,275	3,762	4,206	3,804	4,345
Eggs produced (million)		80	96	86	100	85	100
		United States					
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		334,198	343,169	335,333	344,072	338,283	343,477
Eggs produced (million)		7,112	7,324	7,439	7,639	7,326	7,455

1/ Preliminary.

CROPPING PRACTICES

Each year the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service conducts a survey in randomly selected corn and soybean fields throughout the state. Counts and measurements are made by enumerators during monthly visits to these plots. From late July through harvest, the data collected provides information on crop development and yield prospects throughout the growing season.

Information in the following tables represents rounded sample data averages from this survey and are subject to sampling variations. These numbers are intended to show trends in corn and soybean production practices.

CORN

In 2004, the row width of corn for grain in Illinois averaged 30.4 inches, three-tenths of an inch less than last year. The average row spacing continued the decreasing trend with 84 percent of the acreage in the 30-inch row spacing category.

Plant population of corn for grain in Illinois was a record 27,700 plants per acre, 650 plants per acre more than last year. The number of ears per acre, at 27,400, was up from last year and a new record high also.

CORN FOR GRAIN: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2000-2004

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)						Average row width
		20.5 or less	20.6 - 30.5	30.6 - 34.5	34.6 - 36.5	36.6 - 38.5	38.6 & greater	
	Number	Percent of samples						Inches
2000	273	--	65.6	16.8	10.3	6.2	1.1	31.3
2001	261	1.5	67.1	18.0	7.7	4.6	1.1	30.9
2002	269	0.7	74.4	11.9	8.2	3.7	1.1	30.8
2003	268	0.7	75.8	12.3	6.7	4.1	0.4	30.7
2004	275	0.7	84.1	9.8	3.6	1.8	--	30.4

CORN FOR GRAIN: AVERAGE PLANT POPULATION & EARS PER ACRE, ILLINOIS, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of plants	25,800	26,650	26,350	27,050	27,700
Number of ears	25,450	25,550	25,000	26,650	27,400

SOYBEANS

The average row width of soybeans in Illinois was 15.3 inches in 2004, one-tenth of an inch wider than last year. The most common row width

category was the 10.1 - 18.5 inch, accounting for 49.6 percent of the acreage.

SOYBEANS: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2000-2004

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)					Average row $\frac{1}{2}$ width
		10.0 or less ^{1/}	10.1 - 18.5	18.6 - 28.5	28.6 - 34.5	34.6 & greater	
	Number	Percent of samples					Inches
2000	214	44.6	36.2	0.9	16.4	1.9	14.9
2001	208	41.3	33.4	1.7	22.6	1.0	16.0
2002	216	36.9	44.8	2.1	14.8	1.4	15.5
2003	202	35.4	46.2	3.5	13.9	1.0	15.2
2004	219	32.2	49.6	2.7	14.4	1.1	15.3

1/ Broadcast soybeans included as "10.0 inches and less" but excluded in computation of average width.

SOYBEANS: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PODS PER 18 SQUARE FEET, ILLINOIS, 2000-2004

Month	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
September	2,162	2,041	1,952	1,800	2,070
November	2,020	1,932	1,795	1,634	1,943
Final	2,021	1,932	1,802	1,634	N/A

N/A Not available.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The November index of prices received by Illinois farmers for all commodities was at 119 percent of the base, down one point from the revised October figure and two points below November 2003. The current year's base is computed by multiplying the average production for the five-year period by the average price for each year. These five years are summed and then divided by five to arrive at an average (base) for the period. The current five-year average production is then multiplied by the current price and divided by the average for the five years to arrive at the current index. The November All Crops index, at 110 percent of the base, was five points lower than the revised October number, and ten points below November 2003. Corn and soybean prices decreased from last month. The All Livestock index was at 150 percent of the base, up 12 points from the revised October figure. Prices for all hog categories increased while cattle prices fell from last month. The hog-corn ratio was at 23.6.

The U.S. preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November was 114, based on 1990-92=100, one point above the revised October Index. The Crop Index remained unchanged from October while the Livestock Index increased one point. Producers received higher commodity prices for tomatoes, eggs, hogs, strawberries, and grapes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, oranges, soybeans, corn, and cattle. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past three-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, and cotton offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, and potatoes. The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down two points from November 2003.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Oct.	Nov.	Oct.	Nov. 15,
	2003	2003	2004	2004
ILLINOIS	1997-2001=100		1998-2002=100	
All Farm Products	119	121	120 *	119
All Crops	117	120	115 *	110
Food grains	132	147	119 *	120
Feed grains/hay	106	107	113 *	110
Soybeans	130	134	117 *	110
All Livestock	124	126	138 *	150
Meat animals	128	130	144 *	156
Dairy products	107	106	114 *	121
UNITED STATES	1990-92=100			
All Farm Products	113	116	113 *	114
All Crops	111	115	110 *	110
Food grains	111	116	114 *	116
Feed grains/hay	96	99	96 *	90
Oilseeds	111	122	97 *	96
All Livestock	116	117	117 *	118
Meat animals	115	116	118 *	117
Dairy products	115	110	119 *	121
Prices Paid	129	129	135 *	134
Parity Ratio 1/	88	90	84 *	85

1/ Prices received index divided by prices paid index.

* Revised.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	Illinois				United States			
		Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004	Nov. 15, 2004	Oct. 2003	Nov. 2003	Oct. 2004	Nov. 15, 2004
Dollars									
Corn	Bushels	2.13	2.21	2.22 *	2.20	2.12	2.20	2.15 *	2.00
Soybeans	Bushels	6.57	6.94	5.57 *	5.40	6.60	7.05	5.56 *	5.31
Sorghum	Cwt.	4.07	4.16	3.26 *	3.30	3.98	4.13	3.15 *	3.07
Wheat, all	Bushels	3.30	3.68	3.09 *	3.15	3.44	3.61	3.44 *	3.51
Oats	Bushels	2.02	1.48	3/	3/	1.44	1.29	1.45 *	1.36
Hay, all baled	Tons	83.00	87.00	82.00	86.00	83.70	81.50	89.80 *	86.20
Alfalfa hay, bld	Tons	92.00	94.00	90.00	93.00	89.10	86.80	97.80 *	94.00
Other hay, bld	Tons	70.00	70.00	69.00	70.00	69.20	67.50	68.60 *	67.80
Hogs, all	Cwt.	40.10	35.80	51.50 *	51.90	36.70	34.70	52.10 *	55.30
Barrows, Gilts	Cwt.	41.00	36.50	52.50 *	52.80	37.00	34.90	52.60 *	55.80
Sows	Cwt.	30.00	28.00	40.50 *	41.50	31.40	29.10	42.40 *	44.50
Beef cattle	Cwt.	101.00	104.00	82.30 *	79.40	91.50	93.40	86.10 *	84.20
Cows	Cwt.	48.00	49.00	49.20 *	48.00	44.60	47.70	49.90 *	48.60
Steers, Heifers	Cwt.	102.00	105.00	83.00 *	80.00	97.80	99.90	91.00 *	89.10
Calves	Cwt.	108.00	108.00	117.00 *	112.00	112.00	111.00	126.00 *	124.00
Milk cows	Head	1,360.00	2/	1,620.00	2/	1,380.00	2/	1,640.00 *	2/
Milk, all	Cwt.	14.90	14.50	16.20 *	16.40	15.00	14.40	15.50 *	15.80
Milk, fluid	Cwt.	14.90	14.50	16.20	3/	15.00	14.40	15.50 *	15.80
Milk, mfg.	Cwt.	14.50	14.10	15.40	3/	14.60	13.80	14.70 *	15.20
Hog-corn ratio		18.8	16.2	23.2 *	23.6	17.3	15.8	24.2 *	27.7

1/ Prices received represents the average of all grades or classes at point of first sale and should not be confused with market quotations.

2/ Estimated in January, April, July and October.

3/ State prices not published.

* Revised.

Illinois Farm Report (ISSN 0273-8643) is published monthly in February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December; twice in January, April, July and October by the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service, Room 54, Department of Agriculture Bldg., 801 Sangamon Ave., Springfield, Illinois 62702. For information on subscribing, send request to the above address. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Illinois.
Postmaster: Send Address Change to Illinois Farm Report, P.O. Box 19283, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9283.

FARM LABOR

HIRED WORKERS: NUMBER & HOURS WORKED, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 10-16, 2004 1/

REGION 2/	Hired			Number of hours worked
	Number of workers	Expected to be employed		
		150 days or more	149 days or less	
		Thousands		Hours per week
LAKE	72	43	29	39.7
CORNBELT I	47	32	15	35.5
CORNBELT II	22	16	6	38.4
U.S.	851	605	246	40.5

HIRED WORKERS: WAGE RATES FOR TYPE OF WORKERS & ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 10-16, 2004 1/

REGION 2/	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & livestock combined	
	Dollars per hour			
LAKE	9.06	9.51	9.20	9.77
CORNBELT I	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.98
CORNBELT II	9.00	9.38	9.16	9.72
U.S.	8.60	8.91	8.67	9.30

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers.

2/ Regions consist of the following: LAKE: MI, MN, WI; CORNBELT I: IL, IN, OH; CORNBELT II: IA, MO; UNITED STATES: Excludes Alaska.

Brad Schwab, Mark Schleusener, Michael S. Clark, Agricultural Statisticians
"Printed by authority of the State of Illinois" 12/22/04, 1,825, 1399

