

# ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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### 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

Milk production in Illinois for both October and November 2005 was unchanged from the same months in 2004. Production was 157 million pounds in October and decreased to 154 million pounds in November. Milk Production per cow decreased 30 pounds from October to November 2005. However, an annual trend of increasing milk productivity per cow is evident with 30 pounds more milk produced per cow in both October and November 2005 than in the same months of 2004. The number of milk cows on Illinois farms during November 2005 was 104,000 head, 2,000 head fewer cows than the same month last year.

Estimated milk production in the United States decreased 448 million pounds from October to November 2005. Total milk production during October and November was up four percent from the same months in 2004. Milk production per cow decreased 50 pounds from October to November for both years. Illinois milk production per cow trends are in line with the national trends that show a four percent increase in year-to-year production per cow for both October and November. The number of milk cows on U.S. dairy farms during November 2005 totaled 9.061 million head, 40,000 head more than the same month last year.

### MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2004-2005

		October					
		Illinois			United States		
		2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	106	104	98	9,023	9,059	100
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,480	1,510	102	1,559	1,617	104
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	157	157	100	14,070	14,651	104
		November					
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	106	104	98	9,021	9,061	100
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,450	1,480	102	1,509	1,567	104
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	154	154	100	13,610	14,203	104

## LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION

### LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION, ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2004-2005

		Illinois					
		September		October		November 1/	
		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		4,275	4,526	4,206	4,626	4,345	4,446
Eggs produced (million)		96	104	100	111	100	105
		United States					
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		344,118	342,328	345,056	343,987	344,797	346,596
Eggs produced (million)		7,344	7,377	7,659	7,701	7,482	7,538

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 2005, the row width of corn for grain in Illinois averaged 30.3 inches, one-tenth of an inch less than last year. The average row spacing continued the decreasing trend with 82.5 percent of the acreage in the 30-inch row spacing category.

Plant population of corn for grain in Illinois was a record 28,000 plants per acre, 300 plants per acre more than last year. The number of ears per acre, at 26,850, was down from last year's record high.

**CORN FOR GRAIN: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2001-2005**

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
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
2005	281	1.4	82.5	9.3	3.2	3.6	--	30.3

**CORN FOR GRAIN: AVERAGE PLANT POPULATION & EARS PER ACRE, ILLINOIS, 2001-2005**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of plants	26,650	26,350	27,050	27,700	28,000
Number of ears	25,550	25,000	26,650	27,400	26,850

## SOYBEANS

The average row width of soybeans in Illinois was 16.1 inches in 2005, eight-tenths of an inch wider than last year. The most common row

width category was the 10.1 - 18.5 inch, accounting for 55.7 percent of the acreage.

**SOYBEANS: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2001-2005**

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)					Average row <sup>1/</sup> width
		10.0 or less <sup>1/</sup>	10.1 - 18.5	18.6 - 28.5	28.6 - 34.5	34.6 & greater	
	Number	Percent of samples					Inches
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
2005	220	24.5	55.7	3.4	15.5	0.9	16.1

<sup>1/</sup> 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, 2001-2005**

Month	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
September	2,041	1,952	1,800	2,070	1,973
November	1,932	1,795	1,634	1,943	1,858
Final	1,932	1,802	1,634	1,947	N/A

N/A Not available.

# AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The November index of prices received by Illinois farmers for all commodities was 108 percent of the base, up one point from the revised October figure but 11 points below November 2004. The current year's base was computed by multiplying the average production for the five-year period by the average price for each year. These five years were summed and then divided by five to arrive at an average (base) for the period. The current five-year average production was 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 102 percent of the base, was one point above the revised October number but five points below November of last year. All Crop prices were up, with the exception of wheat which fell slightly. The All Livestock index was at 126 percent of the base, up one point from the revised October figure but 35 points below November 2004. All livestock prices dropped for the month of November except for calves which increased a dollar. The hog-corn ratio was at 23.3.

The U.S. preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased two points from October but was down two points from November 2004. The Crop Index was up one point while the Livestock Index decreased one point. Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, and cattle. Lower prices were received for lettuce, dairy, hogs, broilers, and tomatoes. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton, and oranges offset increased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and sweet corn.

## INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
<b>ILLINOIS</b>		1998-2002=100		1999-2003=100
All Farm Products	120	119	107 *	108
All Crops	115	107	101 *	102
Food grains	119	125	103 *	100
Feed grains/hay	113	104	93 *	94
Soybeans	117	110	113 *	114
All Livestock	138	161	125 *	126
Meat animals	144	169	127 *	128
Dairy products	114	122	116 *	119
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		1990-92=100		
All Farm Products	114	115	111 *	113
All Crops	111	112	103 *	104
Food grains	114	114	112 *	111
Feed grains/hay	96	93	86 *	84
Oilseeds	97	97	97 *	99
All Livestock	118	119	122 *	121
Meat animals	118	118	122 *	121
Dairy products	119	124	119 *	116
Prices Paid	136	135	144 *	143
Parity Ratio 1/	84	85	77 *	79

1/ Prices received index divided by prices paid index.

\* Revised.

## PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	Illinois				United States			
		Oct. 2004	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 15, 2005	Oct. 2004	Nov. 2004	Oct. 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
Dollars									
Corn	Bushels	2.22	2.08	1.83 *	1.90	2.14	2.05	1.82 *	1.79
Soybeans	Bushels	5.57	5.37	5.68 *	5.90	5.56	5.36	5.67 *	5.68
Sorghum	Cwt.	3.26	3.27	2.97 *	3.10	3.17	3.06	2.99 *	2.81
Wheat, all	Bushels	3.09	3.27	2.93 *	2.90	3.43	3.46	3.43 *	3.36
Oats	Bushels	3/	3/	3/	3/	1.45	1.51	1.59 *	1.46
Hay, all baled	Tons	82.00	86.00	91.00	94.00	92.80	88.70	97.70 *	91.70
Alfalfa hay, bld	Tons	90.00	93.00	100.00	101.00	100.00	95.20	106.00 *	97.50
Other hay, bld	Tons	69.00	70.00	77.00	77.00	73.80	73.50	76.50 *	76.30
Hogs, all	Cwt.	51.40	56.70	47.40 *	44.30	52.20	55.60	47.00 *	44.70
Barrows, Gilts	Cwt.	52.50	58.00	48.00 *	45.00	52.70	56.10	47.30 *	45.00
Sows	Cwt.	40.50	43.50	39.90 *	35.90	41.80	45.20	41.70 *	37.70
Beef cattle	Cwt.	82.30	84.30	87.70 *	87.20	86.50	85.40	91.10 *	91.60
Cows	Cwt.	49.20	49.40	49.00 *	48.00	49.80	48.70	46.60 *	45.80
Steers, Heifers	Cwt.	83.00	85.00	88.50 *	88.00	91.10	90.20	96.60 *	97.40
Calves	Cwt.	117.00	114.00	119.00 *	120.00	126.00	123.00	134.00 *	132.00
Milk cows	Head	1,620.00	2/	1,870.00	2/	1,640.00	2/	1,870.00 *	2/
Milk, all	Cwt.	15.50	16.20	16.30	15.70	15.60	16.20	15.50 *	15.10
Milk, fluid	Cwt.	15.30	15.50	16.30	3/	15.60	16.20	15.50 *	15.10
Milk, mfg.	Cwt.	15.20	15.50	15.60	3/	14.90	15.90	14.90 *	14.20
Hog-corn ratio		23.2	27.3	25.9	23.3	24.4	27.1	25.8 *	25.1

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.

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## FARM LABOR

### HIRED WORKERS: NUMBER & HOURS WORKED, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 9-15, 2005 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	46	26	40.6
CORNBELT I	50	33	17	42.1
CORNBELT II	29	23	6	40.1
U.S.	840	620	220	42.0

### HIRED WORKERS: WAGE RATES FOR TYPE OF WORKERS & ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 9-15, 2005 1/

REGION 2/	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & livestock combined	
	Dollars per hour			
LAKE	9.96	9.49	9.80	10.35
CORNBELT I	9.88	8.68	9.57	10.10
CORNBELT II	9.21	10.89	10.02	11.16
U.S.	8.90	9.14	8.96	9.61

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.

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