

ILLINOIS FARM REPORT



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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HIGHLIGHTS

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

THIS FARM REPORT CONTAINS THE RESULTS FROM THESE SURVEYS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

November & December Milk Production
November Layers & Egg Production
November Prices Received
October Farm Labor

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Illinois during October 2008 totaled 152 million pounds, one million pounds below October 2007. November production decreased one million pounds from last year to 150 million pounds. The number of milk cows on farms averaged 102,000 head for both months, down 1,000 head from last year. Milk per cow averaged 1,490 pounds for October, equal to October 2007. November milk per cow was 1,470 pounds, equal to last year.

Estimated milk production in the U.S. during October 2008 totaled 15.6 billion pounds, up one percent from October 2007. November 2008 production was up one percent from last year to 15.2 billion pounds. Production per cow averaged 1,679 pounds for October 2008, five pounds above October 2007. November 2008 production per cow averaged 1,637 pounds, an increase of four pounds from November 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. was 9.27 million head in October, one percent above October 2007. Milk cows on farms in the U.S. was 9.28 million head in November, a one percent increase from November 2007.

MILK PRODUCTION: ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2007-2008

		October					
		Illinois			United States		
		2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007	2007	2008	2008 as % of 2007
Milk Production:							
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	103	102	99	9,181	9,269	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,490	1,490	100	1,674	1,679	100
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	153	152	99	15,370	15,560	101
		November					
Number of milk cows	Head (000)	103	102	99	9,196	9,276	101
Milk production per cow	Lbs.	1,470	1,470	100	1,633	1,637	100
Total milk production	Mil. lbs.	151	150	99	15,013	15,182	101

LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION

LAYERS & EGG PRODUCTION, ILLINOIS & UNITED STATES, SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER, 2007-2008

		Illinois					
		September		October		November 1/	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		5,115	5,395	5,169	5,510	5,156	5,531
Eggs produced (million)		116	118	130	128	121	130
		United States					
Average Number of Layers on hand (thousand)		340,984	334,374	342,637	335,339	344,229	338,926
Eggs produced (million)		7,393	7,336	7,726	7,632	7,542	7,513

1/ Preliminary.

CROPPING PRACTICES

Each year the Illinois Field Office of the National 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 provide 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 2008, the row width of corn for grain in Illinois averaged 30.3 inches, three-tenths of an inch less than the row width recorded last year. The average row spacing continued the decreasing trend with 86.7 percent of the acreage in the 20.6 - 30.5 inch row spacing category.

Plant population of corn for grain in Illinois was a record breaking 28,950 plants per acre. This breaks the record attained last year. The number of ears per acre, at 28,400 was up 650 from last year and breaks the record high of 27,750 realized in 2007.

CORN FOR GRAIN: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2004-2008

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
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
2006	277	1.4	84.9	9.0	3.6	1.1	--	30.3
2007	273	0.7	78.4	13.9	5.1	1.5	0.4	30.6
2008	345	0.3	86.7	8.1	2.9	1.4	0.6	30.3

CORN FOR GRAIN: AVERAGE PLANT POPULATION & EARS PER ACRE, ILLINOIS, 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of plants	27,700	28,000	28,000	28,100	28,950
Number of ears	27,400	26,850	27,400	27,750	28,400

SOYBEANS

The average row width of soybeans in Illinois was 16.7 inches in 2008, almost one inch narrower than last year. The most common row width

category was the 10.1 - 18.5 inch, accounting for 57.4 percent of the samples.

SOYBEANS: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY ROW WIDTH & AVERAGE ROW WIDTH, ILLINOIS, 2004-2008

Year	Number of samples	Row width (inches)					Average row 1/ 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
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
2006	215	20.2	58.8	2.1	18.4	0.5	16.6
2007	220	19.5	54.2	3.9	20.1	2.3	17.6
2008	247	20.9	57.4	2.8	18.5	0.4	16.7

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

SOYBEANS: AVERAGE NUMBER OF PODS WITH BEANS PER 18 SQUARE FEET, ILLINOIS, 2004-2008

Month	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
September	1,911	1,824	1,860	1,800	1,621
October	1,923	1,820	1,890	1,796	1,893
November	1,943	1,858	1,923	1,818	1,801
Final	1,947	1,858	1,923	1,831	N/A

N/A Not available.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The November index of prices received by Illinois farmers for all commodities was 154 percent of the base, down 15 points from the revised October figure and seven points below November 2007. 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 166 percent of the base, was down 18 points from the revised October number and nine points below November 2007. Crop prices decreased for all commodities. The All Livestock index was at 109 percent of the base, down five points from the revised October number and two points below November 2007. Prices decreased for all livestock commodities except for calves and steers and heifers. The hog-corn ratio was at 11.2.

The U.S. preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 139 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 12 points from October. The Crop Index was down 16 points and the Livestock Index decreased two points. Producers received lower prices for soybeans, corn, lettuce, and hogs and higher prices for tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, and cantaloupes. In addition to prices, the overall index was also affected by the seasonal change based on a three-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of milk, cattle, cotton, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Commodity	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007	Oct. 2008	Nov. 15, 2008
ILLINOIS		2001-2005=100		2002-2006=100
All Farm Products	149	161	169 *	154
All Crops	160	175	184 *	166
Food grains	212	201	127 *	117
Feed grains/hay	159	169	191 *	173
Soybeans	158	183	176 *	160
All Livestock	111	111	114 *	109
Meat animals	104	102	111 *	106
Dairy products	145	158	127 *	125
UNITED STATES		1990-92=100		
All Farm Products	141	141	151 *	139
All Crops	149	149	168 *	152
Food grains	237	229	228 *	216
Feed grains/hay	148	154	193 *	174
Oilseeds	144	164	174 *	170
All Livestock	131	134	127 *	125
Meat animals	118	115	116 *	113
Dairy products	164	168	136 *	133
Prices Paid	163	165	187 *	183
Parity Ratio ^{1/}	87	85	81 *	76

^{1/} Prices received index divided by prices paid index.

* Revised.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	Illinois				United States			
		Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007	Oct. 2008	Nov. 15, 2008	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007	Oct. 2008	Nov. 15, 2008
Dollars									
Corn	Bushels	3.31	3.53	4.29 *	4.00	3.29	3.44	4.37 *	3.94
Soybeans	Bushels	8.65	10.20	10.10 *	9.50	8.36	9.42	9.94 *	9.20
Sorghum	Cwt.	6.42	6.23	5.63 *	5.30	6.18	6.26	7.08 *	5.63
Wheat, all	Bushels	6.68	6.57	4.37 *	4.25	7.65	7.39	6.67 *	6.13
Oats	Bushels	<u>3/</u>	3.75	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	2.45	2.63	3.25 *	2.37
Hay, all baled	Tons	128.00	131.00	142.00	132.00	128.00	129.00	157.00 *	147.00
Alfalfa hay, bld	Tons	137.00	140.00	149.00	145.00	136.00	136.00	172.00 *	163.00
Other hay, bld	Tons	102.00	107.00	110.00	105.00	113.00	118.00	122.00 *	116.00
Hogs, all	Cwt.	41.50	38.70	49.80 *	44.80	42.40	37.90	48.60 *	41.40
Barrows, Gilts	Cwt.	42.80	40.00	50.50 *	46.00	43.10	38.50	48.70 *	41.70
Sows	Cwt.	26.00	24.00	41.50 *	31.00	27.30	25.90	45.50 *	35.50
Beef cattle	Cwt.	91.10	91.50	90.20 *	90.10	90.90	89.90	87.90 *	87.20
Cows	Cwt.	48.50	44.00	51.00 *	46.30	46.60	43.90	48.30 *	44.70
Steers, Heifers	Cwt.	92.00	92.50	91.00 *	91.00	96.60	96.00	93.00 *	93.00
Calves	Cwt.	107.00	110.00	95.00 *	96.00	123.00	122.00	107.00 *	106.00
Milk cows	Head	1,980.00	<u>2/</u>	1,970.00	<u>2/</u>	2,020.00	<u>2/</u>	1,920.00 *	<u>2/</u>
Milk, all	Cwt.	22.00	23.00	19.00 *	18.50	21.40	21.90	17.70 *	17.40
Milk, fluid	Cwt.	22.00	23.00	19.00	<u>3/</u>	21.40	21.90	17.70 *	17.40
Milk, mfg.	Cwt.	20.80	21.50	19.00	<u>3/</u>	19.60	20.50	17.90 *	16.90
Hog-corn ratio		12.5	11.0	11.6 *	11.2	12.9	11.0	11.1 *	10.5

^{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 12-18, 2008 ^{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	66	42	24	36.2
CORNBELT I	38	27	11	37.2
CORNBELT II	32	25	7	37.0
U.S.	801	575	226	41.3

HIRED WORKERS: WAGE RATES FOR TYPE OF WORKERS & ALL HIRED WORKERS, BY REGIONS, OCTOBER 12-18, 2008 ^{1/}

REGION ^{2/}	Type of worker			Wage rates for all hired workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & livestock combined	
	Dollars per hour			
LAKE	11.43	10.20	11.00	11.49
CORNBELT I	10.31	10.05	10.25	10.60
CORNBELT II	10.62	11.37	10.90	11.50
U.S.	10.05	10.19	10.08	10.70

^{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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