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TOP CORN, SOYBEAN AND WHEAT COUNTIES

Indiana's leading counties in the production of corn, soybeans and wheat during 2003 were Benton County for corn, Rush County for soybeans, and Posey County for winter wheat. Benton County produced a total of 19.4 million bushels of corn, making it the number one corn producing county. Montgomery took second place, followed by White, Knox, and Clinton counties.

Rush County jumped to the number one slot for soybeans, by producing 4.4 million bushels during 2003. Boone and Knox counties captured the second

and third place spots, respectively. Montgomery County fell to fourth place, followed by Shelby.

Posey County retained the number one position in winter wheat production during 2003 with 2.3 million bushels. Allen County remained in second place, while Gibson County kept the third place standing. Knox County remained in fourth place while Jay County moved up to fifth position.

The preceding information is part of the results of the County Estimates Survey which was conducted last fall after

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harvest. For further results from this survey, please visit our web site listed on the back of this publication.



LEADING INDIANA COUNTIES IN PRODUCTION OF CORN, SOYBEANS AND WHEAT

Rank	2003 Crop					
	Corn		Soybeans		Winter Wheat	
	County	Production	County	Production	County	Production
		1,000 Bu		1,000 Bu		1,000 Bu
1	Benton	19,428.0	Rush	4,382.7	Posey	2,290.9
2	Montgomery	18,780.8	Boone	4,325.7	Allen	1,938.0
3	White	18,612.1	Knox	4,300.3	Gibson	1,483.0
4	Knox	18,527.0	Montgomery	4,238.5	Knox	1,277.8
5	Clinton	17,188.4	Shelby	4,011.7	Jay	940.6
6	Jasper	17,090.6	Grant	3,918.0	Adams	860.0
7	Fountain	16,714.9	Randolph	3,916.0	Whitley	841.2
8	Boone	15,932.0	Benton	3,801.3	Wabash	837.3
9	Rush	15,877.6	Allen	3,782.3	De Kalb	710.9
10	Carroll	15,830.7	Clinton	3,754.4	Vanderburgh	652.8

NUMBER OF INDIANA FARMS DOWN ONE PERCENT

The number of Indiana farms in 2003 which had sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more totaled 59,500, decreased 1 percent from the 2002 level. The number of operations with \$100,000 or more of sales, at 10,500, decreased 2 percent, mid-size farms, remained the same at 18,000, and small farms, at 31,000, showed a decrease of 2 percent. Total land in farms, at 15.0 million acres, was down slightly from the previous year. The average farm size at 253 acres per farm increased 1 percent from 2002.

The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000-\$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS INDIANA AND UNITED STATES, 1993-2003 ^{1/}

Year	Farms		Land in Farms		Average Size of Farm	
	Indiana	U.S.	Indiana	U.S.	Indiana	U.S.
	Thousands		Thousand Acres		Acres	
1993	68.0	2,201.6	15,800	968,845	232	440
1994	67.0	2,197.7	15,700	965,935	234	440
1995	66.0	2,196.4	15,600	962,515	236	438
1996	66.0	2,190.5	15,600	958,675	236	438
1997	66.0	2,190.5	15,600	956,010	236	436
1998	66.0	2,192.3	15,600	952,080	236	434
1999	64.8	2,187.3	15,400	948,460	237	434
2000	63.4	2,166.8	15,200	945,080	240	436
2001	62.1	2,148.6	15,100	942,070	243	438
2002	60.3	2,135.4	15,100	940,300	250	440
2003	59.5	2,126.9	15,040	938,750	253	441

^{1/} 1993-1998 farm numbers are for June 1 reference date. Beginning in 1997 farm numbers are for the entire year.

NUMBER OF HIRED EASTERN CORNBELT WORKERS DECREASES 5 PERCENT

The following information is the result of the Farm Labor Survey that was conducted in January 2004. Workers on farms in the Eastern Cornbelt States (Indiana, Illinois, Ohio) during the week of January 11-17, 2004 totaled 23,000. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.70.

There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week,

up 1 percent from a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

HIRED WORKERS: NUMBER AND HOURS WORKED, AND WAGE RATES EASTERN CORNBELT AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2003-2004 ^{1/ 2/}

Item	Eastern Cornbelt		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Thousands			
Hired Workers on Farms	23	23	729	667
Expected to be Employed:				
150 Days or More	21	19	614	554
149 Days or Less	2	4	115	113
	Hours			
Hours Worked Per Week	33.5	35.9	37.7	38.1
	Dollars Per Hour			
Type of Hired Worker				
Field	9.68	9.98	8.30	8.39
Livestock	8.64	10.01	8.90	8.84
Field & Livestock	9.01	10.00	8.50	8.55
Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	9.72	10.70	9.34	9.41

^{1/} Reference weeks were January 11-17 in 2004 and January 12-18 in 2003. Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. Excludes Alaska.

^{2/} Eastern Cornbelt region consists of Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UP 10 POINTS

The February 2004 Index of Prices Received by Indiana Farmers at 114 (1991=100) was up 10 points from January's revised level and up 25 points from February 2003. The mid-month price for winter wheat, and eggs decreased from last month. The mid-February price for corn, soybeans, all hogs, and all milk increased from January.

The mid-month price for corn, soybeans, winter wheat, all hogs, all milk, and eggs increased from the February 2003 level.

The Livestock Price Index of 91 was up 5 points from last month's revised index and 20 points above February 2003. The Crop Price Index of 128 was up 13 points from the revised index a month ago and 28 points above February last year.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - INDIANA AND UNITED STATES FEBRUARY 2004 WITH COMPARISONS 1/

Commodity	Unit	Indiana			United States		
		February 2003	January 2004	February 15 2004	February 2003	January 2004	February 15 2004
		Dollars			Dollars		
Corn	Bu.	2.44	2.50	2.70	2.34	2.39	2.55
Soybeans	Bu.	5.69	7.38	8.33	5.55	7.34	7.99
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.04	3.91	3.85	3.52	3.66	3.60
Oats	Bu.	7/	7/	7/	2.11	1.46	1.51
All Hay 2/	Ton	6/	6/	6/	91.40	79.30	79.90
Alfalfa Hay 2/	Ton	6/	6/	6/	96.20	83.60	84.70
Other Hay 2/	Ton	6/	6/	6/	81.70	71.40	69.90
Apples 2/	Lb.	6/	6/	6/	.246	.301	.294
All Hogs	Cwt.	33.60	37.30	43.80	34.30	36.80	43.20
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.50	37.90	44.50	34.90	37.20	43.70
Sows	Cwt.	24.60	31.60	37.30	23.40	28.40	34.20
All Beef Cattle	Cwt.	6/	6/	6/	73.90	80.90	77.80
Milk Cows 3/	Head	3/	1400.00	3/	3/	1390.00	3/
All Milk	Cwt.	10.90	12.60	12.80	11.40	13.20	13.30
Fluid Milk	Cwt.	11.00	12.60	4/	11.40	13.20	13.30
Manufactured Milk	Cwt.	9.70	11.70	4/	10.30	12.30	12.60
Eggs 5/	Doz.	.500	.800	.700	.433	.806	.745
Turkeys 2/	Lb.	6/	6/	6/	.345	.349	.350

1/ Entire month price is a revision of the previous published mid-month price for all items except when footnoted otherwise. 2/ Mid-month Price. 3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacements only. Prices published in January, April, July, and October. 4/ Only Whole-month Price published. 5/ Mid-month price for Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. 6/ Monthly estimates discontinued. 7/ Not Published.

HONEY

This data is the result of the Bee and Honey Survey which was conducted last December. Indiana honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 280,000 pounds, down 44 percent from production in 2002. There were 5,000 colonies producing honey in 2003, down 37 percent from 2002. Prices for the 2003 crop averaged \$1.59 per pound, up 34 percent from the previous year. At the state level, prices reflect the portions of honey sold retail, coop and private.

Nationally, honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent

from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and coops.

NUMBER OF BEE COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS, AND VALUE INDIANA, SELECTED STATES, AND U.S., 2003 1/

State	Number of Colonies	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 2/	Average Price Per Pound 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	Pounds	1,000 Pounds		Cents	\$1,000
Illinois	7	60	420	252	173	727
Indiana	5	56	280	78	159	445
Iowa	32	59	1,888	868	145	2,738
Kentucky	5	48	240	14	164	394
Michigan	65	74	4,810	1,732	147	7,071
Ohio	15	50	750	278	143	1,073
Wisconsin	74	77	5,698	2,678	144	8,205
United States	2,590	69.9	181,096	40,735	140.4	255,791

1/ Includes producers with 5 or more colonies. Preliminary.

2/ Stocks held by producers.

3/ Prices weighted by sales.

INDIANA'S RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

Indiana's commercial red meat production during January 2004 totaled 128.2 million pounds, 5 percent above a year earlier. The 500 calves slaughtered during January 2004 totaled 69,000 pounds. Total live weight of the 630,200 hogs killed totaled 166.2 million pounds. The 1,800 sheep slaughtered during January 2004 totaled 187,000 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production during January 2004 totaled 3.71 billion pounds, down 9 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in January 2003. Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was 16 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 14 percent from 2003. The average

live weight was down 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,249 pounds. Veal production totaled 16.0 million pounds, 10 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,000 head, down 16 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 18 pounds above last year, at 336 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, slightly above January 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 269 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER 1/

Species	Indiana		United States	
	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2003	Jan 2004
<u>Cattle</u>				
Number of Head (000)	2/	2/	3,007.0	2,571.0
Average Live Weight (Lbs)	2/	2/	1,268	1,249
Total Live Weight (000 Lbs)	2/	2/	3,814,305	3,210,574
<u>Calves</u>				
Number of Head (000)	.9	.5	93.7	79.0
Average Live Weight (Lbs)	127	127	318	336
Total Live Weight (000 Lbs)	112	69	29,764	26,541
<u>Hogs</u>				
Number of Head (000)	598.7	630.2	8,785.5	8,785.7
Average Live Weight (Lbs)	263	264	268	269
Total Live Weight (000 Lbs)	157,706	166,246	2,352,762	2,362,374
<u>Sheep</u>				
Number of Head (000)	2.2	1.8	238.8	219.2
Average Live Weight (Lbs)	110	103	133	141
Total Live Weight (000 Lbs)	243	187	31,856	30,833

1/ Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected plants and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

2/ Data not printed to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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