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LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 57,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms during the week of April 9-15, 2006, up 4 percent from a year ago, according to USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.30 per hour during the April 2006 survey week, up 35 cents from \$9.95 in April 2005. Field workers received an average of \$9.32 per hour, up 33/ cents from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.94 per hour compared with \$10.05 a year earlier. The field and livestock workers combined wage rate, at \$9.63 per hour, was up 18 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.0 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 34.8 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 2006

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	April 10-16 2005	April 9-15 2006	April 10-16 2005	April 9-15 2006
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms				
All Hired Workers	55	57	1,000	956
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked				
All Hired Workers	34.8	38.0	39.9	40.8
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	8.99	9.32	8.56	8.96
Livestock	10.05	9.94	9.14	9.30
Field & Livestock	9.45	9.63	8.72	9.07
All Workers	9.95	10.30	9.35	9.79

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers.

2/ Excludes Alaska.