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LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS DOWN BY 7,000 FROM JULY 2005

Lake Region: There were 68,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 7,000 from a year ago, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.22 per hour during the July 2006 survey week, up by 56 cents from July 2005. Field workers received an average of \$9.37 per hour, a 71 cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.72 per hour compared with \$9.52 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.50 per hour was up 53 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.4 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.9 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,202,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2006, down 11 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 327,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.74 per hour during the July 2006 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.95 per hour, up 34 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.56 per hour compared with \$9.26 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.10 per hour, was up 32 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.9 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

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

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	July 10-16 2005	July 9-15 2006	July 10-16 2005	July 9-15 2006
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms				
All Hired Workers	75	68	1,344	1,202
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked				
All Hired Workers	40.9	38.4	40.6	40.9
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	8.66	9.37	8.61	8.95
Livestock	9.52	9.72	9.26	9.56
Field & Livestock	8.97	9.50	8.78	9.10
All Workers	9.66	10.22	9.38	9.74

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

2/ Excludes Alaska.