



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Sheep and Lamb Losses  
All Wheat County Estimates  
Ag Prices Received  
Honey Production  
Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production

## 2006 Montana Sheep and Lamb Loss

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 51,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2006, representing a total value of \$4.1 million, according to a survey conducted by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The total number of sheep and lambs lost increased 5,000 head from last year, but the total value of inventory lost was 5 percent less than a year ago. The January 1, 2006 inventory was 3 percent less than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 8.7 percent of the January 1 inventory

and lambs born, up one percentage point from last year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 14,100 head, up 1,700 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 11,500 head, up 14 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 2,600, up 300 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$1.0 million in losses in 2006, down 5 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.4 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 28 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 72 percent of the predator caused losses and 20 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$0.7 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$2.5 million in 2006, compared with \$2.8 million in 2005. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was weather conditions at 9,200 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 9,200 head, 8 percent higher than 2005. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 20,400 head, 500 head higher than a year ago.

Producers reported more sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 40 percent increase in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 5,100 head, compared with 4,000 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,200 sheep, compared with 1,200 head last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes increased to \$0.6 million.

## Sheep & Lambs: Death Losses by Cause, Montana 2005-2006

| Cause of Loss              | SHEEP LOSS     |               |                               |                | LAMB LOSS      |               |                               |                | TOTAL LOSS     |               |                           |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|
|                            | Number of Head |               | Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/ |                | Number of Head |               | Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/ |                | Number of Head |               | Value in Dollars (000) 3/ |                |
|                            | 2005           | 2006          | 2005                          | 2006           | 2005           | 2006          | 2005                          | 2006           | 2005           | 2006          | 2005                      | 2006           |
| <b>Predators</b>           |                |               |                               |                |                |               |                               |                |                |               |                           |                |
| Bear                       | 200            | 300           | 30.0                          | 39.3           | 200            | 200           | 14.9                          | 12.2           | 400            | 500           | 44.9                      | 51.5           |
| Bobcat                     | --             | --            | --                            | --             | --             | --            | --                            | --             | --             | --            | --                        | --             |
| Coyote                     | 1,500          | 1,800         | 225.0                         | 235.8          | 7,000          | 8,300         | 520.8                         | 508.0          | 8,500          | 10,100        | 745.8                     | 743.8          |
| Dog                        | 200            | 100           | 30.0                          | 13.1           | 300            | 500           | 22.3                          | 30.6           | 500            | 600           | 52.3                      | 43.7           |
| Eagle                      | --             | --            | --                            | --             | 900            | 1,100         | 67.0                          | 67.3           | 900            | 1,100         | 67.0                      | 67.3           |
| Fox                        | 100            | --            | 15.0                          | --             | 1,000          | 700           | 74.4                          | 42.8           | 1,100          | 700           | 89.4                      | 42.8           |
| Mountain Lion              | --             | 200           | --                            | 26.2           | 200            | 300           | 14.9                          | 18.4           | 200            | 500           | 14.9                      | 44.6           |
| Wolf                       | 200            | 100           | 30.0                          | 13.1           | 100            | 100           | 7.4                           | 6.1            | 300            | 200           | 37.4                      | 19.2           |
| Other Animals              | --             | --            | --                            | --             | 100            | --            | 7.4                           | --             | 100            | --            | 7.4                       | --             |
| Unknown Predators          | 100            | 100           | 15.0                          | 13.1           | 300            | 300           | 22.3                          | 18.4           | 400            | 400           | 37.3                      | 31.5           |
| <b>Total Predators</b>     | <b>2,300</b>   | <b>2,600</b>  | <b>345.0</b>                  | <b>340.6</b>   | <b>10,100</b>  | <b>11,500</b> | <b>751.4</b>                  | <b>703.8</b>   | <b>12,400</b>  | <b>14,100</b> | <b>1,096.4</b>            | <b>1,044.4</b> |
| <b>Non-Predators</b>       |                |               |                               |                |                |               |                               |                |                |               |                           |                |
| <b>Total Diseases</b>      | <b>1,800</b>   | <b>1,600</b>  | <b>270.0</b>                  | <b>209.6</b>   | <b>5,600</b>   | <b>5,000</b>  | <b>416.6</b>                  | <b>306.0</b>   | <b>7,400</b>   | <b>6,600</b>  | <b>686.6</b>              | <b>515.6</b>   |
| Lambing Complications      | 1,200          | 800           | 180.0                         | 104.8          | 4,600          | 5,600         | 342.2                         | 342.7          | 5,800          | 6,400         | 522.2                     | 447.5          |
| Old Age                    | 3,300          | 3,000         | 495.0                         | 393.0          | --             | --            | --                            | --             | 3,300          | 3,000         | 495.0                     | 393.0          |
| On Back                    | 600            | 500           | 90.0                          | 65.5           | 100            | 100           | 7.4                           | 6.1            | 700            | 600           | 97.4                      | 71.6           |
| Poison                     | 700            | 700           | 105.0                         | 91.7           | 800            | 900           | 59.5                          | 55.1           | 1,500          | 1,600         | 164.5                     | 146.8          |
| Theft                      | 200            | 100           | 30.0                          | 13.1           | 200            | 400           | 14.9                          | 24.5           | 400            | 500           | 44.9                      | 37.6           |
| Weather Conditions         | 300            | 2,300         | 45.0                          | 301.3          | 6,800          | 6,900         | 505.9                         | 422.3          | 7,100          | 9,200         | 550.9                     | 723.6          |
| Other                      | 400            | 200           | 60.0                          | 26.2           | 1,800          | 1,500         | 133.9                         | 91.8           | 2,200          | 1,700         | 193.9                     | 118.0          |
| <b>Total Non-Predators</b> | <b>8,500</b>   | <b>9,200</b>  | <b>1,275.0</b>                | <b>1,205.2</b> | <b>19,900</b>  | <b>20,400</b> | <b>1,480.6</b>                | <b>1,248.5</b> | <b>28,400</b>  | <b>29,600</b> | <b>2,755.6</b>            | <b>2,453.7</b> |
| <b>Unknown Causes</b>      | <b>1,200</b>   | <b>2,200</b>  | <b>180.0</b>                  | <b>288.2</b>   | <b>4,000</b>   | <b>5,100</b>  | <b>297.6</b>                  | <b>312.1</b>   | <b>5,200</b>   | <b>7,300</b>  | <b>477.6</b>              | <b>600.3</b>   |
| <b>Total Loss</b>          | <b>12,000</b>  | <b>14,000</b> | <b>1,800.0</b>                | <b>1,834.0</b> | <b>34,000</b>  | <b>37,000</b> | <b>2,529.6</b>                | <b>2,264.4</b> | <b>46,000</b>  | <b>51,000</b> | <b>4,329.6</b>            | <b>4,098.4</b> |

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

### All Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2006

| County and District  | ALL              |                  |                  |             |                    |           | IRRIGATED      |                |             |                   |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
|                      | Planted          | Net Planted 1/   | Harvested        | Yield       | Production         |           | Planted        | Harvested      | Yield       | Production        |
|                      | Acres            | Acres            | Acres            | Bushels     | Bushels            | Rank      | Acres          | Acres          | Bushels     | Bushels           |
| Deer Lodge           | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Flathead             | 21,300           | 21,300           | 19,300           | 53.1        | 1,024,000          | 27        | 9,000          | 9,000          | 64.2        | 578,000           |
| Granite              | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Lake                 | 13,000           | 13,000           | 12,900           | 61.3        | 791,000            | 34        | 8,900          | 8,900          | 66.0        | 587,000           |
| Lincoln              | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Mineral              | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Missoula             | 1,000            | 1,000            | 1,000            | 41.0        | 41,000             | 48        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Powell               | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Ravalli              | 1,800            | 1,800            | 1,700            | 28.2        | 48,000             | 47        | 600            | 600            | 53.3        | 32,000            |
| Sanders              | 700              | 700              | 700              | 37.1        | 26,000             | 51        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Other                | 1,200            | 1,200            | 1,100            | 64.5        | 71,000             | --        | 1,500          | 1,500          | 62.0        | 93,000            |
| <b>NORTHWEST</b>     | <b>39,000</b>    | <b>39,000</b>    | <b>36,700</b>    | <b>54.5</b> | <b>2,001,000</b>   | <b>--</b> | <b>20,000</b>  | <b>20,000</b>  | <b>64.5</b> | <b>1,290,000</b>  |
| Blaine               | 189,500          | 189,500          | 187,600          | 22.6        | 4,234,000          | 14        | 6,700          | 6,300          | 42.1        | 265,000           |
| Chouteau             | 509,800          | 509,800          | 505,800          | 48.1        | 24,313,000         | 1         | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Glacier              | 143,000          | 143,000          | 142,300          | 29.9        | 4,250,000          | 13        | 3,100          | 2,400          | 37.1        | 89,000            |
| Hill                 | 438,800          | 438,700          | 434,700          | 26.7        | 11,601,000         | 2         | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Liberty              | 246,400          | 246,300          | 245,400          | 30.8        | 7,568,000          | 5         | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Phillips             | 130,900          | 130,900          | 124,700          | 17.7        | 2,203,000          | 23        | 4,200          | 4,000          | 50.0        | 200,000           |
| Pondera              | 177,800          | 177,800          | 176,800          | 47.5        | 8,393,000          | 3         | 12,300         | 12,100         | 58.3        | 706,000           |
| Teton                | 155,600          | 155,600          | 154,600          | 47.2        | 7,301,000          | 6         | 11,900         | 11,600         | 54.3        | 630,000           |
| Toole                | 237,200          | 237,100          | 237,100          | 34.8        | 8,259,000          | 4         | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Other                | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | 6,400          | 5,000          | 45.8        | 229,000           |
| <b>NORTH CENTRAL</b> | <b>2,229,000</b> | <b>2,228,700</b> | <b>2,209,000</b> | <b>35.4</b> | <b>78,122,000</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>44,600</b>  | <b>41,400</b>  | <b>51.2</b> | <b>2,119,000</b>  |
| Daniels              | 254,500          | 254,000          | 252,000          | 14.3        | 3,604,000          | 17        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Dawson               | 170,100          | 170,100          | 167,500          | 19.5        | 3,259,000          | 18        | 2,100          | 2,100          | 65.2        | 137,000           |
| Garfield             | 98,500           | 98,300           | 96,700           | 25.9        | 2,503,000          | 22        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| McCone               | 235,700          | 235,700          | 234,000          | 19.8        | 4,625,000          | 10        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Richland             | 160,300          | 160,300          | 158,300          | 23.9        | 3,788,000          | 15        | 8,300          | 8,300          | 71.4        | 593,000           |
| Roosevelt            | 327,500          | 327,500          | 325,500          | 16.3        | 5,298,000          | 9         | 5,800          | 5,800          | 62.9        | 365,000           |
| Sheridan             | 298,900          | 298,900          | 294,900          | 15.2        | 4,491,000          | 11        | 1,900          | 1,900          | 59.5        | 113,000           |
| Valley               | 292,500          | 292,300          | 290,100          | 14.7        | 4,263,000          | 12        | 8,000          | 7,500          | 47.2        | 354,000           |
| Other                | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | 3,200          | 3,200          | 51.6        | 165,000           |
| <b>NORTHEAST</b>     | <b>1,838,000</b> | <b>1,837,100</b> | <b>1,819,000</b> | <b>17.5</b> | <b>31,831,000</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>29,300</b>  | <b>28,800</b>  | <b>60.0</b> | <b>1,727,000</b>  |
| Broadwater           | 38,900           | 38,900           | 38,900           | 45.6        | 1,775,000          | 24        | 11,600         | 11,600         | 75.4        | 875,000           |
| Cascade              | 142,100          | 142,100          | 139,100          | 47.9        | 6,667,000          | 8         | 3,200          | 3,100          | 62.6        | 194,000           |
| Fergus               | 186,000          | 186,000          | 184,000          | 38.1        | 7,009,000          | 7         | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Golden Valley        | 26,200           | 26,200           | 25,700           | 36.5        | 937,000            | 28        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Judith Basin         | 86,500           | 86,400           | 86,400           | 35.7        | 3,087,000          | 19        | 1,000          | 1,000          | 67.0        | 67,000            |
| Lewis & Clark        | 16,600           | 16,600           | 16,600           | 45.3        | 752,000            | 36        | 5,400          | 5,400          | 77.2        | 417,000           |
| Meagher              | 10,900           | 10,900           | 9,800            | 22.8        | 223,000            | 44        | 800            | 800            | 51.3        | 41,000            |
| Musselshell          | 40,800           | 36,000           | 28,800           | 18.3        | 528,000            | 40        | 700            | 500            | 38.0        | 19,000            |
| Petroleum            | 22,400           | 22,300           | 21,300           | 38.7        | 825,000            | 32        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Wheatland            | 42,900           | 42,900           | 42,700           | 26.0        | 1,110,000          | 26        | 500            | 500            | 36.0        | 18,000            |
| Other                | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | 3,600          | 3,300          | 65.2        | 215,000           |
| <b>CENTRAL</b>       | <b>613,300</b>   | <b>608,300</b>   | <b>593,300</b>   | <b>38.6</b> | <b>22,913,000</b>  | <b>--</b> | <b>26,800</b>  | <b>26,200</b>  | <b>70.5</b> | <b>1,846,000</b>  |
| Beaverhead           | 7,600            | 7,600            | 6,800            | 78.5        | 534,000            | 39        | 6,900          | 6,500          | 81.2        | 528,000           |
| Gallatin             | 55,700           | 55,700           | 55,600           | 54.5        | 3,029,000          | 20        | 19,500         | 19,500         | 73.5        | 1,434,000         |
| Jefferson            | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Madison              | 13,000           | 13,000           | 12,600           | 66.3        | 835,000            | 31        | 9,400          | 9,200          | 76.3        | 702,000           |
| Silver Bow           | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Other                | 700              | 700              | 700              | 45.7        | 32,000             | --        | 200            | 200            | 75.0        | 15,000            |
| <b>SOUTHWEST</b>     | <b>77,000</b>    | <b>77,000</b>    | <b>75,700</b>    | <b>58.5</b> | <b>4,430,000</b>   | <b>--</b> | <b>36,000</b>  | <b>35,400</b>  | <b>75.7</b> | <b>2,679,000</b>  |
| Big Horn             | 117,500          | 117,500          | 114,100          | 33.1        | 3,779,000          | 16        | 14,000         | 13,300         | 60.6        | 806,000           |
| Carbon               | 7,100            | 7,100            | 6,900            | 22.6        | 156,000            | 45        | 1,300          | 1,200          | 65.0        | 78,000            |
| Park                 | 9,300            | 8,700            | 8,700            | 37.4        | 325,000            | 43        | 2,100          | 2,100          | 53.3        | 112,000           |
| Stillwater           | 37,800           | 37,800           | 37,200           | 25.1        | 935,000            | 29        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Sweetgrass           | 2,600            | 2,500            | 2,500            | 36.8        | 92,000             | 46        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Treasure             | 8,700            | 8,700            | 8,600            | 58.6        | 504,000            | 41        | 4,300          | 4,200          | 84.3        | 354,000           |
| Yellowstone          | 90,000           | 90,000           | 89,000           | 28.5        | 2,538,000          | 21        | 4,300          | 4,300          | 80.7        | 347,000           |
| Other                | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | 1,000          | 1,000          | 58.0        | 58,000            |
| <b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b> | <b>273,000</b>   | <b>272,300</b>   | <b>267,000</b>   | <b>31.2</b> | <b>8,329,000</b>   | <b>--</b> | <b>27,000</b>  | <b>26,100</b>  | <b>67.2</b> | <b>1,755,000</b>  |
| Carter               | 38,200           | 38,200           | 31,800           | 23.7        | 755,000            | 35        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Custer               | 25,600           | 25,600           | 23,800           | 29.2        | 696,000            | 38        | 1,000          | 1,000          | 46.0        | 46,000            |
| Fallon               | 40,600           | 40,500           | 39,500           | 20.3        | 801,000            | 33        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Powder River         | 15,500           | 15,500           | 14,400           | 29.7        | 428,000            | 42        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Prairie              | 31,300           | 31,300           | 28,500           | 25.4        | 725,000            | 37        | 2,200          | 2,200          | 63.2        | 139,000           |
| Rosebud              | 41,400           | 41,400           | 39,200           | 30.4        | 1,191,000          | 25        | 2,500          | 2,300          | 80.0        | 184,000           |
| Wibaux               | 38,100           | 38,100           | 37,100           | 23.0        | 853,000            | 30        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| Other                | --               | --               | --               | --          | --                 | --        | --             | --             | --          | --                |
| <b>SOUTHEAST</b>     | <b>230,700</b>   | <b>230,600</b>   | <b>214,300</b>   | <b>25.4</b> | <b>5,449,000</b>   | <b>--</b> | <b>5,700</b>   | <b>5,500</b>   | <b>67.1</b> | <b>369,000</b>    |
| <b>MONTANA</b>       | <b>5,300,000</b> | <b>5,293,000</b> | <b>5,215,000</b> | <b>29.4</b> | <b>153,075,000</b> | <b>--</b> | <b>189,400</b> | <b>183,400</b> | <b>64.3</b> | <b>11,785,000</b> |

1/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat. -- Counties are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

## February Agricultural Prices Received

Montana January 2007 full-month crop prices were mostly higher when compared with December 2006. Montana's winter wheat price increased \$0.04 from December to \$4.52 per bushel; spring wheat was up \$0.05 to \$4.61 per bushel; but durum wheat dropped \$0.14 to \$4.73 per bushel; feed barley rose \$0.11 to \$2.94 per bushel; malt barley increased \$0.09 to \$3.19 per bushel; and oats rose \$0.91 to \$2.84 per bushel, setting a new record high which was \$2.50 per bushel in April 2002.

The Montana mid-February price for alfalfa hay rose \$1.00 to \$80.00 per ton from January and all other hay increased \$1.00 to \$75.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$4.63 per bushel, spring wheat was \$4.81 per bushel, durum wheat was \$5.12 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.35 per bushel, and feed barley was \$3.15 per bushel.

Livestock prices in Montana for the full month of January were mostly lower than the previous month. Beef cattle

dropped \$2.80 to \$85.50 per cwt, steers and heifers decreased \$8.20 to \$93.80 per cwt; and cows rose \$5.00 per cwt to \$44.80. The price for calves was down \$5.00 to \$113.00 per cwt, sheep increased \$4.50 to \$35.50 per cwt, but lambs dropped \$8.40 to \$97.60 per cwt. All milk rose \$0.50 from last month to \$14.40 per cwt. Mid-February steers and heifers were \$94.30 per cwt, cows were \$46.30 per cwt, calves were \$113.00 per cwt, and all milk was \$15.10 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was \$4.53 per bushel, up \$0.02; spring wheat was \$4.52 per bushel, up \$0.04; durum wheat was \$4.70 per bushel, down \$0.04; the all barley price was \$3.03 per bushel, up \$0.08; steer and heifer prices were \$89.80 per cwt, up \$0.50; cows were \$44.40 per cwt, up \$2.20; calves were \$115.00 per cwt, unchanged; sheep were \$37.10 per cwt, up \$1.80; lambs were \$96.50 per cwt, up \$3.30; all milk prices were \$14.50 per cwt, up \$0.40.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was \$4.62 per bushel, spring wheat

was \$4.67 per bushel, durum wheat was \$4.97 per bushel, all wheat was \$4.66 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.09 per bushel, feed barley was \$3.13 per bushel, all barley was \$3.10 per bushel, and oats were \$2.12 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were \$90.70 per cwt, cows were \$46.50 per cwt, calves were \$115.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$46.60 per cwt, and all eggs were \$0.781 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 127 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 3 points (2.4 percent) from January. The Crop Index is up 6 points (4.6 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, broilers, soybeans, and hogs. Lower prices were received for broccoli, lettuce, eggs, and oranges. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

## United States Index Summary

| INDEX (1990-92=100)                                | Jan 2006 | Feb 2006 | Jan 2007 | Feb 2007 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Prices Received                                    | 113      | 113      | 124      | 127      |
| Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/ | 148      | 147      | 152      | 153      |
| Ratio 2/   | 76       | 77       | 82       | 83       |

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

| Commodity        | UNIT | Monthly Average |          |          |          | Change From Previous |          | Mid-Month Average |              |
|------------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
|                  |      | Montana         |          | U.S.     |          | Month                | Year     | Montana           | U.S.         |
|                  |      | Jan 2006        | Dec 2006 | Jan 2007 | Jan 2007 | Dec 2006             | Jan 2006 | Feb 15, 2007      | Feb 15, 2007 |
| Dollars          |      |                 |          |          |          |                      |          |                   |              |
| Winter Wheat     | Bu   | 3.40            | 4.48     | 4.52     | 4.53     | +0.04                | +1.12    | 4.63              | 4.62         |
| Durum Wheat      | Bu   | 3.34            | 4.87     | 4.73     | 4.70     | -0.14                | +1.39    | 5.12              | 4.97         |
| Spring Wheat     | Bu   | 3.76            | 4.56     | 4.61     | 4.52     | +0.05                | +0.85    | 4.81              | 4.67         |
| All Wheat        | Bu   | 3.53            | 4.54     | 4.58     | 4.54     | +0.04                | +1.05    | 4.76              | 4.66         |
| Barley, All      | Bu   | 2.65            | 3.04     | 3.15     | 3.03     | +0.11                | +0.50    | 3.32              | 3.10         |
| Feed Barley      | Bu   | 1.72            | 2.83     | 2.94     | 3.12     | +0.11                | +1.22    | 3.15              | 3.13         |
| Malt Barley      | Bu   | 3.00            | 3.10     | 3.19     | 2.99     | +0.09                | +0.19    | 3.35              | 3.09         |
| Oats             | Bu   | na              | 1.93     | 2.84     | 1.97     | +0.91                | na       | na                | 2.12         |
| Alfalfa Hay      | Ton  | 63.00           | 76.00    | 79.00    | 112.00   | +3.00                | +16.00   | 80.00             | 117.00       |
| All Other Hay    | Ton  | 62.00           | 80.00    | 74.00    | 99.30    | -6.00                | +12.00   | 75.00             | 105.00       |
| All Hay Baled    | Ton  | 63.00           | 77.00    | 79.00    | 108.00   | +2.00                | +16.00   | 79.00             | 114.00       |
| Steers & Heifers | Cwt  | 119.00          | 102.20   | 93.80    | 89.80    | -8.40                | -25.20   | 94.30             | 90.70        |
| Cows             | Cwt  | 50.90           | 39.80    | 44.80    | 44.40    | +5.00                | -6.10    | 46.30             | 46.50        |
| Beef Cattle 1/   | Cwt  | 101.00          | 88.30    | 85.50    | 84.30    | -2.80                | -15.50   | 84.20             | 85.80        |
| Calves           | Cwt  | 148.00          | 118.00   | 113.00   | 115.00   | -5.00                | -35.00   | 113.00            | 115.00       |
| Sheep            | Cwt  | 43.20           | 31.00    | 35.50    | 37.10    | +4.50                | -7.70    | na                | na           |
| Lambs            | Cwt  | 105.00          | 106.00   | 97.60    | 96.50    | -8.40                | -7.40    | na                | na           |
| All Milk         | Cwt  | 14.60           | 13.90    | 14.40    | 14.50    | +0.50                | -0.20    | 15.10             | 14.70        |

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

## 2006 Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2006 produced 10.4 million pounds of honey, up 20 percent from 2005. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 132,000 colonies producing honey in 2006, compared with 130,000 colonies in 2005. The honey yield per colony was 79 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year ago. Honey stocks on December 15, 2006 were estimated at 2.0 million pounds, down from 3.1 million pounds in 2005.

Prices for Montana honey rose \$0.17 to \$1.00 per pound in 2006. The 2006 value of honey production was \$10.4 million dollars, up 44 percent from last year due to higher prices and increased production.

U.S. honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 155 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2005. There were 2.39 million colonies producing honey in 2006, down 1 percent from 2005. Yield per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, down 11 percent from the 72.4 pounds in 2005. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included

if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 60.5 million pounds on December 15, 2006, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices for 2006 in the U.S. increased to 104.2 cents, up 14 percent from 91.8 cents in 2005. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op, and private channels. Honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2006 were up from the previous year for all color class totals.

## Chicken Inventory and Egg Production 2006

There were 490,000 chickens on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2006 inventory included 355,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 134,000 pullets, and 1,000 other chickens. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2006 was \$1.6 million, up 25 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at \$3.30, was up \$0.60 per bird from 2005.

Montana chickens produced 104 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2006, down 2 percent from 2005. The state had an average of 341,000 layers in 2006, down 9,000 from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 305 eggs, up from 303 in 2005.

In the U.S. layer numbers during 2006 averaged 346 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2006 was 263 eggs, up slightly from the 2005 average of 262.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2006 totaled a record high 90.9 billion eggs, up 1 percent from 2005. Table egg production, at 78.0 billion eggs, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, was down 2 percent from 2005.

The total number of chickens on hand in the United States on December 1, 2006 (excluding commercial broilers) was 453 million birds, down slightly from last year.

The total value of all chickens in the U.S. on December 1, 2006 was \$1.18 billion, up 3 percent from December 1, 2005. The average value increased from \$2.52 per bird on December 1, 2005, to \$2.60 per bird on December 1, 2006.

### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sweet Cherries             | Egg Production              |
| Annual Red Meat Production | Monthly Red Meat Production |
| Potato Stocks              |                             |
| Milk Production            |                             |
| Cattle on Feed             |                             |

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