



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Wheat Production  
Hay Stocks  
Meat Animals PDI  
Milk PDI  
Poultry PDI  
Ag Prices Received  
Upcoming Ag Survey

### May 1 Crop Production Forecast

Based on May 1 conditions, Montana **winter wheat** producers expect a yield of 41 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from last year's final yield. Total production is expected to be 88.2 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year's 82.6 million bushels. In the fall of 2006, Montana producers seeded 2.2 million acres of winter wheat, up 250,000 acres from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 2.15 million acres, up 230,000 acres from last year.

As of May 6, Montana's winter wheat crop was rated slightly better than a year ago with 1% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 51% good, and 24% excellent compared with 2% very poor, 4% poor, 22% fair, 48% good, and 24% excellent a year ago. The moisture received this spring has been beneficial for crop development as 5 percent of the acreage has reached the

boot stage compared with the five-year average of 2 percent.

On May 1, Montana **hay producers** held an estimated 760,000 tons of hay on hand, 48 percent below stocks on hand a year ago. Hay production for 2006 was 4.32 million tons, 26 percent lower than the record high 2005 production. Disappearance from December 1, 2006 to May 1, 2007 totaled 3.35 million tons, down 16 percent from the same period a year earlier.

In the United States, **winter wheat** production is forecast at 1.62 billion bushels, up 24 percent from 2006. Area harvested for grain totals 37.2 million acres, up 19 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 1.8 bushels from the previous year.

Hard Red production is up 51 percent from a year ago to 1.03 billion bushels. Soft Red is down 11 percent and totals 347 million bushels. White production totals 241 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 18.6 million

bushels are Hard White and 222 million bushels are Soft White.

**All hay** stored on U.S. farms May 1, 2007 totaled 15.0 million tons, down 30 percent from the previous year and the lowest since 1950. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2006 - May 1, 2007, totaled 81.4 million tons, 3 percent less than the disappearance of 83.9 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Thirty-eight of the 48 reporting States had lower May 1 hay stocks than a year ago. Hay stocks in most of these States were also below year ago levels on December 1, 2006. Drought conditions during most of 2006 caused deterioration of pastures throughout the Southeast resulting in increased supplemental feeding of hay, reducing the December 1 stocks. The drought in that area persisted into the winter and spring which also increased the amount of hay fed. Elsewhere, supplemental feeding increased in the central Plains and Midwest due to some harsh mid-winter storms and below normal temperatures in April.

### Winter Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Selected States and U.S., 2006 and Forecast May 1, 2007

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
CO	1,900	2,100	21.0	35.0	39,900	73,500
ID	710	740	77.0	81.0	54,670	59,940
KS	9,100	9,500	32.0	38.0	291,200	361,000
KY	320	190	71.0	38.0	22,720	7,220
<b>MT</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>82,560</b>	<b>88,150</b>
NE	1,700	1,850	36.0	41.0	61,200	75,850
OK	3,400	4,600	24.0	35.0	81,600	161,000
OR	730	740	53.0	60.0	38,690	44,400
SD	1,150	1,800	36.0	44.0	41,400	79,200
TX	1,400	3,900	24.0	34.0	33,600	132,600
US	31,117	37,172	41.7	43.5	1,298,081	1,615,613

## **2006 Meat Animals Production Disposition and Income**

Cash receipts from the 2006 marketings of cattle, hogs, and sheep in Montana totaled \$1.2 billion, up 1 percent from 2005. This is the third straight year that the cash receipts from the marketing of cattle, sheep, and hogs has exceeded one billion dollars for the State. Cash receipts for cattle were up from the previous year, but hogs and sheep cash receipts were down.

Cash receipts from the sales of cattle and calves during 2006 were up 2 percent from 2005 to a new record high of \$1.2 billion. This is the third year in a row that cattle and calf cash receipts have exceeded one billion dollars. Marketings of cattle weighing 500 lbs or more, at 1.46 million head, were up 15 percent from 2005. Marketings of calves weighing less than 500 lbs increased 5 percent from the previous year to 205,000 head. The average price received in 2006 for cattle weighing over 500 lbs decreased \$10.20 per cwt to \$93.80 per cwt. Market year average prices for calves weighing less than 500 lbs decreased \$7.00 per cwt to \$131.00 per cwt. The January 1, 2007 value of cattle and calf inventory was \$2.5 billion, down 14 percent from 2006.

Cash receipts from the sale of hogs in Montana dropped 8 percent from 2005 to \$37.8 million. Marketings of hogs and pigs rose 1 percent from the previous year to 316,300 head. The average prices received for hogs decreased \$5.20 from 2005 to \$47.90 per cwt. The value of the hog and pig inventory on December 1, 2006 was \$16.9 million, down 3 percent from the previous year.

Sheep and lamb cash receipts in Montana were down 24 percent from the previous year to \$20.8 million. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 2006 were 53,000 and 204,000 head, respectively. Sheep marketings were down 3,000 head from last year and lamb marketings were down 4,000 head. The average price for lambs dropped \$22.00 to \$102.00 per cwt and sheep were \$17.60 below last year at \$25.70 per cwt. The January 1, 2007 sheep and lamb inventory value was \$38.3 million, down 12 percent from 2006.

The 2006 U.S. gross income from the marketings of cattle and calves, hogs and

pigs, and sheep and lambs for the U.S. totaled \$64.2 billion, down 2 percent from 2005. Gross income decreased for cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, and sheep and lambs. Cattle and calves decreased slightly, hogs and pigs decreased 6 percent, and sheep and lambs decreased 15 percent.

Total 2006 cash receipts from marketings of meat animals decreased 2 percent to \$63.7 billion. Cattle and calves accounted for 77 percent of this total, hogs and pigs 22 percent, and sheep and lambs 1 percent. Production increased for all cattle and calves and hogs and pigs. Production decreased for sheep and lambs. Average prices were down for all three species.

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle and calves decreased slightly from \$49.3 billion in 2005 to \$49.1 in 2006. All cattle and calf marketings totaled 54.7 billion pounds in 2006, up 3 percent from 2005. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for cattle was \$87.20, a decrease of \$2.50 from 2005. For calves, the annual average price decreased from \$135.00 to \$133.00.

Cash receipts from hogs and pigs totaled \$14.1 billion during 2006, down 6 percent from 2005. Marketings totaled 29.2 billion pounds in 2006, up 3 percent from 2005. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight decreased from \$50.20 in 2005 to \$46.00 in 2006.

Cash receipts from marketings of sheep and lambs in 2006 were \$481 million, down 15 percent from 2005. Marketings decreased slightly to 569 million pounds. The U.S. annual average price per 100 pounds live weight for sheep decreased from \$45.10 in 2005 to \$35.20 in 2006. For lambs, the annual average price decreased from \$110.00 to \$95.50.

## **2006 Milk Production, Disposition and Income**

Montana's dairies produced 354 million pounds of milk in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005. There was an average of 19,000 milk cows on farms and ranches during the year, unchanged from the previous year. The average number of pounds produced per cow in 2006 was 18,632 pounds, 947 pounds below 2005.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during the year in Montana were \$45.6 million dollars, down 19 percent from 2005. Producers received an average of \$13.10 per cwt, a decrease of \$2.20 per cwt from last year. Total marketings of milk, at 348 million pounds, were down 5 percent from a year ago. A total of 6 million pounds of milk were used on farms and ranches, up 2 million pounds from 2005. Of the total, 3 million pounds were fed to calves and 3 million pounds were consumed as milk, cream, and butter.

Nationally, milk production increased 2.8 percent in 2006 to 182 billion pounds. The rate per cow, at 19,951 pounds, was 386 pounds above 2005. The annual average number of milk cows on farms was 9.11 million head, up 69,000 head from 2005.

Cash receipts from marketings of milk during 2006 totaled \$23.4 billion, 12.3 percent lower than 2005. Producer returns averaged \$12.97 per hundredweight, 14.6 percent below 2005. Marketings totaled 181 billion pounds, 2.8 percent above 2005. Marketings include whole milk sold to plants and dealers and milk sold directly to consumers.

An estimated 1.14 billion pounds of milk were used on farms where produced, 0.3 percent more than 2005. Calves were fed 87 percent of this milk, with the remainder consumed in producer households.

## **2006 Poultry Production and Value**

Montana's value of egg production in 2006 was \$4.0 million, up 22 percent from last year. Egg production in 2006 totaled 104 million eggs, down 2 percent from the previous year. The average price for eggs was \$0.465 per dozen, up from \$0.374 per dozen in 2005.

The U.S. value of sales from chickens (excluding broilers) in 2006 was \$53.1 million, down 18 percent from the \$64.7 million a year ago. Prices averaged 5.8 cents per pound, compared with 6.5 cents in 2005. The number of chickens sold in 2006 totaled 172 million, down 11 percent from the total sold during the previous year. (continued on back page.)

### March Agricultural Prices Received

March 2006 full month crop prices in Montana were mixed when compared with the previous month. When comparing March 2007 prices with February 2007, winter wheat was \$4.65 per bushel, unchanged; the spring wheat price decreased \$0.03 to \$4.75 per bushel; but the durum wheat price increased \$0.25 to \$5.37 per bushel. Feed barley prices decreased \$0.06 to \$3.01 per bushel, but malt barley prices increased \$0.12 to \$3.32 per bushel.

The mid-April price for alfalfa hay was unchanged at \$90.00 per ton, but all other hay increased \$5.00 to \$92.00 per ton. Mid-April grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$4.92 per bushel; spring wheat was \$4.80 per bushel; durum wheat was \$5.40 per bushel; feed barley was \$3.01 per bushel; and malt barley was \$3.58 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of March were mostly higher when compared with the previous month. March 2007 price comparisons with February 2007 are as follows: the steer and heifer price increased \$7.30 per cwt to \$102.00; cows decreased \$0.10 per cwt to \$47.60; calves were up \$12.00 to \$125.00 per cwt; sheep prices were up \$1.50 to \$31.80 per cwt; lamb prices increased \$1.40 to \$101.00 per cwt; and milk increased \$0.20 to \$15.00 per cwt. The mid-April steer and heifer price was \$102.00 per cwt; cows were \$48.80 per cwt; calves were \$123.00 per cwt; and milk prices were \$15.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for March and changes from February were as follows: winter wheat was \$4.67 per bushel, unchanged; spring wheat was \$4.76 per bushel, up \$0.03; durum wheat was \$5.33 per bushel, up \$0.17; the all barley price was \$3.10 per bushel, unchanged; steer and heifer prices were \$97.70, up \$6.20 per cwt; cows were \$47.20, up \$0.20 per cwt; calves were \$124.00, up \$7.00 per

cwt; sheep were \$35.60, down \$0.90 per cwt; lambs were \$95.80, up \$0.40 per cwt from February; and all milk was \$15.60, up \$0.70 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-April winter wheat price was \$4.91 per bushel; spring wheat was \$4.92 per bushel; durum wheat was \$5.39 per bushel; all wheat was \$4.94 per bushel; malt barley was \$3.27 per bushel; and feed barley was \$3.36 per bushel. Alfalfa hay was \$128.00 per ton and other hay was \$113.00 per ton. The steer and heifer price was \$100.00 per cwt; cow prices were \$48.80 per cwt; all beef cattle were \$94.60 per cwt; calves were \$126.00 per cwt; all hog prices were \$46.00 per cwt; all milk was \$16.40 per cwt; and all egg prices were \$0.495 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 135 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1 point (0.7 percent) from March 2007 and up 24 points (22 percent) from April 2006.

### United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	March 2006	April 2006	March 2007	April 2007
Prices Received	113	111	134	135
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	147	148	155	157
Ratio 2/	77	75	86	86

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	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Mar 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	Mar 2007	Feb 2007	Mar 2006	Apr 15 2007	Apr 15 2007
Dollars									
Winter Wheat	Bu	3.74	4.65	4.65	4.67	0.00	0.91	4.92	4.91
Durum Wheat	Bu	3.43	5.12	5.37	5.33	0.25	1.94	5.40	5.39
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.00	4.78	4.75	4.76	-0.03	0.75	4.80	4.92
All Wheat	Bu	3.79	4.74	4.74	4.75	0.00	0.95	4.89	4.94
All Barley	Bu	3.04	3.18	3.28	3.10	0.10	0.24	3.51	3.29
Feed Barley	Bu	1.72	3.07	3.01	3.23	-0.06	1.29	3.01	3.36
Malt Barley	Bu	3.21	3.20	3.32	3.08	0.12	0.11	3.58	3.27
Oats	Bu	1.71	na	2.32	2.39	na	0.61	na	2.39
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	67.00	80.00	90.00	120.00	10.00	23.00	90.00	128.00
All Other Hay	Ton	56.00	75.00	87.00	108.00	12.00	31.00	92.00	113.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	66.00	79.00	90.00	117.00	11.00	24.00	90.00	124.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	113.00	94.70	102.00	97.70	7.30	-11.00	102.00	100.00
Cows	Cwt	52.40	47.70	47.60	47.20	-0.10	-4.80	48.80	48.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	93.60	83.90	91.10	92.00	7.20	-2.50	86.60	94.60
Calves	Cwt	141.00	113.00	125.00	124.00	12.00	-16.00	123.00	126.00
Sheep	Cwt	38.10	30.30	31.80	35.60	1.50	-6.30	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	95.80	99.60	101.00	95.80	1.40	5.20	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	14.20	14.80	15.00	15.60	0.20	0.80	15.70	16.40

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

## 2006 Poultry Production and Value

(continued from page two)

The value of broilers produced during 2006 was \$18.9 billion, down 10 percent from 2005. The total number of broilers produced in 2006 was 8.88 billion, up slightly from 2005. The total amount of

live weight broilers produced in 2006 was 48.8 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2005. The 2006 average price per pound on a live weight equivalent basis was 38.6 cents per pound, compared with 43.6 cents in 2005.

Value of all egg production in 2006 was \$4.39 billion, up 8 percent from the \$4.05 billion in 2005. Egg production totaled 90.9 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the 90.0 billion eggs produced in 2005. In 2006, all eggs averaged 57.9 cents per dozen, compared with 54.0 cents in 2005.

### Chickens and Eggs: Production, Sales, and Value, 2005-2006 1/

Item	Unit	Montana		United States	
		2005	2006	2005	2006
<b>CHICKENS</b>					
Lost 2/	1,000 Head	50	74	93,041	100,054
Sold	1,000 Head	130	105	193,246	172,421
Pounds Sold	1,000 Lbs	429	326	1,001,792	914,580
Average Price	Dollars/Lb	0.006	0.006	0.065	0.058
Value of Sales	1,000 Dols	3	2	64,739	53,124
<b>EGGS</b>					
Produced	Million	106	104	90,027	90,877
Average Price	Dollars/Doz	0.374	0.465	0.540	0.579
Value of Prod.	1,000 Dols	3,300	4,031	4,049,293	4,387,528
1/ Estimates cover the 12-month period, December 1 of previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers. 2/ Includes death, rendered, and other losses during the 12-month period.					

### Agricultural Survey is an Opportunity to Provide the Facts

How many acres will be planted to wheat in 2007? What will spring planting conditions mean for Montana agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers and ranchers for the June Agricultural Survey.

There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. "Speculation about the number of acres planted and weather during

planting can lead to unjustified swings in market prices. This survey of producers can reduce uncertainty in the marketplace," says Nancy K. Peterson, Director, Montana Department of Agriculture. She adds, "Producers require accurate information to make production, marketing and investment decisions."

The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 29 and June 15. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indication of the potential production of major commodities in 2007. Industry analysts,

extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Peggy Stringer, Director of Montana Agricultural Statistics Service says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." Montana Agricultural Statistics Service works with farmers and ranchers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep Montana and U.S. agricultural producers informed.

### COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Red Meat Production
Ag Chemical Use	Cattle & Beef Cow County
Milk Production	Estimates
Cattle on Feed	Egg Production

Peggy Stringer, Director  
 John Hilton, Deputy Director  
 Wendy Bruski, Statistical Info Assistant  
 10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626  
 406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612  
[www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/) nass-mt@nass.usda.gov