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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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"Happy Holidays to You from All of Us at USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office"

May your holiday season be filled with joyful snow!

Montana's 2007 wheat production was 2% lower than last year's production, due to 3% less seeded acreage. The average yield, at 29.6 bushels per acre, was slightly higher than last year. Montana farmers seeded 2,240 acres of winter wheat, the highest since 1993. Spring wheat production dropped 13% from 2006, because farmers seeded fewer acres. Durum wheat production increased 69% from last year, due to more acres harvested and higher yields. Barley production was up 2% from last year, because farmers harvested 100,000 more acres.

Montana farmers had a lot to be thankful for during 2007 with prices for all wheat, winter wheat, spring wheat, durum wheat, and barley hitting new record highs for Montana. Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to be stewards of the land, working tirelessly to provide for future generations. Because of the extraordinary people who make a living from the land, Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agricultural industry, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry – Agriculture.**

We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Peggy Stringer
Director

November 2007 Dry Edible Bean Production Forecast

Production for Montana's dry edible bean crop was estimated at 311,000 cwt, up 2 percent from the 2006 crop. Planted acreage for 2007 is estimated at 18,500 acres, a 5 percent decrease from last year. Harvested area for 2007 is 17,800 acres, a 4 percent decrease from 2006. The yield is forecast at 1,750 pounds per acre, 110 pounds per acre more than last year.

Pinto bean production for Montana is estimated at 206,000 cwt, which is 12 percent lower than last year. Acres planted, at 8,500, are down 21 percent from 2006 and harvested acres are 20 percent lower at 8,400 acres. The yield is forecast at 2,450 pounds per acre, 220 pounds higher than last year.

All chickpea (garbanzo beans) production is forecast at 105,000 cwt for 2007, up 48 percent from 2006. Planted acreage was 10,000 acres, up 14 percent from 2006. Harvested area is 9,400 acres, up 16 percent from 2006. The yield is forecast at 1,120 pounds per acre, 240 pounds above 2006. Small Chickpea (smaller than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 8,000 cwt for 2007. Planted acreage was 1,000 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 900 acres. The yield is forecast at 900 pounds per acre. Large Chickpea (larger than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 97,000 cwt for 2007. Planted acreage was 9,000 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 8,500 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,140 pounds per acre.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 25.2 million cwt for 2007, virtually unchanged from the October forecast but 4 percent above the 2006 production. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.48 million acres, 1 percent above the last forecast but 4 percent below the previous year's acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,708 pounds per acre, a decrease of 19 pounds from the October forecast but 131 pounds above the 2006 yield. Production is up from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, pinto, light red kidney, black, and large chickpeas. Production decreased from last year for navy, great northern, small white, dark red kidney, pink, small red, cranberry, blackeye, and small chickpeas.

Production in North Dakota is forecast at 10.6 million cwt, 38 percent above 2006. Harvested acres increased 4 percent, while the average yield, at 1,590 pounds per acre, is up 390 pounds from last year. Production in Washington is forecast at 1.02 million cwt, up 5 percent from 2006. The average yield, at 1,700 pounds per acre, is 100 pounds above the previous year. In Idaho, production is forecast at 1.60 million cwt, 16 percent below last year. The average yield, at 1,800 pounds per acre, is down 50 pounds from last season.

U.S. Livestock and Meats Imports and Exports

	2004	2005	Jan-Sept 2006	Jan-Sept 2007
Beef and veal imports		**carcass weight 1,000 lbs**		
Australia	1,118,423	899,996	655,619	665,113
Canada	1,062,708	1,092,272	638,187	619,038
New Zealand	645,413	603,204	469,377	438,132
Uruguay	402,894	557,051	241,357	321,534
Brazil	219,401	214,351	211,333	212,467
Argentina	116,606	110,356	61,394	52,303
Nicaragua	65,397	63,402	40,474	62,639
Other	49,182	58,559	46,131	58,579
Total	3,680,023	3,599,191	2,363,873	2,429,804
Beef and veal exports				
Mexico	334,210	464,689	501,854	440,350
Japan	14,099	20,831	26,057	123,956
South Korea	780	1,308	1,068	71,113
Canada	53,526	99,997	171,420	237,278
China (Taiwan)	187	22,441	51,272	49,278
Other	58,598	88,384	86,237	137,898
Total	461,401	697,650	837,908	1,059,873
Cattle imports		**head**		
Mexico	1,370,476	1,256,404	866,131	696,519
Canada	135	559,134	730,842	913,170
400-700 lbs	606,224	628,415	377,643	358,475
For slaughter	3,242	323,742	480,960	579,896
Over 700 lbs	20,829	474,820	674,466	858,413
Total	1,370,611	1,815,538	1,596,973	1,609,689
Cattle exports				
Canada	14,246	19,406	29,952	31,982
Mexico	1,365	1,003	220	462
Other	110	1,198	1,271	5,015
Total	15,721	21,607	31,443	37,459

SOURCE: Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Situation and Outlook, November 9, 2007

U.S. Livestock and Meats Imports and Exports

	2004	2005	Jan-Sept 2006	Jan-Sept 2007
Lamb and mutton imports		**carcass weight 1,000 lbs**		
Australia	113,724	131,175	101,732	104,043
New Zealand	66,384	48,312	36,018	38,955
Canada	482	378	255	455
Other	261	351	50	34
Total	180,851	180,217	138,056	143,488
Lamb and mutton exports				
Total	8,372	9,265	14,665	7,564
Pork imports				
Canada	885,432	836,380	583,909	588,998
Denmark	137,572	99,489	81,336	74,375
Poland	24,221	25,604	17,054	18,700
Mexico	9,320	19,402	23,760	31,021
Other	41,113	41,974	28,636	22,672
Total	1,097,658	1,022,848	734,695	735,764
Pork exports				
Japan	916,317	1,039,896	735,902	795,378
Mexico	531,122	536,706	451,454	316,947
Canada	231,066	298,521	235,982	250,650
South Korea	70,896	189,655	196,075	181,266
Russia	67,068	94,003	155,381	146,115
China (Main)	84,379	121,373	76,295	139,453
Other	267,448	368,076	317,867	329,717
Total	2,168,296	2,648,230	2,168,955	2,159,525
Hog imports		**head**		
Canada	8,504,972	8,190,467	6,424,917	7,135,340
Under 15.4 lbs	3,087,670	2,765,620	2,341,039	2,731,965
Under 110.2 lbs	1,922,163	2,064,147	1,540,320	1,618,114
Total	8,505,518	8,190,801	6,424,917	7,135,371
Hog exports				
Total	174,010	153,650	140,459	96,547

October Ag Prices Received

October full month crop prices were higher when compared with September 2007 and October 2006. New record high prices were set for all the wheat and barley classes. The price for Montana's winter wheat, at $7.23 per bushel, was $1.01 higher than September 2007 and $2.70 higher than a year ago. Spring wheat rose $1.46 from last month and $3.08 from last year to $7.55 per bushel. Durum wheat was $2.45 above September 2007 and $5.01 higher than October 2006 at $9.50 per bushel. Feed barley was $1.00 above the previous month and $2.68 above the previous year at $4.76 per bushel. Malt barley increased $0.29 from a month ago and $1.03 above a year ago to $4.02 per bushel. Oats were $0.26 higher than a month ago and $1.05 above a year ago at $2.88 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was $3.00 below October 2007 at $69.00 per ton and all other hay decreased $2.00 from October to $69.00 per ton. The preliminary November grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at $7.22 per bushel, spring wheat was $7.59 per bushel, durum wheat was $14.20 per bushel, all barley was $4.12 per bushel, feed barley was $4.58 per bushel, and malt barley was $3.95 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mostly lower when compared with last month and last year. Steer and heifers increased $7.00 from September 2007 but were unchanged from last year at $114.00 per cwt. Cows dropped $3.00 from last month and $1.40 from last year to $45.70 per cwt. Beef cattle were $1.90 higher than last month but $4.00 below last year at $99.00 per cwt. The price for calves decreased $5.00 from a month ago and $6.00 from last year to $125.00 per cwt. Sheep prices decreased $1.30 from last month and $6.20 from last year to $19.40 per cwt. Lamb prices dropped $3.20 from September and $5.20 from October 2006 to $98.80 per cwt. The all milk price was $0.30 above a month ago and up $9.70 from October 2006 at $22.70 per cwt.

The preliminary November livestock prices were lower than last month. Steer and heifer prices were $113.00 per cwt, cows were $42.20 per cwt, beef cattle were $93.20 per cwt, and calves were $123.00 per cwt. The all milk price was higher at $22.80 per cwt.

Nationally, October prices and changes from September 2007 were as follows: winter wheat was $7.54 per bushel, up $0.65; spring wheat was $7.01 per bushel, up $0.71, durum wheat was $11.60 per bushel, up $2.65, all barley was $4.50 per bushel, up $0.46, oats were $2.44 per bushel, down $0.03, steers and heifers were $96.40 per cwt, down $1.70, cows were $46.60 per cwt, down $2.50, calves were $122.00 per cwt, down $5.00, sheep were $25.30, down $0.95, lambs were $97.00 per cwt, down $2.10 and all milk was $21.40 per cwt, down $0.30.

The U.S. mid-November prices were mixed when compared with October. Winter wheat was $7.50 per bushel, spring wheat was $7.67 per bushel, durum wheat was $12.70 per bushel, all wheat was $7.92 per bushel, oats were $2.35 per bushel, malt barley was $4.52 per bushel, and feed barley was $4.93 per bushel. Steers and heifers were $95.40 per cwt, cows were $43.60 per cwt, beef cattle were $89.50 per cwt, calves were $118.00 per cwt, all hogs were $38.50 per cwt, all milk was $21.60 per cwt, and the all egg price was $1.26 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 143 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.4 percent) from October. The Crop Index is up 2 points (1.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, eggs, corn, and broilers and lower prices were received for lettuce, hogs, cattle, and broccoli. 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 milk, cattle, cotton, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and lettuce.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2006	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007
Prices Received	115	119	141	143
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	148	148	160	161
Ratio 2/	78	80	88	89

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 Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct 2006	Sep 2007	Oct 2007	Oct 2007	Sep 2007	Oct 2006	15-Nov-07	15-Nov-07
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.53	6.22	7.23	7.54	1.01	2.70	7.22	7.50
Durum Wheat	Bu	4.49	7.05	9.50	11.60	2.45	5.01	14.20	12.70
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.47	6.09	7.55	7.01	1.46	3.08	7.59	7.67
All Wheat	Bu	4.50	6.23	7.55	7.65	1.32	3.05	7.92	7.92
All Barley	Bu	2.81	3.74	4.22	4.50	0.48	0.00	4.12	4.69
Feed Barley	Bu	2.08	3.76	4.76	4.88	1.00	2.68	4.58	4.93
Malt Barley	Bu	2.99	3.73	4.02	4.14	0.29	1.03	3.95	4.52
Oats	Bu	1.83	2.62	2.88	2.44	0.26	1.05	na	2.35
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	75.00	76.00	72.00	137.00	-4.00	-3.00	69.00	135.00
All Other Hay	Ton	68.00	71.00	71.00	122.00	0.00	3.00	69.00	123.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	74.00	75.00	72.00	133.00	-3.00	-2.00	69.00	131.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	114.00	107.00	114.00	96.40	7.00	0.00	113.00	95.40
Cows	Cwt	47.10	48.70	45.70	46.60	-3.00	-1.40	42.20	43.60
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	103.00	97.10	99.00	90.60	1.90	-4.00	93.20	89.30
Calves	Cwt	131.00	130.00	125.00	122.00	-5.00	-6.00	123.00	118.00
Sheep	Cwt	25.60	20.70	19.40	25.30	-1.30	-6.20	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	104.00	102.00	98.80	97.00	-3.20	-5.20	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	13.00	22.40	22.70	21.40	0.30	9.70	22.80	21.60

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

U.S. Meat Supply and Use

The forecast for total 2007 U.S. meat production is raised reflecting stronger fourth-quarter production estimates for red meat and poultry. Cattle slaughter forecasts are increased as packers have bid aggressively for relatively tight supplies of fed cattle, and cow slaughter remains large. Hog slaughter is expected to remain strong through the remainder of the fourth quarter. The broiler production forecast is raised as hatchery data point to relatively strong expansion. For 2008, total meat production is virtually unchanged. The Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report, to be released December 27, will provide an indication of hog producer expectations for production in 2008. The egg production forecast for 2008 is raised slightly.

Red meat exports are adjusted slightly for 2007, reflecting third-quarter actual exports. Broiler exports for both 2007 and 2008 are raised on the strength of stronger-than-expected third-quarter exports. Despite higher broiler meat prices, continued weakness in the value of the dollar supports exports. Beef imports are reduced for 2007 and 2008.

The forecast for the fourth-quarter 2007 cattle price is raised as packers continue to bid aggressively for a relatively small pool of market-ready cattle. The hog price is lowered slightly. The broiler price forecast for 2007 is little changed but the 2008 forecast is reduced. Forecast egg prices are increased for 2007 and the first half of 2008, reflecting current demand and slow production growth.

Forecasts for 2007 and 2008 milk production are raised slightly as milk per cow rates are recovering from early year weakness. Ending stocks on a fat basis are unchanged from last month, but skim-solids stocks are raised because nonfat dry milk (NDM) stocks have remained higher than expected.

Dairy prices are changed in 2007 and 2008. Stronger cheese price forecasts are expected to result in higher Class III price forecasts in both years. The Class IV price forecast is lowered for 2007 but unchanged for 2008. Forecast butter prices are raised slightly in both years. Weaker NDM prices in November and December result in a lower Class IV price for 2007. However, a weaker forecast NDM price in the first half of 2008 is largely offset by a higher forecast NDM price in the second half of the year as world supplies remain tight. The 2007 all milk price is forecast 10 cents higher than last month at $19.05 to $19.15. In 2008, the all milk price is forecast at $18.00 to $18.80 per cwt.

U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2006 and Projected 2007 and 2008

Item		Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption Total	Consumption Per Capita 2/, 3/
		Million pounds 4/							
Beef									
2006		571	26,258	3,085	29,914	1,145	630	28,139	65.7
2007 Proj.	Nov	630	26,240	3,244	30,114	1,432	575	28,107	65.0
	Dec	630	26,450	3,178	30,258	1,436	575	28,247	65.3
2008 Proj.	Nov	575	26,105	3,420	30,100	1,710	600	27,790	63.7
	Dec	575	26,105	3,380	30,060	1,710	600	27,750	63.6
Pork									
2006		494	21,075	990	22,559	2,995	514	19,050	49.3
2007 Proj.	Nov	514	21,774	1,005	23,293	3,027	560	19,706	50.5
	Dec	514	21,849	1,000	23,363	3,040	560	19,763	50.7
2008 Proj.	Nov	560	22,285	1,025	23,870	3,180	565	20,125	51.1
	Dec	560	22,250	1,025	23,835	3,180	565	20,090	51.0
Broilers									
2006		924	35,369	47	36,340	5,205	745	30,389	87.1
2007 Proj.	Nov	745	35,442	64	36,250	5,468	675	30,107	85.4
	Dec	745	35,492	61	36,298	5,611	675	30,012	85.2
2008 Proj.	Nov	675	36,456	60	37,191	5,565	750	30,876	86.8
	Dec	675	36,456	60	37,191	5,615	750	30,826	86.7
Turkeys									
2006		206	5,612	12	5,829	547	218	5,065	16.9
2007 Proj.	Nov	218	5,815	10	6,043	554	245	5,244	17.3
	Dec	218	5,815	10	6,043	562	245	5,236	17.3
2008 Proj.	Nov	245	5,862	12	6,119	605	275	5,239	17.2
	Dec	245	5,862	12	6,119	605	275	5,239	17.2

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail weight basis. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce, Census Bureau. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry. Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, December 11, 2007.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks
Milk Production
Cattle on Feed
Red Meat Production
Egg Production
Hog & Pig Inventory

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