



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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2007 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2007 all wheat crop rose 63 percent from 2006 to \$1.14 billion. All wheat production was up 1 percent from last year, and the season average price increased \$3.06 per bushel, setting a new record high at \$7.60 per bushel.

The value of Montana's winter wheat crop set a new record high with an increase of 64 percent from last year to \$607.5 million. The season average price was \$2.81 higher than last year at \$7.30 per bushel, also setting a new record high. Spring wheat's value of production was up 44 percent from 2006 to \$419.5 million. The season average price increased \$3.02 per bushel to \$7.60, setting a new record high. Durum wheat's season average price rose \$5.14 from 2006 to a record high \$9.75 per bushel. The value of the durum wheat crop was \$111.2 million, setting a new record high, up from \$31.0 million in 2006, due to increased production and prices.

The value of Montana's oat crop was \$4.6 million, up from \$2.5 million in 2006 due to an increase in production and price from the previous year. The season average price was up \$0.33 to \$2.55 per bushel, setting a new record. Total value of production for barley was estimated at \$134.6 million, up 45 percent from the previous year due to an increase in

production and price. The 2007 season average price, at \$4.25 per bushel was up \$1.25 from 2006, setting a new record. Corn for grain value of production for 2007 was estimated at \$26.2 million dollars, up from \$10.3 million in 2006, setting a new record high. The average price per bushel increased \$0.82 to \$4.75, also setting a new record.

Montana's value of production for flaxseed increased 29 percent from 2006 to \$2.4 million dollars in 2007, due to an increase in price. The season average price jumped \$6.97 per bushel from last year to \$13.10, setting a new record. The value of the canola crop in 2007 was \$1.6 million, up 27 percent due to an increase in price. Canola's season average price increased \$4.50 per cwt from last year to \$16.20, setting a new record high. The value of production for safflower increased 33 percent from 2006 to \$5.0 million dollars in 2007, setting a new record high, due to an increase in production and price. The season average price increased \$3.00 per cwt from last year to \$16.50, also setting a new record high. Dry edible beans value of production was estimated at \$6.7 million, up 8 percent from 2006 due to higher prices. The average price rose \$3.70 per cwt to \$24.20 per cwt.

Value of production for dry edible peas in Montana, at \$35.0 million was a new record high, up from the 2006 value of \$13.7 million due to sharply increased prices and higher production. The average price increased \$2.86 per cwt to \$9.50, setting a new record high. Austrian winter peas value of production for the 2007 crop dropped to \$296 thousand from \$872 thousand in 2006 due to decreased production. The average price was \$11.40 per cwt, up \$3.47 from last year, setting a new record high. Lentils value of

production rose to \$14.4 million from \$8.7 million in 2006 due to a large increase in price. The average price increased \$6.30 to \$17.10 per cwt, setting a new record high.

Montana's value of production for potatoes set a new record high at \$38.4 million, up 21 percent from the previous year due to higher prices and increased production. The average price was \$10.40 per cwt, \$1.40 above 2006. Sugar beets value of production for 2006 is estimated at \$54.5 million, up 5 percent from the previous year due to an increase in production. The season average price decreased \$3.70 per ton from 2005 to \$41.60 per ton.

The 2007 season average price for all hay decreased \$2.00 from last year to \$76.00 per ton. The value of production was up 16 percent to \$393.2 million due to increased production. Alfalfa hay's 2007 season average price was estimated at \$75.50, down \$2.50 per ton from last year and other hay's season average price decreased \$2.00 per ton to \$79.00.

2007 Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Production, Value, and Leaf Cutter Bees

Alfalfa seed production in Montana for 2007 was estimated at 4.4 million pounds, up 3 percent from the 2006 production. Harvested acreage, at 12,200, was up 1,500 acres from last year's 10,700 acres. The average yield was estimated at 360 pounds per acre, down from the 399 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 533 pounds per acre, up from 518 pounds in 2006, and non-irrigated yields averaged 127 pounds per acre, down from 215 pounds last year. (continued on page two)

Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Yield, and Production by District, 2007

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,100	403	443,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
Northeast	1,200	372	446,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
South Central	5,200	543	2,823,000	--	--	--	--	--	--
Southeast	4,200	139	584,000	300	216	65,000	3,900	133	519,000
Other Districts	500	188	94,000	6,700	582	3,664,000	1,300	109	142,000
Montana	12,200	360	4,390,000	7,000	533	3,729,000	5,200	127	661,000

Districts with no estimate have been confided to prevent the disclosure of individual information.

2007 Alfalfa Seed Acreage, Production, Value, and Leaf Cutter Bees (continued from page one)

Producers who used leaf cutter bees in 2007 used an average of 3.2 gallons of bees per acre, up 0.2 gallons from a year ago. Leaf cutter bees were used on 66 percent of the reported irrigated acres. For those fields under irrigation, producers who used leaf cutter bees on average saw only a negligible increase in yield. While, at the same time, a vast majority of non-irrigated producers did not use leaf cutter bees.

Proprietary varieties made up 68 percent of this year's production, common uncertified varieties accounted for 26 percent of the production and common certified varieties represented 6 percent.

The average price received for the 2007 crop was \$1.34 per pound, up \$0.21 from last year's average price.

Small Grain County Estimates for 2007 Now Available

The 2007 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat, and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre, and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated and non-irrigated crops. Non-irrigated wheat and barley crops are further divided into cropping practices for acres that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates have irrigated and non-irrigated practices. These estimates are available on our website at www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on February 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2007 but 1 percent below February 1, 2006. This is the second highest February 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.79 million, 6 percent above 2007 but 19 percent below 2006. Net placements were 1.73 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 467,000, 700-799 pounds were 525,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 395,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.86 million, 1 percent above 2007 and 3 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during January, 38 percent below 2007 and 28 percent below 2006.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 84.5 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2008, up from 83.9 percent on January 1, 2007.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2007 represented 85.9 percent all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, down from 86.1 percent during 2006.

U.S. and Canadian Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

This report is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry

to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on February 1, 2008.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 110.6 million head on January 1, 2008, down slightly from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 47.7 million head, was down 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2008, totaled 96.7 million head, slightly below the 97.0 million on January 1, 2007 but virtually unchanged from the 96.7 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2008, totaled 13.9 million head, down 1 percent from the 14.2 million on January 1, 2007, and 5 percent below the 14.7 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 5.97 million, was down 1 percent from the 6.02 million on January 1, 2007, and 5 percent below the 6.27 million from two years ago.

January 2008 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2008, up 15 percent from December 2007, but unchanged from January 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,202 pounds increased 1 pound from last year.

During January there were 1,000 hogs slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 248 pounds, dropped 2 pounds from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 300 head, up 100 head from January 2007. The average live weight dropped 3 pounds from last year to 103 pounds. (continued on page three)

January 2008 Red Meat Production (continued from page two)

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.42 billion pounds in January, up 8 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in January 2007.

Beef production, at 2.23 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 4 percent from January 2007. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,291 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.3 million pounds, 21 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,500 head, 4 percent below January 2007. The average live weight was down 55 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.16 billion pounds, 14 percent above the previous year. Hog kill totaled 10.6 million head, 13 percent above January 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was 2 percent below January 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,400 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

2007 Milk Production, Milk Cows on Farms, and January 2008 Milk Production

The annual milk production for Montana during 2007 was 333 million pounds, 6 percent below 2006. Production per cow averaged 18,500 pounds for 2007, 132 pounds below 2006. The average number of milk cows on farms during 2007 was 18,000 head, down 1,000 head from 2006. The number of operations with milk cows was 550, down from 600 in 2006. The number of licensed dairy herds went from 110 in 2006 to 85 in 2007.

Milk production in the 23 major States during January totaled 14.6 billion

pounds, up 2.4 percent from January 2007. December production, unrevised at 14.4 billion pounds, was up 2.8 percent from December 2006.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,743 pounds for January, 17 pounds above January 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.40 million head, 120,000 head more than January 2007, and 15,000 head more than December 2007.

The annual production of milk for the U.S. during 2007 was 186 billion pounds, 2.1 percent above 2006. Revisions to 2006 production decreased the annual total 2 million pounds. Revised 2007 production was up 3 million pounds from last month's publication.

Production per cow in the U.S. averaged 20,267 pounds for 2007, 316 pounds above 2006. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 17.9 percent from 1998.

The average number of milk cows on farms in the U.S. during 2007 was 9.16 million head, up 0.5 percent from 2006. The average number of milk cows was revised up 5,000 head for 2007.

February 1, 2008 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2008, up 13 percent from the previous year. This number represents 97 percent of the 2007 potato crop production.

The 13 major potato States held 206 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2008, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above February 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 52 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.70 million cwt on February 1, 2008, 4 percent higher than last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 194 million cwt from the start of harvest to February 1 was down 1 percent from last year but up 5 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 18.0 million cwt, was down 2 percent from the previous year but 7 percent above the same date in 2006.

Processors have used 104 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 3 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 3 percent below the same date in 2007, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was down 6 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage was 20.9 million cwt of the total processing, down 12 percent from last year but 9 percent above the same date in 2006.

Western States held 152 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, up 12 percent from last year and 10 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 6 percent from last year; Washington's potato sheds held 32 percent more than last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 19 percent from last season. Montana's potato sheds held 13 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 8 percent from last season. Colorado's potato stocks declined 15 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 43.3 million cwt of potato stocks on February 1, down 2 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were unchanged from last year; North Dakota's sheds held 17 percent less; and potato stocks in Minnesota were 1 percent below last season. Nebraska's potato stocks decreased 8 percent from the same date in 2007. Michigan's potato sheds held 35 percent more than a year ago.

Eastern States stored 10.8 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, down 15 percent from last year and 5 percent below February 1, 2006. Maine's potato sheds held 15 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 14 percent from a year ago.

U.S. January Farm Labor

There were 778,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2008. Of these hired workers, 599,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 179,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.77 per hour during the January 2008 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$9.64 per hour, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate was \$9.87 per hour.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.4 hours for hired workers during the survey week.

Dry weather returned to southern California and the Southwest early in the week, followed by a shift of stormy conditions into the Pacific Northwest. Mostly dry weather prevailed across the mid-section, except for light snow on the central Plains and a few showers and thunderstorms on the southeastern Plains. Muddy or snowy fields and feedlots caused livestock stress across the central Plains. Significant flooding developed across the central Corn Belt from Illinois to Indiana and southern Michigan, and a few rare tornadoes swept through parts of the Corn Belt. Heavy rain soaked areas from Missouri to Lake Michigan and eastward. In contrast, the upper Midwest was mostly dry. Rain provided Southeastern drought relief, although lake levels remained low. Winter grains and pastures benefited from the Southeastern showers, although

Florida's peninsula stayed mostly dry. East of the Rockies, temperatures soared during the early to mid-week period. Weekly readings averaged at least 20 degrees above normal in parts of the Midwest, with several locations reporting record highs. Temperatures averaged at least 10 degrees above normal in the eastern half of the U.S., except for southern Florida. In contrast, colder than normal weather prevailed over much of the Intermountain West.

Due to Agency budget constraints, the January 2007 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted. Since the data in all Farm Labor Surveys are tied to a specific reference week, it was not possible to conduct this survey at a later time. Therefore, year-to-year comparisons are not available in this report.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Worker and All Hired Workers by Region and United States, January 6-12, 2008 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock Combined	
Northeast I	11.59	10.02	10.60	11.60
Northeast II	10.06	8.90	9.50	11.31
Appalachian I	8.81	9.87	9.28	10.02
Appalachian II	8.53	9.56	9.15	10.22
Southeast	8.47	8.87	8.62	9.03
FL	9.00	9.20	9.03	9.98
Lake	10.93	10.67	10.75	11.72
Cornbelt I	10.79	10.92	10.85	11.60
Cornbelt II	11.38	10.82	10.90	11.42
Delta	8.70	8.85	8.75	9.27
Northern Plains	11.31	11.04	11.15	11.70
Southern Plains	8.49	10.03	9.30	9.81
Mountain I	9.62	9.98	9.90	10.40
Mountain II	9.08	9.47	9.30	9.96
Mountain III	8.68	10.47	9.41	9.95
Pacific	9.94	11.68	10.14	11.25
CA	10.10	10.70	10.25	11.37
HI 3/	10.80		10.92	13.04
US 4/	9.64	10.19	9.87	10.77

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following States: Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT. Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV. Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY. Pacific: CA, OR, WA. 48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

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

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