



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

2007 Sheep and Lamb Losses
2007 All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
2007 Honey Production
2007 Chicken Inventory and Annual Egg Production
January 2008 US Egg Production

2007 Montana Sheep and Lamb Losses

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 50,000 animals to weather, predators, disease, and other causes during 2007, representing a total value of \$3.9 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost decreased 1,000 head from last year, and the total value of inventory lost was 6 percent lower than a year ago. The January 1, 2007 inventory was 2 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths

amounted to 8.7 percent of the January 1 inventory (which includes lambs born), unchanged from last year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 17,000 head, up 2,900 head from last year. Lamb losses to all predators amounted to 13,900 head, up 21 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,100, up 500 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$1.2 million in losses in 2007, up 16 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.9 percent of the January 1 inventory plus lambs born and 34 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 69 percent of the predator caused losses and 23 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$0.8 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$2.2 million in 2007, compared with \$2.5 million in 2006. Non-predatory losses accounted for 55 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of loss was diseases at 7,800 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 8,800 head, 4 percent lower than 2006. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 18,700 head, 1,700 head lower than a year ago.

Producers reported fewer sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. The number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased 25 percent from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 3,400 head, compared with 5,100 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 2,100 sheep, compared with 2,200 head last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased to \$0.5 million.

Sheep & Lambs: Death Losses by Cause, Montana 2006-2007.

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Predators												
Bear	300	400	39.3	48.0	200	300	12.2	18.2	500	700	51.5	66.2
Bobcat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Coyote	1,800	1,900	235.8	228.0	8,300	9,800	508.0	593.9	10,100	11,700	743.8	821.9
Dog	100	300	13.1	36.0	500	400	30.6	24.2	600	700	43.7	60.2
Eagle	--	--	--	--	1,100	800	67.3	48.5	1,100	800	67.3	48.5
Fox	--	--	--	--	700	1,100	42.8	66.7	700	1,100	42.8	66.7
Mountain Lion	200	100	26.2	12.0	300	300	18.4	18.2	500	400	44.6	30.2
Wolf	100	200	13.1	24.0	100	400	6.1	24.2	200	600	19.2	48.2
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown Predators	100	200	13.1	24.0	300	800	18.4	48.5	400	1,000	31.5	72.5
Total Predators	2,600	3,100	340.6	372.0	11,500	13,900	703.8	842.4	14,100	17,000	1,044.4	1,214.4
Non-Predators												
Total Diseases	1,600	2,800	209.6	336.0	5,000	5,000	306.0	303.0	6,600	7,800	515.6	639.0
Lambing Complications	800	1,100	104.8	132.0	5,600	5,600	342.7	339.4	6,400	6,700	447.5	471.4
Old Age	3,000	3,000	393.0	360.0	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,000	393.0	360.0
On Back	500	600	65.5	72.0	100	--	6.1	--	600	600	71.6	72.0
Poison	700	700	91.7	84.0	900	500	55.1	30.3	1,600	1,200	146.8	114.3
Theft	100	--	13.1	--	400	100	24.5	6.1	500	100	37.6	6.1
Weather Conditions	2,300	400	301.3	48.0	6,900	6,500	422.3	393.9	9,200	6,900	723.6	441.9
Other	200	200	26.2	24.0	1,500	1,000	91.8	60.6	1,700	1,200	118.0	84.6
Total Non-Predators	9,200	8,800	1,205.2	1,056.0	20,400	18,700	1,248.5	1,133.3	29,600	27,500	2,453.7	2,189.3
Unknown Causes	2,200	2,100	288.2	252.0	5,100	3,400	312.1	206.0	7,300	5,500	600.3	458.0
Total Loss	14,000	14,000	1,834.0	1,680.0	37,000	36,000	2,264.4	2,181.7	51,000	50,000	4,098.4	3,861.7

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. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

All Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2007

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	16,700	16,700	16,500	61.6	1,016,000	27	8,200	8,000	75.9	607,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	13,200	13,200	11,300	58.1	656,000	37	9,300	8,700	62.4	543,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	1,300	1,300	1,200	45.0	54,000	48	500	500	52.0	26,000
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,800	1,800	1,700	24.7	42,000	50	800	800	38.8	31,000
Sanders	600	600	500	36.0	18,000	53	--	--	--	--
Other	1,900	1,900	1,900	67.9	129,000	--	1,700	1,700	72.4	123,000
NORTHWEST	35,500	35,500	33,100	57.9	1,915,000	--	20,500	19,700	67.5	1,330,000
Blaine	184,800	184,800	182,200	26.6	4,853,000	13	6,400	6,300	54.3	342,000
Chouteau	499,600	498,600	496,600	45.8	22,728,000	1	1,700	1,700	45.3	77,000
Glacier	131,000	130,900	122,500	14.8	1,819,000	23	4,300	3,900	17.2	67,000
Hill	419,800	419,800	416,800	30.4	12,664,000	2	1,600	1,600	66.3	106,000
Liberty	250,400	249,900	248,400	24.2	6,003,000	6	2,800	2,600	63.8	166,000
Phillips	124,000	124,000	120,200	25.6	3,081,000	18	--	--	--	--
Pondera	182,700	182,600	179,700	31.9	5,736,000	8	14,800	14,300	53.8	770,000
Teton	152,500	151,300	150,500	37.1	5,577,000	9	13,300	12,600	62.6	789,000
Toole	231,200	231,000	228,500	19.2	4,378,000	15	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,300	3,100	40.3	125,000
NORTH CENTRAL	2,176,000	2,172,900	2,145,400	31.2	66,839,000	--	48,200	46,100	53.0	2,442,000
Daniels	262,500	262,500	261,400	20.9	5,467,000	10	--	--	--	--
Dawson	164,300	164,100	163,100	25.5	4,164,000	16	2,500	2,500	51.6	129,000
Garfield	86,000	85,800	82,200	26.1	2,147,000	22	--	--	--	--
McCone	212,500	212,500	209,400	24.6	5,146,000	12	2,500	2,500	41.6	104,000
Richland	161,000	161,000	156,100	26.0	4,066,000	17	9,700	9,500	58.9	560,000
Roosevelt	327,100	326,600	326,600	26.0	8,488,000	3	5,300	5,300	63.4	336,000
Sheridan	302,800	302,800	299,700	24.1	7,231,000	4	--	--	--	--
Valley	287,800	287,800	272,900	19.9	5,435,000	11	5,200	4,700	31.3	147,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	1,300	62.3	81,000
NORTHEAST	1,804,000	1,803,100	1,771,400	23.8	42,144,000	--	26,500	25,800	52.6	1,357,000
Broadwater	35,000	34,600	34,300	37.0	1,270,000	24	11,300	11,300	73.4	829,000
Cascade	139,000	138,900	136,900	41.9	5,741,000	7	4,100	4,000	67.3	269,000
Fergus	173,200	171,100	163,300	38.9	6,353,000	5	800	800	30.0	24,000
Golden Valley	24,700	24,700	23,900	27.8	665,000	36	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	80,000	79,800	78,600	35.7	2,805,000	19	800	600	66.7	40,000
Lewis & Clark	18,000	18,000	17,900	37.6	673,000	35	4,100	4,100	68.8	282,000
Meagher	11,300	11,300	11,200	25.0	280,000	43	900	900	80.0	72,000
Musselshell	36,800	35,000	33,800	24.8	837,000	33	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	19,900	14,500	13,500	28.9	390,000	41	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	37,100	37,100	37,000	24.8	919,000	31	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,700	2,700	67.0	181,000
CENTRAL	575,000	565,000	550,400	36.2	19,933,000	--	24,700	24,400	69.5	1,697,000
Beaverhead	7,800	7,800	7,600	80.0	608,000	39	--	--	--	--
Gallatin	53,800	53,700	53,100	50.8	2,698,000	20	19,200	19,000	72.4	1,375,000
Jefferson	2,800	2,800	2,800	28.2	79,000	46	--	--	--	--
Madison	12,100	12,000	11,700	58.8	688,000	34	8,100	7,900	72.9	576,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,700	7,500	81.6	612,000
SOUTHWEST	76,500	76,300	75,200	54.2	4,073,000	--	35,000	34,400	74.5	2,563,000
Big Horn	116,000	115,800	114,700	38.3	4,390,000	14	12,600	12,500	69.8	872,000
Carbon	5,800	5,800	4,600	28.3	130,000	45	500	500	88.0	44,000
Park	8,900	8,900	8,800	29.9	263,000	44	1,900	1,900	53.7	102,000
Stillwater	38,900	38,900	38,700	25.9	1,001,000	28	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	1,900	1,900	1,900	27.4	52,000	49	--	--	--	--
Treasure	7,500	7,500	7,300	53.4	390,000	41	4,400	4,400	73.0	321,000
Yellowstone	87,000	86,700	86,000	29.3	2,523,000	21	3,100	3,100	73.9	229,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	500	54.0	27,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	266,000	265,500	262,000	33.4	8,749,000	--	23,000	22,900	69.7	1,595,000
Carter	39,600	39,500	37,600	31.0	1,167,000	25	--	--	--	--
Custer	24,900	24,900	24,500	26.2	642,000	38	700	700	61.4	43,000
Fallon	42,500	42,500	41,900	24.8	1,038,000	26	--	--	--	--
Powder River	16,900	16,900	16,300	31.9	520,000	40	--	--	--	--
Prairie	33,000	33,000	32,800	27.2	892,000	32	2,800	2,600	65.8	171,000
Rosebud	43,400	43,200	37,800	25.9	980,000	29	2,900	2,700	37.8	102,000
Wibaux	36,700	36,700	36,600	25.4	928,000	30	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
SOUTHEAST	237,000	236,700	227,500	27.1	6,167,000	--	6,400	6,000	52.7	316,000
MONTANA	5,170,000	5,155,000	5,065,000	29.6	149,820,000	--	184,300	179,300	63.0	11,300,000

1/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat. -- Counties with no acres planted or counties that are combined into "other" counties/districts to avoid disclosure of individual information.

January 2008 Prices Received

January 2008 full-month crop prices were mixed when compared with December 2007. Montana's winter wheat price increased \$0.40 to \$6.65 per bushel, spring wheat rose \$0.71 to \$8.00 per bushel, but durum wheat was down \$0.50 to \$10.10 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose \$0.04 from the previous month to \$4.77, but malt barley prices decreased \$0.93 to \$4.22 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay rose \$1.00 to \$78.00 per ton from January and all other hay jumped \$12.00 to \$82.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with winter wheat at \$9.25 per bushel, durum wheat was \$14.80 per bushel, spring wheat was \$12.30 per bushel, feed barley was \$4.07 per bushel, and malt barley was \$3.55 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mixed when compared with December 2007. Steer and heifer

prices decreased \$9.20 to \$108.00 per cwt, cows rose \$2.80 per cwt to \$45.50, beef cattle rose \$0.80 to \$89.20 per cwt, but the price for calves was down \$5.00 to \$116.00 per cwt. Sheep prices rose \$5.90 to \$28.70 per cwt, but lambs decreased \$1.00 to \$103.00 per cwt. All milk prices decreased \$1.20 from last month to \$20.70 per cwt. Livestock prices for mid February were higher with steer and heifer prices at \$99.20 per cwt, cows were \$51.60 per cwt, beef cattle were \$91.60, calves were \$119.00 per cwt, and all milk prices were \$21.30 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was \$7.78 per bushel, up \$0.12, spring wheat was \$7.99 per bushel, up \$0.53, durum wheat was \$13.20 per bushel, up \$1.60, all barley was \$4.34 per bushel, down \$0.17, oats were \$2.96 per bushel, up \$0.27, steers and heifers were \$93.40, down \$1.70 per cwt, cows were \$46.30 per cwt, up \$1.40, calves were \$117.00 per cwt, down \$1.00, sheep were \$31.90 per cwt, up \$2.20, lambs were

\$97.50 per cwt, down \$1.00, and all milk was \$20.50 per cwt, down \$1.00.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was \$9.22 per bushel, spring wheat was \$11.90 per bushel, durum wheat was \$16.40 per bushel, malt barley was \$3.97 per bushel, feed barley was \$4.29 per bushel, and oats were \$2.97 per bushel. Steers and heifers were \$93.20 per cwt, cows were \$49.70 per cwt, calves were \$118.00 per cwt, all hogs were \$41.90 per cwt, all eggs were \$1.31 per dozen, and all milk was \$19.30 per cwt.

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 172 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 2 points (1.2 percent) from January and 16 points (10 percent) above February 2007. Higher prices in February for complete feeds, feeder cattle, potash & phosphate materials, and feed concentrates offset lower prices for LP gas, self-propelled machinery, gasoline, and other machinery.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2007	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008
Prices Received	123	128	145	145
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	155	156	170	172
Ratio 2/	79	82	85	84

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.
		Jan 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2008	Dec 2007	Jan 2007	15-Feb-08	15-Feb-08
Dollars									
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.52	6.25	6.65	7.78	0.40	2.13	9.25	9.22
Durum Wheat	Bu	4.73	10.60	10.10	13.20	-0.50	5.37	14.80	16.40
Spring Wheat	Bu	4.61	7.29	8.00	7.99	0.71	3.39	12.30	11.90
All Wheat	Bu	4.58	6.94	7.20	7.93	0.26	2.62	10.50	10.40
All Barley	Bu	3.15	5.01	4.50	4.34	-0.51	1.35	3.82	4.06
Feed Barley	Bu	2.94	4.73	4.77	4.85	0.04	1.83	4.07	4.29
Malt Barley	Bu	3.19	5.15	4.22	4.11	-0.93	1.03	3.55	3.97
Oats	Bu	2.84	na	3.06	2.96	na	0.22	na	2.97
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	76.00	77.00	135.00	1.00	-1.00	78.00	138.00
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	71.00	70.00	118.00	-1.00	3.00	82.00	122.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	76.00	75.00	76.00	129.00	1.00	0.00	78.00	133.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	93.80	108.00	98.80	93.40	-9.20	5.00	99.20	93.20
Cows	Cwt	44.80	42.70	45.50	46.30	2.80	0.70	51.60	49.70
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	85.50	88.40	89.20	87.30	0.80	3.70	91.60	87.80
Calves	Cwt	113.00	121.00	116.00	117.00	-5.00	3.00	119.00	118.00
Sheep	Cwt	35.50	22.80	28.70	31.90	5.90	-6.80	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	97.60	104.00	103.00	97.50	-1.00	5.40	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	14.40	21.90	20.70	20.50	-1.20	6.30	21.30	19.30

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

2007 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2007 produced 9.2 million pounds of honey, down 12 percent from 2006. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 135,000 colonies producing honey in 2007, compared with 132,000 colonies in 2006. The honey yield per colony was 68 pounds, down 11 pounds from a year ago. Honey stocks on December 15, 2007 were estimated at 2.2 million pounds, up from 2.0 million pounds in 2006.

Prices for Montana honey decreased \$0.02 from 2006 to \$0.94 per pound in 2007. The 2007 value of honey production was \$8.63 million dollars, down 14 percent from last year due to lower prices and production.

U.S. honey production in 2007 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 148 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2006. There were 2.44 million colonies producing honey in 2007, up 2 percent from 2006. Yield per colony averaged 60.8 pounds, down 6 percent from the 64.7 pounds in 2006. 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, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer-held honey stocks were 52.5 million pounds on December 15, 2007, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

The 2007 all honey price was 103.2 cents per pound, down slightly from 103.6 cents in 2006. U.S. and state level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for

the 2006 crop reflect honey sold in 2006 and 2007.

2007 Chicken Inventory and Egg Production, for Montana and the U.S.

There were 485,000 chickens (excluding broilers) on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2007, down 1 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2007 inventory included 355,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 129,000 pullets, and 1,000 other chickens. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2007 was \$2.0 million, up 23 percent from the previous year. The average value per bird, at \$4.10, was up \$0.80 per bird from 2006.

Montana chickens produced 107 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2007, up 3 percent from 2006. The state had an average of 355,000 layers in 2007, up 14,000 from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 301 eggs, down from 305 in 2006.

In the U.S., layer numbers during 2007 averaged 344 million, down 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2007 was 263 eggs, unchanged from 2006.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2007 totaled 90.6 million eggs, down 1 percent from 2006. Table egg production, at 77.3 million eggs, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.3 million eggs, was up 2 percent from 2006.

The total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2007 (excluding commercial broilers) was 455 million birds, up slightly from last year.

The U.S. total value of all chickens on December 1, 2007 was \$1.34 billion, up 13 percent from December 1, 2006. The average value increased from \$2.61 per bird on December 1, 2006, to \$2.95 per bird on December 1, 2007.

U.S. January Egg Production Down Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.66 billion during January 2008, down slightly from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.14 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.07 billion were broiler-type and 67 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2008 averaged 345 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,220 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2008 totaled 345 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 345 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.7 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2008, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from February 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2008 totaled 40.2 million, up 9 percent from January 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.5 million on February 1, 2008, down 4 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 210 thousand during January 2008, down 21 percent from January 2007.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2008 totaled 822 million, up 3 percent from January 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 675 million on February 1, 2008, up 4 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.30 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2008, up 4 percent from January 2007.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

2007 Sweet Cherry Production	Milk Production
Wheat and Barley Movement	Cattle on Feed
2007 Red Meat Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	February Egg Production

Peggy Stringer, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
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