



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
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Montana and U.S. Cash Rents for 2008

For immediate release: August 4, 2008

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The average cash rent for Montana cropland rose \$0.50 from last year to \$29.00 per acre, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The non-irrigated cropland average increased \$1.60 from 2007 to \$21.10 per acre. Average pasture rents increased from \$6.50 in 2007 to \$7.50 per acre in 2008. The average cash rent for irrigated cropland was not published.

Nationally, cash rents per acre paid to landlords for cropland rose \$11.00 (13 percent), while pasture rents increased \$1.00 (8.3 percent) for the 2008 crop and grazing year. Cropland cash rents paid in 2008 averaged \$96.00 per acre, compared with \$85.00 per acre for 2007. Pasture cash rents averaged \$13.00 per acre, compared with \$12.00 per acre for 2007. The increases in cropland and pasture land rental rates are the result of producers receiving strong commodity prices.

The Delta region had the highest percentage increase for cropland, 21 percent above 2007. Cropland cash rents increased \$14.00 per acre to \$140.00 in the Corn Belt region and \$6.00 per acre to \$64.00 in the Northern Plains region. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains regions account for slightly more than one half of cash rented cropland acreage in the U.S.

The major corn and soybean producing States of Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa experienced increases of 13, 13, and 18, percent respectively, for cropland cash rents. Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa cropland cash rents averaged \$160.00, \$135.00, and \$165.00 per acre, respectively.

While pasture rent in the Northern Plains remained unchanged from the previous year, rents in the Southern Plains, and Mountain regions both increased by 30 cents. The Northern Plains, Southern Plains, and Mountain region account for nearly 85 percent of the cash rented pasture acreage in the U.S. The cash rent paid for pasture in the Corn Belt region increased \$4.50 to \$36.00 per acre, which is the highest cash rent paid for pasture in the U.S.

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