



Weekly Ag Update

USDA/NASS
NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

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Weather Summary Agricultural Prices Received Honey Livestock Outlook
Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm , or by e-mail (1-800-530-8810 for information)

WEATHER SUMMARY

Some minor storms passed through the state during the week, producing spotty showers and mountain snows. Red River (.46), was the only site with more than a quarter of an inch, with Chama (.07), Farmington (.04), and Los Alamos (.01) more than a trace. There were significant winds on February 28th with gusts from 50-65 miles per hour.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 4, 2007

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	02/26 03/04	01/01 03/04	Normal Mar	01/01 03/04	Normal Jan-Mar
Farmington	32.4	59	9	0.04	0.04	0.81	1.05	1.97
Gallup	30.9	57	8	0.00	0.00	1.05	1.50	2.59
Capulin	29.4	55	5	0.00	0.00	0.89	1.58	1.85
Chama	21.4	48	-9	0.07	0.03	1.99	3.97	5.34
Johnson Ranch	29.2	53	6	0.00	0.00	0.74	1.26	1.98
Las Vegas	33.4	59	5	0.00	0.00	0.63	0.76	1.71
Los Alamos	30.3	50	17	0.01	0.01	1.22	1.94	2.88
Raton	32.6	61	6	0.01	0.01	0.83	0.49	1.84
Red River	20.8	45	-13	0.46	0.41	1.78	3.50	4.07
Santa Fe	31.1	56	6	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.99	2.06
Clayton	37.7	67	14	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.62	1.10
Clovis	43.7	72	16	0.00	0.00	0.59	1.42	1.49
Roy	35.9	65	7	0.00	0.00	0.55	0.60	1.32
Tucumcari	43.9	73	13	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.77	1.13
Grants	34.6	62	9	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.80	1.50
Quemado	24.6	55	-1	0.00	0.00	0.80	1.39	2.35
Albuquerque	39.1	65	18	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.88	1.44
Carrizozo	0.0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.57	1.09	1.74
Socorro	41.3	73	10	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.47	1.05
Gran Quivera	37.4	62	11	0.00	0.00	0.72	1.38	2.24
Moriarty	34.6	60	8	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.94	1.44
Ruidoso	34.6	58	7	0.00	0.00	1.33	4.49	3.61
Carlsbad	51.6	79	19	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.72	1.00
Roswell	44.0	78	16	0.00	0.00	0.45	1.57	1.34
Tatum	41.9	74	11	0.00	0.00	0.52	1.17	1.41
Alamogordo	44.1	67	24	0.00	0.00	0.46	1.96	1.67
Animas	40.1	63	20	0.00	0.00	0.47	1.61	1.66
Deming	43.0	68	17	0.00	0.00	0.34	1.29	1.36
Las Cruces	46.1	71	23	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.46	1.05
T or C	43.2	72	19	0.00	0.00	0.34	1.03	1.18

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO: Alfalfa hay prices for February were \$172.00 per ton, remaining steady with the previous month's price. All Hay prices also remained steady at \$170.00 per ton. Cow prices received for February were \$45.80 per hundredweight compared to \$46.50 for the U.S. national average. Steer and heifer prices remained steady at \$93.00 per hundredweight, \$2.30 above the national average price of \$90.70 per hundredweight. Calf prices in February averaged \$115.00 per hundredweight in line with the U.S. national average. Milk prices remained unchanged from the January price of \$14.40 per hundredweight.

Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, January 2007 and February 2006-07

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S. ^{1/}
		Feb. 2006 ^{2/}	Jan. 2007 ^{2/}	Feb. 2007 ^{1/}	Feb.
-----Dollars-----					
CROPS					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	6.67
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.489
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	7.28
Hay, all baled	Ton	121.00	170.00	170.00	114.00
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	125.00	172.00	172.00	117.00
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.179
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	3.32
Wheat, All	Bu.	-	-	-	4.66
LIVESTOCK					
Sheep ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	37.10
Lambs ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	96.50
Cows	Cwt.	48.40	46.70	45.80	46.50
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	108.00	93.00	93.00	90.70
Calves	Cwt.	135.00	106.00	115.00	115.00
Milk	Cwt.	13.00	14.40	14.40	14.70

^{1/} Mid-month ^{2/} Entire month ^{3/} January - entire month

HONEY

NEW MEXICO: Honey production from producers with five or more colonies totaled 336,000 pounds from 7,000 colonies in 2006, for a yield of 48 pounds per colony. This compares to 343,000 pounds from 7,000 colonies in 2005. The 2006 average prices was \$0.96 per pound for a total value of production of \$323,000. Stocks on hand on December 15th totaled 104,000 pounds, down 8 percent from last year.

UNITED STATES: Honey production in 2006 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 155 million pounds, down 11 percent from 2005. There were 2.39 million colonies producing honey in 2006, down 1 percent from 2005. Yield per colony averaged 64.7 pounds, down 11 percent from the 72.4 pounds in 2005. 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. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 60.5 million pounds on December 15, 2006, down 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value, Selected States and U.S., 2006 ^{1/}

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ^{2/}	Average Price Per Pound ^{3/}	Value of Production
	-----1,000-----	---Pounds---	-----1,000 Pounds-----	-----Cents-----	-----1,000 Dollars----	
AL	11	72	792	230	146	1,156
AZ	30	65	1,950	839	139	2,711
AR	32	76	2,432	730	105	2,554
CA	380	52	19,760	7,706	98	19,365
CO	36	75	2,700	1,458	139	3,753
FL	170	81	13,770	1,790	101	13,908
GA	63	74	4,662	746	116	5,408
HI	10	93	930	233	119	1,107
ID	95	44	4,180	2,592	86	3,595
IL	10	66	660	356	188	1,241
IN	6	54	324	107	151	489
IA	26	84	2,184	1,441	115	2,512
KS	14	55	770	246	140	1,078
KY	5	56	280	70	220	616
LA	30	90	2,700	675	89	2,403
ME	11	23	253	86	200	506
MI	72	55	3,960	2,099	128	5,069
MN	125	80	10,000	3,300	89	8,900
MS	14	98	1,372	453	105	1,441
MO	15	46	690	117	149	1,028
MT	132	79	10,428	1,981	100	10,428
NE	47	73	3,431	3,843	104	3,568
NV	9	37	333	50	355	1,182
NJ	9	36	324	152	115	373
NM	7	48	336	104	96	323
NY	60	64	3,840	2,458	138	5,299
NC	10	50	500	215	156	780
ND	350	74	25,900	7,770	90	23,310
OH	14	56	784	282	145	1,137
OR	46	48	2,208	729	111	2,451
PA	28	40	1,120	605	161	1,803
SD	225	47	10,575	10,575	82	8,672
TN	7	55	385	58	184	708
TX	82	70	5,740	976	87	4,994
UT	23	50	1,150	265	105	1,208
VT	6	56	336	14	121	407
VA	8	42	336	114	219	736
WA	49	52	2,548	1,605	119	3,032
WV	5	42	210	57	195	410
WI	64	93	5,952	2,500	114	6,785
WY	39	85	3,315	497	88	2,917
Other States ^{4/ 5/}	17	43	726	274	269	1,951
U.S. ^{5/}	2,392	64.7	154,846	60,528	104.2	161,314

^{1/} For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each State. ^{2/} Stocks held by producers. ^{3/} Prices weighted by sales. ^{4/} CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ^{5/} Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

LIVESTOCK OUTLOOK

Economic Research Service, USDA, February 20, 2007

U.S. Cattle Imports Up in 2006, Small Decline Expected in 2007: U.S. cattle imports totaled 2,289,000 head in 2006, based on December trade data recently released by the U.S. Commerce Department. Mexico remained the largest source of imported cattle to the United States, sending 1,257,000 head last year, virtually even with its 2005 total. The United States imports almost entirely lightweight stocker-feeder calves from Mexico, but the decline in calf prices in late 2006 in response to rising corn prices did not significantly dampen imports of Mexican calves. In the short run, their supply appears to be quite inelastic, as the U.S. market remains the best outlet for those animals already on hand. Weekly reports from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), USDA, indicate imports from Mexico so far in 2007 are down significantly, but this appears to be related to poor weather and related conditions in the United States, and the cattle are expected to come north when conditions improve.

U.S. cattle imports from Canada totaled 1,032,000 head in 2006, marking the first full calendar year of imports from Canada since 2002. Imports were suspended in May 2003 following the discovery of the first Canadian BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) case, and imports of Canadian feeder cattle and slaughter steers and heifers resumed in July 2005. The July-December total for 2006 was 504,000 head, down about 10 percent from the same period in 2005.

In early January 2007, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a proposal to expand the list of allowable imports from countries presenting a minimal risk of introducing BSE into the United States. Canada is currently the only minimal-risk country designated by the United States. Among the products allowed under this rule are live cattle for any use born after March 1, 1999. More details are available from APHIS at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/bse/index.shtml. Comments on this proposed rule will be accepted through March 12, 2007. A period of review will follow the comment period, and imports will not resume until the final rule is published and implemented.

Cull cows for slaughter were a significant category of imports from Canada prior to May 2003, representing about 30 percent of all Canadian cattle destined for immediate slaughter in the United States. The Canadian cow inventory grew significantly in the months immediately following the border closure, and this backlog continues to be worked down. On January 1, 2007, producers in Canada were holding 633,000 cull cows, down from 690,000 head on July 1, 2006, and 704,000 head on January 1, 2006. Canadian non-fed slaughter in federally inspected plants (mostly cull cows) in 2000-04 averaged 450,000 head per year but reached 592,000 head in 2005 and 721,000 head in 2006, according to Canadian Government statistics. Canadian packers do not have to bid against their American counterparts for cull animals, and the margins on slaughtering these animals remain attractive. Benchmark cow prices in Ontario averaged in the low US\$30s in early February, well below the utility cow price in Sioux Falls of \$52. Non-fed slaughter in Canada has remained high in early 2007.

U.S. cattle imports for 2007 are forecast at 2,200,000. This total is down 4 percent from 2006, reflecting weaker U.S. feeder cattle prices and a slightly smaller 12 Canadian herd. The 2007 forecast total does not include prospective imports of Canadian cattle over 30 months of age; these animals will be included only when the proposed rule is actually implemented. Total U.S. cattle exports were 49,000 head in 2006. Canada was the destination of the vast majority—about 37,000 head—of these animals. The 2007 export forecast is 60,000 head.