North Dakota
FARM REPORTER

Issue: 22-05 November 30, 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

Farm Labor
Cattle on Feed
NASS Monthly Ag Newsletter
Turkey Hatchery
Livestock Slaughter
Milk Production
Dairy Product Prices
Cold Storage

FARM LABOR

United States
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $9.61 per hour during the week of October 9-15, 2005, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned $9.14 per hour compared with $8.91 a year earlier.

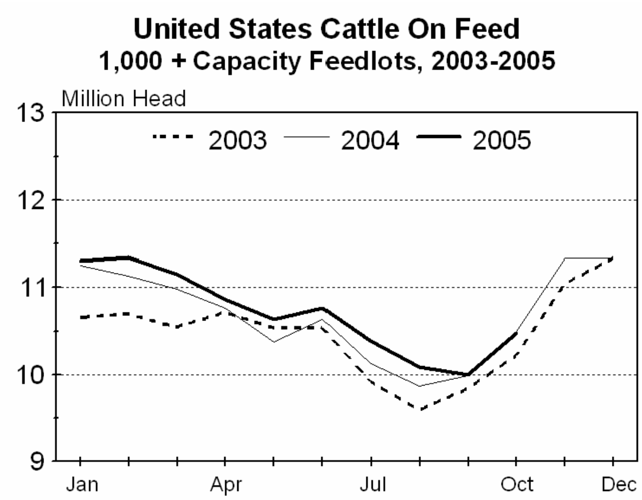
Northern Plains
Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.12 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 36 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $10.14, up 44 cents per hour from last October. Livestock workers earned $9.37 per hour compared with $9.00 a year earlier.

CATTLE ON FEED

United States
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head on November 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2004 and 4 percent above November 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.80 million, 3 percent above 2004 and 1 percent above 2003. Net placements were 2.74 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 880,000, 600-699 pounds were 790,000, 700-799 pounds were 600,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 525,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.74 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of October since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 58,000 during October, 12 percent below 2004 and 43 percent below 2003.



~ Not Copyright Protected - Compiled and Published by ~
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office ▪ P.O. Box 3166 ▪ Fargo, ND 58108-3166
701-239-5306 ▪ E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ▪ Internet: http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/

The following estimates, forecasts, and projections are mainly taken from recent publications of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the USDA.

Corn: The November forecast for 2005 corn production is 11.0 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 7 percent below last year. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 148.4 bushels per acre, up 2.3 bushels from last month but down 12.0 bushels from 2004. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record, behind last year.

The World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) projected 2005/06 ending stocks of corn are up 99 million bushels from last month as a result of the higher production forecast. Corn used to produce ethanol is forecast at 1.575 billion bushels, up 75 million bushels from last month. Export and feed and residual use forecasts are unchanged. A market year average price between $1.60 and $2.00 per bushel is expected, compared with $2.06 for the 2004 crop.

Soybeans: The 2005 soybean crop is forecast at 3.04 billion bushels, up 3 percent from October but 3 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest U.S. soybean crop on record, only behind last year's crop. Based on November 1 conditions, yields are expected to average a record high 42.7 bushels per acre, up 1.1 bushels from October and 0.5 bushel above last year.

WAOB projected ending stocks are up 90 million bushels from last month to 350 million bushels. Soybean exports are forecast at 1.08 billion bushels, down 40 million bushels from last month based on lower than expected sales and shipments. Soybean crush, at 1.72 billion bushels, is up 25 million bushels from last month due to larger available supplies and higher than expected soybean meal use in recent months. A market year average price is projected between $4.95 and $5.75 per bushel, down 5 cents from last month on both ends of the range, compared to the 2004 average price of $5.74.

Cattle: Mid-November prices for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged $91 per cwt, up $3 from mid-October. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were roughly $118 per cwt, up $2 from a month ago.

Hogs: For the first two weeks of November, hog slaughter was running 3.2 percent above a year ago. Cash prices at mid-November (Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct, 51-52 percent lean) averaged $45 per cwt, down $3 from the mid-October price. Fourth quarter prices are expected to average $44 per cwt.

Dairy: October milk production was up 4.1 percent from the previous year. Production per cow increased 3.3 percent, while the number of cows increased 0.7 percent from a year earlier. The cheddar cheese price (U.S. 40 pound blocks, wholesale) was down the first two weeks of November. Total cheese production reported for the month of September 2005 was 3.9 percent above the previous year. Butter production during this same time period was 7.2 percent above last year. Production of nonfat dry milk for human food was down 24 percent from September 2004.

Trade: November U.S. trade projections for rice, cotton, pork, broilers, and turkeys improved while 2005/2006 export prospects for soybeans declined, compared with last month. Wheat, corn, and beef were unchanged from October. November projections for the volume of exports for the 2005/2006 marketing year compared to 2004/2005 are: wheat down 6 percent; corn up 10 percent; rice up 8 percent; soybeans down 2 percent; soybean meal down 8 percent; soybean oil unchanged; and cotton up 12 percent. November projections for the volume of meat exports in calendar 2005 compared to 2004 are: beef up 2 percent; pork up 3 percent; broilers up 3 percent; and turkeys up 4 percent. The U.S. trade deficit for goods and services increased to $66.1 billion in September, from a revised $59.3 billion in August. The U.S. agricultural trade had a deficit of $149 million in September, compared with a surplus of $97 million in August.

World Weather and Crop Developments (November 6-13): In the United States, mild weather again prevailed nearly nationwide, with the exception of the Pacific Northwest and parts of New England. Temperatures averaged over 6 degrees Fahrenheit above normal over most of the Nation, including the central and southern Rocky Mountains, Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and most of the Corn Belt and Southeast. Mostly dry conditions in these areas encouraged final summer crop harvest. The cool weather in the Pacific Northwest continued to hold winter wheat emergence behind the normal pace. Meanwhile, in the Northeast, continued rainfall maintained excessive soil moisture levels in most areas. Persistent dryness in eastern Europe further reduced moisture for emerging winter grains. Temperatures in major winter wheat areas in Ukraine and the Southern Region in Russia fell to low enough levels to halt crop growth. Locally heavy showers in southern India favored emerging winter crops but caused flooding. Dry weather in western Australia aided winter wheat and barley harvesting, while widespread rain in eastern Australia hampered winter grain maturation and collection. Warm weather and light rainfall aided development of winter wheat on the North China Plain. Dry weather allowed coffee harvesting to fully resume in central Vietnam. Showers increased moisture for soybean development in key growing areas of the center-west in Brazil. Warmth and dryness reduced moisture for winter wheat in southern growing areas of Argentina.

TURKEY HATCHERY

United States

Turkey eggs in incubators on November 1, 2005, in the United States totaled 27.1 million, down 4 percent from November 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were 2 percent above the October 1, 2005 total of 26.5 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central down 4 percent, West North Central down 1 percent, North and South Atlantic up 1 percent, South Central down 31 percent, and West down 11 percent.

The 21.4 million poults placed during October 2005 in the United States were up 3 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were down 6 percent from September 2005. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 14 percent, West North Central up 7 percent, North and South Atlantic up 2 percent, South Central down 30 percent, and West down 2 percent.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

United States

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in October, up slightly from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in October 2004.

Beef production, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.68 million head, down 2 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,280 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.6 million pounds, 2 percent above October a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,400 head, down 10 percent from October 2004. The average live weight was 41 pounds above last year, at 371 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.12 million head, 2 percent above October 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 269 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 3 percent from October 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 228,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

January to October 2005 commercial red meat production was 37.8 billion pounds, up slightly from 2004. Accumulated beef production was virtually unchanged from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION

United States

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 13.4 billion pounds, up 4.1 percent from October 2004. September revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 4.7 percent from September 2004. The September revision represented a decrease of 27 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,636 pounds for October, 53 pounds above October 2004. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.16 million head, 58,000 head more than October 2004, and 4,000 head more than September 2005.

DAIRY PRODUCT PRICES

United States

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged $1.37 per pound for the week ending November 19. The price per pound decreased 3.3 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged $1.35 per pound, down 3.3 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged $1.39 per pound for the week ending November 19. The U.S. price per pound decreased 7.0 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged 98.3 cents per pound for the week ending November 19. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.5 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 31.9 cents per pound for the week ending November 19. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.9 cents from the previous week.

COLD STORAGE

United States
Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2005 were greater than year earlier levels for frozen fruit and pork.

Butter stocks were down 19 percent from last month, and down 6 percent from a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were up 1 percent from last month and up 2 percent from last year. Frozen pork supplies were up 3 percent from last month and up 5 percent from the previous year. Stocks of pork bellies were up 10 percent from last month, but down 3 percent from last year.

Total frozen poultry supplies on October 31, 2005 were down 1 percent from the previous month and down 4 percent from a year ago. Total stocks of chicken were up 5 percent from the previous month, but down 1 percent from last year. Total pounds of turkey in freezers were down 11 percent from last month and down 10 percent from October 31, 2004.

USDA, NASS, North Dakota Field Office
PO BOX 3166
FARGO ND 58108-3166