



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

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Released on October 5, 2009

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Washington's 2008 Agricultural Value Dips Slightly

The value of Washington's 2008 agricultural production reached \$7.88 billion (including government payments), 5 percent below the 2007 revised figure of \$8.32 billion.

Record Highs: Record high values of production were set for two of the top five commodities. The value of production for **potatoes** was \$693 million compared with the previous high of \$675 million set last year. The value of the 2008 **hay** crop reached \$588 million compared with \$498 million in 2007.

Among other crops breaking records, the value of the State's hop crop jumped to \$253 million compared with the previous record high of \$137 million set in 2007. Red raspberry growers contributed \$92 million to the State's agricultural economy, almost twice the previous record of \$48 million set in 1999. Strawberries, wrinkled seed peas, all sweet corn, corn for silage, mint oil, eggs, dry edible beans, and alfalfa and Kentucky bluegrass seed crops also set new record high values of production in 2008.

"It is encouraging that Washington's overall value of production did not experience the dramatic losses experienced in other sectors of the turbulent global economy," said Dan Newhouse, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. "The strength of our agriculture remains in the high quality and diversity of commodities growers and livestock producers bring to market."

Top Five: Apples continued to top the list of agricultural commodities in the State with a value of \$1.28 billion, despite a drop of 28 percent from 2007. Apples represented 17 percent of the total agricultural value, compared with 22 percent in 2007. Milk ranked second with a value of \$1.00 billion, 6 percent below 2007. Despite a 22 percent decrease from the previous year, the value of wheat, at \$745 million, kept its third place ranking. In fourth place were potatoes, at \$693 million, which posted a 3 percent increase from 2007. Rounding out the top five were cattle and calves at \$588 million. These five commodities had a combined value of \$4.31 billion, or 56 percent of the 2008 value for all commodities (excluding government payments). The same five commodities in 2007 had a combined value of \$4.97 billion, or 61 percent of the total value. In 2006 comparable figures were \$3.67 billion and 56 percent.

Commodity Groups: The value of field crops, at \$2.80 billion, was less than 1 percent below last year. Fruit and nut crops, at \$1.97 billion, dropped 21 percent from 2007. In third place was livestock, at \$1.86 billion, a decline of 7 percent from 2007. The value of specialty products, at \$423 million for 2008, has remained fairly stable for the last several years. Rounding out the groups were commercial vegetables, at \$475 million, and berry crops at \$153 million.

Non-storage onions had the highest value per harvested acre for 2008 with a value of \$10,764 per acre. Next in line were blueberries with a value of \$10,576 and third were red raspberries at \$9,593.

Top Forty Agricultural Commodities, Washington, 2006-2008

Commodity	Rank 2008	Value of Production			Change 2008 vs 2007
		2006	2007	2008	
		\$1,000		Percent	
Apples	1	1,403,282	1,780,420	1,283,106	-27.9
Milk 4/	2	688,464	1,061,952	1,002,496	-5.6
Wheat	3	617,865	949,132	745,163	-21.5
Potatoes	4	561,875	675,360	692,850	2.6
Hay, All	5	400,609	498,224	588,334	18.1
Cattle & Calves	6	583,955	574,073	496,127	-13.6
Nursery & Greenhouse Products 1/	7	303,723	317,678	321,006	1.0
Cherries, All	8	273,424	327,118	297,061	-9.2
Hops	9	87,740	137,020	252,937	84.6
Grapes, All	10	146,948	175,496	201,215	14.7
Pears, All	11	159,231	178,224	171,209	-3.9
Sweet Corn, All	12	79,333	101,214	141,208	39.5
Onions, All	13	239,568	56,089	140,332	150.2
Eggs	14	56,661	105,372	136,448	29.5
Corn for Silage	15	60,372	81,608	94,185	15.4
Aquaculture(incl. trout eggs & fish) 5/	16	84,007	107,798	92,320	-14.4
Red Raspberries	17	20,530	27,886	92,093	230.2
Corn for Grain	18	58,590	108,675	75,645	-30.4
Broilers 3/	19	77,668	63,925	70,387	10.1
Mint Oil	20	50,789	50,839	56,495	11.1
Christmas Trees	21	51,000	51,000	51,000	0.0
Barley	22	34,474	70,866	43,762	-38.2
Blueberries	23	30,140	49,656	43,360	-12.7
Kentucky Bluegrass Seed	24	23,513	31,928	42,550	33.3
Dry Edible Beans	25	23,619	31,416	35,931	14.4
Green Peas for Processing	26	13,873	20,993	30,831	46.9
Farm Forest Products 2/	27	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.0
Haylage	28	24,900	31,265	29,385	-6.0
Alfalfa Seed	29	13,720	17,400	26,200	50.6
Lentils	30	12,616	25,165	23,535	-6.5
Mushrooms	31	7/	7/	7/	
Asparagus	32	18,911	17,802	18,310	2.9
Other Grass Seeds	33	10,967	27,280	18,000	-34.0
Dry Edible Peas	34	8,815	18,183	17,640	-3.0
Carrots for Processing	35	7,616	9,344	12,672	35.6
Wrinkled Seed Peas	36	7,140	6,496	12,600	94.0
Strawberries	37	7,728	8,765	10,092	15.1
Peaches	38	12,008	8,873	8,361	-5.8
Apricots	39	6,180	7,137	6,614	-7.3
Cranberries	40	7/	7/	7/	
Total Top 40 Value of Production		6,314,998	7,872,693	7,438,981	-5.5
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION		6,604,027	8,136,469	7,683,569	-5.6

1/ Includes floriculture. 2/ Value of forest products sold from operations meeting the USDA farm definition. 3/ Washington Fryer Commission total weight multiplied by USDA US average bird liveweight price per pound. 4/ Value at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption and milk fed to calves. 5/ Excludes value of distributed fish. 7/ Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Value of Production and Government Payments, 1999-2008

Yr	Field Crops	Fruits and Nuts	Commercial Veg	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products 1/	Livestock and Products	Total Value of Prod.	Govt. Paymts.	Total Value 2/
1,000 Dollars										
1999	1,617,658	1,233,033	299,306	66,252	3,216,249	592,518	1,553,370	5,362,137	270,594	5,632,731
2000	1,697,526	1,164,734	329,667	46,739	3,238,666	387,994	1,519,056	5,145,716	352,793	5,498,509
2001	1,750,181	1,315,186	310,235	61,534	3,437,136	389,386	1,604,115	5,430,637	299,021	5,729,658
2002	1,798,986	1,450,719	361,775	62,378	3,673,858	400,334	1,396,461	5,470,653	215,912	5,686,565
2003	1,732,339	1,467,637	322,026	66,164	3,588,166	408,751	1,449,091	5,446,008	265,398	5,711,406
2004	1,814,623	1,265,769	264,957	77,620	3,422,969	424,951	1,678,175	5,526,095	196,974	5,723,069
2005	1,797,042	1,671,177	339,939	75,976	3,831,564	418,912	1,749,286	6,052,332	239,909	6,239,671
2006	2,064,664	2,012,925	495,204	68,104	4,640,897	402,676	1,560,454	6,604,027	196,466	6,800,493
2007	2,808,710	2,487,638	328,123	97,159	5,721,630	420,962	1,993,877	8,136,469	185,104	8,321,573
2008	2,796,278	1,974,040	475,254	153,037	5,398,609	423,475	1,861,485	7,683,569	200,943	7,884,512

- 1/ Includes forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, nursery and other horticultural products, and agari and other (shitake, oyster, etc.) mushrooms.
- 2/ Includes government payments.



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