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### Mid-December Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of December showed increases for feed barley, dry beans, milk, beef cattle, cows, and calves. Prices decreased for alfalfa hay, barley, malting barley, potatoes, wheat, and steers and heifers.

For the U.S., the December All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 98 based on 1990-92= 100, down 2 points from November. Price decreases from November for cattle, hogs, broilers, and soybeans more than offset price increases of corn, milk, tomatoes, and eggs.

### Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Dec. 1997-Dec. 1998

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		December 1997	November 1998	December 1998 <sup>1/</sup>	December 1997	November 1998	December 1998	
							Price <sup>1/</sup>	% Parity
<b>CROPS:</b>								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	106.00	87.00	80.00	102.00	85.00	81.40	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.84	2.41	2.24	2.43	2.02	1.96	34
Feed	Bu.	2.16	1.67	1.75	2.03	1.47	1.51	--
Malting	Bu.	3.17	2.56	2.50	2.75	2.44	2.33	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	20.30	17.80	18.00	20.30	20.80	21.30	43
Potatoes <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	4.50	4.20	4.00	5.29	4.81	5.08	40
Fresh <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	4.10	3.70	--	5.88	5.31	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.80	4.40	--	4.96	4.50	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.10	2.63	2.56	3.44	2.97	2.90	30
<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; PRODUCTS:</b>								
Beef Cattle <sup>4/</sup>	Cwt.	57.40	50.20	51.90	62.90	58.10	55.80	37
Cows <sup>5/</sup>	Cwt.	29.60	27.70	28.70	33.00	29.70	29.70	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	68.20	61.30	60.90	66.80	62.30	59.40	--
Calves	Cwt.	82.00	74.00	75.00	83.30	77.50	79.50	42
Lambs	Cwt.	83.00	59.30	--	83.90	62.20	--	--
Milk, All <sup>6/</sup>	Cwt.	13.40	17.90	18.10	14.80	17.90	7/ 18.10	8/ 62
Fluid Grade <sup>9/</sup>	Cwt.	13.40	17.90	--	14.80	17.90	7/ 18.20	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	13.44	18.20	--	13.60	17.30	7/ 17.30	--

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 4/ "Cows" and "steers & heifers" combined. 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 7/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.80, fluid milk 3.80, mfg. grade 3.94. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Including milk diverted to manufacturing.

### United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	November 1997	December 1997	November 1998		December 1998 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	107	105	100	100	98
Prices Paid	117	117	114	114	114
Ratio <sup>1/</sup>	91	90	88	88	86

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

## Winter Wheat Seedings Down 7 Percent

Idaho's winter wheat seedings for the 1999 crop are estimated at 760,000 acres. This is a decrease of 7 percent from the 820,000 acres seeded for the 1998 crop year. This is the least winter wheat planted in Idaho since 1962.

million acres. This is down 7 percent from last year and is the lowest level since 1972. United States hard red winter wheat totaled 30.9 million acres, soft red winter wheat totaled 9.0 million acres, and white winter wheat totaled 3.5 million acres.

Nationally, winter wheat seedings for 1999 are estimated at 43.4

## December 1 Grain Stocks

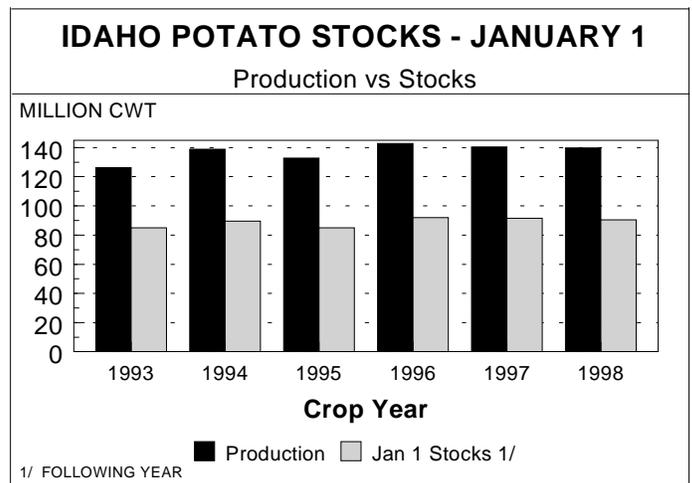
Idaho's December 1, 1998 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 58.6 million bushels, down 15 percent from last year's 68.6 million bushels. On-farm storage was estimated at 27.0 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year's 32.0 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 31.6 million bushels, down 14 percent from December 1, 1997. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 31.0 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago. On-farm storage was estimated at 17.0 million bushels, unchanged from a year ago. Off-farm storage was estimated at 14.0 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year's 13.1 million bushels.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions December 1, 1998, was estimated at 1.89 billion bushels, up 17 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 680.2 million bushels, up 13 percent from December 1, 1997. Off-farm stocks of 1.21 billion bushels are up 19 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 262.4 million bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 140.9 million bushels, up 5 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks accounted for 121.5 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year.

## Potato Stocks Down Slightly

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 90,500,000 cwt., 1,000,000 cwt. less than on hand January 1, 1998. Disappearance, at 49,150,000 cwt., is up from last year's 48,814,000 cwt. but below 1996's 50,800,000 cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 5,800,000 cwt., below last year's 6,900,000 cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 84,700,000 cwt., was 100,000 cwt. above the amount stored on January 1, 1998.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1999 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 5.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 90.5 million cwt. will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.3 percent or 4.8 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 9.1 percent or approximately 8.2 million cwt..



## Fall Potatoes: Production & Stocks 1993-98 Idaho & 15 Fall States

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DECEMBER 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
			JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 1	APRIL 1	MAY 1
1,000 Cwt.							
IDAHO							
1993	126,192	94,500	85,000	75,500	65,000	52,000	35,000
1994	138,801	100,500	89,500	78,000	68,000	55,000	39,500
1995	132,657	96,000	85,000	73,500	62,500	49,500	36,000
1996	142,800	102,000	92,000	82,000	70,000	56,000	41,000
1997	140,314	102,000	91,500	81,000	69,500	56,000	41,500
1998	139,650	101,000	90,500				
15 STATES							
1993	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,585	103,210
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840
1998	424,897	282,300	246,220				

## Idaho Dry Bean Production Down 2 Percent

Idaho's 1998 dry edible bean production totaled 2.11 million cwt., a decrease of 2 percent from last year. Last year's production was 2.16 million cwt. Planted acreage, at 105,000, is 5,000 acres above 1997. Yields averaged 2,050 pounds per acre, down from last year's record 2,200 pounds per acre.

Pinto production continues to account for the largest portion of the state's crop with 43 percent of Idaho's production. Pink production is next with 18 percent of the total. Small Red production accounts for 13 percent of the total production, while Great Northerns make up nearly 8 percent of the crop. Garbanzo beans account for more than 6 percent of the total, and Black Turtle bean production is estimated at 5 percent of the crop.

Pea (Navy), Small White, Light Red Kidneys, Dark Red Kidneys, Cranberries and Other varieties made up the remaining amount of the total production.

Nationally, production of dry edible beans is estimated at 30.8 million cwt. for 1998. This production total is 5 percent above 1997 and 10 percent more than 1996.

Area for harvest is estimated at 1.91 million acres, up 9 percent from 1997. The average yield, at 1,611 pounds per acre, is down 59 pounds from 1997, but 17 pounds above 1996.

### All Dry Beans Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production – Selected States and U. S., 1997 and 1998 <sup>1/</sup>

State	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	
California	135.0	110.0	132.0	105.0	2,270	1,950	3,000	2,048
Colorado	135.0	170.0	120.0	155.0	1,900	1,850	2,280	2,868
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>98.0</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>2,112</b>
Michigan	315.0	300.0	305.0	295.0	1,620	1,500	4,941	4,425
Minnesota	175.0	190.0	165.0	175.0	1,550	1,450	2,558	2,538
Nebraska	190.0	195.0	180.0	188.0	2,060	1,950	3,708	3,666
North Dakota	620.0	750.0	565.0	710.0	1,260	1,380	7,119	9,798
Oregon	9.0	8.7	8.9	8.6	2,040	1,770	182	152
Washington	38.0	40.0	38.0	40.0	2,240	2,230	850	890
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>1,869.8</b>	<b>2,010.1</b>	<b>1,758.8</b>	<b>1,913.9</b>	<b>1,670</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>29,370</b>	<b>30,828</b>

1/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

## U.S. Dairy Products November 1998 Highlights

**Butter** production was 87.3 million pounds in November, 2.1 percent below November 1997 but 4.9 percent above October 1998.

**American Type Cheese** production totaled 268 million pounds, 7.7 percent above November 1997 and 5.1 percent above October 1998.

**Total Cheese** output (excluding cottage cheese) was 632 million pounds, 6.4 percent above November 1997 and 1.8 percent above October 1998.

**Cream Cottage Cheese** production was 28.2 million pounds, 2.6 percent above November 1997 but 6.1 percent below October 1998.

**Lowfat Cottage Cheese** production was 27.8 million pounds, 4.3 percent above November 1997 but 5.7 percent below October 1998.

**Frozen Desserts:** (Comparisons with November 1997)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) - 51.9 million gallons, down 4.1 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) - 22.1 million gallons, down 5.8 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) - 2.27 million gallons, up 3.5 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 3.05 million gallons, up 3.2 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 6.10 million gallons, up 18.4 percent.

**Dry Milk Products:** (Comparisons with November 1997)

Nonfat Dry Milk

for Human Food - 69.4 million pounds, down 7.7 percent.

Dry Whole Milk - 12.1 million pounds, up 44.3 percent.

Dry Buttermilk - 3.71 million pounds, up 7.5 percent.

## U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1998 was 62.2 million head. This was 2 percent above December 1997, but 2 percent below September 1, 1998. Breeding inventory, at 6.67 million head, was down 4 percent from December 1, 1997 and down 3 percent from September 1, 1998. Market hog inventory, at 55.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below last quarter.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the December 1998-February 1999 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998 but 8 percent above 1997. Intended farrowings for March-May 1999, at 2.88 million sows, are 7 percent below the same period last year and 1 percent below 1997..

### *Hog And Pig Numbers By Class December 1, 1997-98, Selected States*

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	1997	1998		1997	1998		1997	1998	
		Number	As % Of 1997		Number	As % Of 1997		Number	As % Of 1997
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Illinois	550	530	96	4,150	4,320	104	4,700	4,850	103
Indiana	460	450	98	3,490	3,600	103	3,950	4,050	103
Iowa	1,360	1,260	93	13,240	14,040	106	14,600	15,300	105
Kansas	200	170	85	1,330	1,420	107	1,530	1,590	104
Minnesota	650	620	95	5,050	5,080	101	5,700	5,700	100
Missouri	440	400	91	3,110	2,900	93	3,550	3,300	93
Nebraska	440	420	96	3,060	2,980	97	3,500	3,400	97
N. Carolina	1,000	1,000	100	8,600	8,700	101	9,600	9,700	101
Ohio	210	200	95	1,490	1,500	101	1,700	1,700	100
Oklahoma	240	280	117	1,410	1,640	116	1,650	1,920	116
<b>TOTAL 10 STATES</b>	<b>5,550</b>	<b>5,330</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>44,930</b>	<b>46,180</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>50,480</b>	<b>51,510</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>OTHER STATES</b>									
Idaho	4	4	100	26	23	89	30	27	90
Montana	20	19	95	160	171	107	180	190	106
Oregon	5	5	100	30	25	83	35	30	86
Utah	55	60	109	240	320	133	295	380	129
Washington	6	5	83	33	32	97	39	37	95
Wyoming	19	20	105	76	120	158	95	140	147
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>6,672</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>54,200</b>	<b>55,483</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>61,158</b>	<b>62,156</b>	<b>102</b>