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Mid-January Prices Received by Farmers

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

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 98 based on 1990-92= 100, down 1 point from December. Price increases from December for hogs, tomatoes, cattle, and oranges more than offset price decreases for turkeys, milk, lettuce, and broilers.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Jan. 1998-Jan. 1999

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		January 1998	December 1998	January 1999 ^{1/}	January 1998	December 1998	January 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	107.00	80.00	81.00	102.00	81.40	81.40	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.78	2.40	2.33	2.42	2.00	1.99	34
Feed	Bu.	2.37	1.72	1.70	2.09	1.54	1.56	--
Malting	Bu.	3.13	2.68	2.60	2.66	2.33	2.32	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	21.70	17.90	17.40	21.10	20.50	19.50	39
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.35	4.00	4.05	5.55	5.20	5.24	40
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.00	3.30	--	5.91	5.50	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.80	4.40	--	5.10	4.97	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.10	2.53	2.56	3.32	2.87	2.86	30
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	57.70	52.10	54.20	62.50	56.80	59.00	40
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	31.80	29.60	32.30	34.50	30.80	33.10	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	67.30	60.90	62.30	66.10	60.30	62.40	--
Calves	Cwt.	81.00	75.00	78.00	86.60	80.20	81.90	43
Lambs	Cwt.	74.20	60.80	--	78.40	64.50	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	13.40	17.80	17.40	14.70	18.00	7/ 17.70	8/ 58
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	13.40	17.80	--	14.70	18.00	7/ 17.80	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	13.30	18.60	--	13.50	17.40	7/ 16.10	--

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 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, mfg. grade 3.90. 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	December 1997	January 1998	December 1998		January 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	105	103	98	99	98
Prices Paid	117	117	114	113	114
Ratio ^{1/}	90	88	86	88	86

1/Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

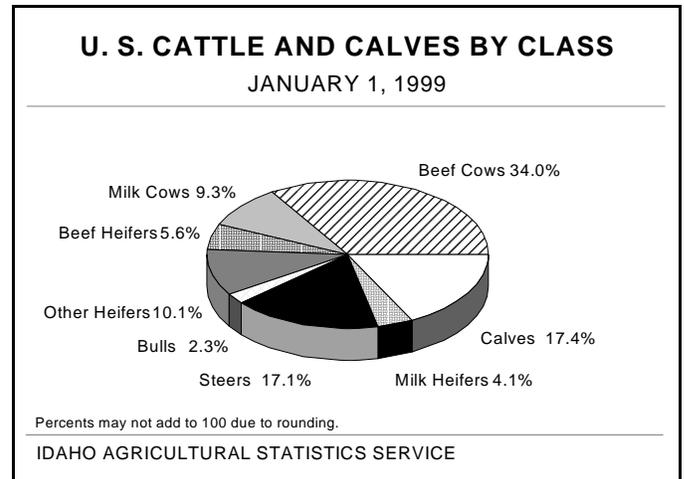
Idaho and U.S. Cattle Inventory

Idaho cattle and calf inventory totaled 1.90 million head as of January 1, 1999. This was up 2 percent from the 1.86 million head in the State on January 1, 1998. There were 498,000 beef cows, down 4 percent and 302,000 milk cows, up 8 percent, on hand at the beginning of the year. The number of beef replacement heifers, at 95,000, was unchanged and heifers for milk cow replacement, at 135,000 head, were unchanged. Statewide, there were 365,000 steers over 500 pounds, 40,000 bulls over 500 pounds and 255,000 calves under 500 pounds on January 1. The 1998 calf crop totaled 770,000 head, 10,000 more than the calf crop of 1997.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1999, totaled 98.5 million head, 1 percent below the 99.7 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 101.7 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.6 million, were 1 percent below the 43.1 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 43.8 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.14 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago. All heifers, 500 pounds and over, at

19.6 million, were down 1 percent from a year ago and down 3 percent compared to two years ago. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.55 million head, were down 4 percent and milk replacement heifers, at 4.06 million head, were up 2 percent. Steers weighing over 500 pounds totaled 16.8 million, down 2 percent from a year ago. The 1998 calf crop, estimated at 38.6 million head, was down 1 percent from the 1997 calf crop and down 3 percent from 1996.



Cattle Inventory, January 1, 1998 - 1999

State	All Cattle & Calves			All Cows That Have Calved			Calf Crop			Operations With	
	1998	1999	1999 As % of 1998	1998	1999	1999 As % of 1998	1997	1998	1998 As % of 1997	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	
Arizona	820	810	99	350	350	100	285	285	100	3,300	3,200
California	4,900	5,000	102	2,220	2,240	101	1,880	1,900	101	24,000	23,000
Colorado	3,250	3,150	97	940	910	97	870	850	98	14,700	15,500
IDAHO	1,860	1,900	102	800	800	100	760	770	101	12,000	12,000
Montana	2,600	2,600	100	1,560	1,550	99	1,510	1,500	99	13,600	14,000
Nevada	510	510	100	265	260	98	220	220	100	1,700	1,700
New	1,600	1,620	101	780	790	101	600	620	103	8,600	8,700
Oregon	1,520	1,530	101	770	750	97	710	690	97	18,100	17,200
Texas	14,500	14,000	97	5,880	5,870	100	5,150	5,250	102	149,000	147,000
Utah	910	890	98	445	430	97	390	380	97	7,800	8,000
Washington	1,210	1,150	95	550	520	95	500	470	94	20,000	17,000
Wyoming	1,660	1,560	94	880	830	94	870	830	95	6,300	6,400
U.S.	99,744.0	98,521.5	99	43,084.0	42,615.	99	38,960.9	38,582.1	99	1,148,050	1,115,65

Idaho Milk Production Up 7 Percent

Idaho milk production during January 1999 totaled 495 million pounds, up 7 percent from the same month last year but down 1 percent from December 1998. Average milk production per cow in January 1999 was 1,640 pounds, unchanged from January 1998 and 20 pounds below December 1998. The average number of milk cows in January was 302,000 head, 19,000 more than in January 1998 and 1,000 more than in December 1998.

Nationally, January milk production in the 20 major States totaled 11.7 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from production in these same States in January 1998. December revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds, was up 3.7 percent from December 1997. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,523 pounds for January, 57 pounds above January 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 19,000 head less than January 1998 but 1,000 head more than December 1998.

Milk Production, Average Number of Cows, Selected States, January 1998-1999

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1999 As Percent of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		
Arizona	130	132	1,800	1,910	234	252	108
California	1,402	1,442	1,670	1,690	2,341	2,437	104
Florida	160	158	1,375	1,380	220	218	99
IDAHO	283	302	1,640	1,640	464	495	107
Illinois	130	125	1,400	1,430	182	179	98
Indiana	135	137	1,370	1,380	185	189	102
Iowa	225	230	1,440	1,515	324	348	107
Kentucky	145	135	1,035	1,075	150	145	97
Michigan	298	301	1,480	1,545	441	465	105
Minnesota	555	545	1,420	1,510	788	823	104
Missouri	175	165	1,155	1,240	202	205	101
New Mexico	216	218	1,510	1,725	326	376	115
New York	700	702	1,380	1,440	966	1,011	105
Ohio	265	260	1,430	1,440	379	374	99
Pennsylvania	625	617	1,495	1,475	934	910	97
Texas	368	340	1,340	1,470	493	500	101
Vermont	163	162	1,385	1,445	226	234	104
Virginia	125	122	1,295	1,285	162	157	97
Washington	250	248	1,745	1,860	436	461	106
Wisconsin	1,378	1,368	1,360	1,435	1,874	1,963	105
20 STATE TOTAL	7,728	7,709	1,466	1,523	11,327	11,742	104

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Idaho Cattle on Feed Unchanged

Cattle on feed for the slaughter market in Idaho from feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head on February 1, 1999 totaled 270,000 head, the same as the February 1, 1998 inventory. The inventory was down 5 percent from the number on hand as of January 1, 1999.

Placements of cattle into State feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during January totaled 50,000 head, up 2,000 head from January 1998 placements. Marketings during January totaled 55,000 head, down 1,000 head from January 1998 marketings. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States from feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.50 million head on February 1, 1999, down 3 percent from February 1, 1998. Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.92 million, 11 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.85 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 379,000, 600-699 pounds were 623,000, 700-799 pounds were 599,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 322,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 2.02 million, 2 percent above 1998 and slightly above 1997. Other disappearance totaled 70,000 during January, 29 percent below 1998.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots^{1/}

State	February 1, 1998	January 1, 1999	February 1, 1999		
			Number	As % of 1998	As % of Prev. Mo.
		<i>---1,000 Head---</i>		<i>---Percent---</i>	
Arizona	220	206	202	92	98
California	395	400	385	97	96
Colorado	1,100	1,140	1,140	104	100
Idaho	270	285	270	100	95
Iowa	365	335	350	96	104
Kansas	2,190	2,110	2,020	92	96
Nebraska	2,150	2,110	2,150	100	102
New Mexico	119	118	113	95	96
Oklahoma	410	410	385	94	94
South Dakota	176	184	184	105	100
Texas	2,760	2,720	2,660	96	98
Washington	*179	*199	195	109	98
Other States	460	*450	445	97	99
United States	*10,794	*10,667	10,499	97	98

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

* Revised.

Potato Stocks

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on February 1 totaled 79,000,000 cwt., 2,000,000 cwt. less than on hand February 1, 1998. Disappearance, at 60,650,000 cwt., is up from last year's 59,314,000 cwt. but below 1996's 60,800,000 cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 5,200,000 cwt., below last year's 6,600,000 cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 73,800,000 cwt., was 600,000 cwt. below the amount stored on February 1, 1998.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1999 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 5.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 79.0 million cwt. will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.8 percent or 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 10.0 percent or approximately 7.9 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	79,000			
15 STATES TOTAL ^{1/}							
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	211,100			

U.S. Dairy Products December 1998 Highlights

Butter production was 102 million pounds in December, 4.1 percent below December 1997 but 16.6 percent above November 1998.

American Type Cheese production totaled 298 million pounds, 6.8 percent above December 1997 and 10.4 percent above November 1998.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 668 million pounds, 6.3 percent above December 1997 and 5.2 percent above November 1998.

Cream Cottage Cheese production was 28.8 million pounds, 4.5 percent above December 1997 and 2.0 percent above November 1998.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 27.0 million pounds, 5.5 percent above December 1997 but 2.7 percent below November 1998.

Dry milk products: (comparisons with December 1997)

Nonfat dry milk for human food --- 105 million pounds, up 2.6 percent.

Dry whole milk --- 9.58 million pounds, down 6.7 percent.

Dry buttermilk --- 4.65 million pounds, up 3.8 percent.