

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Prices Received
- Sheep Inventory
- Frozen Potato Stocks
- Sheep Death & Theft Loss
- Oilseed Production
- Dairy Products

Mid-February Prices Received by Farmers

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

For the U.S., the February All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 96, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from January. Price decreases from January for milk, soybeans, tomatoes, and corn more than offset price increases for cattle, hogs, oranges, and potatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level.

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

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		February 1998	January 1999	February 1999 ^{1/}	February 1998	January 1999	February 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	103.00	81.00	72.00	105.00	81.40	82.00	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.91	2.02	2.17	2.42	1.84	1.94	33
Feed	Bu.	2.42	1.62	1.65	2.02	1.55	1.53	--
Malting	Bu.	3.18	2.53	2.60	2.86	2.20	2.31	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	22.50	17.40	16.70	21.20	19.80	19.10	38
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.40	4.10	4.10	5.94	5.32	5.75	44
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.00	3.60	--	6.81	5.68	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.80	4.50	--	5.25	5.03	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.95	2.48	2.55	3.27	2.80	2.72	28
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	58.10	55.50	57.40	60.40	59.00	60.20	40
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	34.00	33.30	34.10	36.00	33.40	34.60	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	64.90	63.70	64.00	63.30	62.20	63.20	--
Calves	Cwt.	82.00	78.00	80.00	88.70	83.20	87.30	45
Lambs	Cwt.	63.00	70.00	--	75.00	68.20	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	13.80	14.40	11.00	14.70	17.40	^{7/} 16.00	^{8/} 53
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	13.80	14.40	--	14.80	17.50	^{7/} 16.10	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	13.50	15.10	--	13.50	15.30	^{7/} 13.30	--

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 3.76, fluid milk 3.75, mfg. grade 3.87. 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	January 1998	February 1998	January 1999		February 1999
			Preliminary	Revised	Preliminary
Prices Received	103	101	98	97	96
Prices Paid	117	117	114	115	115
Ratio ^{1/}	88	86	86	84	83

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

Idaho Sheep Inventory Down 7 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 1999, totaled 265,000 head, down 7 percent from last year. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 1999, totaled 231,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 185,000 head, down 5 percent from January 1, 1998. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1999, totaled 34,000. The 1998 lamb crop of 240,000 head was down 2 percent from 1997.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 1999, totaled 7.24 million head, down 8 percent from 1998 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has slowly declined since 1942 when all sheep and lambs reached it's peak of 56.2 million head. Total breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.31 million head on January 1, 1999,

down 5 percent from 1998's 5.61 million head. Ewes one year and older, at 4.34 million head, were 5 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 1999 totaled 1.92 million head, down 13 percent from January 1, 1998. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 27 percent 85 - 105, 26 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The 1998 lamb crop of 5.01 million head was down 6 percent from 1997. This compares with the previous record low of 5.36 million head set a year ago. The lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on hand January 1, 1998, compared with 109 in 1997. The number of operations with sheep during 1998 totaled 68,810, down 5 percent from 1997 and 10 percent from 1996.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Inventory by Class, January 1, 1998-1999

State	Total Sheep		Market Sheep and Lambs		Breeding Sheep and Lambs						Lamb Crop 1/	
					Total		Ewes 1+		Replacement Lambs			
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1997	1998
<i>1,000 Head</i>												
Arizona	140.0	140.0	67.0	72.0	73.0	68.0	63.0	58.0	8.0	7.0	48.0	47.0
California	800.0	810.0	410.0	420.0	390.0	390.0	345.0	330.0	35.0	45.0	320.0	310.0
Colorado	575.0	440.0	335.0	220.0	240.0	220.0	200.0	185.0	33.0	29.0	225.0	220.0
IDAHO	285.0	265.0	51.0	34.0	234.0	231.0	194.0	185.0	35.0	41.0	245.0	240.0
Montana	415.0	380.0	30.0	35.0	385.0	345.0	315.0	270.0	60.0	66.0	380.0	355.0
Nevada	88.0	85.0	11.0	10.0	77.0	75.0	56.0	53.0	19.0	20.0	56.0	57.0
New Mexico	290.0	275.0	55.0	50.0	235.0	225.0	190.0	180.0	35.0	35.0	170.0	165.0
Oregon	285.0	215.0	100.0	65.0	185.0	150.0	150.0	120.0	28.0	24.0	195.0	163.0
Texas	1,530.0	1,350.0	410.0	300.0	1,120.0	1,050.0	880.0	880.0	200.0	130.0	910.0	800.0
Utah	420.0	400.0	40.0	40.0	380.0	360.0	320.0	305.0	50.0	45.0	370.0	350.0
Washington	53.0	50.0	8.0	6.0	45.0	44.0	35.0	35.0	8.0	7.0	57.0	56.0
Wyoming	710.0	660.0	180.0	160.0	530.0	500.0	430.0	405.0	86.0	82.0	460.0	440.0
U.S.	7,825.1	7,237.5	2,213.9	1,923.4	5,611.2	5,314.1	4,569.5	4,338.2	838.9	774.3	5,356.3	5,013.3

1/Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the native states and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

United States Frozen Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent

Frozen stocks of french fries in the United States on January 31, 1999, totaled 961.6 million pounds, up 7 percent from December 31, 1998, and up 1 percent from January 31, 1998. Other frozen potatoes, at 259.6 million pounds, increased 2 percent from December 31, 1998 stocks and increased 30 percent from January 31, 1998.

United States stocks of butter on January 31, 1999, totaled 58.4 million pounds, up 126 percent from the end of the previous month and up 71 percent from January 31, 1998. Of this 58.4 million pounds, the government owned 247,000 pounds. Stocks of total American cheese totaled 411.3 million pounds, up 1 percent from December 31, 1998 and up 1 percent from January 31, 1998. The government owned 10,000 pounds of the American cheese stocks.

COMMODITY	Jan 31, 1998	Dec 31, 1998	Jan 31, 1999	1999
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>
POTATOES:				
French Fries	948,225	897,256	961,590	101
Other Frozen	198,990	254,038	259,592	130
TOTAL	1,147,215	1,151,294	1,221,182	106
DAIRY PRODUCTS:				
Butter	34,166	25,910	58,430	171
(Gov't Owned)	160	4	247	154
American Cheese	406,958	407,692	411,320	101
(Gov't Owned)	103	120	10	10

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$4.26 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 40,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$4.26 million, in 1998. This compares with losses totaling 43,000 head with a value of \$4.73 million in 1997.

Predator losses at 36.3 percent, accounted for the largest share of losses. Coyotes did the most damage, at 11,200 head of sheep and lambs, and continued to be the number one cause of death in both lambs and mature sheep. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$1.19 million. Cougars claimed 1,200 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$128,000; bears were responsible for the deaths of 1,100 head, valued at \$117,000; dogs caused 500

deaths, valued at \$53,000; and fox killed 200 head, valued at \$21,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 300 head of sheep and lambs.

After coyote losses, the next leading cause of death in sheep and lambs was disease, at 6,500 head or 16.3 percent of all losses. Weather killed 5,100 head; lambing complications claimed 4,400; 1,500 were lost to poisoning; 1,400 died of old age; and 300 were lost to theft. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 2,800 sheep and lamb deaths during 1998.

All Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho, 1996-98^{1/}

Cause of Loss	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Value ^{3/ 4/ 5/}		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>								
Coyote	10,700	10,800	11,200	23.8	25.1	28.0	1,097	1,188	1,193
Dog	1,800	600	500	4.0	1.4	1.3	185	66	53
Bear	1,500	1,100	1,100	3.3	2.6	2.8	154	121	117
Cougar	700	1,400	1,200	1.6	3.3	3.0	72	154	128
Fox	700	400	200	1.6	0.9	0.5	72	44	21
Other Animals ^{6/ 7/ 8/}	200	1,000	100	0.4	2.3	0.3	21	110	11
Unknown Predators	200	300	200	0.4	0.7	0.5	21	33	21
Total Predators	15,800	15,600	14,500	35.1	36.3	36.3	1,622	1,716	1,544
Weather Conditions	4,700	5,400	5,100	10.4	12.6	12.8	482	594	543
Disease	7,400	7,100	6,500	16.4	16.5	16.3	759	781	692
Poison	1,300	1,900	1,500	2.9	4.4	3.8	133	209	160
Lambing Complications	7,100	6,000	4,400	15.8	14.0	11.0	728	660	469
Old Age	1,900	1,400	1,400	4.2	3.3	3.5	195	154	149
Theft	800	200	300	1.8	0.5	0.8	82	22	32
On Back	200	100	100	0.4	0.2	0.3	21	11	11
Other Causes ^{9/}	800	2,400	2,800	1.8	5.6	7.0	82	264	298
Unknown Causes ^{10/}	5,000	2,900	3,400	11.1	6.7	8.5	513	319	362
TOTAL	45,000	43,000	40,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,617	4,730	4,260

Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho 1996-98

Cause of Loss	Sheep						All Lambs ^{1/}					
	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
Coyote	2,200	1,900	2,500	18.3	19.0	25.0	8,500	8,900	8,700	25.8	27.0	29.0
Dog	800	200	200	6.7	2.0	2.0	1,000	400	300	3.0	1.2	1.0
Bear	700	400	500	5.8	4.0	5.0	800	700	600	2.4	2.1	2.0
Cougar	200	300	300	1.7	3.0	3.0	500	1,100	900	1.5	3.3	3.0
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	700	400	200	2.1	1.2	0.7
Other Animals ^{6/ 7/ 8/}	0	100	0	0.0	1.0	0.0	200	900	100	0.6	2.7	0.3
Unknown Predators	100	0	0	0.8	0.0	0.0	100	300	200	0.3	0.9	0.7
Total Predators	4,000	2,900	3,500	33.3	29.0	35.0	11,800	12,700	11,000	35.8	38.5	36.7
Weather Conditions	300	200	100	2.5	2.0	1.0	4,400	5,200	5,000	13.3	15.8	16.7
Disease	1,700	1,700	1,300	14.2	17.0	13.0	5,700	5,400	5,200	17.3	16.4	17.3
Poison	500	1,100	800	4.2	11.0	8.0	800	800	700	2.4	2.4	2.3
Lambing Complications	1,400	1,300	1,200	11.7	13.0	12.0	5,700	4,700	3,200	17.3	14.2	10.7
Old Age	1,900	1,400	1,400	15.8	14.0	14.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Theft	600	100	100	5.0	1.0	1.0	200	100	200	0.6	0.3	0.7
On Back	200	100	100	1.7	1.0	1.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Causes ^{9/}	100	400	500	0.8	4.0	5.0	700	2,000	2,300	2.1	6.1	7.7
Unknown Causes ^{10/}	1,300	800	1,000	10.8	8.0	10.0	3,700	2,100	2,400	11.2	6.4	8.0
TOTAL	12,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	33,000	33,000	30,000	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 17,000 in 1996 and 1997 and 16,000 in 1998. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 1996-\$102.50, 1997-\$110, 1998-\$106.50. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars. 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ In 1996 includes bobcats, eagles, wolves etc. 7/ In 1997 includes bobcats, eagles, wolves, etc. 8/ In 1998 includes bobcats, eagles, wolves, etc. 9/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 10/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

Special Oilseeds: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, and Production by Crop, United States, 1996-98

Crop	Acreage Planted			Acreage Harvested			Yield			Production		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Pounds</i>			<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		
Canola	367.0	671.0	1,127.0	347.0	631.0	1,092.0	1,385	1,237	1,455	480,521	780,710	1,588,620
Rapeseed	2.5	1.6	4.8	2.2	1.4	4.7	1,470	1,243	1,353	3,234	1,740	6,360
Safflower	222.0	228.0	303.0	210.0	215.0	285.0	1,892	1,822	1,446	397,415	391,790	412,085
Mustard Seed	19.0	76.3	98.9	18.6	74.7	95.6	785	793	855	14,601	59,273	81,750

U.S. Dairy Products January 1999 Highlights

Butter production was 122 million pounds in January, 7.7 percent above January 1998 and 20.3 percent above December 1998.

American Type Cheese production totaled 289 million pounds, 1.9 percent above January 1998 but 3.0 percent below December 1998.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 634 million pounds, 2.9 percent above January 1998 but 5.1 percent below December 1998.

Creamed Cottage Cheese production was 25.9 million pounds, 9.5 percent below January 1998 and 9.9 percent below December 1998.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 26.8 million pounds, 4.9 percent below January 1998 and 0.8 percent below December 1998.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with January 1998)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) - 57.6 million gallons, down 0.8 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) - 20.3 million gallons, down 6.4 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) - 2.20 million gallons, down 22.9 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 3.18 million gallons, down 8.0 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 5.79 million gallons, down 1.8 percent.

Dry Milk Products: (Comparisons with January 1998)

Nonfat Dry Milk

for Human Food - 119 million pounds, up 14.9 percent.

Dry Whole Milk - 11.0 million pounds, down 13.9 percent.

Dry Buttermilk - 6.07 million pounds, up 8.3 percent.