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Mid-March Prices Received by Farmers

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

For the U.S., the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 97 based on 1990-92= 100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from February. Price decreases from February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs.

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

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 1998	February 1999	March 1999 ^{1/}	March 1998	February 1999	March 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	100.00	72.00	77.00	102.00	82.00	82.40	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.97	2.20	2.44	2.40	1.84	1.86	32
Feed	Bu.	2.33	1.88	1.75	1.99	1.58	1.52	--
Malting	Bu.	3.23	10/	10/	2.73	2.17	2.19	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	22.00	16.70	16.80	20.20	18.40	17.70	35
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.40	3.95	4.15	6.41	5.61	5.82	44
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	3.80	3.50	--	7.54	6.44	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.70	4.30	--	5.24	4.94	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.85	2.74	2.76	3.33	2.74	2.74	29
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	58.70	57.70	59.20	61.30	60.60	62.10	41
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	33.20	34.90	35.90	36.00	34.70	34.70	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	66.70	64.20	66.60	64.30	63.60	65.50	--
Calves	Cwt.	84.00	80.00	82.00	89.80	86.90	86.50	45
Lambs	Cwt.	61.00	66.00	--	70.10	67.20	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	13.00	12.00	11.90	14.40	15.50	^{7/} 15.00	^{8/} 50
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	13.00	12.00	--	14.50	15.60	^{7/} 15.10	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	12.90	13.00	--	12.90	12.30	^{7/} 12.10	--

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Average monthly 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 and 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 3.70, fluid milk 3.70, mfg grade 3.82. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Includes milk diverted to manufacturing. 10/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	February 1998	March 1998	February 1999		March 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	101	102	96	96	97
Prices Paid	117	116	115	115	115
Ratio ^{1/}	86	88	83	83	84

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

1999 Idaho Planting Intentions

Idaho farmers intend to seed 560,000 acres of spring wheat, a 6 percent increase over the 1998 level of 530,000 acres. Winter wheat seedings of 760,000 acres decreased 7 percent from the 1998 crop. Barley seedings are expected to decrease to 700,000 acres from last season's 780,000 acres. Oat seedings are expected to be 90,000 acres, an increase of 10,000 acres from last year. Corn plantings are expected to increase 15,000 acres from 1998 to 160,000 acres. Dry bean planting intentions are unchanged from last year at 105,000 acres. All hay intended for harvest, at 1,430,000 acres, is also unchanged from 1998. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total 207,000 acres, up from 1998's 204,000 acres.

Nationally, producers intend to seed 15.4 million acres of other spring wheat in 1999, down 2 percent from last year. All wheat planted area is expected to total 63.0 million acres in 1999. This is down 4 percent from 1998 and the lowest level in 26 years. Barley growers intend to seed 5.27 million acres for 1999, down 17 percent from the 6.34 million acres seeded a year ago.

Acres actually planted may vary from those indicated as a result of weather, economic conditions, availability of production inputs and the effect of this report itself.

Planted Acreage 1997-98 & Planting Intentions March 1, 1999 - Idaho & U.S.

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING INTENTIONS	1999 AS A PERCENT OF 1998
	1997	1998	1999	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
IDAHO				
All Wheat	1,500	1,350	1,320	98
Winter Wheat	910	820	760	93
Spring Wheat ^{1/}	590	530	560	106
Field Corn	125	145	160	110
Oats	80	80	90	113
Barley	770	780	700	90
All Hay ^{2/}	1,300	1,430	1,430	100
Sugarbeets	198	204	207	101
Dry Beans ^{3/}	100	105	105	100
UNITED STATES				
All Wheat	70,412	65,871	63,029	96
Winter Wheat	47,985	46,449	43,399	93
Spring Wheat ^{1/}	19,117	15,617	15,360	98
Field Corn	79,537	80,187	78,219	98
Oats	5,068	4,902	4,732	97
Barley	6,706	6,340	5,274	83
All Hay ^{2/}	61,084	60,016	60,093	100
Sugarbeets	1,459.3	1,497.9	1,547.7	103
Dry Beans ^{3/}	1,869.8	2,010.1	2,045.5	102

^{1/} Spring wheat other than durum. ^{2/} Area harvested 1997-98, intended for harvest 1999. ^{3/} Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 1999 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 37.5 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 15.0 million bushels, 7.0 million bushels less than last year's on-farm total. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 22.5 million bushels, down slightly from March 1, 1998. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 21.1 million bushels, up 6 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 10.0 million bushels, up 25 percent from March 1, 1998's 8.0 million bushels. Off-farm storage was estimated at 11.1 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions March 1, 1999, was estimated at 1.4 billion bushels, up 24 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 470.2 million bushels, up 18 percent from March 1, 1998. Off-farm stocks of 974.6 million bushels were up 27 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 200.4 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. On-farm stocks were estimated at 86.9 million bushels, up 6 percent. Off-farm stocks accounted for 113.5 million bushels, up 15 percent from last March.

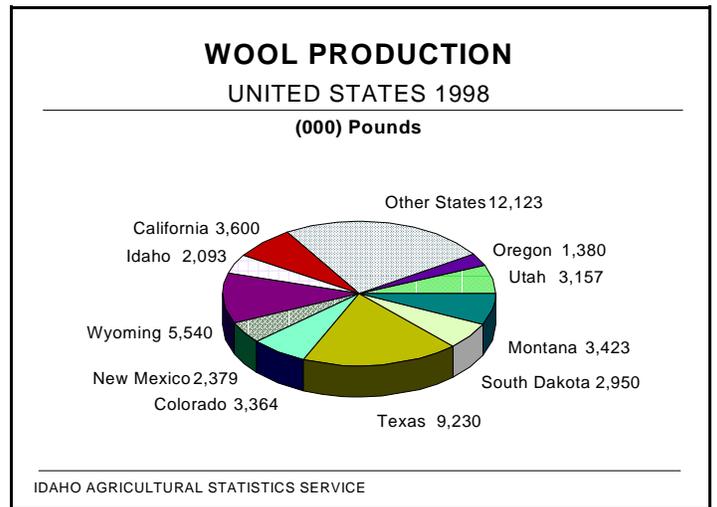
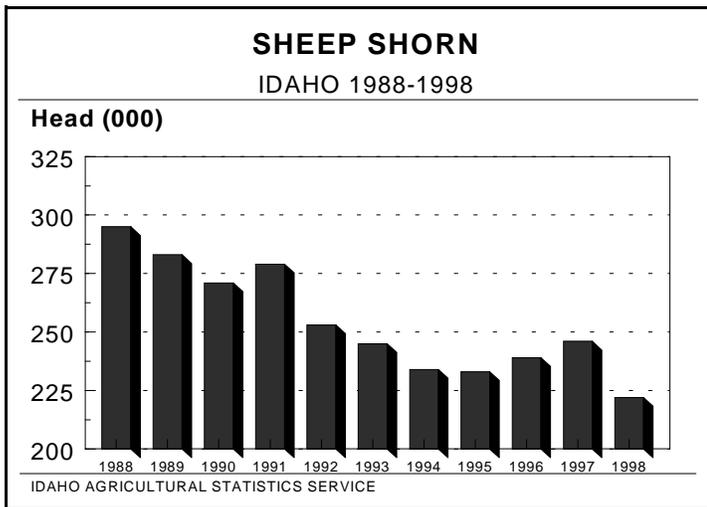
Idaho Wool Production Decreases

Idaho wool production in 1998 totaled 2.09 million pounds, an 8 percent decrease from the 2.27 million pounds produced in 1997. The number of sheep shorn, at 222,000 head, was down from 1997's 246,000 head. The average weight per fleece in 1998 was 9.4 pounds.

The total value of 1998 Idaho wool production was \$1.38 million, a decrease of 18 percent from 1997. The average price received per pound was \$0.66, down \$0.08 per pound from 1997.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 1998 was 49.2 million pounds, a decrease of 8 percent from the 53.6 million pounds produced in 1997. Sheep shorn totaled 6.43 million head, down 8 percent from 1997.

The average price paid for wool sold in 1998 was \$0.60 per pound, down from the \$0.84 per pound received in 1997. The value of U.S. wool sold in 1998 was \$29.4 million, a decrease of 35 percent from the previous year.



U.S. Dairy Products February 1999 Highlights

Butter production was 112 million pounds in February, 8.6 percent above February 1998 but 9.6 percent below January 1999.

American type cheese production totaled 277 million pounds, 6.2 percent above February 1998 but 4.3 percent below January 1999.

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 600 million pounds, 4.6 percent above February 1998 but 6.0 percent below January 1999.

Cream cottage cheese production was 27.4 million pounds, 1.2 percent below February 1998 but 5.3 percent above January 1999.

Lowfat cottage cheese production was 28.0 million pounds, 1.2 percent above February 1998 and 5.2 percent above January 1999.

Frozen dessert: (comparisons with February 1998)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 62.8 million gallons, down 2.3 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 23.8 million gallons, down 0.1 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) --- 2.06 million gallons, down 22.5 percent.

Sherbet (hard) --- 3.67 million gallons, up 2.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 7.16 million gallons, up 12.5 percent.

Dry milk products: (comparisons with February 1998)

Nonfat dry milk for human food --- 116 million pounds, up 19.4 percent.

Dry whole milk --- 10.3 million pounds, up 1.7 percent.

Dry buttermilk --- 5.70 million pounds, up 12.7 percent.

Potato Stocks

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on April 1 totaled 53,500,000 cwt., 2,500,000 cwt. less than on hand April 1, 1998. Disappearance, at 86,150,000 cwt., is up from last year's 84,314,000 cwt. but below 1996's 86,800,000 cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 3,300,000 cwt., below last year's 4,600,000 cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 50,200,000 cwt., was 1,200,000 cwt. below the amount stored on April 1, 1998.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1, 1999 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 8.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 53.5 million cwt. will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.8 percent or 4.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 15.2 percent or approximately 8.1 million cwt.

PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON APRIL 1, 1998 AND APRIL 1, 1999

STATE	CROP OF 1997			CROP OF 1998		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APRIL 1, 1998	APRIL 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APRIL 1, 1999	APRIL 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 Cwt.		Percent	1,000 Cwt.		Percent
California	4,200	1,500	36	3,708	1,200	32
Colorado	24,993	10,500	42	25,360	9,100	36
Idaho	140,314	56,000	40	139,650	53,500	38
Maine	19,080	7,400	39	18,060	6,000	33
Michigan	14,250	2,300	16	14,725	2,200	15
Minnesota	20,440	6,800	33	21,170	6,700	32
Montana	3,328	700	21	3,180	1,780	56
Nebraska 1/	7,761	1,210		8,175	1,140	
New York	7,150	400	6	7,290	350	5
N. Dakota	22,000	7,000	32	28,670	9,500	33
Ohio 1/	1,170			1,200		
Oregon	27,319	9,800	36	26,229	10,500	40
Pennsylvania	3,173	480	15	3,360	420	13
Washington	88,160	22,500	26	93,225	21,500	23
Wisconsin	30,175	7,600	25	30,895	7,000	23
15 STATE TOTAL	413,513	134,190	32	424,897	130,890	31

1/ Combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations.