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Mid-September Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of September showed decreases from August for alfalfa hay, all barley, feed barley, malting barley, potatoes, and beef cattle. Prices increased from the previous month for dry beans, all wheat, cows, steers and heifers, calves, and all milk.

For the U.S., the September All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 97 based on 1990-92= 100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from August. Lower seasonal marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and grapes more than offset the relatively higher marketings of soybeans, peanuts, corn, and potatoes.

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

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		September 1998	August 1999	September 1999 ^{1/}	September 1998	August 1999	September 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	88.00	91.00	83.00	87.10	81.50	77.30	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.37	2.91	2.50	2.01	2.37	2.14	36
Feed	Bu.	1.67	1.81	1.75	1.40	1.51	1.68	--
Malting	Bu.	2.93	3.01	3.00	2.50	2.65	2.61	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	18.00	16.10	16.50	19.30	18.80	18.10	36
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.55	5.90	5.00	4.97	6.33	5.26	39
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.40	7.80	--	6.31	9.36	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.60	5.00	--	4.49	4.64	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.08	2.52	2.62	2.39	2.52	2.56	26
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	51.40	60.00	59.50	56.10	63.50	63.80	42
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	30.70	36.30	36.50	32.60	36.30	34.90	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	57.20	65.20	66.00	58.90	66.20	66.90	--
Calves	Cwt.	70.00	80.00	82.00	74.10	89.60	91.20	47
Lambs	Cwt.	60.00	75.00	--	71.80	68.90	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	15.60	16.20	16.90	16.70	15.00	7/ 15.90	8/ 51
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	15.60	16.20	--	16.80	15.00	7/ 15.90	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	15.57	16.70	--	15.40	15.20	7/ 15.50	--

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 3.61, fluid milk 3.61, mfg. grade 3.72. 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	August 1998	September 1998	August 1999		September 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	101	99	98	98	97
Prices Paid	116	115	116	117	117
Ratio ^{1/}	87	86	84	84	83

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

All Wheat Production Increases 2 Percent

Idaho's 1999 all wheat production increased from last year by 2 percent to 104.5 million bushels.

Winter wheat yield, at 76.0 bushels per acre, is down 6.0 bushels from last year's record high yield. Winter wheat production totaled 54.0 million bushels from 710,000 harvested acres, down 15 percent from last year's 63.1 million bushels. This is the lowest winter wheat production in Idaho since 1991. The 1999 winter wheat production is estimated to be 84 percent white and 16 percent hard red. Spring wheat yield, at 79.0 bushels per acre, is up 2.0 bushels from a year ago. Idaho's spring wheat production reached a new record high, totaling 50.6 million bushels from 640,000 harvested acres. This is a 29 percent increase from last year's production of 39.3 million bushels. The spring wheat crop is estimated to be 57 percent white and 43 percent hard red.

Barley yield is estimated at 78.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's yield. Barley production totaled 53.8 million bushels from 690,000 harvested acres, down 9 percent from 1998's production of 59.3 million bushels. Barley acreage harvested is at the lowest level since 1969.

Oat yield, at 68.0 bushels per acre, is down 7.0 bushels from 1998. Oat production totaled 1.70 million bushels from 25,000 harvested acres. This production is down 24 percent from 1998's 2.25 million bushels.

Nationally, all wheat production for 1999 totaled 2.32 billion bushels, up slightly from the September forecast but down 9 percent from 1998. Winter Wheat production was estimated at 1.70 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the August forecast but 10 percent below 1998. The average yield was 47.8 bushels per acre, surpassing the record high yield set last year by nearly a bushel. Harvested acreage for grain, at 35.5 million acres, is at the lowest level since 1972. Other Spring Wheat production totaled 509 million bushels, up fractionally from the September forecast, but 4 percent less than in 1998. Barley production was estimated at 284 million bushels, up 1 percent from the September forecast, but 19 percent below last year's estimate. This is the lowest production since 1953. Acreage harvested for grain totaled 4.78 million acres. This is the smallest harvested acreage since 1900. Oat production is estimated at 148 million bushels, 11 percent smaller than the 1998 production. This is the lowest oat production since records were first kept in 1866.

Small Grains: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, Idaho and U. S. 1998 - 1999

STATE	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
IDAHO						
Winter Wheat	770	710	82.0	76.0	63,140	53,960
Spring Wheat	510	640	77.0	79.0	39,270	50,560
Barley	760	690	78.0	78.0	59,280	53,820
Oats	30	25	75.0	68.0	2,250	1,700
UNITED STATES						
Winter Wheat	40,126	35,542	46.9	47.8	1,880,733	1,698,369
Spring Wheat	15,148	14,918	34.9	34.1	528,469	509,180
Barley	5,864	4,778	60.0	59.5	352,125	284,073
Oats	2,755	2,465	60.2	60.0	165,981	147,906

Idaho's Wheat Stocks Up from 1998

Idaho's September 1, 1999 stocks of all wheat stored in all positions totaled 90.0 million bushels, up 3 percent from the 87.8 million bushels stored in all positions last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 46.0 million bushels, up 12 percent from September 1, 1998. Off-farm storage, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 44.0 million bushels, down 6 percent from the 46.8 million bushels stored off-farm last year.

Idaho's barley stocks in all positions totaled 43.6 million bushels, up 1 percent from September 1, 1998. On-farm storage was estimated at 26.0 million bushels, equal to 1998. Off-farm storage was estimated at 17.6 million bushels, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, all wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 1999, was estimated at 2.46 billion bushels, up 3 percent from September 1, 1998 and the highest September 1 level since 1987. On-farm stocks were 903 million bushels, up 2 percent a year ago. Off-farm stocks totaled 1.56 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last year.

The U. S. total for barley stored in all positions on September 1, 1999, was estimated at 297 million bushels, 9 percent below last year's 326 million bushels. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 167 million bushels were stored on farms, 14 percent below September 1, 1998. Off-farm stocks, at 130 million bushels, were down 2 percent from last year.

September 1 Grain Stocks, Idaho & U.S., 1997-1999

POSITION YEAR	Idaho				United States			
	WHEAT	BARLEY	OATS	CORN	WHEAT	BARLEY	OATS	CORN
ON-FARM	<i>Thousand Bushel</i>							
1997	42,000	31,000	*	*	794,350	195,500	105,950	475,000
1998	41,000	26,000	*	*	885,720	193,500	110,300	640,000
1999	46,000	26,000	*	*	903,060	167,100	97,500	807,000
OFF-FARM ^{1/}								
1997	55,373	14,995	*	159	1,281,998	131,347	48,972	408,161
1998	46,815	17,089	420	543	1,499,770	132,652	51,515	667,803
1999	44,012	17,600	249	*	1,556,196	129,845	50,982	989,367
TOTAL								
1997	97,373	45,995	*	*	2,076,348	326,847	154,922	883,161
1998	87,815	43,089	*	*	2,385,490	326,152	161,815	1,307,803
1999	90,012	43,600	*	*	2,459,256	296,945	148,482	1,796,367

* "Off farms unallocated" includes State data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations; "on farms unallocated" includes minor producing States' data not published separately. 1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

Idaho Dry Bean Production Decreases From Last Year

Idaho dry bean production is forecast to be 2.06 million cwt., down more than 2 percent from last year's 2.11 million cwt. Yields are expected to average 2,000 pounds per acre, a decrease of 50 pounds per acre from 1998 and 200 pounds below the record high achieved in 1997. Harvested acreage is expected to total 103,000 acres, unchanged from last year. All hay production is forecast at 5.48 million tons, a decrease of 1 percent from the 5.55 million tons produced a year ago. Harvested area for all hay is expected to total 1.43 million acres, unchanged from 1998. Production of alfalfa hay surpassed the record production achieved last year by 2 percent, totaling 4.95 million tons. Harvested acreage, at 1.15 million acres, also reached a new record high, increasing 2 percent from last year. Other hay production is estimated at 532,000 tons from 280,000 harvested acres, down from the 690,000 tons from 300,000 acres in 1998. Idaho sugarbeet production for 1999 is forecast to be 5.31 million tons, down 3 percent from the 5.50 million tons a year ago. Yield of 25.3 tons per acre is down from last year's 27.1 tons per acre. Harvested area of 210,000 acres increased from the 203,000

acres harvested in 1998 and surpassed Idaho's previous record of 204,000 acres harvested in 1993.

Nationally, the 1999 crop of dry beans is forecast at 31.8 million cwt., up 3 percent from a year ago and 8 percent above 1997. Harvested area is estimated at 1.90 million acres, down 1 percent from 1998, but 8 percent higher than 1997. The average yield of 1,669 pounds per acre is 58 pounds higher than 1998, but 1 pound lower than two years ago. All hay production at the U. S. level is forecast at a record high 161 million tons, 7 percent higher than 1998. Production of alfalfa hay is expected to total 85.5 million tons, up 4 percent from last year. Other hay production reached a record high 75.9 million tons, up 9 percent from 1998 and 3 percent above 1997. U. S. sugarbeet production is forecast at a record high 34.0 million tons, 4 percent above the previous record of 32.6 million tons set last year. Harvested area is expected to total 1.53 million acres, 5 percent more than last year and the highest level since 1969.

Dry Bean Production Top 10 States

	1,000 Cwt.
North Dakota	7,800
Michigan	6,460
Nebraska	3,895
California	2,900
Minnesota	2,683
Colorado	2,635
Idaho	2,060
Washington	814
Wyoming	667
Kansas	426

Alfalfa Hay Production Top 10 States

	1,000 Tons
California	6,901
South Dakota	6,750
Wisconsin	6,080
Minnesota	5,735
Iowa	5,460
Nebraska	5,180
Idaho	4,945
Montana	4,025
Kansas	3,910
Colorado	3,870

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 4 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on September 1, 1999, was 60.7 million head. This was 4 percent below September 1998, but slightly above June 1, 1999.

The June-August 1999 U.S. pig crop, at 25.9 million head, was 3 percent less than 1998, but 1 percent more than 1997. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.93 million head, 4 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter rose to an average of 8.86 pigs saved per litter for the

June-August period, compared to 8.72 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.80 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.85 million sows farrow during the September-November 1999 quarter, 5 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1998, and 3 percent below 1997. Intended farrowings for December 1999-February 2000, at 2.81 million sows, are 3 percent below the same period last year and 4 percent below 1998.

U. S. Dairy Products August 1998 Highlights

Butter production was 66.8 million pounds in August, 2.9 percent below August 1997 and 0.4 percent below July 1998.

American Type Cheese production totaled 262 million pounds, 0.9 percent above August 1997 but 5.4 percent below July 1998.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 597 million pounds, 0.1 percent above August 1997 but 2.5 percent below July 1998.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 29.5 million pounds, 0.9 percent below August 1997 and 8.3 percent below July 1998.

Cream Cottage Cheese production was 31.8 million pounds, 0.7 percent below August 1997 and 6.4 percent below July 1998.

Dry Milk Products: (Comparisons with August 1997)

Nonfat Dry Milk
for Human Food - 79.0 million pounds, down 12.4 percent.
Dry Whole Milk - 12.9 million pounds, up 13.6 percent.
Dry Buttermilk - 3.08 million pounds, up 13.0 percent.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with August 1997)

Ice cream
Regular (hard) - 76.8 million gallons, down 0.1 percent.
Lowfat (total) - 40.3 million gallons, up 6.9 percent.
Nonfat (hard) - 2.83 million gallons, down 9.1 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 4.88 million gallons, up 7.2 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 7.79 million gallons, down 5.2 percent.

Idaho and Eastern Oregon Onion Production

Onion production in Idaho and Malheur Co., Oregon is expected to be 11.8 million cwt., a 10 percent decrease from 1997's production of 13.1 million cwt. The yield for the Idaho-Eastern Oregon area is expected to be 590 cwt., down 58 cwt. from last year.

Nationally, summer storage onion production is expected to total

36.4 million cwt., down 5 percent from last year, but 10 percent more than in 1996. This production total does not include California, where summer storage onions are mostly for processing. California farmers expect to produce 11.5 million cwt. of summer onions. This is a 10 percent decrease from last year. Washington production, at 8.75 million cwt., continued to increase, rising 2 percent above the 1997 level.