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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 malting barley, beef cattle, cows, steers and heifers, and calves. Prices decreased for alfalfa hay, all barley, feed barley, dry beans, potatoes, all wheat, and all milk.

For the U.S., the December All Farm Products Index of Prices Received was 91 based on 1990-92= 100, down 2 points (2.2 percent) from November. Price decreases from November for milk, soybeans, wheat, and oranges more than offset price increases of lettuce, hogs, calves, and corn.

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

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		December 1998	November 1999	December 1999 ^{1/}	December 1998	November 1999	December 1999	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	80.00	86.00	84.00	79.70	77.30	73.20	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.42	2.48	2.35	2.03	2.15	2.14	36
Feed	Bu.	1.72	1.82	1.75	1.55	1.63	1.63	--
Malting	Bu.	2.70	2.56	2.60	2.35	2.46	2.53	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	17.90	16.50	15.50	19.90	17.30	15.70	31
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.00	4.90	4.80	5.30	5.51	5.65	42
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	3.40	5.10	--	5.62	6.59	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.40	4.80	--	5.07	4.91	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.53	2.72	2.62	2.86	2.66	2.43	25
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	52.10	58.40	61.10	56.80	66.20	66.40	43
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	29.60	34.20	36.00	30.80	33.60	34.70	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	60.90	70.30	70.90	60.30	70.90	70.80	--
Calves	Cwt.	75.00	84.00	88.00	80.20	93.00	97.80	50
Lambs	Cwt.	60.80	67.00	--	64.70	76.30	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	17.80	11.40	10.80	18.00	14.30	7/ 12.40	8/ 39
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	17.80	11.40	--	18.10	14.40	7/ 12.40	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	18.54	10.50	--	17.40	11.00	7/ 10.70	--

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 3.79, fluid milk 3.79, mfg. grade 3.92. 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 1998	December 1998	November 1999		December 1999 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	99	98	93	93	91
Prices Paid	114	114	117	117	117
Ratio ^{1/}	87	86	79	79	78

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

2000 Winter Wheat Seedings Increase

Idaho's winter wheat seedings for the 2000 crop are estimated at 780,000 acres. This acreage is nearly 3 percent more than the 760,000 acres seeded for the 1999 crop, but 5 percent less than 1998's planted acreage.

Nationally, winter wheat planted for harvest in 2000 is estimated at 42.9 million acres. This is down 1 percent from last year and is the lowest level since 1972. United States hard red winter wheat totaled 30.3 million acres, soft red winter wheat totaled 9.2 million acres, and white winter wheat totaled 3.4 million acres.

December 1 Grain Stocks

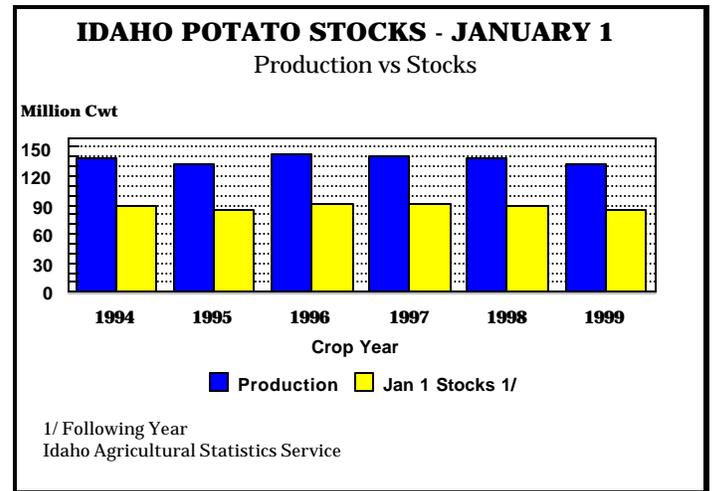
Idaho's December 1, 1999 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 73.5 million bushels, up 25 percent from last year's 58.6 million bushels. On-farm storage was estimated at 38.5 million bushels, up 43 percent from last year's 27.0 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 35.0 million bushels, up 11 percent from December 1, 1998. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 32.1 million bushels, up 4 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 15.1 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year's 14.0 million bushels.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions December 1, 1999, was estimated at 1.88 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 648.8 million bushels, down 5 percent from December 1, 1998. Off-farm stocks of 1.23 billion bushels are up 1 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 228.6 million bushels, down 16 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 108.6 million bushels, down 27 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks accounted for 120.0 million bushels, down 1 percent from last year.

Potato Stocks Down Slightly

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 86,000,000 cwt., 3,000,000 cwt. less than on hand January 1, 1999. Disappearance, at 47,330,000 cwt., is down from last year's 49,000,000 cwt. and below 1997's 48,814,000 cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 6,700,000 cwt., above last year's 5,800,000 cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 79,300,000 cwt., was 3,900,000 cwt. below the amount stored on January 1, 1999.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 2000 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 5.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 86.0 million cwt. will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.0 percent or 4.3 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 8.6 percent or approximately 7.4 million cwt.



Fall Potatoes: Production & Stocks 1994-99 Idaho & 15 Fall States

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>							
IDAHO							
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	138,000	99,500	89,000	77,500	66,000	52,000	37,000
1999	133,330	96,000	86,000				23,000
15 STATES							
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	147,635	103,210
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895
1999	420,567	274,370	238,160				50,270

Dry Bean Production Unchanged from 1998

Idaho's 1999 dry bean production is expected to total 2.11 million cwt., unchanged from last year's production. Planted and harvested acreages are also unchanged from last year, totaling 105,000 acres and 103,000 acres respectively. The statewide yield is expected to be 2,050 pounds per acre, the same as last year, but down 150 pounds from the record yield set in 1997.

Pinto production continues to account for the largest portion of the state's crop with 31 percent of Idaho's production. Pink production makes up nearly 20 percent of the total, while Small Red production accounts for 19 percent. Garbanzo beans make up 7 percent of the crop, and Great Northern beans are next with slightly less than 7 percent of the total. Navy bean production increased to account for slightly more than 5 percent of Idaho's production.

Black Turtle beans amounted to slightly less than 5 percent of the total production. Small Whites, Cranberries, Dark Red Kidneys, Light Red Kidneys, and Other classes made up the remaining amount of the total production.

Nationally, production of dry edible beans is estimated at 33.2 million cwt. for 1999, 9 percent above 1998 and 13 percent higher than two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.88 million acres, down 2 percent from 1998, but 7 percent above 1997. Average yield, at 1,770 pounds per acre, increased 184 pounds from last year. Production is above 1998 levels for all varieties except black, pink, and pinto. Pinto, the largest variety, decreased 25 percent from 1998 while navy, the next largest variety, increased 88 percent.

All Dry Beans Acreage, Yield, and Production - Selected States and U. S., 1998 and 1999 1/

State	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt.</i>	
California	110.0	135.0	105.0	132.0	1,480	1,970	1,554	2,600
Colorado	170.0	155.0	155.0	145.0	1,850	1,900	2,868	2,755
Idaho	105.0	105.0	103.0	103.0	2,050	2,050	2,112	2,112
Michigan	300.0	350.0	295.0	350.0	1,500	2,100	4,425	7,350
Minnesota	190.0	205.0	175.0	165.0	1,450	1,550	2,538	2,558
Nebraska	195.0	210.0	188.0	187.0	1,950	2,000	3,666	3,740
North Dakota	750.0	630.0	710.0	570.0	1,380	1,450	9,798	8,265
Oregon	8.7	11.5	8.6	10.8	1,770	1,610	152	174
Washington	40.0	36.0	40.0	36.0	2,230	2,080	890	750
U.S. Total	2,014.1	2,023.0	1,917.7	1,877.0	1,586	1,770	30,418	33,230

1/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

U.S. Dairy Products November 1999 Highlights

Butter production was 90.4 million pounds in November, 0.8 percent below November 1998 and 2.9 percent below October 1999.

American Type Cheese production totaled 288 million pounds, 6.5 percent above November 1998 but 2.6 percent below October 1999.

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 690 million pounds, 8.3 percent above November 1998 and 2.4 percent above October 1999.

Cream Cottage Cheese production was 28.6 million pounds, 2.3 percent above November 1998 but 1.7 percent below October 1999.

Lowfat Cottage Cheese production was 27.2 million pounds, 3.1 percent below November 1998 and 7.0 percent below October 1999.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with November 1998)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) - 59.5 million gallons, up 15.6 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) - 25.6 million gallons, up 3.6 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) - 2.04 million gallons, down 17.8 percent.

Sherbet (hard) - 3.45 million gallons, up 11.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) - 4.80 million gallons, down 17.7 percent.

Dry Milk Products: (Comparisons with November 1998)

Nonfat Dry Milk

for Human Food - 100 million pounds, up 36.0 percent.

Dry Whole Milk - 10.2 million pounds, down 5.5 percent.

Dry Buttermilk - 3.99 million pounds, up 2.1 percent.

U.S. Hog Inventory Down 4 Percent

U. S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 1999 was 59.4 million head. This was 4 percent below December 1998, and 2 percent below September 1, 1999. Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was down 7 percent from December 1, 1998 and down 1 percent from September 1, 1999. Market hog inventory, at 53.2 million head, was 4 percent below last year, and 2 percent below last quarter.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 1999-February 2000 quarter, 3 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 1999 and 4 percent below 1998. Intended farrowings for March-May 2000, at 2.83 million sows, are 5 percent below the same period last year and 8 percent below 1998.

Hog And Pig Numbers By Class December 1, 1998-99, Selected States

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	1998	1999		1998	1999		1998	1999	
		Number	As % Of 1998		Number	As % Of 1998		Number	As % Of 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>
Illinois	530	420	79	4,320	3,680	85	4,850	4,100	85
Indiana	450	370	82	3,600	2,880	80	4,050	3,250	80
Iowa	1,260	1,160	92	14,040	14,240	101	15,300	15,400	101
Kansas	170	150	88	1,420	1,310	92	1,590	1,460	92
Minnesota	620	560	90	5,080	4,940	97	5,700	5,500	96
Missouri	400	410	103	2,900	2,740	94	3,300	3,150	95
Nebraska	420	390	93	2,980	2,610	88	3,400	3,000	88
N. Carolina	1,000	1,000	100	8,700	8,500	98	9,700	9,500	98
Ohio	200	170	85	1,500	1,330	89	1,700	1,500	88
Oklahoma	280	310	111	1,640	1,950	119	1,920	2,260	118
TOTAL 10 STATES	5,330	4,940	93	46,180	44,180	96	51,510	49,120	95
OTHER STATES									
Idaho	4	4	100	23	18	78	27	22	81
Montana	19	17	89	171	133	78	190	150	79
Oregon	5	5	100	25	25	100	30	30	100
Utah	60	70	117	320	450	141	380	520	137
Washington	5	4	80	32	26	81	37	30	81
Wyoming	20	18	90	120	87	73	140	105	75
UNITED STATES	6,682	6,244	93	55,523	53,164	96	62,206	59,407	96