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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, potatoes, beef cattle, cows, steers and heifers and calves. Prices decreased for all barley, feed barley, dry beans, and all wheat. All milk remains unchanged.

For the U.S., the All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 96 based on 1990-92= 100, up 4 points (4.3 percent) from February. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples.

### Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Mar. 1999-Mar. 2000

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 1999	February 2000	March 2000 <sup>1/</sup>	March 1999	February 2000	March 2000	
							Price <sup>1/</sup>	% Parity
<b>CROPS:</b>								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	77.00	83.00	87.00	83.20	77.40	78.00	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.67	2.57	2.48	2.00	2.13	2.14	36
Feed	Bu.	1.82	1.89	1.85	1.49	1.68	1.72	--
Malting	Bu.	10/	2.75	10/	2.40	2.42	2.45	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	16.80	14.70	14.30	17.00	16.00	14.70	30
Potatoes <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	4.60	4.80	5.10	6.12	5.96	6.32	46
Fresh <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	4.20	4.60	--	7.49	6.92	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.60	5.00	--	5.07	5.32	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	2.56	2.51	2.43	2.65	2.54	2.57	26
<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; PRODUCTS:</b>								
Beef Cattle <sup>4/</sup>	Cwt.	58.40	64.50	65.90	62.40	67.60	69.30	44
Cows <sup>5/</sup>	Cwt.	33.60	37.00	37.90	35.20	37.10	38.60	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	66.30	72.30	74.80	65.50	71.20	72.80	--
Calves	Cwt.	82.00	92.00	94.00	87.30	105.00	107.00	54
Lambs	Cwt.	62.00	68.00	--	67.40	72.00	--	--
Milk, All <sup>6/</sup>	Cwt.	12.70	10.40	10.40	15.00	11.80	7/ 11.80	8/ 37
Fluid Grade <sup>9/</sup>	Cwt.	12.70	10.40	--	15.10	11.90	7/ 11.90	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	12.00	10.60	--	12.30	10.20	7/ 10.20	--

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 3.73, fluid milk 3.73, 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 firms.

### United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	February 1999	March 1999	February 2000		March 2000 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	96	96	92	92	96
Prices Paid	115	115	119	119	120
Ratio <sup>1/</sup>	83	83	77	77	80

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

## 2000 Idaho Planting Intentions

Idaho farmers intend to seed 630,000 acres of spring wheat, down 5 percent from 1999's 660,000 acres. Winter wheat seedings of 780,000 acres increased nearly 3 percent from the 1999 crop. Barley seedings are expected to total 740,000 acres, up from last season's 710,000 acres. Oat seedings are expected to be 70,000 acres, a decrease of 10,000 acres from last year. Corn plantings are expected to increase 15,000 acres from 1999 to 180,000 acres. If realized, this planted acreage would surpass Idaho's record high 175,000 acres of corn planted in 1985. Dry bean planting intentions fell 14 percent from last year to 90,000 acres. Dry bean acreage has only been this low twice since 1932. All hay intended for harvest, at 1,400,000 acres, is down 2 percent from 1999. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total

213,000 acres, up slightly from last year's record high of 211,000 acres planted.

Nationally, producers intend to seed 14.8 million acres of other spring wheat in 2000, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest area since 1988. Winter wheat seedings totaled 43.2 million acres, down slightly from last year's 43.4 million acres. All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres in 2000. This is down 2 percent from 1999 and the lowest level since 1973. Barley growers intend to seed 5.73 million acres for 2000, 10 percent above the 5.22 million acres seeded a year ago.

### Planted Acreage 1998-99 & Planting Intentions March 1, 2000 - Idaho & U.S.

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING	2000 AS A PERCENT OF 1999
	1998	1999	2000	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
<b>IDAHO</b>				
All Wheat	1,350	1,420	1,410	99
Winter Wheat	820	760	780	103
Spring Wheat <sup>1/</sup>	530	660	630	95
Corn <sup>2/</sup>	145	165	180	109
Oats	80	80	70	88
Barley	780	710	740	104
All Hay <sup>3/</sup>	1,430	1,430	1,400	98
Sugarbeets	204	211	213	101
Dry Beans <sup>4/</sup>	105	105	90	86
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				
All Wheat	65,821	62,814	61,664	98
Winter Wheat	46,449	43,431	43,245	100
Spring Wheat <sup>1/</sup>	15,567	15,348	14,809	96
Corn <sup>2/</sup>	80,165	77,431	77,881	101
Oats	4,892	4,670	4,351	93
Barley	6,337	5,223	5,733	110
All Hay <sup>3/</sup>	60,076	63,160	63,052	100
Sugarbeets	1,497.8	1,562.7	1,577.5	101
Dry Beans <sup>4/</sup>	2,014.1	2,023.0	1,836.7	91

1/ Spring wheat other than durum. 2/ Excludes sweet corn. 3/ Area harvested 1998-99, intended for harvest 2000.

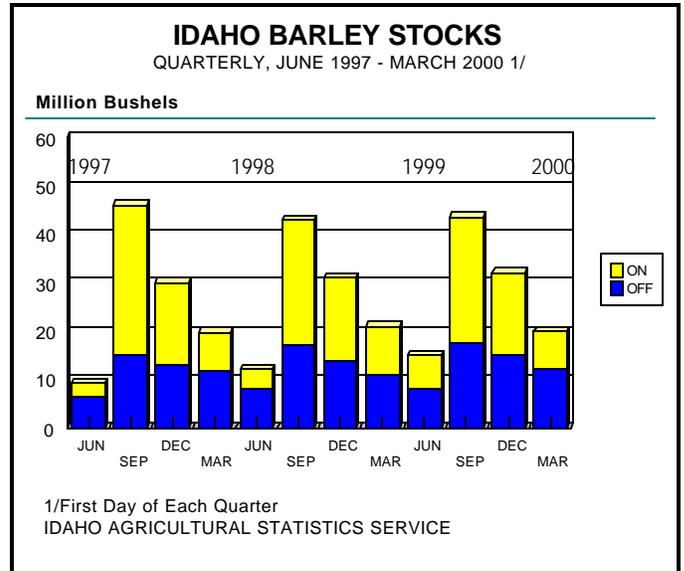
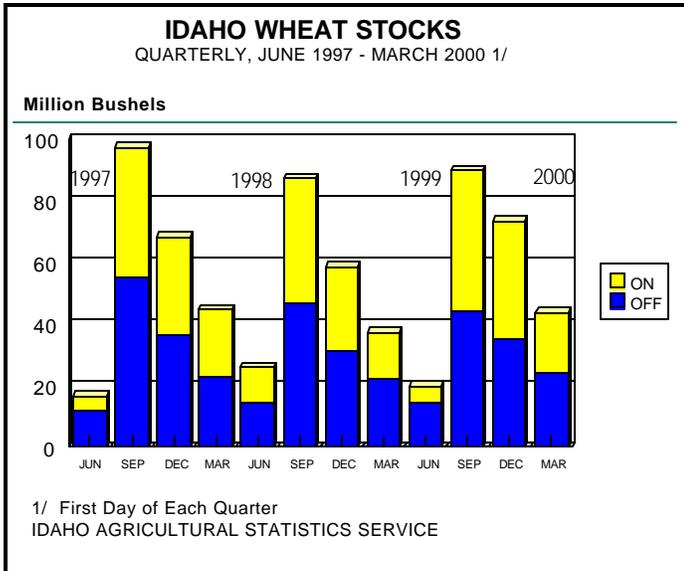
4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

## March 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 2000 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 43.7 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 19.0 million bushels, 4.0 million bushels more than last year's on-farm total. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 24.7 million bushels, up 9 percent from March 1, 1999. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 20.1 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 8.0 million bushels, down 20 percent from March 1, 1999's 10.0 million bushels. Off-farm storage was estimated at 12.1 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions March 1, 2000, was estimated at 1.4 billion bushels, down 3 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 423.2 million bushels, down 10 percent from March 1, 1999. Off-farm stocks of 989.2 million bushels were up 1 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 170.2 million bushels, down 15 percent from last year. On-farm stocks were estimated at 59.3 million bushels, down 32 percent. Off-farm stocks accounted for 110.9 million bushels, down 3 percent from last March.

## March 1 Grain Stocks



## Honey Production and Prices Decline

Idaho honey production in 1999 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 5.76 million pounds, down 4 percent from 1998. The estimate of 120,000 colonies producing honey in 1999, remains unchanged from last years estimate. Yield per colony averaged 48 pounds, down 2 pounds from the 50 pounds in 1998. Producer honey stocks were 3.1 million pounds on December 15, 1999, up 40 percent from a year earlier.

Nationally, honey production in 1999 from producers with five

or more colonies totaled 205 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1998. There were 2.69 million colonies producing honey in 1999, up 2 percent from 1998. Yield per colony averaged 76.3 pounds, down 7.4 pounds from the 83.7 pounds in 1998. Colonies which produced in more than one state were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 79.4 million pounds on December 15, 1999, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

### Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 1998-99

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Cents per Pound					
Water White, Extra White, White	64.7	59.5	113.4	123.4	65.7	60.5
Extra Light Amber	61.2	55.1	104.8	124.5	64.2	59.8
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	60.2	51.2	119.9	129.1	66.0	59.0
All Other Honey Area Specialties	64.5	61.7	168.4	150.3	83.2	73.7
All Honey	62.9	56.1	114.7	126.6	65.5	59.9

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## Idaho Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms in Idaho in 1999, at 24,500, is unchanged from both 1998 and 1997. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.9 million acres is down 1% from the 12.0 million acres reported in 1998 and 1997. The average farm size in Idaho at 486 acres is down 4 acres from the previous year.

The number of farms in the United States in 1999 is estimated at 2.19 million, up fractionally from 1998. Total land in farms is 947.3 million acres, down 1% from last year. This decline in land in farms continues to follow historical trends. The average size of farms decreased 3 acres from 1998 to 432 acres.

## U.S. Dairy Products February 2000 Highlights

Butter production was 130 million pounds in February, 16.4 percent above February 1999 but 8.8 percent below January 2000.

American type cheese production totaled 297 million pounds, 7.2 percent above February 1999 but 6.1 percent below January 2000.

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 640 million pounds, 6.6 percent above February 1999 but 6.9 percent below January 2000.

Cream cottage cheese production was 28.0 million pounds, 2.6 percent above February 1999 and 1.4 percent above January 2000.

Lowfat cottage cheese production was 28.0 million pounds, 0.6 percent above February 1999 but 0.6 percent below January 2000.

Frozen dessert: (comparisons with February 1999)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 68.1 million gallons, up 7.8 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 23.3 million gallons, down 2.1 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) --- 2.53 million gallons, up 22.8 percent.

Sherbet (hard) --- 3.68 million gallons, up 0.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 5.69 million gallons, down 20.6 percent.

Dry milk products: (comparisons with February 1999)

Nonfat dry milk for human food --- 133 million pounds, up 14.5 percent.

Dry whole milk --- 11.6 million pounds, up 12.1 percent.

Dry buttermilk --- 5.46 million pounds, down 4.3 percent.

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