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Mid-February Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of February showed increases for dry beans, and beef cattle. Prices decreased for all barley, feed barley, alfalfa hay, potatoes, all wheat, and all milk. The malt barley price remains unchanged from the previous month.

The preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February was 99, using a 1990-92=100 unchanged from the January Index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and eggs.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Feb. 2002-Feb. 2003

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		February 2002	January 2003	February 2003 ^{1/}	February 2002	January 2003	February 2003	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	113.00	90.00	85.00	100.00	97.60	96.40	--
Barley, All	Bu	2.87	3.07	3.02	2.17	2.85	2.85	44
Feed	Bu	2.07	2.32	2.30	1.69	2.17	2.23	--
Malting	Bu	2.98	3.10	3.10	2.55	3.08	3.13	--
Dry Beans	Cwt	22.40	19.10	19.20	26.10	16.40	16.30	32
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt	5.80	4.75	4.65	7.34	6.67	6.53	47
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	7.60	5.20	--	11.60	8.40	--	--
Processing	Cwt	5.00	4.50	--	5.28	5.46	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu	3.19	3.96	3.78	2.83	3.89	3.71	39
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt	65.80	65.70	69.70	70.00	73.20	74.60	47
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt	39.20	35.90	38.30	40.60	36.90	38.10	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	73.30	76.70	78.60	73.50	77.80	78.90	--
Calves	Cwt	95.00	92.00	95.00	105.00	96.80	97.60	45
Lambs	Cwt	62.00	89.00	--	67.80	92.00	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt	12.20	10.60	10.50	13.10	11.70	7/11.50	8/36
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt	12.20	10.60	--	13.10	11.80	7/11.50	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt	12.20	10.70	--	12.00	10.50	7/10.30	--

^{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 3.75, fluid milk 3.75, mfg. grade 3.90. ^{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 2002	February 2002	January 2003		February 2003 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	95	99	99	99	99
Prices Paid	122	123	126	127	127
Ratio ^{1/}	78	80	79	78	78

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

Idaho Sheep Inventory Unchanged

All sheep and lamb inventory in Idaho on January 1, 2003, totaled 260,000 head, unchanged from last year. The January 1, 2003 inventory equals last year as the lowest inventory since records began in 1920. Breeding sheep and lamb inventory on January 1, 2003 totaled 225,000 head. Breeding ewes one year old and older totaled 184,000 head, unchanged from January 1, 2002. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003 totaled 35,000. The 2002 lamb crop of 240,000 head was down 6 percent from the 255,000 head reported in 2001.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942. Breeding sheep inventory

declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 379 million head, were 5 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003 totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65-84 pounds, 24 percent were 85-105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep. The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000.

Sheep and Lambs: Inventory by Class, January 1, 2002-2003

State	Total Sheep		Market Sheep and Lambs		Breeding Sheep and Lambs						Lamb Crop 1/	
					Total		Ewes 1+		Replacement Lambs			
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2001	2002
<i>1,000 Head</i>												
Arizona	134.0	131.0	68.0	66.0	66.0	65.0	57.0	56.0	6.0	6.0	40.0	40.0
California	800.0	790.0	430.0	435.0	370.0	355.0	310.0	295.0	45.0	50.0	290.0	285.0
Colorado	370.0	370.0	165.0	185.0	205.0	185.0	170.0	155.0	29.0	24.0	190.0	200.0
IDAHO	260.0	260.0	36.0	35.0	224.0	225.0	184.0	184.0	35.0	36.0	255.0	240.0
Montana	335.0	300.0	35.0	30.0	300.0	270.0	232.0	213.0	60.0	49.0	340.0	315.0
Nevada	100.0	95.0	15.0	13.0	85.0	82.0	69.0	65.0	14.0	15.0	63.0	62.0
New Mexico	230.0	215.0	45.0	40.0	185.0	175.0	150.0	140.0	27.0	26.0	140.0	125.0
Oregon	285.0	235.0	114.0	78.0	171.0	157.0	134.0	125.0	29.0	25.0	160.0	150.0
Texas	1,130.0	1,050.0	240.0	200.0	890.0	850.0	720.0	680.0	130.0	130.0	570.0	540.0
Utah	365.0	320.0	45.0	30.0	320.0	290.0	275.0	250.0	36.0	31.0	305.0	275.0
Washington	56.0	51.0	9.0	9.0	47.0	42.0	36.0	34.0	8.0	6.0	58.0	56.0
Wyoming	480.0	460.0	90.0	100.0	390.0	360.0	320.0	295.0	59.0	55.0	345.0	340.0
U.S.	6,685.0	6,350.0	1,772.0	1,668.0	4,913.0	4,682.0	3,980.0	3,789.0	733.5	701.5	4,495.0	4,360.0

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 Down 8 Percent

Frozen stocks of french fries in the United States on January 31, 2003, totaled 917 million pounds, up 4 percent from December 31, 2002, but down 13 percent from January 31, 2002. Other frozen potatoes, at 256 million pounds, increased 1 percent from December 31, 2002 stocks and increased 13 percent from January 31, 2002.

United States stocks of butter on January 31, 2003, totaled 203 million pounds, up 28 percent from December 31, 2002 and up 104 percent from January 31, 2002. Of this 203 million pounds, the government owned 349,000 pounds. Stocks of total American cheese totaled 511 million pounds, up 4 percent from December 31, 2002 and up 11 percent from January 31, 2002. The government owned 280,000 pounds of the American cheese stocks.

Commodity	Jan 31, 2002	Dec 31, 2002	Jan 31, 2003	2003
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>
POTATOES:				
French Fries	1,047,759	877,292	916,724	87
Other Frozen	226,392	253,920	255,836	113
TOTAL	1,274,151	1,131,212	1,172,560	92
DAIRY:				
Butter	99,200	157,820	202,624	204
(Gov't Owned)	260	555	349	134
Natural Cheese				
American, Total	459,707	493,262	511,255	111
(Gov't Owned)	794	197	280	35

Idaho Sheep Industry Suffers A \$3.6 Million Death And Theft Loss

Idaho sheep producers lost an estimated 38,000 head of sheep and lambs from all causes, valued at \$3.55 million, in 2002. This compares with losses totaling 42,000 head with a value of \$4.10 million in 2001.

Predator losses at 24.2 percent, accounted for 9,200 losses worth a value of \$859,000. Coyotes did the most predator damage, at 7,100 head of sheep and lambs. Losses from coyotes alone were valued at \$664,000. Bears claimed 700 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$65,000 ; dogs and cougars caused 300 deaths each, valued at \$28,000 respectively; and fox killed 100 head, valued at \$9,000. Losses from other and unknown predators, including

bobcats, eagles and wolves, accounted for an additional 700 head of sheep and lambs.

Non predator losses, accounted for 28,800 losses worth a value of \$2,693,000. Disease claimed 9,800 sheep and lambs in 2002 valued at \$916,000. Lambing complications claimed 5,900; weather killed 4,600 head; old age killed 1,500 and poison killed 1,400 head. Other causes such as accidents, fire, starvation and dehydration caused an additional 2,200 sheep and lamb deaths during 2002.

All Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho, 2000-2002 ^{1/}

Cause of Loss	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Value ^{3/ 4/ 5/}		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>								
Coyote	9,900	8,800	7,100	23.6	21.0	18.7	1,025	858	664
Dog	1,300	700	300	3.1	1.7	.8	135	68	28
Bear	900	700	700	2.1	1.7	1.8	93	68	65
Cougar	600	300	300	1.4	0.7	.8	62	29	28
Fox	300	200	100	.7	0.5	0.3	31	20	9
Other Animals ^{6/}	900	800	400	2.1	1.9	1.1	93	78	37
Unknown Predators	400	500	300	1.0	1.2	0.8	41	49	28
Total Predators	14,300	12,000	9,200	34.0	28.6	24.2	1,480	1,170	859
Weather Conditions	3,600	3,700	4,600	8.6	8.8	12.1	373	361	430
Disease	5,800	6,600	9,800	13.8	15.7	25.8	600	644	916
Poison	1,300	1,400	1,400	3.1	3.3	3.7	135	137	131
Lambing Complications	5,200	8,300	5,900	12.4	19.8	15.5	538	809	552
Old Age	1,400	1,800	1,500	3.3	4.3	3.9	145	176	140
Theft	500	200	300	1.2	0.5	0.8	52	20	28
On Back	200	200	300	0.5	0.5	0.8	21	20	28
Other Causes ^{7/}	4,000	2,500	2,200	9.5	6.0	5.8	414	244	206
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	5,700	5,300	2,800	13.6	12.6	7.4	590	517	262
TOTAL	42,000	42,000	38,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,348	4,098	3,552

Sheep and Lambs: Death Loss By Cause, Idaho 2000-2002

Cause of Loss	Sheep						All Lambs ^{1/}					
	Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}			Head			Percent of Total Losses ^{2/}		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Coyote	2,000	1,500	900	20.0	15.0	9.0	7,900	7,300	6,200	24.7	22.8	22.1
Dog	300	200	100	3.0	2.0	1.0	1,000	500	200	3.1	1.6	.7
Bear	300	300	300	3.0	3.0	3.0	600	400	400	1.9	1.3	1.4
Cougar	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	400	200	200	1.3	0.6	.7
Fox	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	300	200	100	0.9	0.6	0.4
Other Animals ^{6/}	100	100	0	1.0	1.0	0.0	800	700	400	2.5	2.2	1.4
Unknown Predators	100	100	100	1.0	1.0	1.0	300	400	200	0.9	1.3	0.7
Total Predators	3,000	2,300	1,500	30.0	23.0	15.0	11,300	9,700	7,700	35.3	30.4	27.5
Weather Conditions	100	200	100	1.0	2.0	1.0	3,500	3,500	4,500	10.9	10.9	16.1
Disease	1,200	1,700	3,400	12.0	17.0	34.0	4,600	4,900	6,400	14.4	15.3	22.9
Poison	700	500	700	7.0	5.0	7.0	600	900	700	1.9	2.8	2.5
Lambing Complications	1,200	1,800	1,500	12.0	18.0	15.0	4,000	6,500	4,400	12.5	20.3	15.7
Old Age	1,400	1,800	1,500	14.0	18.0	15.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Theft	200	100	100	2.0	1.0	1.0	300	100	200	0.9	0.3	0.7
On Back	200	200	300	2.0	2.0	3.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Causes ^{7/}	600	300	400	6.0	3.0	4.0	3,400	2,200	1,800	10.6	6.9	6.4
Unknown Causes ^{8/}	1,400	1,100	500	14.0	11.0	5.0	4,300	4,200	2,300	13.4	13.1	8.2
TOTAL	10,000	10,000	10,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	32,000	32,000	28,000	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes lamb deaths before docking of 17,000 in 2000, 20,000 in 2001, and 15,000 in 2002. 2/ Percentages may not add due to rounding. 3/ Based on average of beginning year and end of year value of head: 2000 - \$103.50, 2001 - \$97.50, 2002 - \$93.50. 4/ Rounded to nearest 1,000 dollars, 5/ Dollar values were rounded to add to total. 6/ Includes bobcats, eagles, wolves 7/ Includes accidents, fire, starvation, dehydration, etc. 8/ Exact cause of death unidentifiable. May include some predator loss.

Idaho Wool Production

Idaho wool production in 2002 totaled 2.12 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2001. The number of sheep shorn, at 217,000 head, is down from 2001's 230,000 head. The average weight per fleece in 2002 was 9.7 pounds, compared with 9.3 in 2001.

The total value of 2002 Idaho wool production was 1.42 million dollars, compared to 471,000 dollars in 2001. The average price received per pound was 67 cents, up 45 cents per pound from 2001.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001.

The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was 53 cents per pound for a total value of 21.8 million dollars, up 42 percent from 2001.

