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

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March is 99 based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

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

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 2002	February 2003	March 2003 <sup>1/</sup>	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003	
							Price <sup>1/</sup>	% Parity
<b>CROPS:</b>								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	101.00	85.00	90.00	99.60	96.40	96.20	--
Barley, All	Bu.	2.77	3.17	3.11	2.17	2.87	2.92	44
Feed	Bu.	2.12	2.29	2.25	1.75	2.20	2.35	--
Malting	Bu.	2.96	3.18	3.15	2.59	3.06	3.14	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	23.20	18.80	18.10	27.10	19.40	15.50	31
Potatoes <sup>2/</sup>	Cwt.	6.35	4.60	5.15	8.26	6.55	6.87	49
Fresh <sup>3/</sup>	Cwt.	8.20	4.60	--	13.20	8.36	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	5.10	4.60	--	5.35	5.37	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.20	3.54	3.38	2.87	3.68	3.49	36
<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; PRODUCTS:</b>								
Beef Cattle <sup>4/</sup>	Cwt.	65.90	69.80	68.10	70.60	74.00	72.20	45
Cows <sup>5/</sup>	Cwt.	40.30	38.90	39.50	41.50	38.90	39.80	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	74.00	78.50	77.10	74.10	78.10	76.20	--
Calves	Cwt.	96.00	94.00	93.00	105.00	97.30	96.40	44
Lambs	Cwt.	61.00	88.00	--	66.70	92.40	--	--
Milk, All <sup>6/</sup>	Cwt.	11.80	10.30	10.10	12.70	11.40	7/11.00	8/34
Fluid Grade <sup>9/</sup>	Cwt.	11.80	10.30	--	12.70	11.40	7/11.00	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	11.30	10.30	--	11.30	10.30	7/9.90	--

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 3.72, fluid milk 3.72, mfg. grade 3.88. 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 2002	March 2002	February 2003		March 2003 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	99	106	99	99	99
Prices Paid	123	123	127	128	128
Ratio <sup>1/</sup>	80	86	78	77	77

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

## 2003 Idaho Planting Intentions

Idaho farmers intend to seed 520,000 acres of spring wheat, down 2 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings, at 760,000 acres, increased 4 percent from the 2002 crop. All wheat planted in Idaho is expected to total 1.28 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Barley seedings are expected to total 740,000 acres, up from last season's 730,000 acres. Oat seedings are expected to be 125,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Corn plantings are expected to be 195,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year and equalling the record high acreage planted in 2000. Dry bean planting intentions are up 5,000 acres from last year at 100,000 acres. Dry bean estimates include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. All hay harvested, at 1.50 million acres, is expected to be down 4 percent from 2002's record hay acreage harvested. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total 210,000 acres, down 1 percent from last year's 212,000 acres planted.

Nationally, producers intend to seed 14.6 million acres of other spring wheat in 2003, down 7 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings totaled 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from the 2002 crop. All wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres for the 2003 crop, up 2 percent from 2002. Barley growers intend to seed 5.38 million acres for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago. Area planted to dry beans is expected to total 1.52 million acres, down 21 percent from last year. Acreage expected to be planted to corn was virtually unchanged from last year at 79.0 million acres. Acreage 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 2001-2002 & Planting Intentions March 1, 2003 - Idaho & U.S.

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING	2003 AS A PERCENT OF 2002
	2001	2002	2003	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
<b>IDAHO</b>				
Winter Wheat	760	730	760	104
Spring Wheat <sup>1/</sup>	520	530	520	98
Corn <sup>2/</sup>	175	190	195	103
Oats	130	125	125	100
Barley	700	730	740	101
All Hay <sup>3/</sup>	1,420	1,570	1,500	96
Sugarbeets	199	212	210	99
Dry Beans <sup>4/</sup>	75	95	100	105
<b>UNITED STATES</b>				
Winter Wheat	41,078	41,735	44,308	106
Spring Wheat <sup>1/</sup>	15,609	15,714	14,556	93
Corn <sup>2/</sup>	75,752	79,054	79,022	100
Oats	4,403	5,005	4,828	96
Barley	4,967	5,073	5,379	106
All Hay <sup>3/</sup>	63,521	64,497	63,552	99
Sugarbeets	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98
Dry Beans <sup>4/</sup>	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79

1/ Spring wheat other than durum. 2/ Excludes sweet corn. 3/ Area harvested 2001-2002 intended for harvest 2003.

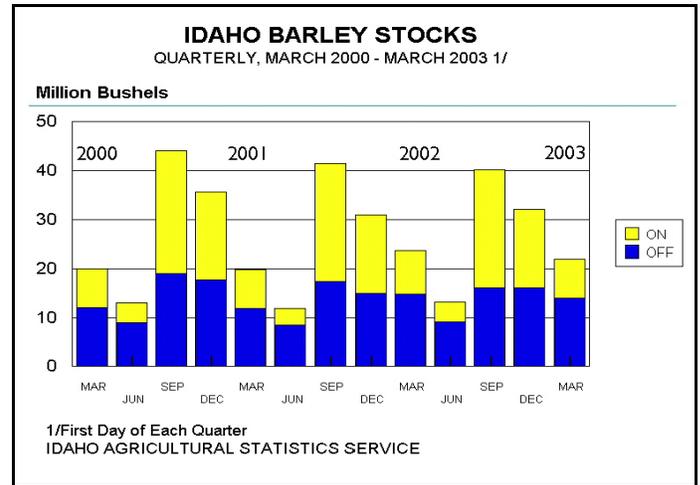
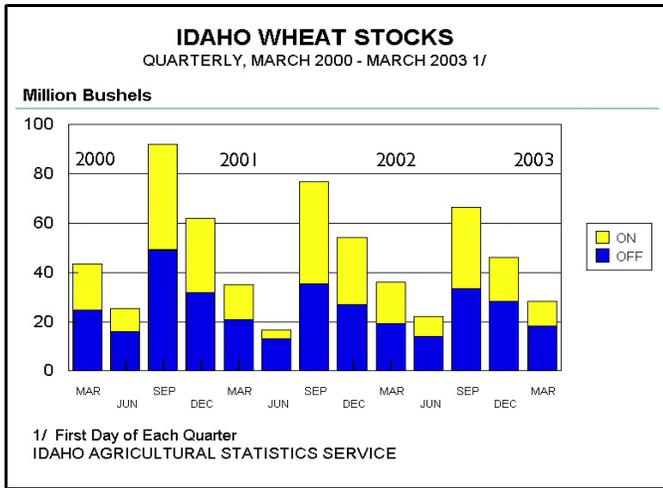
4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

### March 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 2003 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 28.3 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 10.0 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 18.3 million bushels, down 5 percent from March 1, 2002. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 22.0 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 8.0 million bushels, 1.0 million bushels less than the amount on hand March 1, 2002. Off-farm storage was estimated at 14.0 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions March 1, 2003, was estimated at 905 million bushels, down 25 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 233 million bushels, down 31 percent from March 1, 2002. Off-farm stocks of 672 million bushels were down 23 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 124 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year. On-farm stocks were estimated at 36.7 million bushels, down 20 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks accounted for 86.8 million bushels, down 9 percent from last March.

## March 1 Grain Stocks



## Honey Production and Prices Increase

Idaho honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 5.70 million pounds, a 24 percent increase from 2001. Honey producing colonies remain unchanged from last year's estimate at 100,000 colonies. Yield per colony averaged 57.0 pounds, up 11 pounds from the 46.0 pounds in 2001. Producer honey stocks were 1.65 million pounds on December 15, 2002, an increase of 3 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is 135.0 cents, up 68 cents from a year ago.

Nationally, honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001.

There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to 128.6 cents, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

### Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2001-02

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	68.7	136.1	133.6	146.3	70.6	136.4
Extra Light Amber	66.9	123.0	132.0	131.0	70.5	123.5
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	62.3	115.1	150.8	149.9	69.5	118.7
All Other Honey Area Specialties	64.5	111.1	160.4	187.9	80.9	120.6
All Honey	66.6	127.5	142.0	145.4	70.4	128.6

## Idaho Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2002, at 24,000, is unchanged from the number of farms and ranches in the State during 2001. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.9 million acres, also remains unchanged from 2001. The average size of farm was 496 acres in 2002.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic class. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms (100 acres or more) in 2002.

USDA'S definition of a farm is "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." Government payments are included in sales. Ranches, institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian Reservations are included as farms. Places with the entire acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), or other government programs are counted as farms.

The definition of a farm was first established in 1850 and has changed nine times since. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. Since 1974, minor modifications to a farm definition have been made.

## U.S. Dairy Products February 2003 Highlights

**Total cheese output** (excluding cottage cheese) was 655 million pounds, slightly below February 2002 and 8.8 percent below January 2003.

**American type cheese** production totaled 285 million pounds, 0.9 percent below February 2002 and 10.8 percent below January 2003.

**Butter** production was 128 million pounds in February, 2.5 percent above February 2002 but 9.2 percent below January 2003.

**Frozen dessert:** (comparisons with February 2002)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) – 70.6 million gallons, down 0.6 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) – 25.4 million gallons, up 1.7 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) – 1.71 million gallons, 6.0 percent.

Sherbet (hard) – 4.43 million gallons, up 9.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) – 6.15 million gallons, down 3.1 percent.

**Nonfat dry milk for human food:** (compared with February 2002)–133 million pounds, up 5.3 percent.