



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Prices Received
- Planting Intentions
- Grain Stocks
- Honey Production
- Farm Numbers
- Dairy Products

Mid-March Prices Received by Farmers

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

The Preliminary All Farms Products Index of Prices Received in March is 122 based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5.2 percent) above the February index. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. Increased average marketings of strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Mar. 2003-Mar. 2004

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		March 2003	February 2004	March 2004 ^{1/}	March 2003	February 2004	March 2004	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	84.00	86.00	96.70	84.70	85.90	--
Barley, All	Bu.	3.03	3.14	3.12	2.83	2.72	2.71	41
Feed	Bu.	2.45	2.35	2.45	2.30	2.16	2.14	--
Malting	Bu.	3.13	3.40	3.40	3.07	2.95	2.97	--
Dry Beans	Cwt.	18.70	18.90	18.70	15.90	17.50	19.00	37
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt.	4.85	4.00	4.75	6.87	5.93	6.30	42
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt.	4.10	3.40	--	8.83	6.47	--	--
Processing	Cwt.	4.40	4.40	--	5.29	5.49	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.28	3.59	3.62	3.55	3.77	3.71	38
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt.	67.10	71.10	75.80	72.60	78.50	84.00	50
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt.	39.00	42.20	45.90	39.50	46.10	46.70	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	76.00	79.20	85.30	76.70	82.30	88.60	--
Calves	Cwt.	94.00	106.00	109.00	96.70	111.00	114.00	51
Lambs	Cwt.	88.00	95.00	--	97.10	107.00	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt.	10.00	12.70	13.50	11.00	13.60	7/14.70	8/45
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt.	10.00	12.70	--	11.00	13.60	7/14.70	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt.	10.00	13.10	--	9.80	12.80	7/14.10	--

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 3.89. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Includes milk diverted to manufacturing.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	February 2003	March 2003	February 2004		March 2004 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	99	99	113	116	122
Prices Paid	128	128	130	130	131
Ratio ^{1/}	77	77	87	89	93

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

2004 Idaho Planting Intentions

Idaho farmers intend to seed 450,000 acres of spring wheat, down 6 percent from last year, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Winter wheat seedings, at 720,000 acres, decreased 5 percent from the 2003 crop. All wheat planted in Idaho is expected to total 1.17 million acres, down 6 percent from last year. Barley seedings are expected to total 700,000 acres, down from last season's 750,000 acres. Oat seedings are expected to be 125,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year. Oats harvested for grain are expected to total 25,000 acres, unchanged from 2003. Corn plantings are expected to be 180,000 acres, down 5 percent from last year. Dry bean planting intentions are up 5,000 acres from last year at 80,000 acres. Dry bean estimates include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. All hay harvested, at 1.54 million acres, is expected to be up 3 percent from 2003. Sugarbeet plantings are expected to total 197,000 acres, down 5 percent from last year's 208,000 acres planted.

Nationally, producers intend to plant 13.3 million acres of other spring wheat in 2004, down 4 percent from last year. Winter wheat seedings totaled 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from the 2003 crop. All wheat planted area is expected to total 59.5 million acres for the 2004 crop, down 4 percent from 2003. Barley growers intend to seed 4.68 million acres for 2004, down 12 percent from a year ago. Area planted to dry beans is expected to total 1.33 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago. Acreage expected to be planted to corn was up slightly 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 2002-2003 & Planting Intentions March 1, 2004 - Idaho & U.S.

CROP	PLANTED		PLANTING INTENTIONS	2004 AS A PERCENT OF 2003
	2002	2003	2004	
	<i>Thousand Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
IDAHO				
Winter Wheat	670	760	720	95
Spring Wheat ^{1/}	480	480	450	94
Corn ^{2/}	190	190	180	95
Oats	125	120	125	104
Barley	730	750	700	93
All Hay ^{3/}	1,490	1,500	1,540	103
Sugarbeets	212	208	197	95
Dry Beans ^{4/}	95	75	80	107
UNITED STATES				
Winter Wheat	41,766	44,945	43,372	97
Spring Wheat ^{1/}	15,639	13,840	13,333	96
Corn ^{2/}	78,894	78,736	79,004	100
Oats	4,995	4,601	4,312	94
Barley	5,008	5,299	4,683	88
All Hay ^{3/}	63,942	63,342	63,731	101
Sugarbeets	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6	100
Dry Beans ^{4/}	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0	95

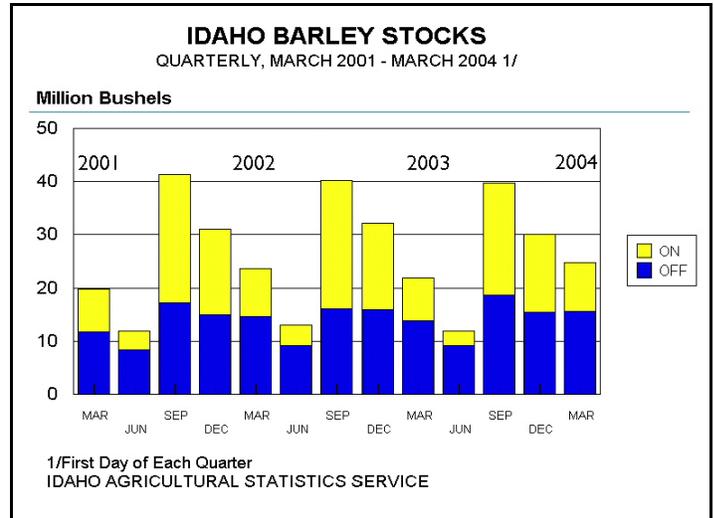
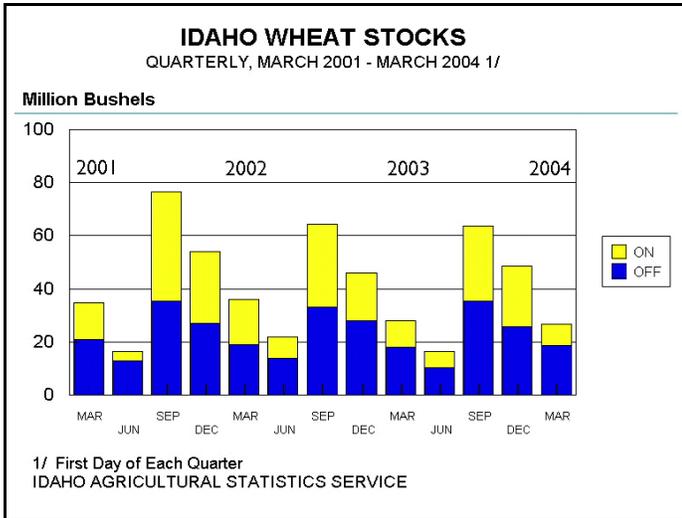
^{1/} Spring wheat other than durum. ^{2/} Excludes sweet corn. ^{3/} Area harvested 2002-2003 intended for harvest 2004. ^{4/} Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

March 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's March 1, 2004 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 26.9 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 8.00 million bushels, 2.00 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 18.9 million bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2003. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 24.8 million bushels, up 12 percent from last year. On-farm storage was estimated at 9.00 million bushels, 1.00 million bushels more than the amount on hand March 1, 2003. Off-farm storage was estimated at 15.8 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Nationally, wheat stored in all positions March 1, 2004, was estimated at 1.02 billion bushels, up 12 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 258 million bushels, up 9 percent from March 1, 2003. Off-farm stocks of 761 million bushels were up 14 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 151 million bushels, up 23 percent from last year. On-farm stocks were estimated at 51.7 million bushels, up 41 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks accounted for 99.8 million bushels, up 15 percent from last March. Oats stored in all positions totaled 95.1 million bushels, up 15 percent from last year. On-farm stocks were estimated at 45.6 million bushels, up 30 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks accounted for 49.5 million bushels compared to 47.9 million bushels on hand March 1, 2003.

March 1 Grain Stocks



Honey Production and Prices Increase

Idaho honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 4.60 million pounds, a 19 percent decrease from 2002. Honey producing colonies remain unchanged from last year's estimate at 100,000 colonies. Yield per colony averaged 46.0 pounds, down 11 pounds from the 57.0 pounds in 2002. Producer honey stocks were 1.38 million pounds on December 15, 2003, a decrease of 17 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is 135.0 cents, down 2.0 cents from a year ago.

U.S. honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. 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 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2002-03

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	139.6	143.8	153.8	187.0	140.2	146.0
Extra Light Amber	127.2	135.1	142.0	177.1	128.3	138.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	119.0	128.6	154.3	185.4	122.8	133.9
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	109.8	116.3	194.9	251.3	121.9	130.3
All Honey	131.3	137.1	152.2	184.9	132.7	140.4

Idaho Farm Numbers Unchanged

The number of farms and ranches in Idaho in 2003, at 25,000, is unchanged from the number of farms and ranches in the State during 2002. Total land in farms in Idaho, at 11.8 million acres, also remains unchanged from 2002. The average size of farm was 472 acres in 2003.

The number of farms and ranches in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms and ranches occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000 - \$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms continues to reflect consolidation in farming operations and competition for agricultural land for other uses.

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 2004 Highlights

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 701 million pounds, 7.2 percent above February 2003 but 4.8 percent below January 2004.

American type cheese production totaled 299 million pounds, 4.6 percent above February 2003 but 7.0 percent below January 2004.

Butter production was 106 million pounds in February, 17.6 percent below February 2003 and 19.8 percent below January 2004.

Frozen dessert: (comparisons with February 2003)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) – 65.7 million gallons, down 7.0 percent.

Ice cream, Lowfat (total) – 27.5 million gallons, up 6.3 percent.

Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) – 1.54 million gallons, down 9.1 percent.

Sherbet (hard) – 4.04 million gallons, down 8.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) – 4.64 million gallons, down 15.7 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food: (compared with February 2003)— 110 million pounds, down 16.0 percent.