



NEWS RELEASE

**Agricultural Prices
December 31, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in December is 118 percent of the 1990-1992 base, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 2 percent from last year but 17 percent above two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 120 percent of the base, is down 5 percent from December 2002, while the All Livestock Index, at 111 percent, is up 13 percent from last year. December indexes are calculated using preliminary mid-month prices.

The November Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products, recalculated with full month prices, was 120 percent of the base, down 2 percent from November 2002. The All Crops Index, at 123 percent, was down 4 percent from the previous year, while the All Livestock Index, at 113 percent, was up 19 percent.

Preliminary December prices, followed by the change from November:

- Spring Wheat, \$3.60 per bushel, up 3 cents;
- Durum Wheat, \$3.82 per bushel, down 7 cents;
- Winter Wheat, \$3.27 per bushel, up 3 cents;
- Feed Barley, \$1.83 per bushel, down 15 cents;
- Malting Barley, \$2.27 per bushel, down 72 cents;
- Oats, \$1.13 per bushel, unchanged;
- Corn, \$2.15 per bushel, up 12 cents;
- Soybeans, \$6.91 per bushel, up 4 cents;
- Flaxseed, \$5.97 per bushel, down 9 cents;
- Oil Sunflower, \$11.00 per hundredweight (cwt.), up 20 cents;
- Non-Oil Sunflower, \$14.80 per cwt., down 50 cents;
- All Dry Edible Beans, \$15.60 per cwt., up 30 cents;
- All Potatoes, \$4.90 per cwt., down 5 cents;
- Alfalfa Hay, \$60.00 per ton, up \$3.00;
- Other Hay, \$43.00 per ton, up \$3.00;
- Steers and Heifers, \$100.00 per cwt., up \$1.30;
- Cows, \$49.00 per cwt., up \$1.70;
- Calves, \$110.00 per cwt., unchanged.

November whole month prices, with no preliminary December, followed by the change from October:

- Canola, \$11.00 per cwt., up 70 cents;
- Navy Beans, \$15.60 per cwt., down 40 cents;
- Pinto Beans, \$14.80 per cwt., up 40 cents;
- Fresh Potatoes, \$5.10 per cwt., up 30 cents;
- Potatoes for Processing, \$4.80 per cwt., down 5 cents;
- Hogs, \$37.60 per cwt., up \$3.00;
- Lambs, \$102.00 per cwt., unchanged;
- Sheep, \$40.00 per cwt., up \$6.00.

December prices are preliminary and based on sales data for only part of the month. They will be replaced with whole month prices in next month's report. November prices are based on sales data for the entire month.

For More Information Contact:

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INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES, December 2003

Indexes and Ratios	NORTH DAKOTA			UNITED STATES		
	Dec 2002	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Dec 2002	Nov 2003	Dec 2003
	(1990-92 = 100)					
PRICES RECEIVED						
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	121	120	118	100	117	115
CROPS	126	123	120	107	117	117
Food Grains	138	127	125	124	116	119
Feed Grains & Hay	130	116	107	106	99	103
Oil Bearing Crops ¹	111	131	129	98	122	128
Potatoes & Dry Beans ²	113	105	103	109	94	95
LIVESTOCK	98	113	111	91	117	113
Meat Animals	99	116	115	88	116	113
Dairy Products	99	95	99	91	111	105
Other Livestock Products ³	93	92	93	96	125	121
PRICES PAID				125	130	130
RATIO⁴				80	90	88

¹ Includes non-oil sunflower. ² North Dakota includes sugarbeets. ³ United States excludes wool. ⁴ Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, December 2003

Commodity	Unit	NORTH DAKOTA			UNITED STATES			Effective U.S. Parity Price Dec 2003
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Dec 2002	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	Dec 2002	Nov 2003	Dec 2003	
		<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	
Wheat, All	Bu	3.99	3.62	3.63	4.06	3.59	3.63	9.88
Durum	Bu	4.19	3.89	3.82	4.26	3.91	3.84	
Other Spring	Bu	3.92	3.57	3.60	4.15	3.67	3.63	
Winter	Bu	3.07	3.24	3.27	3.87	3.55	3.62	
Corn	Bu	2.13	2.03	2.15	2.32	2.20	2.32	6.75
Rye	Bu							5.95
Oats	Bu	1.70	1.13	1.13	1.95	1.32	1.36	4.22
Barley, All	Bu	2.89	2.81	2.03	2.91	2.86	2.41	6.68
Feed	Bu	2.00	1.98	1.83	2.14	2.44	1.99	
Malting	Bu	3.32	2.99	2.27	3.24	3.11	2.79	
Sunflower, All	Cwt	11.90	12.20	12.30	12.30	11.60	12.00	
Oil	Cwt	11.70	10.80	11.00				
Non-oil	Cwt	13.20	15.30	14.80				
Baled Hay, All ¹	Ton	61.00	52.00	55.00	91.10	80.70	81.30	
Alfalfa ¹	Ton	67.00	57.00	60.00	98.00	88.00	87.90	
Other ¹	Ton	48.00	40.00	43.00	76.30	64.90	66.90	
Canola ²	Cwt		11.00					
Flaxseed	Bu	5.92	6.06	5.97	5.92	6.06	5.97	12.20
Soybeans	Bu	5.24	6.87	6.91	5.46	7.05	7.29	14.80
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	13.30	15.30	15.60	16.10	19.20	18.70	51.60
Navy	Cwt	12.40	15.60					
Pinto	Cwt	13.90	14.80					
Potatoes, All	Cwt	6.75	4.95	4.90	6.67	5.35	5.50	14.10
Fresh ³	Cwt	9.60	5.10		8.65	6.39		
Processing	Cwt	4.35	4.80		5.52	4.82		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	71.30	80.70	81.60	70.40	93.70	92.70	164.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	83.90	98.70	100.00	75.00	100.00	98.60	
Cows	Cwt	33.60	47.30	49.00	34.60	47.80	49.90	
Calves	Cwt	93.00	110.00	110.00	95.30	112.00	113.00	220.00
Sheep	Cwt	29.40	40.00		38.70	40.10		80.70
Lambs	Cwt	88.70	102.00		87.20	99.20		189.00
Hogs	Cwt	34.30	37.60		30.30	34.80	34.90	105.00

¹ Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. ² Monthly price added July 2003. ³ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock.

