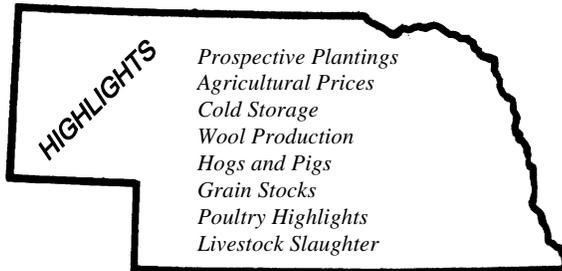


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## MARCH PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

As of March 1, Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage planted to soybeans, sorghum, sugar beets oats and barley, while decreasing acreage devoted to corn, dry beans, winter wheat and sunflowers. Total acreage of estimated crops to be planted (including winter wheat but excluding hay), at 15.96 million acres would be down slightly from last year's total of 15.97 million. Corn growers expect to plant 8.3 million acres in 2000, down 3% from last year and 6% below 1998. Soybean producers expect to plant a record 4.6 million acres, up 300,000 acres or 7% over last year. If

realized, this will be well above the previous record high 4.3 million acres planted in 1999. Nebraska soybean producers will have increased the amount of acreage devoted to soybeans 84% since 1992, and in seven of the eight years in the 1992-2000 period. Sorghum growers expect to plant 700,000 acres for all purposes, up 150,000 acres from last year but the same number of acres as 1998.

Oat planting intentions, at 150,000 acres, are up 11% from last year. Oat acreage forecast to be harvested for grain, at 90,000, is expected to also be up 20% from last year. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 180,000 acres, down 14% from last year. Sugar beet plantings of 76,800 acres would be 6% more than 1999.

Hay acreage for harvest in 2000, at 3.1 million acres, would be down 100,000 acres from last year. Sunflower planting intentions of 100,000 acres were down 1% from 1999 but 43% above 1998. Barley planting intentions were up 2,000 acres from last year, at 7,000 acres. Last fall winter wheat was sown on 1.85 million acres, down 7% from the year earlier.

## PLANTED ACREAGE AND INTENTIONS COMPARATIVE DATA -- NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

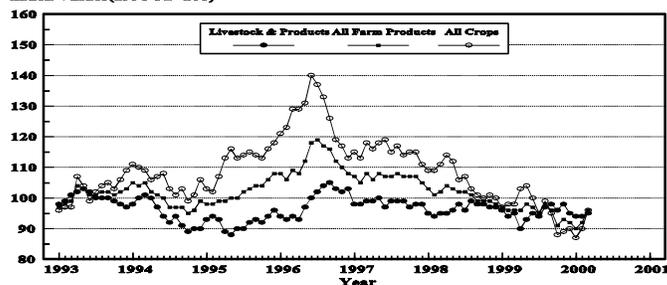
CROP	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	1998	1999	Inten- tions 2000	2000 as % of 1999	1998	1999	Inten- tions 2000	2000 as % of 1999
	1,000 acres				1,000 acres			
	Percent				Percent			
Corn <u>1/</u> . . . . .	8,800	8,600	8,300	97	80,165	77,431	77,881	101
Soybeans . . . . .	3,800	4,300	4,600	107	72,025	73,780	74,871	101
Sorghum <u>1/</u> . . . . .	700	550	700	127	9,626	9,288	8,979	97
Oats <u>1/</u> . . . . .	170	135	150	111	4,898	4,670	4,351	93
Oats for Grain . . . . .	95	75	90	120	2,755	2,453	2,473	101
Barley . . . . .	10	5	7	140	6,337	5,223	5,733	110
Dry Beans . . . . .	195	210	180	86	2,014.1	2,023.0	1,836.7	91
Sugar Beets . . . . .	53.8	72.7	76.8	106	1,497.8	1,562.7	1,577.5	101
All Hay <u>2/</u> . . . . .	3,200	3,200	3,100	97	60,076	63,160	63,052	100
All Wheat . . . . .	1,900	2,000	1,850	93	65,821	62,814	61,664	98
Winter Wheat . . . . .	1,900	2,000	1,850	93	46,449	43,431	43,245	100
Sunflower - Oil . . . . .	39	49	60	122	2,953	2,757	2,478	90
- Non-oil . . . . .	31	52	40	77	615	796	569	71
- All . . . . .	70	101	100	99	3,568	3,553	3,047	86

1/ Grown for all purposes. 2/ Acres for harvest.

## U.S. INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED

The March All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in the United States was 96 based on 1990-92=100, up 4 points (4.3%) from February. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broilers, and broccoli more than offset price decreases for eggs, strawberries, celery, and apples. Compared with March 1999, the U. S. All Farm Products Index was unchanged.

**Prices Received, Major Indexes, US**  
Index Values(1990-92=100)



### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

COMMODITY	Unit	NEBRASKA			UNITED STATES				
		March 1999 <u>1/</u>	Feb. 2000 <u>1/</u>	March 15, 2000	March 1999 <u>1/</u>	Feb. 2000 <u>1/</u>	March 15, 2000	% of Parity	Parity Price*
Wheat	Bu.	\$ 2.57	\$ 2.28	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.54	\$ 2.57	26	\$ 9.37
Corn	Bu.	1.98	1.90	2.00	2.06	1.98	2.03	30	6.71
Oats	Bu.	1.24	1.45	1.45	1.20	1.27	1.28	38	3.40
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	3.15	3.10	3.30	3.16	3.08	3.28	31	10.60
Soybeans	Bu.	4.46	4.61	4.78	4.61	4.79	4.87	35	14.00
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	42.00	39.00	40.00	79.00	72.60	74.80	---	---
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	43.00	40.00	41.00	83.20	77.40	78.00	---	---
Other, Baled	Ton	39.00	34.00	36.00	67.40	66.70	66.70	---	---
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	16.00	15.30	15.00	17.00	16.00	14.70	30	49.70
Hogs	Cwt.	28.80	41.90	43.30	28.00	39.90	41.30	40	103.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	28.90	41.90	43.50	28.30	40.10	41.70	---	---
Sows	Cwt.	23.80	34.00	34.00	21.00	36.50	34.50	---	---
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	64.40	68.10	71.40	62.40	67.60	69.30	44	156.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	65.30	68.90	72.40	65.50	71.20	72.80	---	---
Cows	Cwt.	34.10	36.80	37.60	35.20	37.10	38.60	---	---
Calves	Cwt.	89.30	102.00	105.00	87.30	105.00	107.00	54	200.00
Sheep	Cwt.	28.60	44.50	NA	32.70	39.50	NA	---	68.00
Lambs	Cwt.	62.80	72.60	NA	67.40	72.00	NA	---	164.00
All Milk	Cwt.	14.30	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	15.00	11.80	11.80	37	31.80
Milk, Fluid	Cwt.	14.40	<u>2/</u>	---	15.10	11.90	11.90	---	---
Milk, Mfg.	Cwt.	12.00	<u>2/</u>	---	12.30	10.20	10.20	---	---

1/ Entire month average except hay. 2/ Monthly and mid-month prices discontinued January 2000. \*Parity price based on data for March 2000. NA = Not Available

### U.S. COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on February 29, 2000, were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, chicken and beef. Total red meat supplies in freezers were 7 percent above January 2000, but were 4 percent below February 1999. Frozen pork stocks were 9 percent above last month but were 11 percent below last year. Total frozen poultry supplies were up 2 percent from last month and were 4 percent above last year's level. Stocks on February 29 for selected items and changes from last year and last month follow:

Commodity	Stocks 1,000 lbs.	Percent Change	
		Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000
Total red meats	825,103	-4%	+7%
Beef	321,566	+7%	+5%
Pork	482,192	-11%	+9%
Total poultry	1,146,675	+4%	+2%
Turkey	348,963	-7%	+12%
Chicken	794,002	+10%	-1%

### WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

STATE	SHEEP and LAMBS SHORN <u>1/</u>	WEIGHT PER FLEECE	PRODUCTION	PRICE PER POUND	VALUE
<u>NEBRASKA</u>	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Dollars	1,000 dollars
1997	85	7.6	644	.52	335
1998	91	7.3	660	.41	271
1999	89	7.6	675	.24	162
<u>UNITED STATES</u>					
1997	6,960	7.7	53,578	.84	44,909
1998	6,428	7.7	49,255	.60	29,415
1999	6,150	7.6	46,549	.38	17,852

1/ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards.

## HOGS AND PIGS

Nebraska pork producers had an estimated 3.05 million hogs and pigs on hand March 1, 2000. This number was down 8% from a year earlier, 12% below two years ago, and the lowest March 1 inventory since 1978. Hogs and pigs kept for breeding were 7% below a year ago and 9% less than two years ago, while market hogs were 8% below last year and 12% below March 1, 1998.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was estimated at 58.1 million head on March 1, 2000. This was 3% below March 1999 and 2% below the December 1, 1999, inventory. Breeding hog inventory, at 6.22 million head, was down 5% from March 1, 1999, and down slightly from December 1, 1999. Market hogs were 3% below last year, and 2% below last quarter.

### HOGS AND PIGS: INVENTORY, MARCH 1; SOWS FARROWING AND PIG CROP, 1999-2000

Item	NEBRASKA			17 STATES			UNITED STATES		
	1999	2000	% Chg.	1999	2000	% Chg.	1999	2000	% Chg.
<b>On Farms - March 1:</b>	1,000 head			1,000 head			1,000 head		
All hogs and pigs . . . . .	3,300	3,050	-8	56,195	54,315	-3	60,191	58,147	-3
For breeding . . . . .	420	390	-7	6,005	5,725	-5	6,527	6,215	-5
Market . . . . .	2,880	2,660	-8	50,190	48,590	-3	53,663	51,933	-3
<b>Market hogs &amp; pigs</b>									
<b>by weight groups:</b>									
Under 60 pounds . . . . .	1,140	1,060	-7	18,705	18,150	-3	19,978	19,312	-3
60-119 pounds . . . . .	750	630	-16	12,070	11,680	-3	12,899	12,513	-3
120-179 pounds . . . . .	550	550	---	10,280	9,940	-3	10,995	10,648	-3
180 pounds and over . . . . .	440	420	-5	9,135	8,820	-3	9,792	9,460	-3
<b>Sows Farrowed:</b>									
December 1/-February . . . . .	165	160	-3	2,671	2,606	-2	2,891	2,819	-2
March-May . . . . .	165	*160	-3	2,759	*2,659	-4	2,986	*2,868	-4
June-August . . . . .	150	*160	+7	2,700	*2,642	-2	2,920	*2,851	-2
September-November . . . . .	160	---	---	2,655	---	---	2,869	---	---
TOTAL . . . . .	640	---	---	10,785	---	---	11,666	---	---
<b>Pig Crop:</b>									
December 1/-February . . . . .	1,411	1,408	---	23,365	22,933	-2	25,247	24,777	-2
March-May . . . . .	1,419	---	---	24,302	---	---	26,270	---	---
June-August . . . . .	1,298	---	---	23,962	---	---	25,860	---	---
September-November . . . . .	1,400	---	---	23,333	---	---	25,192	---	---
TOTAL PIG CROP . . . . .	5,528	---	---	94,962	---	---	102,569	---	---

1/ December preceding year. \* Intentions.

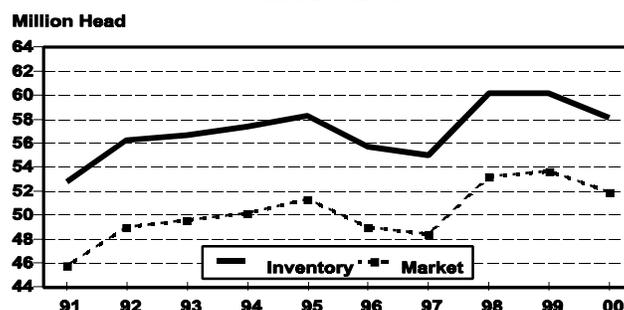
17 States: AR, CO, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, NC, OH, OK, PA, SD, TX, WI.

### MARCH 1 HOG REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- \* U.S. inventory down 3% from March 1999. Expectations of private forecasters averaged 96% of the previous year with a range of 94% to 97%.
- \* Market hogs were down 3% from a year earlier. Private forecasters' expectations ranged from 94% to 97% with an average of 96%.
- \* Breeding herd was down 5% from a year earlier. Expectations of private forecasters ranged from 95% to 97% with an average of 96%.
- \* U.S. December-February pig crop was down 2% from a year earlier. Analysts expected the pig crop to be 97% of previous year; estimates ranged from 95% to 98.2%.
- \* March-May intentions are down 4% from actual farrowings a year earlier. June-August intentions are down 2% from the previous year's actual farrowings. If plans are carried out, farrowings would utilize about 92% of March breeding herd.

- \* Commercial hog slaughter during December-February at 25.1 million head was 3% below a year earlier. Live hog imports were 1.02 million head down 3% from a year earlier. Total exports decreased to 25,000 head, compared to 110,000 a year ago.

**March 1 Hog Inventory & Market Hogs  
United States**



**STOCKS OF GRAIN**

Grain and Position	NEBRASKA				UNITED STATES			
	March 1, 1998	March 1, 1999	March 1, 2000	2000/1999	March 1, 1998	March 1, 1999	March 1, 2000	2000/1999
	Thousand bushels			Pct.	Thousand bushels			Pct.
Corn								
On Farms	410,000	520,000	425,000	82	2,975,000	3,570,000	3,300,000	92
Off Farms <u>1/</u>	232,251	261,378	266,630	102	1,964,898	2,128,428	2,305,529	108
Total	642,251	781,378	691,630	89	4,939,898	5,698,428	5,605,529	98
All Wheat								
On Farms	9,000	12,000	11,000	92	399,920	471,220	423,180	90
Off Farms <u>1/</u>	31,591	42,880	45,485	106	766,644	979,191	989,201	101
Total	40,591	54,880	56,485	103	1,166,564	1,450,411	1,412,381	97
Soybeans								
On Farms	27,000	44,000	42,000	95	637,000	815,000	730,000	90
Off Farms <u>1/</u>	39,272	39,217	49,640	127	565,922	642,338	667,324	104
Total	66,272	83,217	91,640	110	1,202,922	1,457,338	1,397,324	96
Sorghum								
On Farms	12,000	11,000	9,500	86	56,760	60,900	51,700	85
Off Farms <u>1/</u>	19,580	25,836	21,894	85	177,916	161,536	173,368	107
Total	31,580	36,836	31,394	85	234,676	222,436	225,068	101
Oats								
On Farms	1,600	1,200	1,800	150	58,800	61,700	52,900	86
Off Farms <u>1/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	---	52,418	50,850	48,523	95
Total	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	---	111,218	112,550	101,423	90

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. 2/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

**POULTRY HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY**

Item	1999	2000	2000
			as % of 1998
	Millions		Percent
No. of Layers			
NEBRASKA	10.8	11.8	109
30 States	304.7	310.1	102
U.S.	322.8	329.9	102
Eggs Produced			
NEBRASKA	213	227	107
30 States	5,934	6,256	105
U.S.	6,281	6,662	106
Chickens, U.S.			
Hatched, February			
Egg-type	35.6	35.5	100
Broiler	661.7	701.0	106
Hatched thru February			
Egg-type	71.3	69.6	98
Broiler	1,397.1	1,450.3	104

**COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER**

February 2000 output and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 1999 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2000 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Item	Total <u>1/</u> (1,000)	% Change	
		Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000
<u>NEBRASKA</u>			
Cattle, head	609.7	+7	+3
Hogs, head	495.3	+4	Sm.-
Sheep & Lambs, head	.1	Same	Same
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	571.9	+7	+2
<u>UNITED STATES</u>			
Cattle, head	2,937.1	+8	Sm.+
Calves, head	95.1	-5	+3
Hogs, head	8,067.3	+2	-1
Sheep & Lambs, head	293.0	-2	+4
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,767.3	+7	Sm.-

1/ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

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