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Dear producers and other data users:

Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.

*Mark Harris*  
State Statistician

## March Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.0 million acres in 2004, down 1 percent from last year. Of these acres, 41 percent is expected to be planted to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, 15 percent to herbicide resistant varieties and 8 percent to stacked gene varieties, compared to 36 percent, 11 percent and 5 percent, respectively a year ago. Nebraska soybean producers expect to plant 4.65 million acres in 2004. This would be the third highest of record, up 2 percent from last year but 6 percent below the record high set in 2001. Of these acres, 89 percent are expected to be planted to herbicide resistant varieties, up from 86

percent last year. Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.95 million acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier and 18 percent from two years ago. Sorghum growers expect to plant 550,000 acres, 17 percent less than 2003, but 22 percent more than 2002. Hay acreage for harvest, at 3.1 million, would be down 2 percent from last year. Oat planting intentions at 155,000 acres are down 30 percent from 2003. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 145,000 acres, down 6 percent from a year ago. Sugar beet plantings of 45,000 acres would be down slightly from 2003. Sunflower planting intentions of 55,000 acres are down 17 percent.

**Crop Summary: Acres Planted, Nebraska and United States, 2002-2004**

Crop	Nebraska				United States			
	2002	2003	Inten- tions 2004 <sup>1</sup>	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>	2002	2003	Inten- tions 2004 <sup>1</sup>	<u>2004</u> <u>2003</u>
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	8,400	8,100	8,000	99	78,894	78,736	79,004	100
Soybeans	4,700	4,550	4,650	102	73,963	73,404	75,411	103
Sorghum	450	660	550	83	9,589	9,420	8,600	91
Oats	175	220	155	70	4,995	4,601	4,312	94
Oats Harv. for Grain	55	90	70	78	2,058	2,224	2,067	93
Barley	6	6	5	83	5,008	5,299	4,683	88
Dry Beans	185	155	145	94	929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0	95
Sugar Beets	57.0	45.3	45.0	99	427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6	100
All Hay <sup>2</sup>	3,050	3,150	3,100	98	63,942	63,342	63,731	101
All Wheat	1,650	1,900	1,950	103	60,318	61,700	59,462	96
Winter Wheat	1,650	1,900	1,950	103	41,766	44,945	43,372	97
Sunflower - Oil	47	51	40	78	2,126	1,998	1,795	90
- Non-oil	13	15	15	100	455	346	291	84
- All	60	66	55	83	2,581	2,344	2,086	89

<sup>1</sup>Intended plantings as indicated by reports from farmers. <sup>2</sup> Intended acres for harvest as indicated by reports from farmers.  
Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2004.

## Grain Stocks

Nebraska corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004, totaled 648 million bushels, up 9 percent from March 1, 2003. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 79 million bushels, up 2 percent from 2003. Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2004, totaled 42 million bushels, up 18 percent from a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2004, totaled 5.27 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2003. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 906 million bushels, down 25 percent from 2003. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2004, totaled 1.02 billion bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago.

### Grain Stocks: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 2002-2004

Grain and Position	Nebraska				United States			
	March 1, 2002	March 1, 2003	March 1, 2004	2004 2003	March 1, 2002	March 1, 2003	March 1, 2004	2004 2003
	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousand Bushels</i>			<i>Percent</i>
<b>Corn</b>								
On Farms	410,000	325,000	380,000	117	3,355,000	2,940,000	3,030,000	103
Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	297,176	270,547	268,219	99	2,440,263	2,191,873	2,240,641	102
Total	707,176	595,547	648,219	109	5,795,263	5,131,873	5,270,641	103
<b>All Wheat</b>								
On Farms	8,000	4,500	7,000	156	338,500	236,300	257,890	109
Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	43,091	31,015	34,742	112	871,268	670,333	761,141	114
Total	51,091	35,515	41,742	118	1,209,768	906,633	1,019,031	112
<b>Soybeans</b>								
On Farms	27,000	31,000	21,000	68	687,000	636,500	355,900	56
Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	66,041	46,202	58,047	126	648,976	565,528	549,623	97
Total	93,041	77,202	79,047	102	1,335,976	1,202,028	905,523	75
<b>Sorghum</b>								
On Farms	6,000	4,000	3,400	85	38,100	27,500	21,000	76
Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	17,911	14,502	15,720	108	156,007	135,423	137,652	102
Total	23,911	18,502	19,120	103	194,107	162,923	158,652	97
<b>Oats</b>								
On Farms	900	900	1,500	167	40,200	35,000	45,600	130
Off Farms <sup>1</sup>	<sub>2</sub>	<sub>2</sub>	<sub>2</sub>		53,158	47,879	49,469	103
Total	<sub>2</sub>	<sub>2</sub>	<sub>2</sub>		93,358	82,879	95,069	115

<sup>1</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

<sup>2</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Source: USDA NASS Grain Stocks, March 31, 2004.

### Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary March 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Mar 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Mar 15, 2004	Mar 2003 <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2004 <sup>1</sup>	Mar 15, 2004	% of Parity	Parity Price <sup>2</sup>
Wheat	Bushels	\$ 3.39	\$ 3.61	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.55	\$ 3.77	\$ 3.71	38	\$ 9.84
Corn	Bushels	2.33	2.53	2.75	2.33	2.61	2.79	42	6.61
Oats	Bushels	2.23	1.28	1.40	2.08	1.58	1.55	40	3.85
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	4.03	4.53	4.80	3.94	4.76	4.86	45	10.70
Soybeans	Bushels	5.50	8.19	9.50	5.59	8.28	9.56	61	15.60
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	81.00	52.00	50.00	92.80	79.90	81.80		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	82.00	53.00	51.00	96.70	84.70	85.90		
Other, Baled	Ton	76.00	47.00	45.00	77.90	69.90	70.90		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	16.70	15.70	16.40	15.90	17.50	19.00	37	50.90
Hogs	Cwt.	37.10	44.80	47.30	34.70	42.60	45.10	44	103.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	37.30	45.00	47.50	35.20	43.00	45.40		
Sows	Cwt.	25.70	36.20	39.50	24.20	35.10	38.90		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	76.90	82.60	89.10	72.60	78.50	84.00	50	167.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	78.00	83.60	90.30	76.70	82.30	88.60		
Cows	Cwt.	39.80	48.60	49.70	39.50	46.10	46.70		
Calves	Cwt.	99.40	116.00	122.00	96.70	111.00	114.00	51	223.00
Sheep	Cwt.	39.50	43.00		40.90	41.20			82.00
Lambs	Cwt.	105.00	103.00		97.10	107.00			197.00

<sup>1</sup> Entire month average except hay.

<sup>2</sup> Parity price based on data for March 2004.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, March 30, 2004.

## Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2004, was 2.85 million head. This was 2 percent below March 1, 2003 and December 1, 2003. Breeding inventory, at 360,000 head, was down 5 percent from March 1, 2003 and 3 percent below last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.49 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 59.3 million head on March 1, 2004. This was 2 percent above last year, but 2 percent below December 1, 2003. Breeding inventory, at 5.92 million head, was down 2 percent from March 1, 2003, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory was 2 percent above last year.

### Hogs and Pigs: March 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2003-2004

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
March 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	2,900	2,850	98	58,183	59,315	102
Breeding	380	360	95	6,017	5,915	98
Market	2,520	2,490	99	52,166	53,399	102
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	1,000	980	98	19,086	19,679	103
60-119 pounds	640	640	100	12,649	12,993	103
120-179 pounds	485	460	95	10,915	11,088	102
180 pounds and over	395	410	104	9,516	9,641	101
Sows Farrowing						
December-February <sup>1</sup>	180	175	97	2,769	2,814	102
March-May	185	175 <sup>2</sup>	95	2,885	2,852 <sup>2</sup>	99
June-August	185	175 <sup>2</sup>	95	2,906	2,851 <sup>2</sup>	98
September-November	180			2,841		
Total Sows Farrowing	730			11,401		
Pig Crop						
December-February <sup>1</sup>	1,575	1,558	99	24,399	24,895	102
March-May	1,647			25,627		
June-August	1,628			25,869		
September-November	1,620			25,359		
Total Pig Crop <sup>3</sup>	6,470			101,254		

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.

<sup>2</sup> Intentions.

<sup>3</sup> May not add due to rounding.

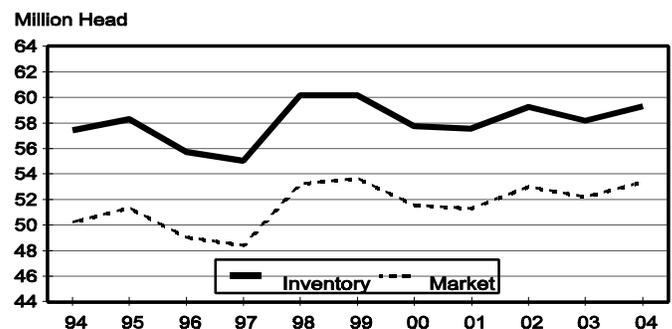
Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, March 26, 2004.

### March 1 Hog Report Highlights

- \* U.S. inventory up 2 percent from March 2003. Expectations of private forecasters averaged 102 percent of the previous year with a range of 100.0 percent to 102.4 percent.
- \* Market hogs were up 2 percent from a year earlier. Private forecasters' expectations ranged from 100.0 percent to 103.0 percent with an average of 102 percent.
- \* Breeding herd was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Expectations of private forecasters ranged from 96.5 percent to 100.4 percent with an average of 99 percent.
- \* U.S. December-February pig crop was up 2 percent from a year earlier. Analysts expected the pig crop to be 102 percent of previous year; estimates ranged from 100.5 percent to 103.0 percent.
- \* March-May intentions are down 1 percent from actual farrowings a year earlier. June-August intentions are down 2 percent from the previous years actual farrowings.

\*Commercial hog slaughter during December-February at 26.1 million head was 4 percent above a year earlier. Live hog imports were 2.27 million head, up 54 percent from a year earlier. Total exports increased to 70,000 head, compared to 63,000 a year ago.

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



### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

February 2004 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 2003 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2004 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

#### Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, February 2004 with Comparisons

Item	Total <sup>1</sup>	Feb 2004 Percent of	
		Feb 2003	Jan 2004
Nebraska <i>1,000 Head</i>			
Cattle, head	487.8	90	94
Hogs, head	514.4	96	86
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	483.3	90	91
United States			
Cattle, head	2,427.0	94	94
Calves, head	71.5	86	91
Hogs, head	7,886.1	103	90
Sheep & Lambs, head	213.0	94	97
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,403.4	97	92

<sup>1</sup> Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, March 19, 2004.

### Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, February 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Feb 2004 Percent of	
		Feb 2003	Jan 2004
<i>1,000 Lbs</i>			
Total red meats	934,743	96	97
Beef	436,398	99	100
Pork	483,609	93	95
Poultry	1,021,766	87	107
Turkey	476,855	97	113
Chicken	543,583	81	102

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, March 19, 2004.

#### Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, February 2004 with Comparisons

Item	2003	2004	2004/2003
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.7	11.8	101
30 States	318.3	316.1	99
United States	340.6	338.9	100
Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	237	254	107
30 States	6,229	6,437	103
United States	6,665	6,891	103
Chickens Hatched, February			
United States			
Egg-type	30.0	32.1	107
Broiler	694.6	727.9	105

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, March 22, 2004.

### 2003 Cropland Data Layer Available

The Cropland Data Layer for Nebraska depicting distribution of 2003 crops is now available on CD Rom. Order it at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/SARS1a.htm> or call 1-800-727-9540.

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