Farm Land Values

UTAH: Average farm real estate values, including land and buildings, were estimated at $1,100 per acre on January 1, 2003, up from $1,050 on January 1, 2002. Utah cropland was valued at $3,380 per acre on January 1, 2003, up $240 from 2002, and up $420 from 2001. Pastureland was valued at $550 per acre on January 1, 2003, up $50 an acre from 2002 and up $100 an acre from 2001.

UNITED STATES: Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged $1,270 per acre as of January 1, 2003, up 5.0 percent from the previous year. The value of farm real estate increased in all States except Kansas, where values remained at 2002 levels. The $60 per acre increase in farm real estate values continued an upward trend that began in 1987.

The increase in all land and buildings followed the trend of cropland and pasture values, which rose by 4.2 and 5.1 percent, respectively, from January 1, 2002. Cropland values averaged $1,720 per acre and pasture values averaged $618 per acre on January 1, 2003, compared with $1,650 and $588 per acre, respectively, a year earlier.

The increases in farm real estate and the cropland and pasture components were largely, though not entirely, driven by low interest rates and poor returns for alternative assets. The certainty of government commodity programs also lent support to some agricultural land. Also, potential for nonagricultural uses contributed to strong increases, especially for pasture values. Income from crop and livestock commodities was mixed, providing limited support for farm real estate values in some areas, while creating a slight drag on values in other areas.

Regional increases in the average value of farm real estate ranged from 3.4 percent in the Pacific region to 7.6 percent in the Lake region. The highest farm real estate values were in the Northeast region, where urban influences drove the average value to $2,950 per acre. In the Appalachian and Southeast regions, where urban and recreational influences are increasing, farm real estate values rose 7.1 percent to $2,420 per acre. The Mountain region, with its expanse of pasture and rangeland, has the lowest farm real estate value, at $526 per acre.

Cropland values rose 4.7 percent, to $2,450 per acre, in the Corn Belt and 2.6 percent, to $738 per acre, in the Northern Plains. Together these regions account for about one-half of the U.S. total cropland acres. The highest average cropland values, at $3,720 per acre, are in the Pacific region, where a significant portion of the cropland is irrigated.

Dollar values and percentage increases of farm real estate, cropland, and pasture for States along the East Coast and Great Lakes are the largest in the country. Despite severe agricultural drought in several of these States, price competition from rapid urbanization and development has more than offset any downward pressures on land values due to poor agricultural returns. Pasture values, in particular, outpace those of cropland in many of these States, mainly due to its greater appeal and availability for development and recreation.

U.S. Turkeys Raised Down 1 Percent from 2002

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2003 is 269 million, down 1 percent from the number raised during 2002. The following six States are expected to account for about two-thirds of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2003: **Minnesota**, at 45.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, and shows a 3 percent increase from last year. **North Carolina** ranks second with 45.0 million birds, down 1 percent from 2002. **Missouri** is in third place by producing 27.5 million birds, 8 percent more than a year ago. **Arkansas** growers expect to produce 24.0 million birds in 2003, down 19 percent from the previous year. **Virginia,** at 23.0 million birds is up 15 percent from 2002.
California expects to raise 16.5 million turkeys, 7 percent less than a year earlier.

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: **Commercial red meat production** totaled 39.7 million pounds in July 2003, 14.4 percent below

July of last year. **Cattle slaughter** in Utah for July 2003 totaled 53,300 head, down 10.6 percent from a year ago. The average live weight was 1,172 pounds, down 49 pounds from July 2002. **Hogs slaughtered** down 1,700 head from July 2002. The average live weight was 240 pounds compared with 181 pounds last year. **Sheep and lamb slaughter** during July 2003 totaled 2,600 head, a decrease of 300 head from a year ago. Average live weight, at 128 pounds, was up 2 pounds from a year ago.

UNITED STATES: **Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.05 billion pounds in July, a new monthly high and up 1 percent from the 4.02 billion pounds produced in July 2002. **Beef production,** at 2.44 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.29 million head, up 3 percent from July 2002. The average live weight was down 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,225 pounds. **Veal production** totaled 14.8 million pounds, 12 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 84,900 head, down 11 percent from July 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds below last year, at 288 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.58 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.10 million head, slightly above July 2002. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production,** at 15.7 million pounds, was down 4 percent from July 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 239,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 131 pounds, up 5 pounds from July a year ago.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter,

July 2002-2003 1/

Item	Utah		United States	
	July		July	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
Production (Million Pounds)				
Red Meat	46.4	39.7	4,016.5	4,046.1
Number Slaughtered (Thousand Head)				
Cattle	59.6	53.3	3,187.7	3,285.3
Calves	1/	1/	95.8	84.9
Hogs	4.7	3.0	8,068.3	8,101.9
Sheep & Lamb	2.9	2.6	259.0	239.2
Average Live Weight (Pounds)				
Cattle	1,221	1,172	1,248	1,225
Calves	1/	1/	291	288
Hogs	181	240	260	262
Sheep & Lamb	126	128	126	131

1/ Missing data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 2003 were greater than year earlier levels for butter, frozen eggs, total turkey, and total juice.

Butter stocks were down 6 percent from June 2003 but 12 percent above a year ago.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were 3 percent below June 30, 2003 and 10 percent below July 2002. Frozen pork stocks were 5 percent below last month and 8 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies were 26 percent below last month but 8 percent above July 2002 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies on July 31, 2003 were up 1 percent from last month but down 12 percent from last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down 1 percent from last month and down 26 percent from last year's level. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 3 percent from last month and were 5 percent above last year.

Public cooler occupancy on July 31, 2003, was at 41 percent of capacity, down 1 point from last year. Public freezer occupancy, was at 52 percent, down 1 point from last year.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Jul 31, 2002	Jun 30, 2003	Jul 31, 2003
		1,000 Pounds	
Total Frozen			
Eggs	12,943	17,951	18,525
Chickens	869,226	653,259	645,793
Turkeys	706,194	718,212	742,188
Total Poultry	1,582,593	1,378,343	1,392,326
Cherries, Tart			
RTP	81,794	11,002	69,004
Juice	1,594	861	1,275
Cherries, Sweet .	13,529	4,703	8,881
Potatoes	1,106,585	1,181,788	1,125,838
Beef	416,534	371,477	370,772
Pork	472,184	455,012	433,581
Lamb & Mutton	14,215	5,427	5,929
Total Meat	912,606	842,487	820,493
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh . . .	316,314	730,553	410,361
Butter	245,298	292,023	275,335
Cheese, Natural .			
American	573,368	549,756	550,411
Swiss	15,721	26,042	29,563
Other Natural . .	244,489	223,938	229,111

Agricultural Prices

Utah: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-August 2003, compared with July 2003, were up for barley, and other hay. Alfalfa hay remained the same according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for July 2003 was $90.00 per cwt, up $19.00 from August 2002. The July 2003 sheep price, at $26.00 was $3.00 above August 2002.

Barley, at $2.13 per bushel, was up slightly from the previous month's price but 14 cents below last year. Baled alfalfa hay was $83.00 per ton, the same as last month but $20.00 below last year. Other hay, at $72.00 per ton, was $2.00 higher than last month and $15.00 higher than August 2002.

United States: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August is 108, based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from the July Index. Since last month both the All Crops Index and the Livestock and Products Index show increases. Higher prices for wheat, dairy, cattle, and lettuce more than offset lower prices for grapes, cantaloup, soybeans, and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8 points (8.0 percent) from August, 2002. Higher prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, hay, and turkeys.

The Food Commodities Index also increased 5 points (4.8 percent) above last month to 109, and is 12 points (12.4 percent) above August last year.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Aug 2002	Jul 2003	Aug 2003 [1]	Aug 2002	Jul 2003	Aug 2003 [1]
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	71.00	90.00	([2])	75.30	89.40	([2])
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	23.00	26.00	([2])	25.60	28.60	([2])
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.27	2.12	2.13	2.68	2.74	2.58
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	103.00	83.00	83.00	101.00	92.70	91.00
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	57.00	70.00	72.00	71.30	77.80	69.10

[1] Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.
[2] August data will be published next month.

Farm Labor

MOUNTAIN REGION II (includes Utah, Nevada, and Colorado): During the week of July 6-12, 2003 there were 24,000 workers hired by farm operators in the region. All hired workers (excluding Agricultural Service Workers) were paid an average wage of $8.56 per hour, down 87 cents from April 2003 and 32 cents lower than the national average. Field workers received $7.86 per hour on average, down 46 cents from April 2003. Livestock workers received $8.62 per hour, down 24 cents from April 2003.

UNITED STATES: There were 1,273,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $8.88 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.18 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned $8.62 per hour compared with $8.38 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $8.28 per hour, was up 26 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked by Region and United States, July 6-12, 2003 [1]

U.S. and Region	Hired							
	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed: 150 Days or More	Expected to be Employed: 149 Days or Less	Number of Hours Worked	Type of Worker: Field	Type of Worker: Livestock	Type of Worker: Field & Lvstk Combined	Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hours per Week	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
Mountain I [2]	31	22	9	46.7	7.27	7.41	7.34	7.63
Mountain II [3]	24	16	8	44.5	7.86	8.62	8.06	8.56
Mountain III [4]	18	16	2	47.7	7.11	8.41	7.55	8.07
US	953	678	275	40.0	8.18	8.62	8.28	8.88

1/ Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/ Mountain I - Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. 3/ Mountain II - Colorado, Nevada and Utah. 4/ Mountain III - Arizona and New Mexico.

U.S. Mushroom Production

Sales of the 2002-2003 U.S. mushroom crop are 844 million pounds, virtually unchanged from 2001-2002 but down 2 percent from two seasons ago. Value of sales for the U.S. mushroom crop is $889 million, down 2 percent from the previous season but 2 percent above the 2001-2002 season. The number of growers, at 260, is down 8 from last season. Average price is $1.05 per pound, down 2 cents from 2001-2002.

Agaricus mushroom sales totaled 831 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the 2001-2002 season but down 2 percent from 2000-2001. Pennsylvania accounted for 56 percent of the total volume of sales and second ranked California contributed 15 percent. The value of the Agaricus crop is estimated at $852 million, down 2 percent from the 2001-2002 season. Brown mushrooms, including Portabello and Crimini varieties, accounted for 111 million pounds, 13 percent of the total Agaricus volume sold. The brown mushroom crop value of sales for the 2002-03 season is $140 million, 16 percent of the total Agaricus value.

Growers sold 11.6 million pounds of mushrooms that were certified organic during the 2002-2003 growing season. Out of the 11.6 million pounds, 3.70 million pounds, or 31 percent were sold as certified organic mushrooms, while the rest were sold without the certified organic label. This compares to 5.36 million pounds, or 40 percent sold as certified organic during the 2001-2002 crop year. Agaricus mushrooms accounted for 66 percent of the mushrooms sold as certified organic, while all specialty mushrooms made up the remainder. These certified organic sales represent less than 1 percent of the 2002-2003 total mushroom sales. The number of certified organic mushroom growers totaled 30, up 1 from the previous season. These growers represent 12 percent of the 260 total mushroom producers.

Agaricus & Specialty Mushrooms: Number of Growers, Volume of Sales, Price, and Value of Sales, July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2003

Year	*Growers 1/*	*All Sales: Volume of Sales*	*All Sales: Price per Pound 2/*	*All Sales: Value of Sales*
	Number	*1,000 Pounds*	*Dollars*	*1,000 Dollars*
2000-01	*266*	*860,093*	*1.010*	*867,737*

2001-02	*268*	*844,590*	*1.070*	*907,799*
2002-03	*260*	*844,288*	*1.050*	*889,325*

1/ Number of growers counted once if growing both Agaricus and Specialty mushrooms. 2/ Prices for mushrooms are the average prices producers receive at the point of first sale, commonly referred to as the average price as sold. For example, if in a given State, part of the fresh mushrooms are sold F.O.B. packed by growers, part are sold bulk to brokers or repackers, and some are sold retail at roadside stands, the mushroom average price as sold is a weighted average of the average price for each method of sale.