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MARCH REVIEW

Mild temperatures and below normal rainfall were received during March. In the West, most fields were still too wet with standing water in low lying areas. Shellfish growers have been busy preparing culch for seed set and transplanting oysters for fattening. Christmas tree growers were finishing up plantings and getting ready to apply herbicides and fertilizers. Tulip fields bloomed a few days earlier than normal. Fieldwork began in eastern Washington. Cattle were moved to spring pastures and calving and lambing began. Winter wheat conditions in Whitman County were variable, while Lincoln, Asotin and Adams Counties reported winter wheat in fair condition.

GRAIN STOCKS

Olympia - The quantity of wheat stored in all positions in Washington on March 1, 2003 was higher than the quantity being stored on March 1 a year earlier. Wheat stocks in Washington totaled 84.6 million bushels, an increase of 17 percent from March 1, 2002. Barley stored in the state totaled 7.2 million bushels, a decrease of 22 percent from last year.

Wheat stored on farms in Washington on March 1, 2003, totaled 8.5 million bushels, down 500,000 bushels from March 1, 2002. Off-farm wheat stocks totaled 76.1 million bushels, up 20 percent from a year ago.

The quantity of wheat stored in the **Pacific Northwest** (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho), on March 1, 2003 totaled 141.6 million bushels, 7 percent higher than last year. On-farm stocks, at 24.5 million bushels, were down 5.5 million bushels from last year. Holdings off-farm were 117.1 million bushels, 15 percent more than a year ago. The quantity of wheat stored in the United States totaled 904.9 million bushels, down 25 percent from a year ago.

Washington on-farm **barley** stocks, on March 1, 2003, totaled 900,000 bushels, down 40 percent from a year ago. The quantity of barley stored in the state's off-farm storages was 6.3 million bushels, a decrease of 18 percent from last year. Pacific Northwest barley stocks in all positions totaled 31.1 million bushels on March 1, 2003, a decrease of 13 percent from the quantity in storage on March 1, 2002. Nationally, barley stocks in all positions totaled 123.5 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year.

GRAIN STOCKS: MARCH 1, 2003, DECEMBER 1, 2003 1/, & MARCH 1, 2004

Crop/ Quarter	Washington			Pacific Northwest 2/			United States		
	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total	On-Farm	Off-Farm 3/	Total
1,000 Bushels									
Wheat									
Mar. 1, 2003	8,500	76,063	84,563	24,500	117,146	141,646	236,300	670,333	906,633
Dec. 1, 2003	13,000	99,761	112,761	43,500	151,967	195,467	491,925	1,028,359	1,520,284
Mar. 1, 2004	6,000	66,041	72,041	18,500	108,393	126,893	257,890	761,141	1,019,031
Barley									
Mar. 1, 2003	900	6,343	7,243	9,450	21,634	31,084	36,730	86,710	123,440
Dec. 1, 2003	1,700	8,245	9,945	16,900	26,038	42,938	97,200	100,679	197,879
Mar. 1, 2004	1,000	5,711	6,711	10,600	22,546	33,146	51,700	99,784	151,484
Oats									
Mar. 1, 2003	*	134	*	*	1,108	*	35,000	47,879	82,879
Dec. 1, 2003	*	230	*	*	1,077	*	64,400	54,900	119,300
Mar. 1, 2004	*	177	*	*	975	*	45,600	49,469	95,069
Corn									
Mar. 1, 2003	*	7,291	*	*	10,721	*	2,940,000	2,191,873	5,131,873
Dec. 1, 2003	*	9,028	*	*	11,938	*	5,286,000	2,667,775	7,953,775
Mar. 1, 2004	*	5,012	*	*	7,807	*	3,030,000	2,240,641	5,270,641

1/ Revised.

2/ Includes Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

3/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. * Data not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

ONIONS: AREA PLANTED BY SEASON & STATE, 2002-2004

State	Area Planted			2004 as % of 2003
	2002	2003	2004	
Spring 1/ Summer (Non-Storage) 1/	38,900	35,200	38,800	Percent 110.2
California	7,500	7,800	7,700	98.7
Nevada	3,300	3,100	3,200	103.2
New Mexico	8,100	7,700	7,400	96.1
Texas	3,000	2,700	3,400	125.9
Washington 2/	1,100	1,400	1,500	107.1
Total Non-Storage	23,000	22,700	23,200	102.2
Storage				
California 3/	31,500	34,500	33,000	96.7
Colorado	12,500	10,500	12,000	114.3
Idaho	8,100	8,400	9,400	111.9
New York	12,700	12,100	12,500	103.3
Oregon: Malheur	12,000	12,200	13,000	106.6
Other	5,400	6,500	8,000	123.1
Washington	16,000	16,000	19,000	118.8
Other States	9,050	8,360	8,370	100.1
Total Storage	107,250	108,560	115,270	106.2
Total Summer	130,250	131,260	138,470	105.5
United States	169,150	166,460	177,270	106.5

1/ Primarily fresh market. 2/ 2003 forecast includes Walla Walla and other non-storage onions.

3/ Primarily dehydrated and other processing.

ASPARAGUS (SPRING): YIELD & PRODUCTION 1/

State	Area			Yield Per Acre		Production	
	Harvested		For Harvest 2004	2002	2003	2002	2003
	2002	2003					
	Acres			Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
California	34,000	36,000	25,000	30	31	1,020	1,116
Michigan	15,000	15,000	14,500	15	21	219	317
Washington	17,000	16,000	14,000	37	38	629	608
Total	66,000	67,000	53,500	28	30	1,868	2,041

1/ Includes fresh market and processing.

VEGETABLES FOR PROCESSING: PLANTED ACREAGE

Crop & State	Planted Acres				2004 Contract as a % of 2003 Contract
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract Intentions 1/	
		Total	Contract 1/		
	Acres				Percent
Sweet Corn					
Washington	97,700	101,500	101,500	94,900	93.5
Oregon	33,000	31,000	31,000	29,100	93.9
United States	444,700	447,100	444,800	435,800	98.0
Green Peas					
Washington	37,600	45,500	45,500	47,000	103.3
Oregon	20,300	22,400	22,400	15,800	70.5
United States	223,700	224,800	244,800	230,500	94.2

1/ Includes acreage from major brokers.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Washington farmers' 2004 planting intentions are generally lower than last year. Planted acreage for all major crops are below last year. Only field corn and dry bean acreage is above 2003. Precipitation was heavy along the coastal areas, but light in the crop-producing areas farther inland. Temperatures were mild through most of the winter, except in early January, when temperatures fell to well below normal. Snow cover in the region was mostly adequate for protecting winter wheat. Washington and Oregon acres are each down 10,000 acres while Idaho's is up 40,000 acres. Nationally, producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres, up slightly from last year.

Spring wheat seedings for Washington are expected to be 480,000 acres, 70,000 acres less than last year. This is the lowest level since 1998's 470,000 acres. Oregon producers expect to plant 5,000 acres more than last year and Idaho acreage is down 30,000 acres, the lowest acreage since 1988. Nationwide, acreage fell from 13.8 million acres to 13.3 million in 2004. **Winter and spring barley acreage** is estimated at 290,000 acres in Washington, 30,000 acres below 2003. This is the lowest level since 1974's 283,000 acres. Nationwide, acreage is down to 4.7 million acres, from 5.3 million acres last year. **Sugarbeet** acreage for Washington fell 200 acres, to 4,200 acres. Total U.S. acreage is expected to total 1.36 million acres, down slightly from last year.

Dry bean acres in Washington are expected to increase 7,500 acres in 2004, reaching 35,000 acres. Oregon acreage is an estimated 5,000 acres, down 2,000 acres and Idaho acreage is up to 80,000 acres from 75,000 acres planted in 2003. Acres in the U. S. fell over 73,000 acres to 1.33 million.. **Field corn** acreage in Washington is up 20,000 acres to 150,000 acres and the highest level since 2000's 155,000 planted acres. Oregon acreage rose from 51,000 acres last year to 57,000 acres this year while Idaho acreage is down 10,000 acres. U. S. growers intent to plant 79.0 million acres for all purposes in 2004, up slightly from both the 2003 and 2002 crops Planted acres of **oats** in Washington is down 5,000 acres from 2003, at 30,000 acres. Acres of **hay** for harvest is up in the Pacific Northwest from 2003. Washington and Oregon acreage is down but not enough to offset Idaho's increase. Washington and Oregon acres are each down 10,000 acres while Idaho's is up 40,000 acres. The first estimate of winter wheat production will be published May 12, 2004 and the first estimate of spring wheat and barley production will be published July 12, 2004.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS: SELECTED STATES & UNITED STATES, 2002-2004

Crop	Washington			Oregon		Idaho		United States		
	2002	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2003	Ind. 2004	2002	2003	Ind. 2004
	1,000 Acres									
All Wheat 1/	2,450	2,400	2,280	1,115	1,020	1,240	1,170	60,318	61,700	59,462
Winter 1/	1,850	1,850	1,800	970	870	760	720	41,766	44,945	43,372
Spring	600	550	480	145	150	480	450	15,639	13,840	13,333
Barley 1/	350	320	290	70	62	750	700	5,008	5,299	4,683
Oats	32	35	30	60	60	120	125	4,995	4,601	4,312
Corn	130	130	150	51	57	190	180	78,894	78,736	79,004
Dry Beans 2/	44.5	27.5	35.0	7.0	5.0	75.0	80.0	1,929.7	1,406.1	1,333.0
Sugarbeets 3/	4.0	4.4	4.2	9.7	11.0	208.0	197.0	1,427.3	1,365.4	1,358.6
All Hay 4/	820	810	800	1,115	1,105	1,500	1,540	63,942	63,342	63,731

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

2/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

3/ Relates to year of intended harvest except overwintered spring planted beets in California.

4/ Area harvested in 2002 & 2003 and intended for harvest in 2004.

PRICES

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS FOR FARM PRODUCTS (DOLLARS/UNIT)

Commodity	Unit	Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2004	Entire Month		Prelim. Mar. 2004	U.S. Parity Price
		Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004		Mar. 2003	Feb. 2004		
		Washington			United States			
Wheat, All	Bu.	3.44	3.91	3.92	3.55	3.77	3.71	9.84
Wheat, Spring	Bu.	3.75	3.98	4.00	3.72	3.83	3.81	-
Wheat, Winter	Bu.	3.36	3.89	3.90	3.30	3.68	3.61	-
Barley	Bu.	2.63	2.65	2.51	2.83	2.72	2.71	6.56
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	2.33	2.61	2.79	6.61
Oats	Bu.	-	-	-	2.08	1.58	1.55	3.85
Lentils 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	-	19.10	19.40	-
Chickpeas, All 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	-	18.90	15.80	-
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	-	-	-	15.90	17.50	19.00	50.90
Dry Edible Peas 1/	Cwt.	-	-	-	-	8.34	8.43	-
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	6.10	5.80	5.80	6.87	5.93	6.30	14.90
Potatoes, Processing	Cwt.	5.60	5.40	-	5.29	5.49	-	-
Hay, All (baled) 2/	Tons	109.00	90.00	92.00	92.80	79.90	81.80	-
Alfalfa (baled) 2/	Tons	103.00	83.00	80.00	96.70	84.70	85.90	-
Other Hay (baled) 2/	Tons	130.00	115.00	115.00	77.90	69.90	70.90	-
Hops	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.46
Apples, Fresh 3/	Lbs.	.228	.331	.330	.226	.294	.307	.516
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	-	-	-	72.60	78.50	84.00	167.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	-	-	-	76.70	82.30	88.60	-
Calves	Cwt.	-	-	-	96.70	111.00	114.00	223.00
Milk Cows 4/	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broilers, live 5/	Lbs.	-	-	-	.330	.470	.470	-
Eggs, Market 2/	Doz.	.575	.890	1.140	.518	.745	1.000	1.66
Milk, All Wholesale 6/ 7/	Cwt.	11.00	13.40	15.00	11.00	13.60	14.70	34.40
Hogs, All	Cwt.	-	-	-	34.70	42.60	45.10	103.00
Sheep	Cwt.	-	-	-	40.90	41.20	-	82.00
Lambs	Cwt.	-	-	-	97.10	107.00	-	197.00

1/ Monthly estimates began July 2003.

2/ All prices are mid-month estimates.

3/ Equivalent packinghouse door returns for apples for CA, NY, and WA. Prices at point of first sale for other states.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October.

5/ Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

6/ February 2004 U.S. Butterfat test percent was 3.76 for all milk.

7/ Before deduction for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.