



# RANGE REVIEW

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National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

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Thank You to all the producers who participated in our Dec. and Jan. surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

## LIVESTOCK PRICES DECLINE

The *Index of Prices Received* by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agricultural commodities sold during February was 104 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 4 points (4 percent) from January, but unchanged from February 2002. The All Livestock Index was down 1 point (1 percent) from last month and down 2 points (2 percent) from last year. The average price for cows was higher than in January, but average prices for steers and heifers, calves, sheep, and lambs were lower. The All Crops Index was down 3 points (2 percent) from January, but up 11 points (10 percent) from February 2002. The average prices for corn, oats, wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay were higher than the previous month, but the average price for dry beans was lower. The price for feed barley was unchanged from January. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The *Index of Prices Received for Livestock*, at 99, was down 1 point from January and was 2 points lower than February 2002. Sheep prices were 20 cents lower than January, but \$7.30 higher than last year. Lamb prices

averaged \$2.00 lower than January but \$24.60 higher than February 2002. Steer and heifer prices were down \$1.50 from January and \$1.60 lower than last year. Cow prices were up \$1.00 from January but \$1.80 lower than last January. Calf prices were down \$1.00 from January and down \$6.00 from last year.

The *Index of Prices Received for Crops*, at 126, was down 3 points from January, but up 11 points from last year. Wheat was up 12 cents from January and \$1.05 higher than February 2002. Alfalfa hay was up \$1.00 from January but down \$1.00 from last year. Other hay prices were up \$2.00 from January and \$1.00 higher than last year. This is a new record high for other hay in Wyoming. The average corn price was up 4 cents from January and up 79 cents from February 2002. Oats was up 5 cents from January and 47 cents higher than last year. Feed barley was unchanged from January but was 15 cents higher than last year. Dry beans was down 10 cents from January and down \$4.80 from last February.

**UNITED STATES:** The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the January index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, broilers, eggs, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is also unchanged from February 2002. Higher prices for corn, soybeans, cattle, and cotton more than offset lower prices for lettuce, hogs, broccoli, and potatoes.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, FEBRUARY 2002, JANUARY 2003, AND FEBRUARY 15, 2003								
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		FEB 2002	JAN 2003	FEB 15 2003	FEB 2002	JAN 2003	FEB 15 2003	
		Dollars			Dollars			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	41.80	39.00	40.00	40.60	36.90	38.10	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	83.40	83.30	81.80	73.50	77.80	78.90	—
Calves	100#	106.00	101.00	100.00	105.00	96.80	97.60	45
Sheep	100#	36.70	44.20	44.00	34.30	41.30	1/	—
Lambs	100#	74.40	101.00	99.00	67.80	92.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.11	2.86	2.90	1.93	2.33	2.35	36
Oats	Bu.	1.73	2.15	2.20	1.91	2.05	2.02	49
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.90	2.05	2.05	1.69	2.17	2.23	—
All Wheat	Bu.	2.86	3.79	3.91	2.83	3.89	3.71	39
Dry Beans	100#	24.50	19.80	19.70	26.10	16.40	16.30	32
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	114.00	112.00	113.00	100.00	97.60	96.40	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	108.00	107.00	109.00	71.90	79.60	79.40	—

1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996.

NOTE: Entire month price is a revision of previous mid-month price except for hay which is always a mid-month price.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.							
1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
	FEB 2002	JAN 2003	FEB 15 2003	FEB 2002	JAN 2003	FEB 15 2003	
All Commodities	104	108	104	99	99	99	
All Crops	115	129	126	102	103	103	
All Livestock and Products	101	100	99	97	96	95	

## U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION SETS NEW RECORD IN 2002

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during 2002 totaled 5.7 million pounds, up 24 percent from the 4.6 million pounds in 2001. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

A total of 7,000 *cattle* were slaughtered in 2002, up 1,500 head from 2001. Total liveweight, at 8.21 million pounds, was 29 percent above last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,176 pounds, up 28 pounds from 2001. In 2002, 4,700 *hogs and pigs* were processed, up from 4,400 in 2001. The average liveweight of 253 pounds was down 2 pounds from 2001. Total liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 1.18 million pounds, 6 percent above last year. A total of 1,600 *sheep and lambs* were processed in 2002, up 200 head from a year earlier. Total liveweight, at 218,000 pounds, was 15 percent above 2001. The average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered at 135 pounds was 1 pound less than last year.

**UNITED STATES: Red meat production** in commercial plants and on farms for the United States totaled 47.3 billion pounds in 2002, a new record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 47.2 billion pounds. **Beef production**, at 27.2 billion pounds, rose 1 percent above the previous record high set in 2000. **Pork production**, at 19.7 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the record high set in 1999. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 222.2 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2002 totaled 35.7 million head, up 1 percent from 2001. The average liveweight was 1,251 pounds, up 30 pounds from a year ago. **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 100.3 million head, up 2 percent from 2001. The average liveweight, at 265 pounds, was up 1 pound from last year. **Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, totaled 3.29 million head, up 2 percent from 2001. The average liveweight fell 7 pounds from 2001 to 133 pounds.

## COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: TOTAL PRODUCTION AND NUMBER OF HEAD SLAUGHTERED, WYOMING AND U.S., 2001-2002

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total 1/
<b>RED MEAT PRODUCTION - 1,000 Pounds 2/</b>													
2001	500	400	300	300	400	400	400	600	300	200	500	400	4,600
2002	600	400	400	400	400	400	500	900	400	200	400	500	5,700
U.S. Million Pounds													
2001	3,934.7	3,399.9	3,762.3	3,507.5	3,881.7	3,758.7	3,644.7	4,060.5	3,665.7	4,265.1	3,970.1	3,813.6	45,664.4
2002	4,082.5	3,502.1	3,677.7	3,901.8	4,017.3	3,810.8	4,016.5	4,139.6	3,873.2	4,382.1	3,907.1	3,858.2	47,168.9
<b>NUMBER OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED - Head</b>													
2001	600	400	400	400	400	400	500	600	400	300	600	600	5,500
2002	700	600	600	600	500	500	600	900	500	300	600	700	7,000
U.S. 1,000 Head													
2001	3,002.3	2,580.4	2,918.4	2,714.0	3,199.8	3,120.2	2,942.5	3,239.4	2,808.1	3,162.0	2,903.4	2,779.3	35,369.7
2002	3,057.0	2,615.6	2,737.7	2,948.7	3,146.6	3,062.2	3,187.7	3,212.8	2,866.7	3,266.6	2,861.1	2,771.8	35,734.6
<b>NUMBER OF CALVES SLAUGHTERED 3/</b>													
U.S. 1,000 Head													
2001	91.2	78.8	84.3	74.3	78.6	77.4	83.3	94.2	78.8	93.9	87.3	84.6	1,006.7
2002	87.7	73.2	77.4	82.1	78.0	76.1	95.8	96.1	88.9	100.9	90.8	98.2	1,045.4
<b>NUMBER OF SHEEP AND LAMBS SLAUGHTERED - Head</b>													
2001	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	300	100	100	100	200	1,400
2002	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	400	200	100	100	100	1,600
U.S. 1,000 Head													
2001	268.6	245.4	328.6	290.8	238.9	232.8	243.5	273.4	244.3	289.1	287.1	279.6	3,221.1
2002	256.5	259.4	324.3	278.9	285.7	230.6	259.0	265.1	276.3	300.6	271.1	278.7	3,286.3
<b>NUMBER OF HOGS AND PIGS SLAUGHTERED - Head</b>													
U.S. 1,000 Head													
2001	400	300	300	300	300	300	400	900	400	200	300	200	4,400
2002	300	300	300	300	200	200	400	1,200	600	200	300	300	4,700
U.S. 1,000 Head													
2001	8,644.3	7,604.2	8,329.1	7,837.4	7,958.6	7,484.2	7,447.6	8,374.7	7,812.4	9,334.2	8,716.2	8,419.1	97,961.9
2002	8,660.7	7,501.2	7,986.5	8,425.3	8,323.1	7,531.2	8,068.3	8,545.8	8,505.5	9,403.6	8,654.2	8,657.4	100,262.6

1/Totals may not add due to rounding.

2/Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter.

3/Number of calves slaughtered in Wyoming not shown because of small numbers.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 8 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on February 1, 2003. Inventory was 8 percent below February 1, 2002 and 11 percent below February 1, 2001.

Placements in January totaled 2.14 million, 2 percent below 2002 and 6 percent below 2001. Placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 433,000, 600-699 pounds were 587,000, 700-799 pounds were 706,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 409,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.97 million, down 5 from 2002 and down 4 percent from 2001.

## CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, FEB 1, 2001-2002 1/

State	On Feed Jan 1, 2003	Place-ments Jan 2003	Market-ings Jan 2003	Other Disapp. Jan 2003	On Feed Feb 1, 2003	On Feed Feb 1, 2002
Thousand Head						
CO	1,020	235	215	10	1,030	1,180
KS	2,200	540	500	20	2,220	2,450
NE	2,140	480	390	10	2,220	2,290
TX	2,630	450	435	15	2,630	2,850
Oth Sts.	* 2,603	430	430	20	2,583	2,802
U.S.	* 10,593	2,135	1,970	75	10,683	11,572

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

\*Revised

## U.S. BEEF PRODUCTION DOWN 2 PERCENT

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during January 2003 totaled 700,000 pounds. This is up 35 percent from January 2002 and 27 percent more than the previous month. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Nine hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in January, 300 more than January 2002. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,192 pounds, 48 pounds heavier than a year ago.

Four hundred *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, up 100 head from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 256 pounds, down 4 pounds from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in January totaling 14,000 pounds liveweight. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 131 pounds, up 7 pounds from a year earlier.

**UNITED STATES:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, relatively unchanged from a year ago.

**Beef production**, at 2.29 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.01 million head, down 2 percent from January 2002. The average liveweight was 1,268 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.75 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year and a monthly record high. The average liveweight was 268 pounds, unchanged from January a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.9 million pounds, was down 10 percent from January 2002. The average liveweight was 133 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 2002 AND 2003, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	% 03/02	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	% 03/02
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
<b>Cattle</b>	600	900	689	1,023	148	3,055,800	3,007,000	3,851,455	3,814,300	99
<b>Hogs</b>	300	400	77	114	148	8,657,800	8,787,500	2,317,054	2,353,492	102
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	200	100	22	14	64	254,900	238,800	35,642	31,856	89

## WYOMING HONEY PRODUCTION SMALLER

Honey production during 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 2.39 million pounds, down 18 percent from production in 2001. Production in 2002 was 34 percent below the record 2000 total. There were 38,000 bee colonies in Wyoming during 2002 with an average production of 63 pounds per colony. In 2001, there were 38,000 colonies averaging 77 pounds per colony.

Honey stocks in Wyoming on December 15, 2002 totaled 383,000 pounds, down 18 percent from December 15, 2001. The average price received by producers for honey sold in 2001 was a record \$1.39 per pound, up from 65 cents in 2001. The total value of production was \$3.33 million, up 75 percent from 2001 and 56 percent above 2000.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 8 percent from the 74.0 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated.

Producer honey stocks were 39.0 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2002 to \$1.29 per pound, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Honey prices for 2002 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2001 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2002, which caused some revisions to the 2001 crop prices.

## HONEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 2001-2002

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 1/		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000		Lbs		1,000 Lbs				Cents		1,000 Dollars	
CO	26	24	55	60	1,430	1,440	529	576	71	122	1,015	1,757
ID	100	100	46	57	4,600	5,700	1,610	1,653	67	135	3,082	7,695
MT	136	134	102	63	13,872	8,442	4,578	1,097	67	135	9,294	11,397
NE	43	43	48	75	2,064	3,225	1,115	1,161	72	145	1,486	4,676
SD	235	225	65	51	15,275	11,475	12,220	2,410	71	140	10,845	16,065
UT	23	22	38	59	874	1,298	315	208	65	129	568	1,674
<b>WY</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2,926</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>3,328</b>
U.S.	2,506	2,524	74.0	67.8	185,461	171,140	64,556	39,047	70.4	128.6	132,225	221,638

1/ Stocks held by producers, does not include stocks under loan.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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## U.S. FARM NUMBERS UP ONLY SLIGHTLY

The number of farms and ranches in **Wyoming** in 2002 is estimated at 9,200, unchanged from 2001. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". The number of Wyoming farms has varied only slightly since 1980 and has been unchanged since 1992.

Total land in farms and ranches, at 34.6 million acres, has remained at the same level for ten years. Wyoming ranks first in the Nation in average size of farms and ranches at 3,761 acres. Arizona ranks second at 3,630 acres. In Wyoming, there were 3,400 farms (37 percent) with less than \$10,000 of agricultural sales in 2002. This was the same as in 2000 and 2001. This group accounted for 3.1 million acres or 9 percent of the total land.

**UNITED STATES:** The number of farms in the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms occurred primarily in agricultural operations with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms in 2002.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 increased 1.0 percent to 1,172,770 in 2002. Farms with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class decreased 0.9% from 2001 to 637,160 operations. The number of farms with sales over \$100,000 at 348,160 decreased 1.1 percent. Dry weather, below normal yields, and lower commodity prices contributed to the shifting of farms among the economic sales classes.

## FEWER AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

The number of hired workers on farms and ranches in the tri-state region during the week of January 12-18, 2003 was down 44 percent from a year ago. During this period, 10,000 hired workers were working on farms and ranches in the Northern Rocky Mountain Region which includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. The number of hired workers a year earlier was 18,000. Of the 10,000 hired workers, 9,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 1,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 16,000 and 2,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 35.7 compared with 34.5 last January.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.53 per hour, up 19 cents (2 percent) from last year and up 40 cents (5 percent) from October 2002. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$8.51 per hour compared with \$8.02 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.17 per hour compared with \$7.74 last year.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 884,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 724,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 160,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.32 per hour during the January 2003 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, up 4 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 38.5 hours a year ago.

Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., January 12-18, 2003 1/					
Region	Hired Workers				
	Type of Worker				
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers	
Dollars per hour					
Mntn I 2/	8.51	8.17	8.25	8.53	
Mntn II 3/	9.15	8.73	8.85	9.66	
No Plns 4/	9.18	9.43	9.37	10.00	
U.S. 5/	8.29	8.91	8.50	9.32	

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers  
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming  
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah

4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota  
5/ Excludes Alaska