



# 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 recent surveys. The results you requested are in this issue.

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## CATTLE PRICES LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in Wyoming for agricultural commodities sold during March was 101 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 1 point (1 percent) from February and down 3 points (3 percent) from March 2002. The All Livestock Index was unchanged from last month but down 4 points (4 percent) from last year. The average price for cows and lambs were higher than the previous month, but average prices for steers and heifers, calves, and sheep were lower. The All Crops Index was down 1 point (1 percent) from February, but up 2 points (2 percent) from March 2002. The average prices for feed barley and alfalfa hay were higher than the previous month, but the average prices for corn, oats, wheat, and dry beans were lower. The price for other hay was unchanged from February. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

The **Index of Prices Received for Livestock**, at 96, was unchanged from February, but was down 4 points from March 2002. Sheep prices were 50 cents lower than February but \$16.40 higher than last year. Lamb prices averaged \$3.00 higher than February and \$41.10 higher than March 2002.

Steer and heifer prices were down \$2.90 from February and \$4.60 lower than last year. Cow prices were up 50 cents from February but \$3.20 lower than last March. Calf prices were down \$2.50 from February and down \$8.00 from last year.

The **Index of Prices Received for Crops**, at 123, was down 1 point from February, but up 2 points from last year. Wheat was down 20 cents from February but 78 cents higher than March 2002. Alfalfa hay was up \$1.00 from February but unchanged from last year. Other hay prices were unchanged from February but \$1.00 higher than last year. The average corn price was down 5 cents from February but up 81 cents from March 2002. Oats down 8 cents from February but 30 cents higher than last year. Feed barley was up 1 cent from February. Dry beans was down 50 cents from February and down \$11.50 from last March.

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

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 7 points (7 percent) from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

## INCREASES EXPECTED IN CORN AND WHEAT ACREAGE IN WYOMING

As of March 1, Wyoming farmers intended to plant 515,000 acres of small grains and row crops last Fall and this Spring. This is up 9 percent from the 471,000 acres planted for 2002, and 1 percent more than in 2001. Late winter storms improved moisture supplies near the survey time but the effects of drought lingered as producers planned for the upcoming growing season. Planting intentions for spring wheat and corn were up from the actual 2002 plantings while intentions for all other Spring planted crops were unchanged from last year. Winter wheat seedings last fall were up 20 percent from the previous year.

**Small Grains:** Wyoming's 2003 **barley** acreage is expected to total 90,000 acres, unchanged from last year, but down 10,000 acres from 2001. Farmers intend to plant 70,000 acres of **oats**, also unchanged from last year but 5,000 acres below 2001. **Spring wheat** acreage, at 13,000 acres, would be up 4,000 acres from last year and 5,000 acres above 2001 if plans are realized. **Winter wheat** was seeded on 180,000 acres last fall, up 30,000 acres from the 2002 crop, up 20,000 acres from two years ago, but still 10,000 acres below the 2000 crop.

**Row Crops:** Wyoming farmers expect to plant 90,000 acres of **corn** this year, up 10,000 acres from last year and unchanged from 2001. Producers intend to plant 40,000 acres of **sugarbeets**, unchanged from last year which was the smallest sugarbeet acreage since 1984. **Dry bean** plantings this year are expected to total 32,000 acres, unchanged from 2002 but 5,000 acres above 2001.

The total acreage of **all hay** expected to be harvested in the State in 2003 is 1.15 million acres. This would be up 21 percent, or 200,000 acres, from last year and 2 percent above 2001.

These estimates are based on a survey conducted in early March. Actual plantings may vary from these estimates because of weather, economic conditions, and the effect of this report itself.

**UNITED STATES:** Planted area for the 2003 **winter wheat** crop is 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from 2002. Of the total, about 31.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.2 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres White Winter. **Other spring wheat** growers intend to plant 14.6 million acres this year, down 7 percent from last year. Of the total, about 13.8 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

**Barley** growers intend to seed 5.38 million acres for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago. **Oats** seeded and to be seeded for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 4.83 million acres, down 4 percent from last year's planted area.

Prospective 2003 plantings of **dry beans** totals 1.52 million acres, down 21 percent from last year but 6 percent above 2001. Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 2 percent below the 2002 planted acres. **Corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from 2002 but up 4 percent from 2001.

A total of 63.6 million acres of all hay are expected to be harvested in the U.S. in 2003. If realized, this would be a 1 percent drop from 2002.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MARCH 2002, FEBRUARY 2003, AND MARCH 15, 2003								
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		MAR 2002	FEB 2003	MAR 15 2003	MAR 2002	FEB 2003	MAR 15 2003	
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	44.00	40.30	40.80	41.50	38.90	39.80	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	81.30	79.60	76.70	74.10	78.10	76.20	—
Calves	100#	105.00	99.50	97.00	105.00	97.30	96.40	44
Sheep	100#	31.60	48.50	48.00	31.80	43.60	1/	—
Lambs	100#	68.90	107.00	110.00	66.70	92.40	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.04	2.90	2.85	1.94	2.34	2.30	35
Oats	Bu.	1.70	2.08	2.00	1.99	2.09	1.94	47
Feed Barley	Bu.		2.09	2.10	1.75	2.20	2.35	—
All Wheat	Bu.	2.74	3.72	3.52	2.87	3.68	3.49	36
Dry Beans	100#	27.50	16.50	16.00	27.10	19.40	15.50	31
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	114.00	113.00	114.00	99.60	96.40	96.20	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	108.00	109.00	109.00	72.70	79.40	82.30	—
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			
		MAR 2002	FEB 2003	MAR 15 2003	MAR 2002	FEB 2003	MAR 15 2003	
All Commodities		104	102	101	106	99	99	
All Crops		121	124	123	117	103	106	
All Livestock and Products		100	96	96	96	95	94	

## Planting Intentions for 2003 and Actual Plantings for 2002, Wyoming and United States

Crops	Acreage Planted/to Be Planted						
	Wyoming			United States 1/			
	2002	2003 Intentions	% 03/02	2002	2003 Intentions	% 03/02	
		1,000 Acres			1,000 Acres		
Corn, All Purposes	80	90	113	79,054	79,022	100	
Winter Wheat	150	180	120	41,735	44,308	106	
Durum Wheat	—	—	—	2,909	2,833	97	
Other Spring Wht	9	13	144	15,714	14,556	93	
Oats	70	70	100	5,005	4,828	96	
Barley	90	90	100	5,073	5,379	106	
Sugarbeets	40.0	40.0	100	1,427.9	1,399.3	98	
Dry Edible Beans	32	32	100	1,922.1	1,522.8	79	
Hay, All 2/	950	1,150	121	64,497	63,552	99	

1/ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii  
2/ Area for harvest

**U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 9 PERCENT**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.52 million head on March 1, 2003. Inventory was down 9 percent from the 11.52 million head on March 1, 2002 and 10 percent below March 1, 2001.

Placements in February totaled 1.66 million, 8 percent below 2002 but 5 percent above 2001. Placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 263,000, 600-699 pounds were 376,000, 700-799 pounds were 597,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 421,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.73 million, 4 percent below 2002 and 1 percent below 2001.

**CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS,  
SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAR 1, 2002-2003 1/**

State	On Feed Feb 1, 2003	Place- ments Feb 2003	Market- ings Feb 2003	Other Disapp. Feb 2003	On Feed Mar 1, 2003	On Feed Mar 1, 2002
	Thousand Head					
CO	1,030	170	200	10	990	1,150
KS	2,220	410	370	20	2,240	2,420
NE	2,220	330	350	10	2,190	2,300
TX	*2,600	370	395	15	2,560	2,850
Oth						
Sts.	*2,590	377	410	16	2,541	2,798
U.S.	*10,660	1,657	1,725	71	10,521	11,518

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for private use \$300

Presorted Standard  
Postage and Fees Paid  
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Permit No. G-38

**U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR**

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during February 2003 totaled 500,000 pounds. This is up 5 percent from February 2002 but down 31 percent from January 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered, unchanged from February 2002. Total liveweight was 691,000 pounds, down 3 percent from February 2002. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,223 pounds, 48 pounds heavier than last year.

Four hundred *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, 100 more than a year ago. Total liveweight, at 89,000 pounds, was up 19 percent from last year. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 255 pounds, 1 pound below a year ago.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed totaling 12,000 pounds liveweight. Total liveweight was off 20 percent from last year. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 138 pounds, down 17 pounds from a year earlier.

January - February red meat production was 1,200,000 pounds, 33 percent above the same period in 2002.

**COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2002 AND 2003, Wyoming and U.S.**

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Feb 2002	Feb 2003	Feb 2002	Feb 2003	% 03/02	Feb 2002	Feb 2003	Feb 2002	Feb 2003	% 03/02
			1,000 Pounds				1,000 Pounds			
Cattle	600	600	710	691	97	2,615,600	2,569,800	3,282,512	3,240,026	99
Hogs	300	400	75	89	119	7,501,200	7,680,300	2,000,262	2,047,380	102
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	15	12	80	259,400	224,200	35,592	29,872	84

**UNITED STATES:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.50 billion pounds in February, virtually unchanged from February 2002.

**Beef production,** at 1.94 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 2 percent from February 2002. The average liveweight was 1,261 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.52 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.68 million head, 2 percent above February 2002. The average liveweight was 267 pounds, unchanged from February a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton production,** at 15.0 million pounds, was down 16 percent from February 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,200 head, 14 percent below last year. The average liveweight was 133 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

January - February red meat production was 7.57 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 13 percent.

**WYOMING MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

The number of milk cows in **Wyoming** during January-March 2003 averaged 3,900 head. The number of cows was down 5 percent from the previous quarter and down 13 percent from the same quarter one year ago. Milk production during 2003's first quarter was 13.3 million pounds, down 7 percent from the previous three months and down 16 percent from the same quarter last year. This is the smallest quarterly milk production on record.

**UNITED STATES:** The January-March quarterly production of milk in the U.S. was 43.0 billion pounds, 1 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

**MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION,  
SELECTED STATES AND U.S., JAN-MAR, 2002 AND 2003**

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/		Change from 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
WY	4.5	3.9	15.8	13.3	-15.8
CA	1,627	1,686	8,453	8,818	4.3
CO	97	101	521	552	6.0
ID	381	394	1,942	2,087	7.5
MT	18	18	83	84	1.2
NE	68	66	299	297	-0.7
SD	97	93	363	352	-3.0
UT	93	92	391	397	1.5
WI	1,278	1,264	5,526	5,563	0.7
US	9,112	9,155	42,397	42,958	1.3

1/Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.