

Issue 2003-09, Released 09/12/03

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Thank You
to all the producers
who helped in our
recent surveys. The
results you requested
are in this issue.

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MOST CROP PRICES LOWER THAN LAST YEAR; LIVESTOCK HIGHER

The *Index of Prices Received* by farmers and ranchers in Wyoming for agricultural commodities sold during August was 110 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 1 point (1 percent) from July but up 8 points (8 percent) from August of last year.

The *All Livestock Index* was unchanged from last month, but up 18 points (19 percent) from last year. Prices for steers and heifers and calves were higher than in July, while cow prices were unchanged. Sheep and lamb prices were lower than the previous month. All livestock prices were significantly above last year at this time. Steer and heifer prices averaged \$90.00 per hundredweight, \$13.40 higher than August 2002. Cow prices, at \$48.00 per hundredweight, were \$11.10 higher than last year, while calf prices were \$5.00 higher. Lamb prices, at \$89.00 per hundredweight, were \$8.90 above August 2002, while sheep prices were \$1.30 higher than a year ago.

The *All Crops Index* was down 2 points (2 percent) from July and down 4 points (4 percent) from last year. Prices were slightly lower than last month for corn and oats, and significantly lower for alfalfa hay, and other hay. Prices were higher for wheat, while dry beans were unchanged. Feed barley was the only crop even slightly higher this month compared with August 2002. Alfalfa hay averaged \$84.00 per ton in August, down \$2.00 from July and \$26.00 below August 2002. Other hay prices, at \$77.00 per ton, dropped \$5.00 per ton from July and \$28.00 from last year. Wheat averaged \$3.10, up 40 cents from last month, but down 71 cents from last year. Dry beans averaged \$18.00 per hundredweight in August, \$7.00 lower than August 2002.

The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall indexes.

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 (3 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, cantaloupe, 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.

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

SUGARBEET PRODUCTION UP 11 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Wyoming: An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates sugarbeet production will be higher than last year. The sugarbeet production forecast is up 2 percent from last month and is 11 percent higher than last year.

Sugarbeet producers intended to harvest 34,000 acres, unchanged from the previous month. The expected average yield was 21.5 tons per acre, up 0.5 tons per acre from the August 1 forecast and 3.2 tons more than the 2002 yield. Total production was expected to be 731,000 tons.

The following forecasts were carried forward from earlier months. Based on August 1 conditions, barley production was expected to total 6.72 million bushels, which would be up 37 percent from last year's crop but 4 percent below 2001. Winter wheat production was expected to total 4.79 million bushels, more than double last year's 2.28 million bushel crop. Dry bean production in 2003 was expected to be 762,000 hundredweight, an increase of 22 percent from last year, based on conditions as of August 1. The August 1 forecast for alfalfa hay was 1.44 million tons, up 25 percent from last year's poor crop and the largest crop

since 1999. Production of all other hay is expected to be 68 percent above last year and also the largest since 1999. All hay production was expected to total 2.19 million tons, up 37 percent from 2002 and up 17 percent from 2001.

United States: Corn grain production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August 1 forecast but 10 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 138.5 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August but up 8.5 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 30.7 million tons, slightly above the August forecast and 11 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres. This is marginally higher than the August estimate but 1 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 22.8 tons per acre, 0.1 ton above the August forecast and 2.4 tons above 2002.



ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2002; ACREAGE AND SEPTEMBER 1 FORECASTS 2003

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production			
	2002	2003	2002	Sept. 2003	2002	Sept. 2003	2002	Sept. 2003	03/02 %	
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		1,000					
WYOMING										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	80	85	36	48	124	2/	4,464	2/		
Winter Wheat (bu)	150	180	120	165	19	29	3/	2,280	4,785	3/ 210%
Spring Wheat (bu)	9	11	4	8	24	4/	96	4/		
Oats (bu)	70	60	15	20	54	4/	810	4/		
Barley (bu)	90	90	70	80	70	84	3/	4,900	6,720	3/ 137%
Sugarbeets (tons)	40.0	35.5	36.0	34.0	18.3	21.5		659	731	111%
Dry Beans (cwt)	32.0	30.0	29.0	32.0	21.50	23.80	3/	624	762	3/ 122%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	500	600	2.30	2.40	3/	1,150	1,440	3/ 125%
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	450	580	1.00	1.30	3/	450	754	3/ 168%
All Hay (tons)	--	--	950	1,180	1.68	1.86	3/	1,600	2,194	3/ 137%
UNITED STATES										
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	79,054	79,066	69,313	71,815	130.0	138.5		9,007,659	9,944,418	110%
Winter Wheat (bu)	41,735	44,349	29,651	36,491	38.5	46.9	3/	31,142,802	1,712,150	3/ 150%
Spring Wheat (bu)	15,714	13,787	13,463	13,448	29.3	36.6	3/	394,189	492,320	3/ 125%
Oats (bu)	5,005	4,676	2,098	2,331	56.8	64.9	3/	119,132	151,345	3/ 127%
Barley (bu)	5,073	5,461	4,135	4,899	54.9	57.5	3/	226,873	281,475	3/ 124%
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,427.3	1,362.4	1,361.1	1,348.1	20.4	22.8		27,718	30,673	111%
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,922.1	1,501.2	1,726.9	1,417.8	17.36	17.17	3/	29,974	24,344	3/ 81%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.31	3/	73,824	77,952	3/ 106%
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	3/	77,138	82,066	3/ 106%
All Hay (tons)	--	--	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.49	3/	150,962	160,018	3/ 106%

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.
2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 2004.
3/Forecasts carried forward from August. Year-end estimates released September 30.
4/Forecasts no longer made. Year-end estimates released September 30.

**PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AUGUST 2002, JULY 2003, AND AUGUST 15, 2003
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY**

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		AUGUST 2002	JULY 2003	AUGUST 15 2003	AUGUST 2002	JULY 2003	AUGUST 15 2003	
		DOLLARS			DOLLARS			
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
COWS	100#	36.90	48.00	48.00	36.40	44.90	44.80	-
STEERS & HEIFERS	100#	76.60	89.10	90.00	67.30	78.80	81.70	-
CALVES	100#	95.00	99.90	100.00	94.90	103.00	105.00	49
SHEEP	100#	23.70	25.90	25.00	25.60	28.60	1/	-
LAMBS	100#	80.10	89.20	89.00	75.30	89.40	1/	-
CROPS								
CORN	BU.	2.67	2.15	2.15	2.38	2.17	2.13	32
OATS	BU.	2.12	2.15	2.10	1.67	1.47	1.42	34
FEED BARLEY	BU.	2.04	2.09	2.10	2.05	2.23	2.02	-
ALL WHEAT	BU.	3.81	2.70	3.10	3.63	2.95	3.44	36
DRY BEANS	100#	25.00	18.00	18.00	23.20	16.80	17.90	36
ALFALFA HAY (BALED)	TON	110.00	86.00	84.00	101.00	92.70	91.00	-
OTHER HAY (BALED)	TON	105.00	82.00	77.00	71.30	77.80	69.10	-

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.

	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	AUGUST 2002	JULY 2003	AUGUST 15 2003	AUGUST 2002	JULY 2003	AUGUST 15 2003
1990-92 = 100						
ALL COMMODITIES	102	111	110	100	105	108
ALL CROPS	110	108	106	113	109	112
ALL LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	95	113	113	87	101	105

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 5 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.59 million head on August 1, 2003. The inventory was 5 percent below August 1, 2002, and 12 percent below August 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.99 million, 8 percent above 2002 and slightly above 2001. Net placements were 1.93 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 421,000, 600-699 pounds were 414,000, 700-799 pounds were 593,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 654,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.27 million, 4 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during July, 33 percent above 2002 and 2 percent above 2001.

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

State	On Feed July 1, 2003	Placements July 2003	Marketings July 2003	Other Disapp. July 2003	On Feed Aug. 1, 2003	On Feed Aug. 1, 2002
	Thousand Head					
CO	890	175	200	5	860	990
KS	2,160	570	540	10	2,180	2,140
NE	1,690	350	460	10	1,570	1,790
TX	2,820	475	590	15	2,690	2,740
Other						
State	2,363	422	480	20	2,285	2,429
U.S.	9,923	1,992	2,270	60	9,585	10,089

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.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH FOR JULY

Commercial red meat production in Wyoming during July 2003 totaled 600,000 pounds. This is up 9 percent from the previous month and 10 percent above July 2002. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Seven hundred cattle were slaughtered in July, up 100 head from a year ago. Total liveweight was 791,000 pounds, up 5 percent from July 2002. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,170 pounds, down 5 pounds from last year.

Six hundred hogs and pigs were processed, up 200 head from last year. Total liveweight, at 142,000 pounds, was up 43 percent from July 2002. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 247 pounds, up 3 pounds from last year.

One hundred sheep and lambs were processed in July, the same as last year, totaling 20,000 pounds liveweight. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 135 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year earlier.

January - July red meat production, at 3.6 million pounds, was 20 percent above the same period in 2002.

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, to 1,225 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.

January to July 2003 commercial red meat production was 27.1 billion pounds, up slightly from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down slightly from last year, veal was up 2 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.

MORE AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

WYOMING: The number of hired workers on farms and ranches in the tri-state region during the week of July 6-12, 2003 was up 3 percent from a year ago. During this period, 31,000 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 30,000. Of the 31,000 hired workers, 22,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 9,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 22,000 and 8,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 46.7 compared with 48.3 last July.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$7.63 per hour, up 1 penny (virtually unchanged) from last year and down 30 cents (4 percent) from April 2003. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$7.27 per hour compared with \$7.12 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$7.41 per hour compared with \$7.74 last year.

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.



COMMERCIAL SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	July 2002	July 2003	July 2002	July 2003	% 03/02	July 2002	July 2003	July 2002	July 2003	% 03/02
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
Cattle	600	700	756	791	105	3,187,700	3,285,300	3,978,539	4,024,014	101
Hogs	400	600	99	142	143	8,068,300	8,101,900	2,101,546	2,125,365	101
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	17	20	118	259,000	239,200	32,712	31,236	95



Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., July 6-12, 2003 1/

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour				
Mntn I 2/	7.27	7.41	7.34	7.63
Mntn II 3/	7.86	8.62	8.06	8.56
No Plns 4/	7.89	8.79	8.15	8.52
U.S. 5/	8.18	8.62	8.28	8.88

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers 4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming South Dakota
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah 5/ Excludes Alaska

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