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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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STEER & HEIFER PRICES REACH RECORD HIGH

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agricultural commodities sold during September was 119 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 5 points (4 percent) from August and up 16 points (16 percent) from September of last year.

The **All Livestock Index** was up 1 point (1 percent) from last month and up 23 points (23 percent) from last year. Prices for steers and heifers were higher than in August, while prices for cows, calves, sheep, and lambs were all lower. All livestock prices continued to be significantly above last year at this time. Steer and heifer prices averaged \$96.00 per hundredweight, beating the previous record of \$93.10 set in December 2000. Prices were \$16.80 higher than September 2002 and \$2.30 higher than last month. Cow prices, at \$47.00 per hundredweight, were \$10.60 higher than last year, while calf prices were \$11.80 higher. Lamb prices, at \$96.00 per hundredweight, were \$16.30 above September 2002, while

at \$96.00 per hundredweight, were \$16.30 above September 2002, while sheep prices were \$2.20 higher than a year ago.

The **All Crops Index** was up 1 point (1 percent) from August but down 27 points (20 percent) from last year, mainly due to a large drop in hay prices from last year. Prices were slightly lower than last month for corn, wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay. Prices were higher for oats, feed barley, and dry beans. All crops were lower this month compared with September 2002. Alfalfa hay averaged \$82.00 per ton in September, down \$2.00 from August and \$29.00 below September 2002. Other hay prices, at \$75.00 per ton, also dropped \$2.00 per ton from August and \$31.00 from last year. Wheat averaged \$3.00, down \$1.34 from last year. Dry beans averaged \$17.00 per hundredweight in September, \$5.70 lower than September 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 September was 109, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the August Index. A higher Livestock and Products Index offset a lower All Crops Index. Higher commodity prices for cattle, lettuce, dairy, and broccoli more than offset lower prices for tomatoes, eggs, potatoes, and grapes.

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 soybeans, peanuts, corn, and apples more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, broilers, wheat, and grapes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 11 points (11 percent) from September 2002. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, broilers, and lettuce more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, potatoes, and hay.

WYOMING HAY PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO BE 45 PERCENT BETTER THAN IN 2002

WYOMING: The October 1 forecast for all hay production in 2003 is up 45 percent from last year and the largest since 1999. Total alfalfa production is expected to be 36 percent above last year, but down 12 percent from the record high set in 1999. Other hay production in the State is expected to be up 68 percent from last year's drought-reduced crop, but down 25 percent from 1999. Sugarbeet production is forecast up 11 percent from last year but still 15 percent below 2001. Dry bean production is expected to be 15 percent above last year, thanks to an average yield per acre only 10 pounds below the record set in 1997.

Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 1.56 million tons, up 36 percent from 2002 and 22 percent above 2001. Harvested area is expected to total 600,000 acres with an average yield of 2.6 tons per acre. Acreage for harvest is up 100,000 acres from 2002 and 20,000 above 2001. **Other hay** production is forecast at 754,000 tons, up 68 percent from 2002 and 25 percent above 2001. Producers expect to harvest 580,000 acres of other hay with an average yield of 1.3 tons per acre. Last year other hay averaged 1.0 ton per acre on 450,000 acres. **All hay** production is forecast at 2.31 million tons, up 45 percent from 2002 and up 23 percent from 2001.

Sugarbeet growers intend to harvest 34,000 acres in Wyoming this year with a forecast average yield of 21.5 tons per acre. Total production would be 731,000 tons, the second smallest since 1984. Acreage for harvest is 6 percent below last year and 18 percent below 2001. **Dry bean** production is expected to total 720,000 hundredweight from 32,000 harvested acres. The October 1 yield forecast is 2,250 pounds per acre which would be up 100 pounds from last year. If realized, production would be up 15 percent from last year, 40 percent above 2001, but 6 percent below 2000.

UNITED STATES: **Alfalfa hay** production is forecast at 78.5 million tons, up less than 1 percent from the August forecast and 6 percent above 2002. Yields are expected to average 3.34 tons per acre, up 0.15 ton from last year. Harvested area is 23.5 million acres, up 2 percent from 2002.

Other hay production is forecast at 82.2 million tons, virtually the same as August but up 7 percent from 2002. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.01 tons, 0.15 ton above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Harvested acreage is estimated at 40.8 million acres, down 1 percent from 2002.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 23.6 million hundredweight for 2003, down 3 percent from the August forecast and 21 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.42 million acres, down 18 percent from last year. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,665 pounds per acre, a decrease of 52 pounds from the August forecast and 71 pounds below last year.

Sugarbeet production is forecast at 29.9 million tons, 3 percent below the September forecast but 8 percent above last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.35 million acres. This is virtually unchanged from the September forecast but 1 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 22.2 tons per acre, 0.6 ton below the September forecast but 1.8 tons above 2002.

Corn production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the previous month and 13 percent above 2002. If realized, both production and average yield, at 142.2 bushels per acre, would be record highs.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, SEPT. 2002, AUG. 2003, AND SEPT. 15, 2003 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		SEPTEMBER 2002	AUGUST 2003	SEPT 15 2003	SEPTEMBER 2002	AUGUST 2003	SEPT 15 2003	% OF PARITY
		DOLLARS			DOLLARS			
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
COWS	100#	36.40	47.80	47.00	34.90	44.60	46.00	-
STEERS & HEIFERS	100#	79.20	93.70	96.00	67.80	83.50	88.20	-
CALVES	100#	91.20	106.00	103.00	92.40	107.00	106.00	49
SHEEP	100#	25.80	28.10	28.00	24.50	28.30	1/	-
LAMBS	100#	79.70	96.20	96.00	76.30	87.60	1/	-
CROPS								
CORN	BU.	2.80	2.10	2.05	2.47	2.15	2.13	32
OATS	BU.	2.18	1.58	1.60	1.80	1.39	1.39	34
FEED BARLEY	BU.	2.04	1.95	2.00	2.23	2.40	2.23	-
ALL WHEAT	BU.	4.34	3.02	3.00	4.21	3.34	3.29	34
DRY BEANS	100#	22.70	16.50	17.00	17.90	17.60	17.20	34
ALFALFA HAY (BALED)	TON	111.00	84.00	82.00	101.00	91.00	89.00	-
OTHER HAY (BALED)	TON	106.00	77.00	75.00	71.40	69.10	70.10	-

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.

1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	SEPT 2002	AUGUST 2003	SEPT 15 2003	SEPT 2002	AUGUST 2003	SEPT 15 2003
ALL COMMODITIES	103	114	119	98	109	109
ALL CROPS	133	105	106	109	113	110
ALL LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	98	120	121	85	106	108

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2002; FINAL SMALL GRAINS AND OCTOBER 1 HAY AND ROW CROP FORECAST

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		
	2002	2003	2002	October 2003	2002	October 2003	2002	October 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) 3/	150	160	120	145	19	27	2,280	3,195	140%
Spring Wheat (bu) 3/	9	8	4	6	24	25	96	150	156%
Oats (bu) 3/	70	60	15	23	54	46	810	1,058	131%
Barley (bu) 3/	90	90	70	75	70	95	4,900	7,125	145%
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	22.50	624	720	115%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	500	600	2.30	2.60	1,150	1,560	136%
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	450	580	1.00	1.30	450	754	168%
All Hay (tons)	--	--	950	1,180	1.68	1.96	1,600	2,314	145%
UNITED STATES									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	79,054	79,066	69,313	71,765	130.0	142.2	9,007,659	10,207,141	113%
Winter Wheat (bu) 3/	41,845	44,945	29,751	36,541	38.5	46.7	1,145,602	1,707,069	149%
Spring Wheat (bu) 3/	15,714	13,480	13,463	13,429	29.3	39.7	393,949	532,820	135%
Oats (bu) 3/	4,995	4,601	2,093	2,224	56.7	65.0	118,628	144,649	122%
Barley (bu) 3/	5,071	5,299	4,129	4,688	54.9	58.9	226,573	276,087	122%
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,427.3	1,362.4	1,361.1	1,347.7	20.4	22.2	27,718	29,882	108%
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,922.1	1,501.2	1,726.9	1,417.8	17.36	16.65	29,974	23,603	79%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.34	73,824	78,523	106%
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77,138	82,183	107%
All Hay (tons)	--	--	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.50	150,962	160,706	106%

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.

2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 12, 2004

3/Year-end estimate.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.83 million head on September 1, 2003. The inventory was 3 percent below September 1, 2002 and 9 percent below September 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.37 million, 7 percent above 2002 and 8 percent above 2001. Net placements were 2.31 million. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 592,000, 600-699 pounds were 529,000, 700-799 pounds were 659,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 594,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 2.08 million, 3 percent below 2002 and 5 percent below 2001. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during August, 40 percent above 2002 and 11 percent above 2001.

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

State	On Feed	Place-	Market-	Other	On Feed	On Feed
	Aug. 1, 2003	ments Aug. 2003	ings Aug. 2003	Disapp. Aug. 2003	Sept. 1, 2003	Sept. 1, 2002
Thousand Head						
CO	860	240	195	5	900	1,000
KS	2,180	580	500	10	2,250	2,230
NE	1,570	470	370	10	1,660	1,850
TX	2,690	610	580	20	2,700	2,680
Other States	2,290	474	430	15	2,319	2,369
U.S.	9,590*	2,374	2,075	60	9,829	10,129

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 6 PERCENT IN AUGUST

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during August 2003 totaled 900,000 pounds. This is up 60 percent from the previous month and up 7 percent from August 2002. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Nine hundred **cattle** were slaughtered in August, unchanged from a year ago. Total liveweight was 1,126,000 pounds, up 5 percent from August 2002. Average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,244 pounds, up 21 pounds from last year.

A total of 1,300 **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, up 100 head from last year. Total liveweight, at 338,000 pounds, was up 10 percent from August 2002. Average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 256 pounds, up 5 pounds from last year.

Five hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed in August, up 100 head from last year. Liveweight totaled 60,000 pounds, up 11 percent. Average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 131 pounds, up 1 pound from a year earlier.

January to August red meat production, at 4.5 million pounds, was 15 percent above the same period in 2002.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.91 billion pounds in August, down 5 percent from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in August 2002.

Beef production, at 2.33 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.13 million head, down 2 percent from August 2002. The average liveweight was down 34 pounds from the previous year to 1,225 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.56 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.04 million head, 6 percent below August 2002. The average liveweight was 260 pounds, 1 pound above the previous year.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.7 million pounds, was down 6 percent from August 2002 and was a new monthly low. Sheep slaughter totaled 241,200 head, 9 percent below last year. The average liveweight was 129 pounds, up 3 pounds from August a year ago.

January to August 2003 commercial red meat production was 31.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down slightly, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, AUGUST 2002 AND 2003, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	August 2002	August 2003	August 2002	August 2003	% 03/02	August 2002	August 2003	August 2002	August 2003	% 03/02
			1,000 Pounds				1,000 Pounds			
Cattle	900	900	1,074	1,126	105	3,212,800	3,134,100	4,044,479	3,840,340	95
Hogs	1,200	1,300	307	338	110	8,545,800	8,043,100	2,211,899	2,094,310	95
Sheep & Lambs	400	500	54	60	111	265,100	241,200	33,381	31,228	94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service
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WYOMING MILK PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO DECLINE

WYOMING: The number of milk cows in **Wyoming** during July-September 2003 averaged 3,700 head. The number of cows was down 3 percent from the previous quarter and down 16 percent from the same quarter one year ago. Milk production during 2003's third quarter was 13.0 million pounds, down 2 percent from the previous three months and down 20 percent from the same quarter last year. This is the third consecutive quarter that quarterly milk production has been the smallest on record.

UNITED STATES: The July-September quarterly production of milk in the U.S. totaled 41.5 billion pounds, 0.6 percent below the same period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.07 million head, 88,000 head fewer than the same period last year.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., JUL-SEP, 2002 AND 2003

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/		Change from 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
WY	4.4	3.7	16.3	13.0	-20.2
CA	1,652	1,697	8,788	8,722	-0.8
CO	102	100	550	542	-1.5
ID	393	410	2,111	2,268	7.4
MT	18	18	87	85	-2.3
NE	67	63	283	277	-2.1
SD	96	89	340	360	5.9
UT	93	91	436	413	-5.3
WI	1,266	1,254	5,483	5,574	1.7
US	9,153	9,065	41,791	41,540	-0.6

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

2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.

