



# 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.

### CATTLE PRICES STABILIZE

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during February was 111 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 2 points (2 percent) from January but up 8 points (8 percent) from last year.

The **All Livestock Index** was down 2 points (2 percent) from last month but up 16 points (17 percent) from last year. Cattle prices seemed to have stabilized after the large drop in January immediately following the discovery of BSE in Washington state. All livestock prices, except sheep, were lower than January. All livestock prices, except sheep, were still above last year at this time. Steer and heifer prices averaged \$92.00 per hundredweight, down 50 cents from last month but \$12.40 higher than February 2003. Calf prices, at \$115.00 per hundredweight, were down \$3.00 from last month but \$15.50 higher than a year ago. Lamb prices, at \$110.00 per hundredweight, were down \$7.00 from last month but \$3.00 above February 2003.

The **All Crops Index** was down 1 point (1 percent) from January and down 18 points (14 percent) from last year, continuing to be the result of a large drop in hay prices from last year. The prices for oats, dry beans, alfalfa hay, and other hay were lower than last month. Prices were slightly higher for corn, feed barley, and wheat. Corn, oats, wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay were lower this month compared with February 2003. Alfalfa hay averaged \$72.00 per ton in February, down \$5.00 from January and \$41.00 below February 2003. Other hay prices, at \$66.00 per ton, were \$6.00 lower than last month and were down \$43.00 from last year.

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 February, at 113, based on 1990-92=100 was 2 points (2 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point (1 percent) from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (2 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs and broccoli. 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 milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 14 points (14 percent) from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (2 percent) from last month to 114 and was 18 points (19 percent) above February 2003.

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		FEB 2003	JAN 2004	FEB 15 2004	FEB 2003	JAN 2004	FEB 15 2004	
		Dollars			Dollars			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	40.30	47.10	47.00	38.90	46.10	46.20	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	79.60	92.50	92.00	78.20	85.40	81.60	—
Calves	100#	99.50	118.00	115.00	97.20	110.00	110.00	50
Sheep	100#	48.50	45.00	46.00	44.00	43.80	1/	—
Lambs	100#	107.00	117.00	110.00	92.40	104.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.90	2.59	2.70	2.34	2.39	2.55	39
Oats	Bu.	2.08	1.90	1.85	2.11	1.46	1.51	40
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.09	2.10	2.15	2.20	2.15	2.13	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.46	3.54	3.70	3.68	3.68	38
Dry Beans	100#	16.50	16.90	16.50	19.20	17.00	19.60	39
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	113.00	77.00	72.00	96.20	83.60	84.70	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	109.00	72.00	66.00	81.70	71.40	69.90	—

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.

1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	FEB 2003	JAN 2004	FEB 15 2004	FEB 2003	JAN 2004	FEB 15 2004
	All Commodities	103	113	111	99	111
All Crops	126	109	108	104	113	115
All Livestock and Products	96	114	112	95	110	111

### U.S. BEEF PRODUCTION DOWN 16 PERCENT IN JANUARY

Commercial red meat production in Wyoming during January 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This is down 2 percent from the previous month and 21 percent less than January 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred cattle were slaughtered in January, 300 head fewer than January 2003. Total live weight was 775,000 pounds, down 24 percent from January 2003. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,199 pounds, up 7 pounds from last year.

A total of 400 hogs and pigs were processed, unchanged from last year. Total live weight, at 110,000 pounds, was down 4 percent from January 2003. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 265 pounds, up 9 pounds from last year.

Two hundred sheep and lambs were processed in January, up 100 head from January 2003. Live weight totaled 22,000 pounds, 57 percent above last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 138 pounds, up 7 pounds from a year earlier.

**UNITED STATES:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in January, down 9 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in January 2003.

**Beef** production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was 16 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 14 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 1,249 pounds, down 19 pounds from January a year ago.

**Pork** production totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, slightly above January 2003. The average live weight was 269 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton** production, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	% 04/03	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	% 04/03
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
Cattle	900	600	1,023	775	76	3,007,000	2,571,000	3,814,305	3,210,574	84
Hogs	400	400	114	110	96	8,785,500	8,785,700	2,352,762	2,362,374	100
Sheep & Lambs	100	200	14	22	157	238,800	219,200	31,856	30,833	97

### U.S. PORK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH IN 2003

Commercial red meat production in Wyoming during 2003 totaled 6.6 million pounds, up 16 percent from the 5.7 million pounds in 2002. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

A total of 7,800 **cattle** were slaughtered in 2003, up 800 head from 2002. Total live weight, at 9.36 million pounds, was 14 percent above last year. The average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,194 pounds, up 18 pounds from 2002. In 2003, 5,500 **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, up from 4,700 in 2002. The average live weight of 260 pounds was up 7 pounds from 2002. Total live weight of hogs slaughtered was 1.44 million pounds, 22 percent above last year. A total of 1,800 **sheep** and **lambs** were processed in 2003, up 200 head from a year earlier. Total live weight, at 238,000 pounds, was 9 percent above 2002. The average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered at 132 pounds was 3 pounds less than last year.

**UNITED STATES: Red meat production** for the United States totaled 46.8 billion pounds in 2003, 1 percent below last year's record high. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 46.6 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 136 million pounds. **Beef production**, at 26.3 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous record high set in 2002. **Pork production**, at 20.0 billion pounds, was 2 percent above last year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 203.4 million pounds, falling 9 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2003 totaled 35.5 million head, down 1 percent from 2002. The average live weight was 1,231 pounds, down 20 pounds from a year ago. **Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 100.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2002. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year to 266 pounds. **Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.98 million head, was down 9 percent from 2002. The average live weight was up 1 pound from 2002 to 134 pounds.

### U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 4 PERCENT

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on February 1, 2004. The inventory was 4 percent above February 1, 2003 but 4 percent below February 1, 2002.

**Placements** in feedlots during January totaled 1.75 million, 16 percent below 2003 and 20 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.65 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 362,000, 600-699 pounds were 466,000, 700-799 pounds were 576,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 342,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, down 10 percent from 2003 and down 14 percent from 2002.

**Other disappearance** totaled 94,000 during January, 25 percent above 2003 and 6 percent above 2002.

State	On Feed Jan 1, 2004	Place-ments Jan 2004	Market-ings Jan 2004	Other Disapp. Jan 2004	On Feed Feb 1, 2004	On Feed Feb 1, 2003
Thousand Head						
CO	1,040	165	160	5	1,040	1,030
KS	2,430	455	440	25	2,420	2,220
NE	2,280	380	360	20	2,280	2,220
TX	2,830	390	430	20	2,770	2,600
Oth Sts.	* 2,673	356	392	24	2,613	*2,630
U.S.	* 11,253	1,746	1,782	94	11,123	*10,700

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. FARM NUMBERS DOWN SLIGHTLY**

**WYOMING:** The number of farms and ranches in Wyoming in 2003 is estimated at 9,200. This is unchanged from 2002. 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 remained steady since 1992.

Total land in farms and ranches was 34,440,000 acres, compared with 34,500,000 in both 2001 and 2002. Wyoming ranks first in the Nation in average size of farms and ranches at 3,743 acres. Arizona ranks second at 2,573 acres. In Wyoming, there were 3,700 farms (40 percent) with less than \$10,000 of agricultural sales in 2003. This was the same as in 2001 and 2002. This group accounted for 3,360,000 acres or 10 percent of the total land.

**UNITED STATES:** The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. The decline in farms occurred in all sales categories except the \$250,000-\$499,999 class which remained unchanged. Total land in farms, at 938.8 million acres, decreased 1,550,000 acres from 2002. The average size farm during 2003 was 441 acres, an increase of one acre from the previous year.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 declined 0.2 percent to 1,199,270 in 2003. Farms with sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 decreased 0.7 percent, \$100,000-\$249,999 decreased 0.9 percent, \$250,000-\$499,000 unchanged, and \$500,000 or more declined 0.4 percent.

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**NUMBER OF FARMS AND RANCHES AND LAND, SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 2002-2003 1/**

STATE	NUMBER OF FARMS & RANCHES			LAND IN FARMS & RANCHES		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
CO	30,900	31,400	31,400	31,400	31,100	31,000
ID	24,500	25,000	25,000	11,800	11,800	11,800
MT	27,800	27,900	28,000	59,600	59,800	60,100
NE	50,000	49,400	48,500	46,000	45,900	45,900
SD	32,000	31,800	31,600	43,900	43,800	43,800
UT	15,500	15,300	15,300	11,600	11,600	11,600
<b>WY</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>34,500</b>	<b>34,440</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>2,148,630</b>	<b>2,135,360</b>	<b>2,126,860</b>	<b>942,070</b>	<b>940,300</b>	<b>938,750</b>

1/ A "farm" is defined as any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would be sold during the year.

**WYOMING HONEY PRODUCTION UP 32 PERCENT**

**WYOMING:** Honey production during 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 3.16 million pounds, up 32 percent from production in 2002. Production in 2003 was 18 percent below the record 1956 total. There were 39,000 bee colonies in Wyoming during 2003 with an average production of 81 pounds per colony. In 2002, there were 38,000 colonies averaging 63 pounds per colony.

Honey stocks in Wyoming on December 15, 2003 totaled 474,000 pounds, up 24 percent from December 15, 2002. The average price received by producers for honey sold in 2003 was a record \$1.40 per pound, up from \$1.33 in 2002. The total value of production was \$4.42 million, up 39 percent from 2002 and 133 percent above 2001.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested.

Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 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 2003 reaching \$1.40 per pound, up 6 percent from \$1.33 in 2002.

**MORE AG WORKERS IN THE REGION**

**WYOMING:** The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week January 11-17, 2004 was up 20 percent from a year ago. During this period, 12,000 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 10,000. Of the 12,000 hired workers, 11,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 1,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 9,000 and 1,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 35.4 compared with 35.7 last January.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.92 per hours, up 39 cents (5 percent) from last year and up 68 cents (8 percent) from October 2003. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$8.29 per hour compared with \$8.51 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.72 per hour compared with \$8.17 last year.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**HONEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 2002-2003**

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 1/		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Lbs</i>		<i>1,000 Lbs</i>				<i>Cents</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
CO	24	24	60	86	1,440	2,064	576	722	129	138	1,858	2,848
ID	100	100	57	46	5,700	4,600	1,653	1,380	137	135	7,809	6,210
MT	134	145	63	66	8,442	9,570	1,097	1,914	138	148	11,650	14,164
NE	43	45	75	74	3,225	3,330	1,161	1,299	149	143	4,805	4,762
SD	225	200	51	70	11,475	14,000	2,410	2,520	142	146	16,295	20,440
UT	22	23	59	57	1,298	1,311	208	144	130	130	1,687	1,704
<b>WY</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>3,184</b>	<b>4,423</b>
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>171,718</b>	<b>181,096</b>	<b>39,393</b>	<b>40,735</b>	<b>132.7</b>	<b>140.4</b>	<b>228,338</b>	<b>255,791</b>

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

**Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., January 11-17, 2004 1/**

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour				
Mntn I 2/	8.29	8.72	8.64	8.92
Mntn II 3/	8.75	8.81	8.80	9.80
No Plns 4/	9.89	8.78	9.11	9.75
<b>U.S. 5/</b>	<b>8.39</b>	<b>8.84</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>9.41</b>

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

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