



RANGE REVIEW

PO Box 1148
Cheyenne WY 82003
1-800-892-1660
www.nass.usda.gov/wy

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

The **All Crops Index** was unchanged from February but down 16 points (13 percent) from last year, the result of more than a \$40.00 per ton drop in hay prices from last year. The prices for feed barley and wheat were lower than last month. Prices were slightly higher for corn and dry beans. Prices for oats, alfalfa hay, and other hay were unchanged from last month. Prices for oats, feed barley, alfalfa hay and other hay were lower this month compared with March 2003. Alfalfa hay averaged \$72.00 per ton in March, unchanged from February but \$42.00 below March 2003. Other hay prices, at \$66.00 per ton, were also unchanged from last month but 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 March, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 6 points (5 percent) above the February Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index increased 8 points (7 percent) from February while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. 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 strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index was up 23 points (23 percent) from March 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 7 points (6 percent) from last month to 123 and was 27 points (28 percent) above March 2003.

U.S. REACHES RECORD HIGH FOR ALL COMMODITIES INDEX

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during March was 112 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 4 points (4 percent) from February and up 10 points (10 percent) from last year.

The **All Livestock Index** was up 5 points (5 percent) from last month and up 16 points (16 percent) from last year. All cattle prices were higher than in February while sheep and lamb prices were lower. All livestock prices, except sheep, were still above last year at this time. Steer and heifer prices averaged \$90.00 per hundredweight, up \$2.40 from last month and \$12.30 higher than March 2003. Calf prices, at \$124.00 per hundredweight, were up \$2.00 from last month and \$24.30 higher than a year ago. Lamb prices, at \$115.00 per hundredweight, were down \$6.00 from last month but \$8.00 above March 2003. Sheep prices, at \$35.00 per hundredweight, were down \$5.00 from February and down \$11.30 from last year.

PLANTING INTENTIONS FOR MOST U.S. CROPS LOWER

WYOMING: As of March 1, Wyoming farmers planted or intended to plant 448,000 acres of small grains and row crops last Fall and this Spring. Soil moisture entering the 2004 planting season was much better than this time last year. As of March 1, topsoil moisture was rated adequate or better in about half of the State, compared with only 16 percent last year at that time. However, producers remained unsure of soil moisture and irrigation water supplies, and March weather was warm and dry. Planting intentions for sugarbeets and dry beans were up from the actual 2003 plantings. Barley and spring wheat intentions were unchanged from last year, while intentions for oats and corn were down from 2003 actual plantings. Winter wheat seedings last fall were down 6 percent from the previous year.

Small Grains: Wyoming's 2004 **barley** acreage is expected to total 90,000 acres, unchanged from last year but 5,000 acres above the 2002 crop. Farmers intend to plant 50,000 acres of **oats**, down 10,000 acres from last year and 20,000 acres below 2002. **Spring wheat** acreage, at 8,000 acres, will be unchanged from last year but 1,000 acres below 2002 if plans are realized. **Winter wheat** was seeded on 150,000 acres last fall, down 10,000 acres from the 2003 crop but the same as planted for the 2002 crop.

Row Crops: Wyoming farmers expect to plant 80,000 acres of **corn** this year, down 5,000 acres from last year but unchanged from 2002. Producers intend to plant 39,000 acres of **sugarbeets**, 4,000 acres above last year, which was the smallest sugarbeet acreage since 1984. Sugarbeet planting would still be 1,000 acres below 2002. **Dry bean** plantings this year are expected to total 31,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2003 but 1,000 acres below 2002.

The total acreage of **all hay** expected to be harvested in the State in 2004 is 1.20 million acres. This would be unchanged from last year but 26 percent above 2002's drought reduced crop.

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: **Winter wheat** planted area for the 2004 crop is 43.4 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Of the total, about 30.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.3 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.2 million acres are White Winter. The 2004 **other spring wheat** planted acreage is estimated at 13.3 million, down 4 percent from last year. Of the total, about 12.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

Barley growers intend to plant 4.68 million acres for 2004, down 12 percent from last year. **Oats** acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2004 crop year are expected to total 4.31 million acres, down 6 percent from last year's planted area.

Prospective 2004 planting of **dry beans** in the U.S. totals 1.33 million acres, down 5 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago. Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2004 crop year is expected to total 1.36 million acres, slightly below the 2003 planted acreage. **Corn** growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2004, up fractionally from both 2002 and 2003.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MARCH 2003, FEBRUARY 2004, AND MARCH 15, 2004
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 15 2004	MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 15 2004	
		Dollars			Dollars			
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	40.90	47.10	48.00	39.50	46.10	46.70	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	77.70	87.60	90.00	76.70	82.30	88.60	—
Calves	100#	99.70	122.00	124.00	96.70	111.00	114.00	51
Sheep	100#	46.30	40.00	35.00	40.90	41.20	1/	—
Lambs	100#	107.00	121.00	115.00	97.10	107.00	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	2.85	2.79	2.90	2.33	2.61	2.79	42
Oats	Bu.	2.00	1.85	1.85	2.08	1.58	1.55	40
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.11	2.10	2.30	2.16	2.14	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.35	3.56	3.49	3.55	3.77	3.71	38
Dry Beans	100#	17.00	17.50	18.00	15.90	17.50	19.00	37
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	114.00	72.00	72.00	96.70	84.70	85.90	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	109.00	66.00	66.00	77.90	69.90	70.90	—

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.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS & RANCHERS, WYOMING & U.S.

1990-92 = 100	WYOMING			UNITED STATES		
	MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 15 2004	MAR 2003	FEB 2004	MAR 15 2004
All Commodities	102	108	112	99	116	122
All Crops	124	108	108	106	120	124
All Livestock and Products	97	108	113	93	112	120

Planting Intentions for 2004 and Actual Plantings for 2003, Wyoming and United States

Crops	Acreage Planted/to Be Planted					
	Wyoming			United States 1/		
	2003	2004 Intentions	% 04/03	2003	2004 Intentions	% 04/03
	1,000 Acres			1,000 Acres		
Corn, All Purposes	85	80	94	78,736	79,004	100
Winter Wheat	160	150	94	44,945	43,372	97
Durum Wheat	—	—	—	2,915	2,757	95
Spring Wht Other than Durum	8	8	100	13,840	13,333	96
Oats	60	50	83	4,601	4,312	94
Barley	90	90	100	5,299	4,683	88
Sugarbeets	35	39	111	1,365.4	1,358.6	100
Dry Edible Beans	30	31	103	1,406.1	1,333.0	95
Hay, All 2/	1,200	1,200	100	63,342	63,731	101

1/ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii

2/ Area for harvest

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.98 million head on March 1, 2004. The inventory was up 4 percent from the 10.55 million head on March 1, 2003 but 5 percent below March 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 11 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.54 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 319,000, 600-699 pounds were 351,000, 700-799 pounds were 548,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 392,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.69 million, 2 percent below 2003 and 6 percent below 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during February, 3 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAR 1, 2003-2004 1/						
State	On Feed Feb 1, 2004	Place- ments Feb 2004	Market- ings Feb 2004	Other Disapp. Feb 2004	On Feed Mar 1, 2004	On Feed Mar 1, 2003
	Thousand Head					
CO	1,040	155	165	10	1,020	990
KS	2,420	390	405	15	2,390	2,240
NE	2,280	350	345	15	2,270	2,190
TX	2,770	350	420	10	2,690	2,560
Oth Sts.	2,618	365	357	19	2,607	2,566
U.S.	*11,128	1,610	1,692	69	10,977	10,546

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
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service
PO Box 1148
Cheyenne WY 82003-1148

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U.S. PORK PRODUCTION AT MONTHLY HIGH FOR FEBRUARY

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during February 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This down 15 percent from the previous month and 5 percent less than February 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred **cattle** were slaughtered in February, unchanged from February 2003. Total live weight was 698,000 pounds, down 1 percent from February 2003. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,193 pounds, down 30 pounds from last year.

A total of 300 **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, 100 head fewer than last year. Total live weight, at 72,000 pounds, was down 28 percent from February 2003. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 260 pounds, up 5 pounds from last year.

One hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed in February, unchanged from February 2003. Live weight totaled 16,000 pounds, 7 percent above last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 141 pounds, up 3 pounds from a year earlier.

January to February red meat production at 1.0 million pounds was 17 percent above a year ago's total of 1.2 million pounds.

United States: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.40 billion pounds in February, down 3 percent from the 3.50 billion pounds produced in February 2003.

Beef production, at 1.80 billion pounds, was 7 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.43 million head, down 6 percent from February 2003. The average live weight was down 28 pounds from the previous year, at 1,233 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year and a new record high for February. Hog kill totaled 7.89 million head, 3 percent above February 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from February 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 213,000 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 139 pounds, up 6 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2004 commercial red meat production was 7.1 billion pounds, down 6 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 12 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2003 AND 2004, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	% 04/03	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	Feb 2003	Feb 2004	% 04/03
			1,000 Pounds						1,000 Pounds	
Cattle	600	600	702	698	99	2,569,200	2,427,000	3,239,557	2,991,682	92
Hogs	400	300	100	72	72	7,686,100	7,886,100	2,049,471	2,111,376	103
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	15	16	107	226,300	213,000	30,119	29,596	98

WYOMING MILK PRODUCTION HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR; U.S. LOWER

WYOMING: The number of milk cows in **Wyoming** during January-March 2004 averaged 4,000 head. The number of cows was up 3 percent from the previous quarter and up 3 percent from the same quarter one year ago. Milk production during 2004's first quarter was 14.4 million pounds, unchanged from the previous three months but up 8 percent from the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the U.S. during the January-March quarter totaled 42.7 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the January-March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 fewer than the same period last year.

MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., JAN-MAR, 2003 AND 2004					
State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/		Change from 2003
	2003	2004	2003	2004	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
WY	3.9	4.0	13.3	14.4	8.3
CA	1,676	1,705	8,877	8,923	0.5
CO	101	100	547	546	-0.2
ID	394	412	2,087	2,174	4.2
MT	18	18	86	86	0.0
NE	66	61	297	271	-8.8
SD	84	80	333	339	1.8
UT	92	88	399	387	-3.0
WI	1,264	1,245	5,563	5,520	-0.8
US	9,144	8,991	43,069	42,688	-0.9

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

2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.