



# 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.

*Agricultural Prices  
Crop Production  
Cattle on Feed  
Livestock Slaughter  
Agricultural Labor*

### U.S. PRICE INDEX REACHES THIRD CONSECUTIVE HIGH

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during May was 116 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was unchanged from April, but up 19 points (20 percent) from last year.

The **All Livestock Index** was down 1 point (1 percent) from last month, but up 25 points (27 percent) from last year. Cows, steers and heifers, and sheep prices were higher than in April while calf and lamb prices were lower. All livestock prices were still well above last year at this time.

The **All Crops Index** was up 2 points (2 percent) from April, but down 7 points (6 percent) from last year, the result of more than a \$30.00 per ton drop in hay prices from May 2003. Prices were slightly higher for oats, feed barley, all wheat, and dry beans. Prices for alfalfa hay and other hay were unchanged from April. Prices for corn were lower this month compared with May 2003.

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 May, at 132 based on 1990-92=100, is 7 points (6 percent) above the April Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index, also at a record high, increased 9 points (7 percent) from April while the All Crops Index increased 4 points (3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, hogs, cattle, and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, eggs, corn, and tomatoes. 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 cantaloups, grapes, sweet corn, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, apples, and asparagus.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 27 points (26 percent) from May 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 9 points (7 percent) from last month to 135. The index stands 31 points (30 percent) above May 2003.

### DROUGHT REDUCES WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS

Based on conditions around June 1, winter wheat production in Wyoming this year is expected to total 2.97 million bushels, down 24 percent from the 2003 crop but still 25 percent more than the 2002 crop. The forecast is 12 percent lower than on May 1. The 2004 average yield per harvested acre is forecast at 22 bushels, down 5 bushels from 2003 and 3 bushels below the May 1 forecast. Yield would still be 3 bushels above the 2002 average. The total acreage expected to be harvested for winter wheat this year is 135,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2003 but 10,000 acres more than in 2002.

The continued drought has caused adverse affects on crops. Winter wheat crop progress is well ahead of schedule. As of May 30, almost half of the state's winter wheat crop had headed, well ahead of last year's 13 percent and the 5-year average of 19 percent.

Winter wheat was rated only 19 percent good compared with 70 percent last year.

**UNITED STATES:** Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.53 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the May 1 forecast and 10 percent below 2003. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.6 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, unchanged from May 1.

Hard Red production is down 3 percent from a month ago to 887 million bushels. Soft Red is down less than 1 percent from last month, and now totals 397 million bushels. White production totals 247 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month.

### WINTER WHEAT, 2003 AND JUNE 1, 2004 FORECAST, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	Acres Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004	% 2004/2003
	1,000		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
<b>WYOMING</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>3,915</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>76</b>
Colorado	2,200	1,800	35.0	30.0	77,000	54,000	70
Kansas	10,000	9,000	48.0	39.0	480,000	351,000	73
Montana	1,720	1,600	37.0	34.0	63,640	54,400	85
Nebraska	1,820	1,850	46.0	35.0	83,720	64,750	77
Oklahoma	4,600	4,300	39.0	37.0	179,400	159,900	89
Texas	3,450	3,600	28.0	33.0	96,600	118,800	123
Washington	1,800	1,700	65.0	64.0	117,000	108,800	93
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>36,541</b>	<b>35,082</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>1,707,069</b>	<b>1,530,742</b>	<b>90</b>

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MAY 2003, APRIL 2004, AND MAY 15, 2004								
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		MAY 2003	APR 2004	MAY 15 2004	MAY 2003	APR 2004	MAY 15 2004	
		Dollars			Dollars			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	44.00	51.20	52.00	42.40	50.50	52.40	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	80.00	94.60	98.00	79.60	88.90	92.60	—
Calves	100#	109.00	115.00	114.00	100.00	117.00	122.00	53
Sheep	100#	31.60	36.60	37.00	31.30	37.10	1/	—
Lambs	100#	102.00	110.00	108.00	97.60	100.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.90	3.00	2.90	2.38	2.89	2.78	41
Oats	Bu.	2.24	1.90	2.05	1.95	1.62	1.64	42
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.16	2.11	2.15	2.33	2.16	2.29	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.28	3.41	3.44	3.33	3.89	3.73	37
Dry Beans	100#	19.20	19.40	20.00	19.10	19.60	21.80	42
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	105.00	70.00	70.00	100.00	92.70	109.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	99.00	66.00	66.00	88.40	76.00	74.90	—

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			
	MAY 2003	APR 2004	MAY 15 2004	MAY 2003	APR 2004	MAY 15 2004	
All Commodities	97	116	116	105	125	132	
All Crops	117	108	110	115	123	127	
All Livestock and Products	92	118	117	96	126	135	

### U.S. CATTLE ON FEED DOWN 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.36 million head on May 1, 2004. The inventory was 2 percent below May 1, 2003 and 6 percent below May 1, 2002.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.60 million, 14 percent below 2003 but 10 percent above 2002. Net placements were 1.51 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 316,000, 600-699 pounds were 302,000, 700-799 pounds were 567,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 418,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.89 million, 5 percent below both 2003 and 2002.

Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during April, 54 percent above 2003 and 17 percent above 2002.

### CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAY 1, 2003-2004 1/

State	On Feed Apr 1, 2004	Place-ments Apr 2004	Market-ings Apr 2004	Other Disapp. Apr 2004	On Feed May 1, 2004	On Feed May 1, 2003
Thousand Head						
CO	970	155	175	10	940	1,000
KS	2,360	355	440	35	2,240	2,270
NE	2,210	320	420	10	2,100	2,080
TX	2,640	415	480	15	2,560	2,680
Oth Sts.	2,568	358	379	27	2,520	2,505
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>1,603</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>10,360</b>	<b>10,535</b>

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. Pork Production at Monthly Record High for April

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during April 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 1 percent from the previous month but 4 percent less than April 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in April, unchanged from April 2003. Total live weight was 702,000 pounds, down 3 percent from April 2003. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,176 pounds up 5 pounds from last year.

A total of 200 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, 200 head fewer than last year. Total live weight, at 62,000 pounds, was down 35 percent from April 2003. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 266 pounds, up 11 pounds from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in April, unchanged from April 2003. Live weight totaled 14,000 pounds, also the same as last year. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 128 pounds, down 14 pounds from a year earlier.

**January to April** red meat production, at 2.0 million pounds, was 5 percent below last year's total of 2.1 million pounds.

**UNITED STATES:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in April, down 3 percent from the 3.85 billion pounds produced in April 2003.

**Beef production**, at 1.96 billion pounds, was 9 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.70 million head, down 9 percent from April 2003. The average live weight was down 9 pounds from the previous year to 1,200 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.73 billion pounds, up 4 percent from the previous year and a record high for April. Hog kill totaled 8.65 million head, 4 percent above April 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 17.4 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 256,000 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

**January to April** 2004 commercial red meat production was 14.8 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 8 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was up 5 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 2 percent.

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COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2003 AND 2004, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	% 04/03	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	Apr 2003	Apr 2004	% 04/03
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
Cattle	600	600	721	702	97	2,966,100	2,698,500	3,586,024	3,238,123	90
Hogs	400	200	95	62	65	8,341,900	8,652,300	2,234,847	2,315,187	104
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	14	14	100	297,300	256,000	39,015	34,711	89

### MORE AG WORKERS IN THE REGION

**WYOMING:** The tri-state hired labor force on farms and ranches during the week April 11-17, 2004 was up 26 percent from a year ago. During this period, 24,000 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 19,000. Of the 24,000 hired workers, 21,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 3,000 were expected to work 149 days or less compared with 17,000 and 2,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 42.8 compared with 46.2 last April.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.57 per hours, up 64 cents (8 percent) from last year but down 35 cents (4 percent) from January 2004. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$8.14 per hour compared with \$7.63 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.41 per hour compared with \$7.68 last year.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked by hired workers averaged 40.7 hours during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.



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

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour					
Mntn I	2/	8.14	8.41	8.31	8.57
Mntn II	3/	9.66	8.83	9.29	9.84
No Plns	4/	8.87	8.51	8.73	8.95
U.S.	5/	8.46	8.95	8.58	9.22

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

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

# Results from the 2002 Census of Agriculture are now Available!

To request a copy for Wyoming call  
**1-800-892-1660**  
or visit the census website at  
[www.nass.usda.gov/census](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census)

Thank you to all farmers and ranchers  
for their participation in the 2002 Census of  
Agriculture.