



# RANGE REVIEW

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.

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### REGIONAL AG WAGE RATES UP 9 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

**WYOMING:** The number of hired farm and ranch workers in the tri-state region during the week January 9-15, 2005 was unchanged 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. 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, the same as a year earlier. The number of hired workers during the week October 10-16, 2004 was 29,000.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$9.76 per hours, up 84 cents (9 percent) from last January and up 92 cents (10 percent) from October 2004. More skilled machine operators in the region helped push average wage rates higher.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 38.1 compared with 35.4 last January.

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour					
Mntn I	2/	9.42	8.82	8.95	9.76
Mntn II	3/	7.37	9.65	8.83	9.93
No Plns	4/	10.26	8.60	9.20	9.82
U.S.	5/	8.73	9.19	8.91	9.81

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

**UNITED STATES:** There were 749,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

### LIVESTOCK PRICES REMAIN RELATIVELY HIGH

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during February was 123 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was unchanged from January and up 15 points (14 percent) from February 2004.

The **All Livestock Index** was unchanged from January and up 19 points (18 percent) from February 2004. Prices for cows, calves, sheep, and lambs were higher than in January, but the February prices for steers and heifers were slightly lower than in January. All livestock prices continued to be above last year at this time with the exception of lambs which were slightly lower than last year's record high. Cow prices averaged \$1.20 above the previous month and \$5.90 above February 2004. Steer and heifer prices were \$1.00 lower than January but \$16.40 higher than last year. Calf prices averaged \$1.00 above last month and \$13.00 above February 2004. Sheep prices were \$0.20 above last month and \$18.00 above February 2004. Lamb prices were \$2.00 higher than last month but \$1.00 lower than a year ago.

The All Crops Index was down 3 points (3 percent) from January but was up 2 points (2 percent) from last year. Prices were lower than last month for feed barley, all wheat, and dry beans. Prices were higher for corn. Dry beans, alfalfa hay, and other hay prices were higher in February compared with February 2004 while other crops were lower. Alfalfa hay averaged \$74.00 per ton in February unchanged from January but up \$2.00 from last year. Other hay prices were also unchanged from January but \$2.00 higher than February 2004. Dry beans were down \$0.30 from last month but \$8.30 higher than last year. Wheat was down \$0.11 from January and down \$0.36 from February a year ago.

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, is 2 points (2 percent) above the January Index. The Crop Index is up 5 points (5 percent) while the Livestock Index is down 1 point (1 percent). Producers received higher prices for tomatoes, oranges, broccoli, and celery. Lower prices were received for corn, dairy, hogs, and soybeans.

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 dairy, cattle, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 3 points (3 percent) from February 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 117, is 2 points (2 percent) above last month but unchanged from February 2004.

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		FEB 2004	JAN 2005	FEB 15 2005	FEB 2004	JAN 2005	FEB 15 2005	
		Dollars			Dollars			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	47.10	51.80	53.00	46.00	50.50	52.80	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	87.60	105.00	104.00	82.30	94.40	93.80	—
Calves	100#	122.00	134.00	135.00	111.00	125.00	128.00	55
Sheep	100#	40.00	57.80	58.00	40.80	53.50	1/	—
Lambs	100#	121.00	118.00	120.00	106.00	114.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.79	2.73	2.75	2.61	2.12	2.02	30
Oats	Bu.	1.85	1.55	1.55	1.51	1.64	1.58	40
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.11	1.63	1.60	2.16	1.65	1.74	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.56	3.31	3.20	3.77	3.42	3.38	34
Dry Beans	100#	17.50	26.10	25.80	19.60	27.40	28.30	56
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	72.00	74.00	74.00	84.70	90.90	91.90	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	66.00	68.00	68.00	69.90	70.60	70.00	—

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 2004	JAN 2005	FEB 15 2005	FEB 2004	JAN 2005	FEB 15 2005
	All Commodities	108	123	123	116	111
All Crops	107	112	109	121	101	106
All Livestock and Products	108	127	127	112	121	120

## U.S. Red Meat Production Down 2 Percent in January

**Commercial red meat** production in *Wyoming* during January 2005 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 6 percent from the previous month's production but up 12 percent from January 2004. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Eight hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in January, up 200 head from January 2004. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,173 pounds, down 26 pounds from last January.

A total of 300 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, down 100 head from the previous January. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 250 pounds, down 15 pounds from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in January, down 100 head from January 2004. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 129 pounds, down 9 pounds from a year earlier.

**UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.65 billion pounds in January, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in January 2004.

**Beef production**, at 1.92 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 2 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 1,262 pounds, up 13 pounds from January a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 4 percent below January 2004. The average live weight was 270 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 2004 AND 2005, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	% 05/04	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	% 05/04
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
<b>Cattle</b>	600	800	775	904	117	2,576,800	2,527,600	3,218,668	3,189,529	99
<b>Hogs</b>	400	300	110	86	78	8,789,300	8,478,100	2,363,663	2,288,114	97
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	200	100	22	18	82	219,200	208,500	30,833	28,758	93

## U.S. Pork Production Sets Record High in 2004

**WYOMING:** Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during 2004 totaled 6.9 million pounds, up 5 percent from the 6.6 million pounds in 2003. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

A total of 8,200 *cattle* were slaughtered in 2004, up from 7,800 head in 2003. Total liveweight, at 9.74 million pounds, was 4 percent above last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,183 pounds, down 11 pounds from 2003.

In 2004, 5,200 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, down from 5,500 in 2003. Total liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 1.36 million pounds, 5 percent below last year. The average liveweight of 263 pounds was up 3 pounds from 2003.

A total of 1,800 *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in 2004, unchanged from a year earlier. Total liveweight, at 254,000 pounds, was 7 percent above 2003. The average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered at 137 pounds was 5 pounds more than last year.

**United States: Red meat production** for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 45.4 billion pounds.

**Beef production**, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. **Pork production**, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year to 267 pounds.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 to 136 pounds.

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 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 11.3 million head on February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent above February 1, 2003.

**Placements** in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004 but 10 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.81 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 458,000, 700-799 pounds were 628,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 419,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 10 percent from 2003.

**Other disappearance** totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

State	CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, FEB 1, 2003-2004 1/					
	On Feed Jan 1, 2005	Place-ments Jan 2005	Market-ings Jan 2005	Other Disapp. Jan 2005	On Feed Feb 1, 2005	On Feed Feb 1, 2004
	Thousand Head					
CO	1,080	175	185	10	1,060	1,040
KS	2,410	475	450	15	2,420	2,420
NE	2,300	425	360	15	2,350	2,280
TX	2,700	425	395	10	2,720	2,770
Oth Sts.	* 2,809	385	386	24	2,784	*2,628
U.S.	* 11,299	1,885	1,776	74	11,334	*11,138

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;

## INCREASE IN LARGEST SALES CLASS

**WYOMING:** The number of farms and ranches in **Wyoming** in 2004 is estimated at 9,200. This is unchanged from 2003. 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, the same as in 2003 and down slightly from 34,500,000 in 2002 and 2001. Wyoming ranks first in the Nation in average size of farms and ranches at 3,743 acres. Arizona ranks second at 2,588 acres. In Wyoming, there were 3,600 farms (39 percent) with less than \$10,000 of agricultural sales in 2004. This was the down 100 farms from both 2002 and 2003. 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 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2003. Total land in farms, at 936.6 million acres, decreased 2.25 million acres or 0.2 percent from 2003. The average farm size was 443 acres in 2004, an increase of 2 acres from the previous year.

Farm numbers declined in the two smallest economic sales classes and rose in the three largest economic sales classes. The majority of the changes in the economic sales classes were due to rising incomes.

Farm numbers declined 1.6 percent, to 1.18 million farms, in the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 4.7 percent, to 76,740 farms, in the \$500,000 or more economic sales class. Land in farms also shifted from lower economic sales classes to higher economic sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 economic sales class, land in farms dropped 3.1 percent. Land operated by farms in the largest economic sales class, \$500,000 or more in sales, increased 3.1 percent.

STATE	NUMBER OF FARMS AND RANCHES AND LAND, SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 2003-2004 1/					
	NUMBER OF FARMS & RANCHES			LAND IN FARMS & RANCHES		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 acres</i>					
CO	31,400	31,400	30,900	31,100	31,000	30,900
ID	25,000	25,000	25,000	11,800	11,800	11,800
MT	27,900	28,000	28,000	59,800	60,100	60,100
NE	49,400	48,500	48,300	45,900	45,900	45,900
SD	31,800	31,600	31,600	43,800	43,800	43,800
UT	15,300	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>34,440</b>	<b>34,440</b>
U.S.	2,135,360	2,126,860	2,113,470	940,300	938,650	936,600

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 DOWN 7 PERCENT

**WYOMING:** Honey production during 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 2.93 million pounds, down 7 percent from production in 2003. Production in 2004 was 24 percent below the record 1956 total. There were 39,000 bee colonies in Wyoming during 2004 with an average production of 75 pounds per colony. In 2003, there were 39,000 colonies averaging 81 pounds per colony.

Honey stocks in Wyoming on December 15, 2004 totaled 380,000 pounds, down 20 percent from December 15, 2003. The average price received by producers for honey sold in 2004 was 109 cents per pound, down from 141 cents in 2003. The total value of production was \$3.19 million, down 28 percent from 2003 but unchanged from 2002.

**UNITED STATES:** Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated.

Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2004 reaching 108.5 cents per pound, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

## HONEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 2003-2004

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 1/		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000</i>		<i>Lbs</i>		<i>1,000 Lbs</i>		<i>Cents</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>			
CO	24	23	86	80	2,064	1,840	722	791	140	148	2,890	2,723
ID	100	100	46	63	4,600	6,300	1,380	2,520	133	101	6,118	6,363
MT	145	140	66	77	9,570	10,780	1,914	3,773	144	106	13,781	11,427
NE	45	51	74	89	3,330	4,539	1,299	2,043	138	107	4,595	4,857
SD	215	215	70	105	15,050	22,575	2,709	13,545	143	106	21,522	23,930
UT	25	23	57	70	1,425	1,610	157	531	128	104	1,824	1,674
<b>WY</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3,159</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>4,454</b>	<b>3,188</b>
U.S.	2,599	2,556	70	71.8	181,727	183,582	40,785	61,222	138.7	108.5	253,106	201,790

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