



# RANGE REVIEW

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

National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

Issue 2005-06, Released 6/13/05

## IN THIS ISSUE ...

*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*

### CALF PRICES REMAIN AT RECORD HIGH

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during May was 130 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was down 3 points (2 percent) from April but up 6 points (5 percent) from May 2004.

The **All Livestock Index** was down 5 points (4 percent) from April but up 5 points (4 percent) from May 2004. Prices for cows were higher than in April, but the May prices for sheep and lambs were lower than in April. Prices remained unchanged from last month for steers and heifers and calves. All livestock prices were above last year at this time. Cow prices averaged a record High \$62.00 per hundredweight, \$1.20 above the previous month and \$8.50 above May 2004. Steer and heifer prices were unchanged from April but \$9.00 higher than last year. Calf prices tied last month's record at \$144.00 per hundredweight. Sheep prices were \$1.00 below last month but \$13.00 above May 2004. Lamb prices were \$2.00 below last month but \$1.00 higher than a year ago.

The **All Crops Index** was up 3 points (3 percent) from April and up 7 points (6 percent) from last year. Prices were higher than last month for corn, oats, feed barley, and all wheat. Prices for dry beans, alfalfa hay, and other hay remained unchanged. Dry beans, alfalfa hay and other hay prices were higher in May compared with May 2004 while all other crops were lower. Corn was up 2 cents from last month but down 75 cents from May 2004. Oats were 5 cents from April but down 30 cents from last year. Feed barley was 2 cents higher than April but 46 cents lower than May 2004. Wheat was up 5 cents from April but down 29 cents from May a year ago. Dry beans were unchanged from last month but \$9.10 higher than last year. Alfalfa hay and other hay remained unchanged from last month but were \$4.00 and \$2.00 higher than May 2004, respectfully.

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 122, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from April. The Crop and Livestock Indices were unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for hogs, strawberries, hay, and potatoes. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, asparagus, and dairy.

The overall index is also affected by the 3-year average seasonal change in the mix of commodities producers sell. Increased average marketings of cantaloup, sweet corn, grapes, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, dairy, calves, and asparagus.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 7 points (5 percent) from May 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 126, was unchanged from last month but 5 points (4 percent) below May 2004.

## U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST UP 3 PERCENT FROM 2004

**UNITED STATES:** Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, up 3 percent from 2004. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.1 bushels per acre, 0.6 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, up 2 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is forecast at 960 million bushels. Soft Red is forecast at 301 million bushels, and White production totals 285 million bushels, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 28.6 million bushels are Hard White and 256 million bushels are Soft White. This is the first year that production levels for Hard White and Soft White are available.

### WINTER WHEAT, 2004 AND JUNE 1, 2005 FORECAST, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

State	Acres Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005	% 2005/2004
	1,000		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Colorado	1,700	2,450	27.0	32.0	45,900	78,400	171
Kansas	8,500	9,600	37.0	40.0	314,500	384,000	122
Montana	1,630	2,050	41.0	41.0	66,830	84,050	126
Nebraska	1,650	1,700	37.0	43.0	61,050	73,100	120
Oklahoma	4,700	4,300	35.0	34.0	164,500	146,200	89
Texas	3,500	3,500	31.0	30.0	108,500	105,000	97
Washington	1,750	1,850	67.0	69.0	117,250	127,650	109
Wyoming	135	1/	26.0	1/	3,510	1/	---
UNITED STATES	34,462	35,069	43.5	44.1	1,499,434	1,545,971	103

1/ Forecasts discontinued for Wyoming.

## U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 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 10.6 million head on May 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above May 1, 2004 and 1 percent above May 1, 2003.

**Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2004 but 11 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.57 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340,000, 600-699 pounds were 225,000, 700-799 pounds were 500,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 595,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent below 2004 and 9 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 90,000 during April, 7 percent below 2004 but 43 percent above 2003.

### CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, MAY 1, 2004-2005 1/

State	On Feed Apr 1, 2005	Place-ments Apr 2005	Market-ings Apr 2005	Other Disapp. Apr 2005	On Feed May 1, 2005	On Feed May 1, 2004
	Thousand Head					
CO	1,020	120	150	20	970	940
KS	2,340	375	425	30	2,260	2,240
NE	2,260	320	380	10	2,190	2,100
TX	2,620	500	480	10	2,630	2,560
Oth						
Sts.	2,630	345	366	20	2,589	2,535
U.S.	10,870	1,660	1,801	90	10,639	10,375

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.

### PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MAY 2004, APRIL 2005, AND MAY 15, 2005 U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		MAY 2004	APR 2005	MAY 15 2005	MAY 2004	APR 2005	MAY 15 2005	
		Dollars			Dollars			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	53.50	60.80	62.00	52.50	57.10	58.70	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	102.00	111.00	111.00	92.60	98.30	96.90	—
Calves	100#	122.00	144.00	144.00	121.00	140.00	141.00	58
Sheep	100#	34.00	48.00	47.00	36.00	44.40	1/	—
Lambs	100#	112.00	115.00	113.00	103.00	114.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	3.00	2.23	2.25	2.87	2.00	1.92	28
Oats	Bu.	1.85	1.50	1.55	1.70	1.65	1.58	39
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.16	1.68	1.70	2.39	1.54	1.91	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.59	3.25	3.30	3.82	3.35	3.28	32
Dry Beans	100#	18.70	27.80	27.80	19.90	28.80	25.50	49
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	70.00	74.00	74.00	109.00	103.00	116.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	66.00	68.00	68.00	78.30	75.40	76.10	—

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		
	MAY 2004	APR 2005	MAY 15 2005	MAY 2004	APR 2005	MAY 15 2005
All Commodities	124	133	130	129	122	122
All Crops	108	112	115	124	121	121
All Livestock and Products	128	138	133	133	122	122

## Wyoming Red Meat Production Ahead of Last Year

**Commercial red meat** production in *Wyoming* during April 2005 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from the previous month's production and down 8 percent from April 2004. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in April, unchanged from last year. Total live weight was 683,000 pounds, down 10 percent from April 2004. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,176 pounds, the same as last April.

A total of 300 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, unchanged from last April. Total live weight, at 88,000 pounds, was up 31 percent from April 2004. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 265 pounds, down 1 pound from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in April, unchanged from April 2004. Live weight totaled 11,000 pounds, down 27 percent from last April. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 140 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

January to April 2005 *commercial red meat production* totaled 2.2 million pounds, up 10 percent from the same period in 2004.

**UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004.

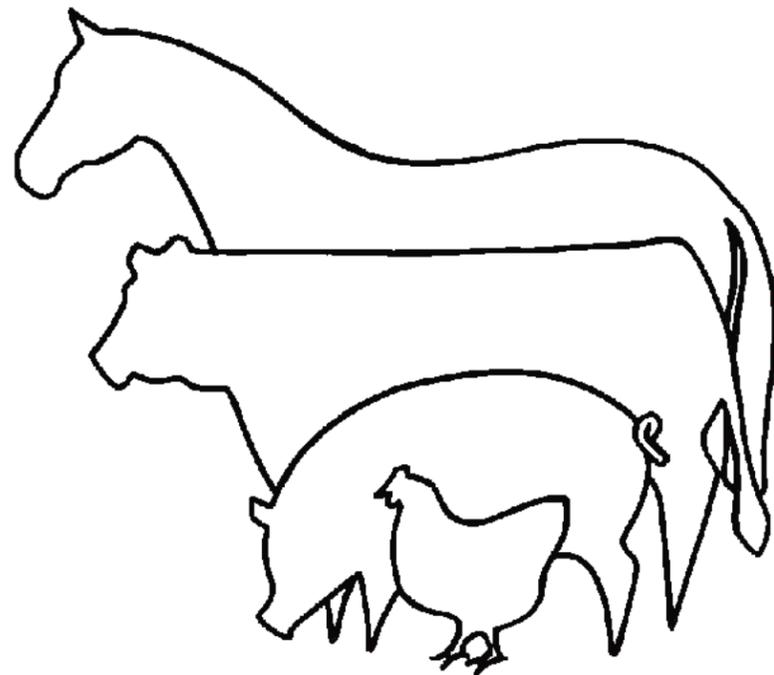
**Beef production**, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was up 20 pounds from the previous year, to 1,220 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 271 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

**January to April 2005 commercial red meat production** was 14.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

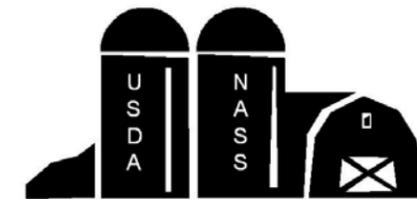
COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APRIL 2004 AND 2005, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Apr 2004	Apr 2005	Apr 2004	Apr 2005	% 05/04	Apr 2004	Apr 2005	Apr 2004	Apr 2005	% 05/04
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
Cattle	600	600	760	683	90	2,697,700	2,560,100	3,237,188	3,122,560	96
Hogs	300	300	67	88	131	8,653,200	8,443,800	2,317,191	2,285,987	99
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	15	11	73	256,200	220,800	34,836	31,077	89



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service  
PO Box 1148  
Cheyenne WY 82003-1148

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
Penalty for private use \$300

Presorted Standard  
Postage and Fees Paid  
USDA  
Permit No. G-38



## REGIONAL AG WAGE RATES DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

**WYOMING:** A total of 24,000 hired farm and ranch workers were working in the tri-state region during the week April 10-16, 2005, unchanged from a year ago. The Northern Rocky Mountain Region includes **Wyoming**, Montana, and Idaho. The total excludes agricultural service workers. Of the 24,000 hired workers, 20,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 4,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 21,000 and 3,000, respectively for last year. The number of hired workers during the week January 9-15, 2005 was 12,000.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.43 per hour, down 14 cents (2 percent) from last April and down \$1.33 (14 percent) from January 2005. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$7.89 per hour compared with \$8.14 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.49 per hour compared with \$8.41 last year.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 44.5 compared with 42.8 last April.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 978,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 746,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 232,000 workers.

per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.23 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., April 10-16, 2005 1/

Region		Hired Workers			
		Type of Worker			
		Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
Dollars per hour					
Mntn I	2/	7.89	8.49	8.23	8.43
Mntn II	3/	7.70	8.41	8.02	8.50
No Plns	4/	9.33	9.69	9.46	9.70
U.S.	5/	8.55	9.23	8.73	9.34

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

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

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.34