

Issue 2005-09, Released 09/13/05

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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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**WYOMING CALF PRICES INCREASE IN AUGUST; STILL BELOW LAST YEAR**

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during August was 123 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 1 point (1 percent) from July but down 7 points (5 percent) from August 2004.

The **All Livestock Index** was up 3 points (2 percent) from July but down 10 points (7 percent) from August 2004. Calf and sheep prices were up from July, but cows, steers and heifers, and lamb prices were all lower. Prices for cows, steers and heifers, and calves were lower than last year at this time, while sheep and lamb prices were higher. Cow prices averaged \$1.10 below July and \$0.80 below August 2004. Steer and heifer prices were \$1.00 below July and \$11.00 below last year's price. Calf prices averaged \$4.00 higher than in July but \$3.00 lower than August 2004. Sheep prices were \$0.90 above July and \$1.30 above August 2004. Lamb prices were \$1.00 below July's price but \$17.00 higher than a year ago.

The **All Crops Index** was up 4 points (4 percent) from July but down 1 point (1 percent) from August last year. Prices were higher than in July for alfalfa and other hay, while prices for corn, oats, wheat, and dry beans were all lower. Wheat, dry beans, alfalfa hay, and other hay prices were higher in August compared with August 2004 while all other crops were lower. Corn was down 13 cents from July and down 25 cents from August 2004. Feed barley was down 32 cents from last year. Wheat was down 6 cents from July but up 15 cents from a year ago. Dry beans were down 10 cents from July but \$8.20 higher than last year. Alfalfa hay and other hay were both up \$2.00 from July and up \$3.00 from August 2004.

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 August, at 117, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (1 percent) from July. The Crop Index was down 2 points (2 percent) while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (1 percent). Producers received lower commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs, and sweet corn. Higher prices were received for lettuce, peaches, strawberries, and turkeys.

The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of cattle, grapes, sweet corn, and calves offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 3 points (3 percent) from August 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 120, was unchanged from July but decreased 3 points (2 percent) from August 2004.

**EXPECTED SUGARBEET PRODUCTION DOWN 6 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR**

An updated forecast based on September 1 conditions indicates Wyoming sugarbeet production will be smaller than last year. The sugarbeet production forecast is unchanged from last month and 6 percent below last year.

**Sugarbeet** producers intended to harvest 35,600 acres, unchanged from the previous month and the same as last year. The expected average yield was 21.5 tons per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast but 1.3 tons less than the 2004 yield. Total production was expected to be 765,000 tons, 6 percent below 2004 but 2 percent above 2003.

The following forecasts were carried forward from earlier months. Based on August 1 conditions, **barley** production was expected to total 5.98 million bushels, which would be down 13 percent from last year's crop and 14 percent below 2003. **Dry bean** production in 2005, at 759,000 hundredweight, was expected to jump 40 percent from 2004 and increase 18 percent from 2003 based on conditions as of August 1. The August 1

forecast for **alfalfa hay** was 1.51 million tons, up 20 percent from last year but still down 7 percent from 2003. Production of **all other hay** is expected to be 855,000 tons, 13 percent above last year and 11 percent above 2003.

**United States:** Corn production is forecast at 10.6 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month but 10 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the second largest crop on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 143.2 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from August but 17.2 bushels below the record high last year.

**Sugarbeet** production is forecast at 26.3 million tons, 1 percent below the August forecast and 12 percent below last year's production. Growers in the 12 sugarbeet-producing States expect to harvest 1.24 million acres, down 5,000 acres from last month and 5 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 21.2 tons per acre, down 0.1 ton from August and 1.7 tons below 2004.



**ACRE**

Crop	Planted		Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		
	2004	2005	2004	September 2005	2004	September 2005	2004	September 2005	05/04 %
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres				1,000		
<b>WYOMING</b>									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	90	80	51	45	131	2/	6,681		2/
Winter Wheat (bu)	150	160	135	140	26	3/	3,510		3/
Spring Wheat (bu)	10	10	6	5	40	3/	240		3/
Oats (bu)	50	60	15	20	53	3/	795		3/
Barley (bu)	90	80	75	65	92	4/	6,900	5,980	87%
Sugarbeets (tons)	36.4	37.0	35.6	35.6	22.8	21.5	812	765	94%
Dry Beans (cwt)	25.0	34.0	24.0	33.0	22.50	23.00	541	759	140%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	--	--	450	580	2.80	2.60	1,260	1,508	120%
Other Hay (tons)	--	--	540	570	1.40	1.50	756	855	113%
All Hay (tons)	--	--	990	1,150	2.04	2.05	2,016	2,363	117%
<b>UNITED STATES</b>									
Corn-Grain (bu) 1/	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,318	160.4	143.2	11,807,217	10,638,661	90%
Winter Wheat (bu)	43,350	41,408	34,462	34,271	43.5	44.4	1,499,434	1,520,848	101%
Spring Wheat (bu)	13,763	14,099	13,174	13,637	43.2	40.6	568,918	553,375	97%
Oats (bu)	4,085	4,342	1,792	1,976	64.7	64.7	115,935	127,819	110%
Barley (bu)	4,527	3,970	4,021	3,471	69.4	68.2	279,253	236,729	85%
Sugarbeets (tons)	1,345.9	1,284.6	1,306.9	1,242.8	22.9	21.2	29,956	26,296	88%
Dry Beans (cwt)	1,354.3	1,668.8	1,219.3	1,530.8	14.60	16.87	17,799	25,829	145%
Alfalfa Hay (tons)	—	—	21,707	22,118	3.47	3.34	75,383	73,849	98%
Other Hay (tons)	—	—	40,209	39,605	2.05	1.92	82,391	76,068	92%
All Hay (tons)	—	—	61,916	61,723	2.55	2.43	157,774	149,917	95%

1/Corn planted for all purposes, harvested for grain.  
2/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released January 2006.  
3/Forecasts no longer made. Final estimates released September 30, 2005.  
4/Forecasts carried forward from August.

**PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, AUGUST 2004, JULY 2005, AND AUGUST 15, 2005**  
**U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY**

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			% OF PARITY
		AUGUST 2004	JULY 2005	AUGUST 15 2005	AUGUST 2004	JULY 2005	AUGUST 15 2005	
		DOLLARS			DOLLARS			
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
COWS	100#	56.80	57.10	56.00	54.70	53.80	51.90	—
STEERS & HEIFERS	100#	117.00	107.00	106.00	91.00	88.40	88.00	—
CALVES	100#	138.00	131.00	135.00	131.00	132.00	131.00	53
SHEEP	100#	40.70	41.10	42.00	37.30	40.30	1/	—
LAMBS	100#	113.00	131.00	130.00	97.90	109.00	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
CORN	BU.	2.50	2.38	2.25	2.34	2.11	1.89	27
OATS	BU.	1.55	1.55	1.50	1.32	1.59	1.53	37
FEED BARLEY	BU.	1.92	2/	1.75	1.83	1.98	1.90	—
ALL WHEAT	BU.	2.95	3.16	3.10	3.27	3.20	3.21	31
DRY BEANS	100#	18.30	26.60	26.50	20.90	25.40	22.40	42
ALFALFA HAY (BALED)	TON	72.00	73.00	75.00	99.30	109.00	109.00	—
OTHER HAY (BALED)	TON	66.00	67.00	69.00	71.90	75.90	74.80	—

1/MID-MONTH PRICES DISCONTINUED JANUARY 1996.  
2/INSUFFICIENT SALES TO ESTABLISH A PRICE.  
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		
	AUGUST 2004	JULY 2005	AUGUST 15 2005	AUGUST 2004	JULY 2005	AUGUST 15 2005
ALL COMMODITIES	130	122	123	120	118	117
ALL CROPS	102	97	101	119	118	116
ALL LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	147	134	137	122	118	117

## 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 10.1 million head on August 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 2004 and 5 percent above August 1, 2003.

**Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.68 million, 2 percent below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest placements for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.62 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 338,000, 700-799 pounds were 465,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.92 million, slightly below 2004 and 16 percent below 2003. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of July since the series began in 1996. **Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 during July, 3 percent above 2004 but unchanged from 2003.

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

State	On Feed July 1, 2005	Place-ments July 2005	Market-ings July 2005	Other Disapp. July 2005	On Feed Aug. 1, 2005	On Feed Aug. 1, 2004
	Thousand Head					
CO	900*	125	200	5	820	880
KS	2,200	480	470	20	2,190	2,120
NE	1,820	325	405	10	1,730	1,750
TX	2,950	400	450	10	2,890	2,670
Other States	2,522	348	393	15	2,462	2,448
U.S.	10,392*	1,678	1,918	60	10,092	9,868

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

## RED MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

**Commercial red meat** production in Wyoming during July 2005 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was up 5 percent from the previous month's production but down 3 percent from July 2004. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Seven hundred **cattle** were slaughtered in July, unchanged from last year. Total live weight was 814,000 pounds, down 8 percent from July 2004. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,188 pounds, down 6 pounds from last year.

A total of 400 **hogs** and **pigs** were processed, up 100 head from last July. Total live weight, at 99,000 pounds, was up 22 percent from July 2004. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 261 pounds, up 4 pounds from last year.

One hundred **sheep** and **lambs** were processed in July, down 100 head from July 2004. Live weight totaled 13,000 pounds, down 43 percent from last July. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 137 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year earlier.

January to July 2005 **commercial red meat production** totaled 3.8 million pounds, up 12 percent from the same period in 2004.

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

**Beef production**, at 2.08 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 2 percent from July 2004. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, to 1,254 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.51 billion pounds, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.66 million head, 5 percent below July 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 264 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.5 million pounds, was down 5 percent from July 2004 and was a record low for July. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,800 head, 9 percent below last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 6 pounds from July a year ago.

**January to July 2005 commercial red meat production** was 25.9 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was down 8 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JULY 2004 AND 2005, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	July 2004	July 2005	July 2004	July 2005	% 05/04	July 2004	July 2005	July 2004	July 2005	% 05/04
	1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds				
<b>Cattle</b>	700	700	883	814	92	2,787,200	2,718,400	3,454,091	3,410,124	99
<b>Hogs</b>	300	400	81	99	122	8,095,800	7,662,000	2,123,485	2,025,963	95
<b>Sheep &amp; Lambs</b>	200	100	23	13	57	220,900	200,800	28,378	26,881	95

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service  
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## AG WAGE RATES UP FROM LAST YEAR

**WYOMING:** The number of hired workers on farms and ranches in the tri-state region during the week of July 10-16, 2005 was down 15 percent from a year ago. During this period, 29,000 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 34,000. Of this year's 29,000 hired workers, 20,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 9,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 24,000 and 10,000 last year. The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 45.0, compared with 47.8 last year and 44.5 in April 2005.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was \$8.79 per hour, up 56 cents (7 percent) from last year and up 36 cents (4 percent) from April 2005. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of \$8.39 per hour compared with \$7.91 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged \$8.51 per hour compared with \$7.89 last year.

**UNITED STATES:** There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 930,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 402,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.78 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked by hired workers during the survey week averaged 40.6 hours, up 4 percent from a year ago.



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

Region	Hired Workers			
	Type of Worker			
	Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
	Dollars per hour			
Mntn I 2/	8.39	8.51	8.44	8.79
Mntn II 3/	8.62	8.49	8.58	9.20
No Plns 4/	8.15	9.49	8.60	9.05
U.S. 5/	8.62	9.25	8.78	9.39

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

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