USDA NASS
Wyoming Field Office
National Agricultural Statistics Service

RANGE REVIEW

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

Issue 2006-03, Released 3/06/06

IN THIS ISSUE ...

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

LAMB PRICE LOWEST SINCE SEPTEMBER 2003

The ***Index of Prices Received*** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during January was 137 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 1 point (1 percent) from January and up 11 points (9 percent) from February 2005.

The **All Livestock Index**, at 142, was down 1 point (1 percent) from January and up 13 points (10 percent) from February 2005. Cow prices were up from January, while steer and heifer, sheep and lamb prices were lower. Calf prices were unchanged. Prices for steers and heifers and calves were higher than last year at this time, while cow, sheep, and lamb prices were lower. Cow prices averaged $1.50 higher than January but $3.80 below February 2005. Steer and heifer prices were $3.00 below last month but $10.00 above last year's price. Calf prices were unchanged from last month's record high of $153.00 per hundredweight but were $16.00 higher than February 2005. Sheep prices were 80 cents below January and $2.40 below last year's price. Lamb prices were the lowest since September 2003 when the price was $103.00 per hundredweight. February's price was $1.00 below last month and $17.00 below a year ago.

The **All Crops Index**, at 108, was down 1 point (1 percent) from January and down 3 points (3 percent) from February last year. Prices for corn, wheat, alfalfa and other hay were higher than last month, while oats and dry beans remained unchanged. Prices were lower for corn, barley, and dry beans in February compared with February 2005. Oats, wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay were all up from last February. Corn was up 5 cents from January but down 15 cents from February 2005. Oats was unchanged from last month but 5 cents higher than February 2005. Barley was 5 cents below last year at this time. Wheat was up 8 cents from January and up 24 cents from last February. Dry beans were unchanged from January but down $9.40 from last year. Alfalfa hay was up $1.00 from January and up $4.00 from February 2005. Other hay was up $2.00 from last month and $6.00 from 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, was unchanged from January. The Crop Index was up 5 points (5 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 4 points (3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, wheat, hay, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, tomatoes, milk, and eggs. 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, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index was down 1 point (1 percent) from February 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 2 points (2 percent) from last month and decreased 2 points (2 percent) from February 2005.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, FEBRUARY 2005, JANUARY 2006, AND FEBRUARY 15, 2006
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY

COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		FEB 2005	JAN 2006	FEB 15 2006	FEB 2005	JAN 2006	FEB 15 2006	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS								
Cows	100#	54.80	49.50	51.00	52.50	47.30	48.50	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	106.00	119.00	116.00	93.10	102.00	98.10	—
Calves	100#	137.00	153.00	153.00	129.00	141.00	142.00	53
Sheep	100#	52.40	50.80	50.00	52.40	47.70	1/	—
Lambs	100#	122.00	106.00	105.00	114.00	96.10	1/	—
CROPS								
Corn	Bu.	2.70	2.50	2.55	1.95	2.00	2.01	26
Oats	Bu.	1.55	1.60	1.60	1.67	1.73	1.78	41
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.60	2/	1.55	1.60	1.93	1.90	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.24	3.40	3.48	3.36	3.52	3.66	35
Dry Beans	100#	28.40	19.00	19.00	27.80	19.30	19.70	36
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	74.00	77.00	78.00	94.00	95.60	99.20	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	68.00	72.00	74.00	74.20	79.30	83.20	—

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		
	FEB 2005	JAN 2006	FEB 15 2006	FEB 2005	JAN 2006	FEB 15 2006
All Commodities	126	136	137	114	113	113
All Crops	111	109	108	107	108	113
All Livestock and Products	129	143	142	119	118	114

U.S. PORK PRODUCTION AT RECORD HIGH FOR JANUARY

Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during January 2006 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was up 18 percent from the previous month's production but unchanged from January 2005. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Eight hundred ***cattle*** were slaughtered in January, unchanged from last year. Total live weight was 888,000 pounds, down 2 percent from January 2005.

A total of 300 ***hogs*** and ***pigs*** were processed, unchanged from last January. Total live weight, at 93,000 pounds, was up 8 percent from January 2005.

One hundred ***sheep*** and ***lambs*** were processed in January, unchanged from January 2005. Live weight totaled 14,000 pounds, down 22 percent from January 2005.

United States: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.89 billion pounds in January, up 7 percent from the 3.65 billion pounds produced in January 2005.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 5 percent from January 2005. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,281 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 7 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.92 million head, 5 percent above January 2005. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 273 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 16.2 million pounds, was up 12 percent from January 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 223,700 head, 7 percent above last year. The average live weight was 144 pounds, up 6 pounds from January a year ago.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 2005 AND 2006, Wyoming and U.S.

SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	% 06/05	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	% 06/05
			1,000 Pounds					1,000 Pounds		
Cattle	800	800	904	888	98	2,527,800	2,641,700	3,189,651	3,385,304	106
Hogs	300	300	86	93	108	8,480,000	8,915,700	2,288,913	2,435,864	106
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	18	14	78	208,500	223,700	28,760	32,236	112

U.S. PORK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD HIGH IN 2005

WYOMING: Commercial red meat production in *Wyoming* during 2005 totaled 6.5 million pounds, down 6 percent from the 6.9 million pounds in 2004. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

A total of 7,600 ***cattle*** were slaughtered in 2005, down 600 head from 2004. Total liveweight, at 9.08 million pounds, was 7 percent below last year. The average liveweight of cattle slaughtered was 1,189 pounds, up 6 pounds from 2004.

In 2005, 5,300 ***hogs*** and ***pigs*** were processed, up from 5,200 in 2004. Total liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 1.38 million pounds, 1 percent above last year. The average liveweight of 259 pounds was down 4 pounds from 2004.

A total of 1,700 ***sheep*** and ***lambs*** were processed in 2005, down 100 head from a year earlier. Total liveweight, at 229,000 pounds, was 10 percent below 2004. The average liveweight of sheep and lambs slaughtered at 135 pounds was 2 pounds less than last year.

United States: Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2005, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 45.7 billion pounds. **On farm** production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production, totaled 24.8 billion pounds, slightly higher than the previous year**. Veal production** totaled 165 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year, setting a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.7 billion pounds, was slightly higher than the previous year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** set a new record low, totaling 191 million pounds, 4 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2005 totaled 32.4 million head, down 1 percent from 2004, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,256 pounds, up 16 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 52.8 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, **heifers** 30.7 percent, **dairy cows** 7.1 percent, **other cows** 7.9 percent, and **bulls** 1.6 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 734,400 head, down 13 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 353 pounds, up 23 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103.6 million head, slightly higher than 2004 with 99.0 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.7 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.70 million head, was down 5 percent from 2004 with 94.7 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2004 to 138 pounds.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.1 million head on February 1, 2006. The inventory was 7 percent above February 1, 2005 and 9 percent above February 1, 2004.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.20 million, 16 percent above 2005 and 25 percent above 2004. Net placements were 2.12 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 530,000, 600-699 pounds were 447,000, 700-799 pounds were 702,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 520,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.81 million, up 2 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004.

Other disappearance totaled 83,000 during January, 14 percent above 2005 but 12 percent below 2004.

CATTLE ON FEED: 1000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS,
SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES, FEB 1, 2005-2006 1/

State	On Feed Jan 1, 2006	Place-ments Jan 2006	Market-ings Jan 2006	Other Disapp. Jan 2006	On Feed Feb 1, 2006	On Feed Feb 1, 2005
	Thousand Head					
CO	1,080	225	185	10	1,110	1,060
KS	2,500	570	465	25	2,580	2,420
NE	2,430	425	355	10	2,490	2,350
TX	2,920	540	420	10	3,030	2,720
Oth Sts.	2,874	439	385	28	2,900	*2,792
U.S.	11,804	2,199	1,810	83	12,110	*11,342

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 2005 is estimated at 9,200. This is unchanged from 2004. 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 34,400,000 acres, down 40,000 acres or 0.1 percent from the last two years and down from 34,500,000 in 2002. Wyoming ranks first in the Nation in average size of farms and ranches at 3,739 acres. Arizona ranks second at 2,594 acres. In Wyoming, there were 3,600 farms (39 percent) with less than $10,000 of agricultural sales in 2005, unchanged from last year but down 100 farms from both 2003 and 2002. 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 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres or 0.3 percent from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres in 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

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

Farm numbers declined 1.1 percent, to 1.17 million farms, in the $1,000-$9,999 economic sales class. Meanwhile, farm numbers increased 3.8 percent, to 79,410 farms, in the $500,000 or more economic sales class. In the $1,000-$9,999 economic sales class, land in farms dropped 2.1 percent, while land operated by farms in the largest economic sales class, $500,000 or more in sales, increased 3.0 percent.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND RANCHES AND LAND, SELECTED STATES AND U.S. 2003-2005 1/

State	Number of Farms & Ranches			Land in Farms & Ranches		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
					1,000 acres	
CO	31,400	30,900	30,500	31,000	30,900	30,700
ID	25,000	25,000	25,000	11,800	11,800	11,800
MT	28,000	28,000	28,000	60,100	60,100	60,100
NE	48,500	48,300	48,000	45,900	45,800	45,700
SD	31,600	31,600	31,400	43,800	43,800	43,700
UT	15,300	15,300	15,200	11,600	11,600	11,600
WY	**9,200**	**9,200**	**9,200**	**34,440**	**34,440**	**34,400**
U.S.	2,126,860	2,112,970	2,100,990	938,650	936,295	933,400

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 24 PERCENT

WYOMING: Honey production during 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 2.24 million pounds, down 23 percent from production in 2004 and the smallest since 1995. There were 40,000 bee colonies in Wyoming during 2005 with an average production of 56 pounds per colony. In 2004, there were 39,000 colonies averaging 75 pounds per colony.

Honey stocks in Wyoming on December 15, 2005 totaled 291,000 pounds, down 23 percent from December 15, 2004. The average price received by producers for honey sold in 2005 was 87 cents per pound, down from 107 cents in 2004. The total value of production was $1.95 million, down 38 percent from 2004 and the smallest since 2001.

UNITED STATES: Honey production in 2005 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. There were 2.41 million colonies producing honey in 2005, down 6 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. 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 62.4 million pounds on December 15, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2005 reaching 90.4 cents per pound, down 15 percent from 106.9 cents in 2004. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives.

HONEY PRODUCTION AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S., 2004-2005

State	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 1/		Average Price Per Pound		Value of Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000		*Lbs*		*1,000 Lbs*				*Cents*		*1,000 Dollars*	
CO	23	26	80	70	1,840	1,820	791	837	135	104	2,484	1,893
ID	100	95	63	37	6,300	3,515	2,520	1,793	99	80	6,237	2,812
MT	140	130	77	67	10,780	8,710	3,773	3,136	105	80	11,319	6,968
NE	51	40	89	68	4,539	2,720	2,043	2,530	97	89	4,403	2,421
SD	215	220	105	79	22,575	17,380	13,545	11,818	100	76	22,575	13,209
UT	23	23	70	45	1,610	1,035	531	331	107	103	1,723	1,066
WY	**39**	**40**	**75**	**56**	**2,925**	**2,240**	**380**	**291**	**107**	**87**	**3,130**	**1,949**
U.S.	2,556	2,410	71.8	72.5	183,582	174,643	61,222	62,406	106.9	90.4	196,259	157,795

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

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

U.S. AG WAGE RATES UP 3 PERCENT IN JANUARY

WYOMING: The number of hired farm and ranch workers in the tri-state region during the week January 8-14, 2006 was up 5,000 (42 percent) from a year ago. During this period, 17,000 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 17,000 hired workers, 16,000 were expected to work for 150 days or more and 1,000 were expected to work 149 days or less, compared with 11,000 and 1,000 last year. The number of hired workers during the week October 9-15, 2005 was 29,000.

The average wage rate for all hired workers in the tri-state labor force during the survey week was $8.99 per hour, up 8 cents (1 percent) from last October but down 77 cents (8 percent) from January 2005. Hired field workers were paid an average wage of $8.68 per hour compared with $9.42 last year. Hired livestock workers averaged $8.17 per hour compared with $8.82 last year.

The average number of hours worked during the survey week was 35.9 compared with 38.1 last January.

UNITED STATES: There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents (3 percent) from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned $9.25 per hour compared with $9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at $9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

Farm Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Regions and U.S., January 8-14, 2006 1/

Region		Hired Workers: Field	Lvstk	Fld & Lvstk Combined	All Hired Workers
		Dollars per hour			
Mntn I	2/	**8.68**	**8.17**	**8.27**	**8.99**
Mntn II	3/	**8.12**	**8.64**	**8.42**	**9.32**
No Plns	4/	**10.59**	**9.25**	**9.75**	**10.31**
U.S.	5/	**9.15**	**9.25**	**9.19**	**10.11**

1/ Excludes Ag Service Workers
2/ Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming
3/ Colorado, Nevada and Utah
4/ Kansas, Nebraska, North & South Dakota
5/ Excludes Alaska