



Issue 2006-04, Released 04/19/06

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### THANK YOU

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

*Agriculture Prices  
Prospective Plantings  
Cattle on Feed  
Feb Livestock Slaughter  
Milk Production*

### CATTLE PRICES SLIP LOWER

The **Index of Prices Received** by farmers and ranchers in **Wyoming** for agriculture commodities sold during January was 135 percent of the 1990-1992 base. The index was up 2 points (2 percent) from February and up 4 points (3 percent) from March 2005.

The **All Livestock Index**, at 139, was up 2 points (1 percent) from February and up 5 points (4 percent) from March 2005. Lamb prices were up from February, while cow, steer and heifer, calf, and sheep prices were lower. Prices for steers and heifers, calves, and lambs were higher than last year at this time, while cow and sheep prices were lower. Cow prices averaged 10 cents below February and \$4.80 lower than March 2005. Steer and heifer prices were \$2.00 below last month but \$9.00 above last year's price. Calf prices averaged \$1.00 lower than February but \$14.00 higher than March 2005. Sheep prices were the lowest since June 2005 when the price was \$37.10 per hundredweight. Lamb prices were \$4.00 above last month and \$1.00 higher than last year at this time.

The **All Crops Index**, at 105, was down 3 points (3 percent) from February and down 8 points (7 percent) from March last year. Prices for corn, feed barley, and dry beans were higher than last month, while wheat, alfalfa hay and other hay were lower. Oat prices remained unchanged. Prices were lower for corn, feed barley, and dry beans in March compared with March 2005. Oats, wheat, alfalfa hay, and other hay were all up from last March. Corn was up 5 cents from February but down 10 cents from March 2005. Oats was unchanged from last month but 10 cents higher than March 2005. Feed barley was 4 cents higher than last month but 5 cents below last year at this time. Wheat was down 7 cents from February but up 26 cents from last March. Dry beans averaged 20 cents higher than February but down \$11.40 from last year. Alfalfa hay and other hay were down \$1.00 from February but up \$3.00 and \$5.00 from last year's prices.

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 March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (1 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 3 points (3 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (3 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. 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 asparagus, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points (5 percent) from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 1 point (1 percent) from last month and 7 points (6 percent) from March 2005.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND RANCHERS, MARCH 2005, FEBRUARY 2006, AND MARCH 15, 2005								
U.S. PRICES AS PERCENT OF PARITY								
COMMODITY	UNIT	WYOMING			UNITED STATES			
		MAR 2005	FEB 2006	MAR 15 2006	MAR 2005	FEB 2006	MAR 15 2006	% OF PARITY
		Dollars			Dollars			Percent
<b>LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS</b>								
Cows	100#	57.80	53.10	53.00	55.00	49.70	49.90	—
Steers & Heifers	100#	107.00	118.00	116.00	95.00	97.80	94.10	—
Calves	100#	136.00	151.00	150.00	136.00	142.00	138.00	52
Sheep	100#	48.00	43.30	41.00	49.00	46.00	1/	—
Lambs	100#	115.00	112.00	116.00	114.00	96.80	1/	—
<b>CROPS</b>								
Corn	Bu.	2.65	2.50	2.55	2.02	2.02	2.01	26
Oats	Bu.	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.73	1.82	1.77	42
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.65	1.56	1.60	1.67	1.83	1.85	—
All Wheat	Bu.	3.30	3.63	3.56	3.42	3.66	3.71	36
Dry Beans	100#	27.60	16.00	16.20	26.60	17.40	19.50	36
Alfalfa Hay (Baled)	Ton	74.00	78.00	77.00	98.60	99.20	100.00	—
Other Hay (Baled)	Ton	68.00	74.00	73.00	77.80	83.20	86.60	—
1/Mid-month prices discontinued January 1996.								
<b>NOTE:</b> 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				
	MAR 2005	FEB 2006	MAR 15 2006	MAR 2005	FEB 2006	MAR 15 2006		
All Commodities	131	133	135	119	114	113		
All Crops	113	108	105	116	114	117		
All Livestock and Products	134	137	139	121	114	111		

## WYOMING PLANTING INTENTIONS DECREASE OVERALL

**WYOMING:** As of March 1, Wyoming farmers planted or intended to plant 433,000 acres of small grains and row crops last Fall and this Spring, down 4 percent from both last year and 2004. Winter wheat plantings were down from last year and intentions for oats and dry beans were also lower. Planting intentions for sugarbeets were up from the actual 2005 plantings. Spring wheat, corn, and barley intentions were unchanged from last year.

As of March 5, topsoil moisture was rated adequate or better in about 47 percent of the State, compared with about 37 percent last year at that time. Irrigation water supplies were a concern for Wyoming producers. Snow pack was higher than average across much of southern and far western Wyoming, but below average in most of the north central and northeastern part of the state.

**Small Grains:** Wyoming's 2006 **barley** acreage is expected to total 75,000 acres, unchanged from last year, but 15,000 acres below the 2004 crop. Farmers intend to plant 50,000 acres of **oats**, down 5,000 acres from last year, but the same acreage as 2004. **Spring wheat** acreage, at 9,000 acres, will be unchanged from last year but 1,000 acres below 2004 if plans are realized. **Winter wheat** was seeded on 150,000 acres last fall, down 10,000 acres from the 2005 crop, but the same as planted for the 2004 crop.

**Row Crops:** Wyoming farmers expect to plant 80,000 acres of **corn** this year, unchanged from last year but down 10,000 acres from 2004. Producers intend to plant 39,000 acres of **sugarbeets**, which would be 2,800 acres above last year and 2,600 acres above 2004. **Dry bean** plantings this year are expected to total 30,000 acres, down 4,000 acres from 2005, but 5,000 acres above 2004.

The total acreage of **all hay** expected to be harvested in the State in 2005 is 1.20 million acres. This would be 5 percent above last year, 21 percent above 2004's crop, and equal to 2003.

These estimates are based on a survey conducted in early March. Actual plantings may vary from these estimates because of weather, economic conditions, and the effect of this report itself.

**UNITED STATES:** **Winter Wheat** planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from 2005. Of the total acreage, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 4.22 million acres are White Winter. **Other Spring Wheat** growers intend to plant 13.9 million acres this year, down 1 percent from 2005. Of the total, about 13.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat.

**Barley** growers intend to plant 3.67 million acres for 2006, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley planted acreage on record. **Oats** acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2006 crop year are expected to total 4.32 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area.

Prospective 2006 planting of **dry beans** in the U.S. totals 1.71 million acres, up 3 percent from last year and 26 percent above 2 years ago. Area planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2006 crop year is expected to total 1.37 million acres, 6 percent higher than the 2005 planted acreage. **Corn** growers intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this will be the lowest corn acreage since 2001. **Hay** producers expect to harvest 61.5 million acres of all hay in 2006, down fractionally from 2005.

**Planting Intentions for 2005 and Actual Plantings for 2004,  
Wyoming and United States**

Crops	Acreage Planted/to Be Planted					
	Wyoming			United States 1/		
	2005	2006 Intentions	% 06/05	2005	2006 Intentions	% 06/05
	1,000 Acres			1,000 Acres		
Corn, All Purposes	80	80	100	81,759	78,019	95
Winter Wheat	160	150	94	40,433	41,404	102
Durum Wheat	—	—	—	2,760	1,825	66
Spring Wht Other than Durum	9	9	100	14,036	13,899	99
Oats	55	50	91	4,246	4,324	102
Barley	75	75	100	3,875	3,667	95
Sugarbeets	36.2	39.0	108	1,294.8	1,371.8	106
Dry Edible Beans	34	30	88	1,665.0	1,710.3	103
Hay, All 2/	1,140	1,200	105	61,649	61,478	100

1/ Excludes Alaska and Hawaii

2/ Area for harvest

## U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 8 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on March 1, 2006. The inventory was 8 percent above March 1, 2005 and 9 percent above March 1, 2004. This is the highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.60 million, 5 percent above 2005 but 1 percent below 2004. Net placements were 1.53 million. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 300,000, 700-799 pounds were 510,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 433,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.61 million, 1 percent below 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of February since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 73,000 during February, 5 percent below 2005 but 6 percent above 2004.

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

State	On Feed Feb 1, 2006	Place- ments Feb 2006	Market- ings Feb 2006	Other Disapp. Feb 2006	On Feed Mar 1, 2006	On Feed Mar 1, 2005
Thousand Head						
CO	1,110	150	165	5	1,090	1,040
KS	2,580	410	360	20	2,610	2,370
NE	2,490	330	360	10	2,450	2,320
TX	3,030	360	370	10	3,010	2,690
Oth Sts.	2,900	348	357	28	2,863	2,734
U.S.	12,110	1,598	1,612	73	12,023	11,154

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 Sets a Record High For February

**Commercial red meat** production in *Wyoming* during February 2006 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was down 16 percent from the previous month's production but up 1 percent from February 2005. Commercial red meat production excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Six hundred *cattle* were slaughtered in February, unchanged from last year. Total live weight was 737,000 pounds, up 7 percent from February 2005. Average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,191 pounds, up 23 pounds from last year.

A total of 300 *hogs* and *pigs* were processed, down 100 head from last February. Total live weight, at 90,000 pounds, was down 22 percent from February 2005. Average live weight of hogs slaughtered was 260 pounds, down 4 pounds from last year.

One hundred *sheep* and *lambs* were processed in February, unchanged from February 2005. Live weight totaled 15,000 pounds, down 12 percent from February 2005. Average live weight of sheep and lambs slaughtered was 129 pounds, down 5 pounds from a year earlier.

**Red Meat production** from January to February 2006 totaled 1.1 million pounds, unchanged from the same period last year.

**United States: Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 3.48 billion pounds in February, up 2 percent from the 3.42 billion pounds produced in February 2005.

**Beef production**, at 1.82 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.35 million head, up slightly from February 2005. The average live weight was up 30 pounds from the previous year, at 1,283 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.63 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.05 million head, 1 percent below February 2005. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 14.7 million pounds, was down 3 percent from February 2005. Sheep slaughter totaled 202,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 145 pounds, up 5 pounds from February a year ago.

**January to February 2006 commercial red meat production** was 7.4 billion pounds, up 4 percent from 2005. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal was down 5 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 4 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEBRUARY 2005 AND 2006, Wyoming and U.S.										
SPECIES	WYOMING					UNITED STATES				
	Number of Head		Total Liveweight			Number of Head		Total Liveweight		
	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	% 06/05	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	% 06/05
			1,000 Pounds						1,000 Pounds	
Cattle	600	600	690	737	107	2,342,900	2,345,900	2,936,796	3,009,921	102
Hogs	400	300	115	90	78	8,107,800	8,054,700	2,188,843	2,190,183	100
Sheep & Lambs	100	100	17	15	88	214,000	202,500	29,993	29,344	98

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### WYOMING MILK PRODUCTION LARGEST SINCE 1993

**WYOMING:** The number of milk cows in **Wyoming** during January-March 2006 averaged 6,800 head. The number of cows was the highest since the first quarter of 1995. The number was up 600 head from the previous quarter and up 2,400 head from the same quarter one year ago. Milk production during 2006's first quarter was 25.8 million pounds, up 13 percent from the previous three months and up 63 percent from the same quarter last year. Production was the largest since the third quarter of 1993 when it was also 25.8 million pounds.

**UNITED STATES:** Milk production in the U.S. during the January - March quarter totaled 45.5 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.09 million head, 91,000 head more than the same period last year.

**MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION,  
 SELECTED STATES AND U.S., JAN-MAR, 2005 AND 2006**

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Production 2/		Change from 2005
	2005	2006	2005	2006	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		Percent
<b>WY</b>	4.4	6.8	15.8	25.8	63.3
CA	1,742	1,781	9,152	9,706	6.1
CO	101	106	554	607	9.6
ID	438	474	2,361	2,549	8.0
MT	18	19	89	93	4.5
NE	60	60	268	277	3.4
SD	81	81	350	364	4.0
UT	88	85	404	404	0
WI	1,234	1,240	5,522	5,779	4.7
<b>US</b>	9,002	9,093	43,350	45,521	5.0

1/Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/Excludes milk sucked by calves.