



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

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PRICES RECEIVED BY FLORIDA FARMERS

Prices received by cattle producers in mid-March were mostly higher, compared with the entire month of February. Hogs at \$35.50 per cwt were \$1.00 less than February and \$3.90 lower than the previous year. The mid-month price for cows at \$54.50 per cwt, was \$1.30 below last month, but \$6.30 more than a year earlier. Steers and heifers at \$95.00 per cwt, were \$3.20 and \$2.00 per cwt above last month, and last year, respectively. Calves at \$110.00 per cwt were \$2.00 more than February 2008 but \$7.00 below last year.

The Florida milk price for March was \$20.50 per cwt, down \$2.70 from last month but \$2.30 more than a year earlier. The commercial broiler price at 52.0 cents per pound, was unchanged from last month, but was up 1.0 cent from March 2007. The March egg price, at 135.0 cents per dozen, was five cents more than the previous month and 65.0 cents above a year earlier.

US PRICE INDEX

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased three points (2.0 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up eight points (4.9 percent) but the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received higher commodity prices for wheat, corn, lettuce, and eggs and lower prices for milk, snap beans, strawberries, and hogs. In addition to prices, the overall Index is affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, soybeans, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, cotton, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 17 points (13 percent) from March 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 149, increased three points (2.1 percent) from last month and increased 15 points (11 percent) from March 2007.

SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX 1990-92=100	2007		2008	
	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar
Prices Received	128	133	147	150
Prices Paid	156	159	173	176
Ratio ^{1/}	82	84	85	85

^{1/} Prices Received/Prices Paid.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS ^{1/}

Commodity	Unit	Florida			United States		
		Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008	Mar 2007	Feb 2008	Mar 2008
MEAT ANIMALS:							
Hogs	\$ per cwt.	39.40	36.50	35.50	44.90	42.20	41.20
Cows	\$ per cwt.	48.20	55.80	54.50	47.20	51.40	52.20
Steers & heifers	\$ per cwt.	93.00	93.80	95.00	97.70	94.20	93.80
Calves	\$ per cwt.	117.00	108.00	110.00	122.00	120.00	120.00
MILK: ^{2/}							
Sold to plants, all	\$ per cwt.	18.20	23.20	20.50	15.60	19.10	18.30
POULTRY:							
Com'l broilers	Cents per lb.	51.0	52.0	52.0	50.0	50.0	51.0
Table eggs	Cents per doz.	70.0	130.0	135.0	68.1	122.0	130.0
CITRUS, ON TREE:							
Oranges	\$ per box	10.27	5.83	6.26	10.58	5.74	6.07
Grapefruit	\$ per box	2.56	4.15	3.25	2.91	4.07	3.14
Tangerines	\$ per box	11.74	8.23	4.27	12.98	14.80	13.15
FIELD CROPS:							
Potatoes	\$ per cwt	41.50	42.10	38.20	7.93	7.51	7.82
Hay, baled	\$ per ton	**	**	**	119.00	133.00	139.00
Tobacco, Type 11-37	\$ per lb.	**	**	**	**	**	**
Peanuts	\$ per lb.	**	0.182	0.180	0.178	0.210	0.209
Corn*	\$ per bu.				3.43	4.53	4.83
Oats*	\$ per bu.				2.40	3.20	3.38
Cotton*	Cents per lb.				46.4	61.9	61.4
Sorghum*	\$ per cwt				6.48	8.35	8.72
Soybeans*	\$ per bu.				6.95	11.70	11.90
Wheat, Winter*	\$ per bu.				4.67	8.97	11.00

^{1/} Eggs, broilers and hay prices are midmonth estimates. Prices for the latest month for grains and soybeans are midmonth estimates. Prices for most meat animals are first half of month and other estimates are for the entire month.

^{2/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholding, and includes quantity and other premiums, but excludes hauling subsidies.

* Only marketing year average prices are estimated for Florida, except oats and sorghum which are not estimated.

** Not estimated this month.

HIGHLIGHTS--U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEXES

ALL CROPS

The March Index is 171, up 4.9 percent from February and 20 percent above March 2007. Index increases for food grains, commercial vegetables, feed grains & hay, fruits & nuts more than offset the Index decrease for cotton.

FOOD GRAINS: The March Index, at 332, is 15 percent above the previous month and 114 percent above a year ago. The March all wheat price, at \$11.70 per bushel, is up \$1.72 from February and \$6.95 above March 2007.

FEED GRAINS & HAY: The March Index is 206, up 6.2 percent from last month and 36 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$4.83 per bushel, is up 30 cents from last month and \$1.40 above March 2007. The all hay price, at \$139 per ton, is up \$6.00 from February and up \$20.00 from last March. Grain sorghum, at \$8.72 per cwt, is 37 cents above February and \$2.24 above March last year.

OIL-BEARING CROPS: The March Index, at 214, is up 1.9 percent from February and 71 percent higher than March 2007. The soybean price, at \$11.90 per bushel, increased 20 cents from February and is \$4.95 above March 2007.

COTTON: The March Index, at 101, is down 1.0 percent from February but 31 percent above last year. The March price, at 61.4 cents per pound, is down 0.5 cent from the previous month but 15.0 cents above last March.

POTATOES & DRY BEANS: The March Index, at 138, is up 3.0 percent from last month and 1.5 percent above March 2007. The all potato price, at \$7.82 per cwt, is up 31 cents from February but down 11 cents from last March. The all dry bean price, at \$32.20 per cwt, is unchanged from the previous month but \$6.50 above March 2007.

FRUITS & NUTS: The March Index, at 156, is up 4.0 percent from February and 4.0 percent higher than a year ago. The price increase for oranges more than offset prices decreases for strawberries, grapefruit, lemons, and apples.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES: The March Index, at 131, is up 9.2 percent from last month but 32 percent below March 2007. Price increases during March for lettuce, tomatoes, broccoli, and cauliflower more than offset price declines for snap beans, cucumbers, and onions.

LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS

The March Index, at 133, is unchanged from last month but up 6.4 percent from March 2007. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for milk, eggs, turkeys, and broilers. Prices for cattle, hogs, and calves are down from last year.

MEAT ANIMALS: The March Index, at 114, is down 0.9 percent from last month and 3.4 percent lower than last year. The March hog price, at \$41.20 per cwt, is down \$1.00 from February and \$3.70 lower than a year ago. The March beef cattle price of \$88.70 per cwt, is down 30 cents from last month and \$2.90 lower than March 2007.

DAIRY PRODUCTS: The March Index, at 140, is down 4.1 percent from a month ago but 18 percent higher than March last year. The March all milk price of \$18.30 per cwt is down 80 cents from last month but up \$2.70 from March 2007. The fluid grade milk price is down 80 cents but the manufacturing grade milk price is unchanged from the previous month.

POULTRY & EGGS: The March Index, at 170, is up 4.3 percent from February and 15 percent above a year ago. The March market egg price, at \$1.30 per dozen, increased 8.0 cents from February and is 61.9 cents above March 2007. The March broiler price, at 51.0 cents per pound, is up 1.0 cent from February and a year ago. The March turkey price, at 52.9 cents per pound, is up 5.4 cents from the previous month and up 8.6 cents from a year earlier.

**PRICES RECEIVED FOR SELECTED AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, BY MONTHS,
UNITED STATES, 2007 AND 2008**

Month	All wheat		Corn		Soybeans		Beef cattle ^{1/}		All hogs	
	2007	2008 ^{2/}	2007	2008 ^{2/}	2007	2008 ^{2/}	2007 ^{3/}	2008 ^{2/}	2007 ^{3/}	2008 ^{2/}
	<i>Dollars per bushel</i>						<i>Dollars per cwt</i>			
Jan	4.53	7.93	3.05	3.97	6.37	9.96	83.70	87.30	42.60	37.20
Feb	4.71	9.98	3.44	4.53	6.87	11.70	86.10	89.00	47.50	42.20
Mar	4.75	11.70	3.43	4.83	6.95	11.90	91.60	88.70	44.90	41.20
Apr	4.89		3.39		6.88		93.70		47.30	
May	4.88		3.49		7.12		92.80		53.10	
Jun	5.03		3.53		7.51		88.80		54.30	
Jul	5.17		3.32		7.56		89.00		52.20	
Aug	5.64		3.26		7.72		91.40		51.30	
Sep	6.75		3.29		8.18		93.10		46.80	
Oct	7.65		3.29		8.36		90.90		42.40	
Nov	7.36		3.43		9.41		89.90		37.90	
Dec	7.74		3.76		10.00		89.20		39.60	

^{1/} Cows, steers, and heifers.

^{2/} Current month prices are mid-month; prices for previous months are for the entire month.