



Iowa Ag News – Labor



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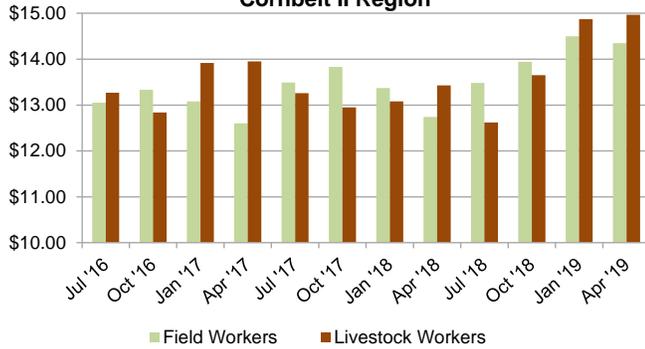
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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

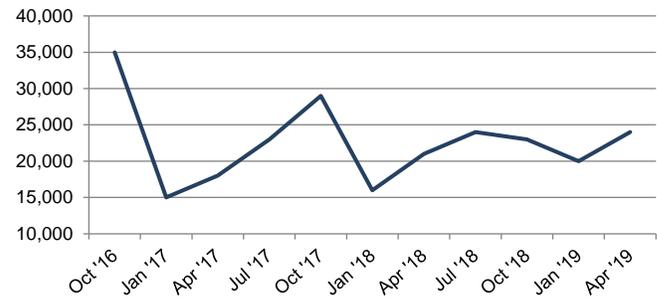
There were 20,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of January 6-12, 2019, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor* report. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$15.55 per hour, up \$1.70 from January 2018. The number of hours worked averaged 34.9 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 32.8 hours in January 2018.

During the reference week of April 7-13, 2019, there were 24,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$15.39 per hour during the April 2019 reference week, up \$1.75 from April 2018. The number of hours worked averaged 37.1 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 31.7 hours in April 2018.

**Wage Rates by Type of Worker
Cornbelt II Region**



Number of Workers - Cornbelt II Region



Hired Workers, Hours Worked and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2018-2019

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	April 2018	January 2019	April 2019	April 2018	January 2019	April 2019
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	21	20	24	648	499	629
Hours worked by hired workers hours per week	31.7	34.9	37.1	40.2	39.3	40.7
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined..... dollars per hour	13.05	14.75	14.70	12.74	13.78	13.73
Field dollars per hour	12.74	14.50	14.35	12.72	13.77	13.80
Livestock dollars per hour	13.43	14.87	14.97	12.78	13.80	13.61
All hired workers..... dollars per hour	13.64	15.55	15.39	13.72	14.96	14.71

¹ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 629,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 7-13, 2019, down 3 percent from the April 2018 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 499,000 during the week of January 6-12, 2019, down 7 percent from the January 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.71 per hour during the April 2019 reference week, up 7 percent from the April 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.80 per hour, up 8 percent. Livestock workers earned \$13.61 per hour, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.73 per hour, was up 8 percent from the 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.7 hours during the April 2019 reference week, up 1 percent from the hours worked during the April 2018 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.96 per hour during the January 2019 reference week, up 6 percent from the January 2018 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.77 per hour, up 7 percent, while livestock workers earned \$13.80 per hour, up 7 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.78 per hour, was up 7 percent from the January 2018 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.3 hours during the January 2019 reference week, up 3 percent from the hours worked during the January 2018 reference week.