



Iowa Ag News – Labor



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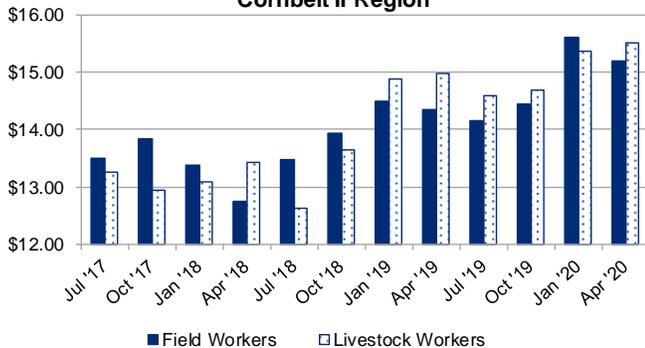
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Media Contact: Greg Thessen

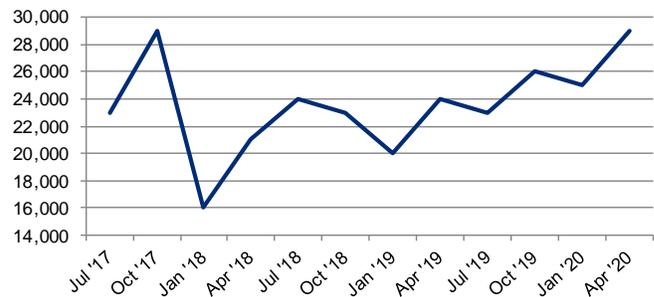
There were 25,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of January 12-18, 2020, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor* report. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$15.98 per hour, up \$0.43 from January 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 37.2 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 34.9 hours in January 2019.

During the reference week of April 12-18, 2020, there were 29,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$15.79 per hour during the April 2020 reference week, up \$0.40 from April 2019. The number of hours worked averaged 37.9 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 37.1 hours in April 2019.

**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: 2019-2020

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	April 2019	January 2020	April 2020	April 2019	January 2020	April 2020
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	24	25	29	629	568	688
Hours worked by hired workers hours per week	37.1	37.2	37.9	40.7	40.2	40.3
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined.....dollars per hour	14.70	15.45	15.35	13.73	14.20	14.16
Field dollars per hour	14.35	15.61	15.18	13.80	14.18	14.19
Livestock dollars per hour	14.97	15.37	15.50	13.61	14.22	14.10
All hired workers..... dollars per hour	15.39	15.98	15.79	14.71	15.28	15.07

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 688,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2020, up 9% from the April 2019 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 568,000 during the week of January 12-18, 2020, up 14% from the January 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.07 per hour during the April 2020 reference week, up 2% from the April 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.19 per hour, up 3%. Livestock workers earned \$14.10 per hour, up 4%. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$14.16 per hour, was up 3% from the 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2020 reference week, down 1% from the hours worked during the April 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$15.28 per hour during the January 2020 reference week, up 2% from the January 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.18 per hour, up 3%, while livestock workers earned \$14.22 per hour, up 3% from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$14.20 per hour, was up 3% from the January 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.2 hours during the January 2020 reference week, up 2% from the hours worked during the January 2019 reference week.