



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

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NORTHERN PLAINS FARM LABOR

LINCOLN, NE, November 19, 2015 -- In the Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 37,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 3 percent from the July 2014 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 40,000 during the week of October 11-17, 2015, up 11 percent from the October 2014 reference week.

Farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.96 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, down 1 percent from the July 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$13.66 per hour, down 43 cents. Livestock workers earned \$13.31 per hour, up 32 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$13.50, was down 15 cents from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.6 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.9 hours worked during the July 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.72 per hour during the October 2015 reference week, up 1 percent from the October 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.59 per hour, up 4 cents. Livestock workers earned \$13.86 per hour compared with \$13.17 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$14.30, was up 25 cents from the October 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 43.5 hours worked during the October 2014 reference week.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/FarmLabo//2010s/2015/FarmLabo-11-19-2015.pdf>

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