

prices & income review

Grain and Hay: Prices received for Maryland grain and hay this year were generally higher than those of 2004. However, Maryland prices continue to surpass the U.S. average for corn, soybeans, and hay. Corn prices in Maryland averaged \$2.00 per bushel for the season, down 17 cents from 2004, but 10 cents higher than the U.S. season average price of \$1.90. Soybean prices increased by 10 cents per bushel



from 2004 to an average \$5.45 for the season. The price received for all hay was up \$34.00 per ton from 2004 to \$163.00 per ton, the highest since 2001.

Maryland alfalfa prices increased \$45.00 per ton to \$169.00 per ton. Despite declines in corn and barley, Maryland hay farmers continue to enjoy prices 63 percent above the U.S. average for alfalfa and nearly twice the U.S. average for all other types of hay. The market for small grains was mixed with the average price for wheat up 7 cents to \$3.12 per bushel and the average price for barley down 46 cents to an average \$1.46 per bushel.



Fresh Market Fruit: Season average prices for fresh market apples were slightly below those of the 2004 season. The price received for fresh market apples is down 2.4 cents from 2004 to an average price of 24.1 cents per pound.

Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry: Livestock prices were generally up in 2005. However, broiler prices remained the same as 2004 at 46 cents per pound. Broilers accounted for 35 percent of the farm receipts in Maryland in 2005. Milk cows prices were up 8 percent from 2004 to average \$1730 per head. The average price received for beef cattle in Maryland was \$85.80 per hundredweight, up \$5.80 from 2004. Steer and heifer prices were up \$6.50 to \$89.30 per hundredweight. The average price of all hogs rose from \$40.90 per hundredweight in 2004 to \$42.50 in 2005. Eggs and milk were the two commodities to show a decline in price. Market eggs averaged 44.2 cents per dozen, down from last year's high of 63.1 cents per dozen. Milk showed a decrease in price received by farmers at \$16.20 per hundredweight.

