

# Prices & income review

**Grain and Hay...** Small grain and soybean prices set record highs in 2008, while prices for corn and hay remained high not surpassing the record highs of 2007 but remaining higher than the past decade. Corn averaged \$4.30 per bushel for the 2008 market year, down 7% from the record price of \$4.64 per bushel recorded in 2007. Soybeans averaged \$8.75 per bushel, 22% below last year's record price of \$11.20 per bushel. Wheat brought an average \$6.50 per bushel, up 8% from \$5.97 per bushel recorded in 2007, and a new record high in Maryland. Another record was set in barley which averaged \$4.00 per bushel, up from \$2.70 per bushel in 2007, and \$0.88 over the previous record in 1996. Hay prices have decreased from the 2007 record highs but remained high at \$183 per ton. Alfalfa hay sold for an average \$190 per ton and all other types of hay averaged \$180 per ton.

## Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry...

**Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry:** Prices for all beef cattle increased to \$86.70 per hundredweight in 2008, compared to \$86.50 in 2007. In addition, cows increased to \$55.70 in 2008, in comparison with previous year price of \$48.60 per hundredweight. However, steers and heifers decreased to \$90.10 in 2008, compared to \$90.50 last year per hundred weight and calves decreased from \$110 in 2007 to \$105 in 2008 per hundredweight. The price of milk for milk cows in 2008 increased to \$2,020 compared to \$1,850 from previous year. Dairy producers, received an average of \$19.00 per hundredweight for milk sold, down from 2007 average of \$20.00. Hog producers received a higher price in 2008, with prices increasing by \$2.00 per hundredweight for all hogs. Barrows and gilts sold for an average of \$42.9, an increase of \$2.10 from 2007 prices, sows sold for \$33.20 in 2008, compared to \$33 a year earlier. Prices for poultry in 2008 all increased except for other chickens, which decreased to 2.1 cents per pound from 2.6 in 2007. Broiler prices in 2008 were \$0.49 per pound, an increase of \$0.03 from 2007. Market eggs prices in 2008 increased to \$1.12 per dozen, up \$0.30 from 2007 prices.



## Fresh Market Fruit...

The season average prices for apples increased 21.9% in 2008. Producers received an average of 23.9 cents per pound for their crop, up 4.3 cents from 2007. Fresh market peach price decreased 13.6% in 2008. Producers received an average of \$1,150 per ton for their crop, down \$20 from \$1,170 dollars in 2007.

