USDA
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Upper Midwest Region – Minnesota Field Office
Cooperating with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
nassrfoumr@nass.usda.gov
www.nass.usda.gov

Minnesota AgriView

Vol 16-01 January 15, 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

MONTHLY PRICES

The November 2015 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Minnesota was $3.43 per bushel. This was down $0.06 from the October price, and $0.08 lower than the November 2014 price.

The November 2015 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at $8.51 per bushel, was down $0.13 from the October price, and $1.44 lower than the November 2014 price.

The November **oat** price was $2.39 per bushel, up $0.51 from October, but $0.61 below November 2014.

All hay prices in Minnesota averaged $93.00 per ton in November, down $4.00 from the October price, and $43.00 per ton less than November 2014. **Alfalfa hay** prices fell $49.00 per ton from one year ago, to $109.00, while **other hay** prices were $24.00 per ton lower than last year, at $76.00.

The November average price was $17.70 per cwt for **milk**, unchanged from October, but $6.70 per cwt below one year ago.

Prices Received by Farmers - Minnesota and United States

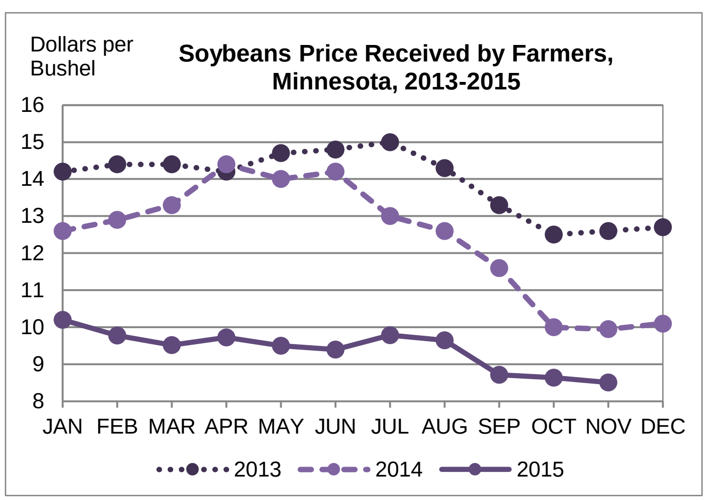
	Minnesota			United States		
	November 2014	October 2015	November 2015	November 2014	October 2015	November 2015
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Barley, all ....bu	5.38	4.93	5.28	5.09	5.54	5.59
Beans, dry edible .... cwt	(S)	34.30	32.50	30.60	27.30	27.10
Corn ....bu	3.51	3.49	3.43	3.60	3.67	3.60
Hay, all baled ....ton	136.00	97.00	93.00	162.00	146.00	142.00
Alfalfa ....ton	158.00	124.00	109.00	182.00	156.00	150.00
Other ....ton	100.00	64.00	76.00	127.00	124.00	127.00
Oats ....bu	3.00	1.88	2.39	2.95	2.20	2.10
Potatoes .... cwt	9.15	9.75	9.60	8.19	7.23	8.20
Soybeans ....bu	9.95	8.64	8.51	10.20	8.81	8.68
Spring Wheat ....bu	5.39	4.71	5.00	5.73	4.80	4.91
Sunflowers, all .... cwt	(D)	20.80	21.20	20.30	18.60	18.40
Milk, all .... cwt	24.40	17.70	17.70	23.00	17.70	18.20

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.(S) Insufficient number of reports to establish an estimate.

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers - United States

	November 2014	October 2015	November 2015
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Calves ....cwt	305.00	234.00	217.00
Cattle, all beef ....cwt	167.00	128.00	129.00
Cows [1] ....cwt	115.00	89.50	82.00
Steers & Heifers ....cwt	169.00	129.00	131.00
Hogs, all ....cwt	66.70	55.50	45.90
Barrows & Gilts ....cwt	66.40	55.40	45.80
Sows ....cwt	74.20	57.40	48.50
Eggs (market).... doz	1.37	1.26	1.93

[1] Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.



2014 CENSUS OF HORTICULTURAL SPECIALTIES

The Census of Horticultural Specialties provides detailed, comprehensive production and economic data on the horticulture industry. It provides information on the number and types of establishments engaged in horticultural production, value of sales, varieties of products, production expenses and more. All operations that reported producing and selling $10,000 or more of horticultural crops on the 2012 Census of Agriculture were included in this special study.

The ***2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties report***, shows that horticulture operations in the United States sold a total of $13.8 billion in floriculture, nursery and specialty crops in 2014, up 18 percent since 2009. The number of horticulture operations increased 8 percent during this time to 23,221.

Minnesota's total floriculture, nursery and specialty crops generated $245 million in sales in 2014, down 9.0 percent from 2009. This accounted for 1.8 percent of all U.S. horticulture sales in 2014. Minnesota producers increased in number from 453 in 2009 to 487 in 2014, a 7.5 percent increase. Of the 487 horticultural specialty operations, corporations were the most common, accounting for 48.9 percent of all operations and 76.7 percent of all sales ($188 million). In 2009, only 40 percent of the horticulture operations were corporations, with 87.8 percent of sales. Family- or individually-owned operations accounted for 45.6 percent of all horticulture operations in 2014, with 222 operations. Total industry expenses in Minnesota totaled $229 million, up 16.1 percent since 2009. Hired labor costs were the largest expense, accounting for 40.8 percent of total expenses in 2014, up from 37.7 percent of total expenses in 2009.

Sales value of Minnesota flower seeds were ranked fourth in the nation, composing 7.4 percent of the total U.S. flower seed sales. Minnesota flower seed sales were driven primarily by sales of wildflower seeds, with 14 operations harvesting and selling over 223,000 pounds of clean seed in 2014, generating $2.35 million in sales. Minnesota ranked fourth in the nation for wildflower seed sales with 26.7 percent of all U.S. sales in 2014.

Top Horticultural Commodities—Minnesota: 2009 and 2014

	2009 Sales (1,000 dollars)	**2014 Sales** (1,000 dollars)	**% change from 2009 to 2014**
All Horticulture	**268,801**	**244,618**	**-9.0**
Annual Bedding/Garden Plants	80,738	54,734	-32.2
Food Crops Under Protection	13,480	18,809	39.5
Nursery Stock	101,228	91,467	-9.6
Potted Flowering Plants	12,997	18,215	40.1
Potted Herbaceous Perennials	20,604	20,088	-2.5
Sod Sprigs and Plugs	20,719	16,281	-21.4

Top Nursery Stock Sold—Minnesota: 2009 and 2014

Commodity	**Operations**		**Value of Sales (1,000 dollars)**	
	2009	**2014**	**2009**	**2014**
Nursery Stock Sold, Total	**145**	**180**	**101,228**	**91,467**
Deciduous shade trees	91	94	19,500	18,008
Deciduous flowering trees	71	78	10,566	8,379
Coniferous evergreens	91	112	29,759	12,143
Deciduous shrubs	73	84	29,981	38,098
Fruit and nut plants	54	65	3,134	6,641

Top Potted Flowering Plants for Indoor or Patio Use Sold—Minnesota: 2014

	Operations	**Number Sold**	**Value of Sales (1,000 dollars)**
Potted Flowering Plants Sold, Total	**84**	**2,968,549**	**18,215**
Lily, Easter	16	276,802	1,772
Poinsettia	33	1,015,497	6,882
Other potted flowering plants	10	253,835	1,506
Potted Spring Flowering Bulbs Sold, Total	12	486,679	2,493

Potted flowering plants had the largest increase in total sales from 2009, up $5.22 million to $18.2 million in sales in 2014. There are 84 operations with annual bedding and garden plant sales, up 29.2 percent from 2009. Annual bedding and garden plants sales had the largest decline in sales, decreasing 32.2 percent from 2009 to 2014, about $26.0 million. Nursery stock remains the largest sales category, with $91.5 million in sales in 2014. Nursery stock sales decreased 9.6 percent from 2009, with decreased revenues from coniferous evergreens and deciduous flowering trees. Deciduous shrubs had the largest increase in sales value of all nursery stock, with sales up $8.12 million, or 27.1 percent, in 5 years. The $38.1 million in sales in 2014 was 5.6 percent of the U.S. total.

Food crops grown under protection gained in prominence as the number of operations engaged in this practice increased 75.9 percent to 51 operations. Total sales from food crops grown under protection increased 39.5 percent to 18.8 million dollars in 2014. Tomatoes were the top crop grown under protection, with $17.8 million in sales and 111,111 cwt produced.

The full report is available at: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Census_of_Horticulture_Specialties/

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Minnesota during November 2015 totaled 759 million pounds, up 2 percent from the previous November. This is the highest November milk production for Minnesota since 1991. The average number of milk cows during November, at 460,000 head, was unchanged from both last month and last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,650 pounds, up 40 pounds from a year ago.

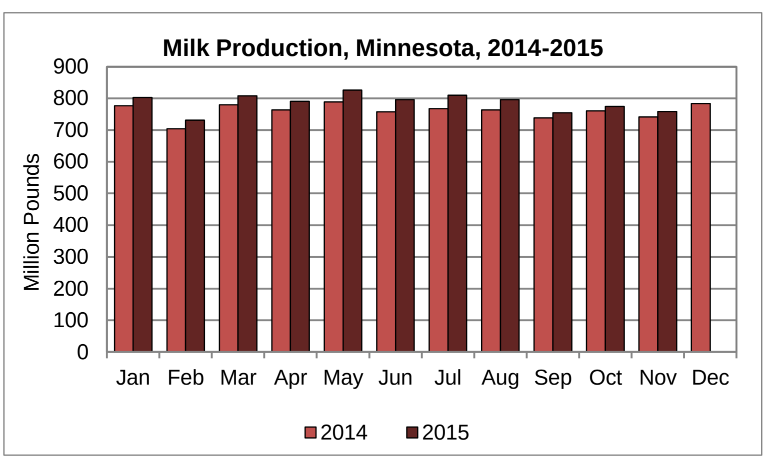
Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 15.6 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from November 2014. October revised production, at 16.1 billion pounds, was up 0.3 percent from October 2014. The October revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,808 pounds for November, 2 pounds above November 2014. This is the highest production per cow for the month of November since the 23 State series began in 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.64 million head, 37,000 head more than November 2014, but unchanged from October 2015.

Milk production in the United States during November totaled 16.6 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from November 2014. Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,787 pounds for November, 4 pounds above November 2014. The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.31 million head, 29,000 head more than November 2014, but unchanged from October 2015.

Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: November 2014 and 2015

State	Milk Cows [1]		Milk Per Cow [2]		Milk Production [2]		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	Change from 2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	193	195	1,945	1,950	375	380	1.3
California	1,780	1,776	1,885	1,805	3,355	3,206	-4.4
Colorado	145	146	2,035	2,090	295	305	3.4
Florida	123	125	1,535	1,545	189	193	2.1
Idaho	579	587	1,925	1,935	1,115	1,136	1.9
Illinois	93	94	1,580	1,600	147	150	2.0
Indiana	179	184	1,775	1,800	318	331	4.1
Iowa	208	210	1,835	1,845	382	387	1.3
Kansas	143	142	1,790	1,775	256	252	-1.6
Michigan	399	410	1,970	2,040	786	836	6.4
Minnesota	**460**	**460**	**1,610**	**1,650**	**741**	**759**	**2.4**
New Mexico	323	323	1,975	1,910	638	617	-3.3
New York	615	620	1,805	1,850	1,110	1,147	3.3
Ohio	267	266	1,620	1,635	433	435	0.5
Oregon	124	123	1,615	1,600	200	197	-1.5
Pennsylvania	530	530	1,615	1,615	856	856	0.0
South Dakota	98	109	1,795	1,830	176	199	13.1
Texas	470	462	1,785	1,785	839	825	-1.7
Utah	96	96	1,865	1,840	179	177	-1.1
Vermont	132	131	1,630	1,640	215	215	0.0
Virginia	92	90	1,550	1,550	143	140	-2.1
Washington	276	276	1,905	1,900	526	524	-0.4
Wisconsin	1,273	1,280	1,770	1,835	2,253	2,349	4.3
23-State Total	8,598	8,635	1,806	1,808	15,527	15,616	0.6

[1] Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. [2] Excludes milk sucked by calves

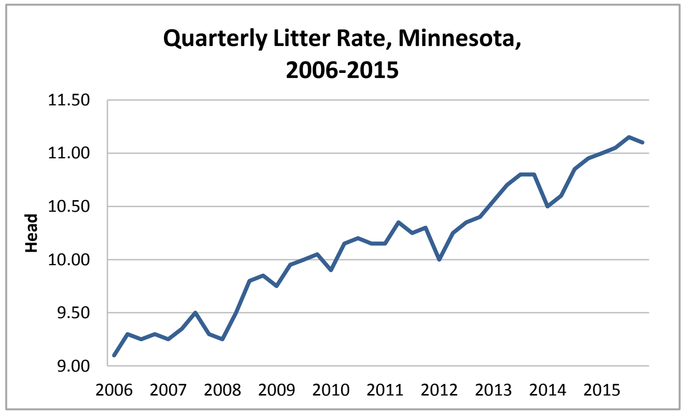


HOGS & PIGS

On December 1, 2015, there were 7.95 million hogs and pigs on Minnesota farms. The December 1 inventory was up 1 percent from September but down 2 percent from last December's 8.10 million head.

The September-November pig crop was 3.11 million head, down 6 percent from the previous quarter. A total of 280,000 sows farrowed, down 5 percent from the previous quarter. The average pigs saved per litter was 11.10 for the quarter, down slightly from September's record high 11.15 pigs saved per litter.

As of December 1, producers planned to farrow 275,000 head of sows and gilts in the December 2015-February 2016 quarter and 275,000 head during the March-May 2016 quarter.



Hogs and Pigs, Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory – Selected States and United States: December 1, 2014-2015 [Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Illinois	500	490	98	4,200	4,560	109	4,700	5,050	107
Iowa	1,010	1,030	102	20,290	19,770	97	21,300	20,800	98
Minnesota	**560**	**560**	**100**	**7,540**	**7,390**	**98**	**8,100**	**7,950**	**98**
Missouri	400	395	99	2,450	2,605	106	2,850	3,000	105
Nebraska	400	420	105	2,800	2,880	103	3,200	3,300	103
North Carolina	880	870	99	7,920	7,930	100	8,800	8,800	100
United States	5,939	6,002	101	61,838	62,297	101	67,776	68,299	101

Hogs and Pigs, Market Inventory by Weight Group – Selected States, and United States: December 1, 2014-2015
[Data may not add to totals due to rounding.]

State	Under 50 pounds		50-119 pounds		120-179 pounds		180 pounds and over	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Illinois	1,360	1,390	1,180	1,330	800	910	860	930
Iowa	5,310	5,100	6,500	6,300	4,740	4,660	3,740	3,710
Minnesota	**2,650**	**2,560**	**2,200**	**2,200**	**1,520**	**1,420**	**1,170**	**1,210**
Missouri	1,170	1,240	470	525	380	400	430	440
Nebraska	950	950	840	750	535	580	475	600
North Carolina	3,010	2,950	1,830	1,880	1,580	1,590	1,500	1,510
United States	19,801	19,508	17,366	17,282	13,000	13,210	11,671	12,296

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2015 was 68.3 million head. This was up 1 percent from December 1, 2014, and up slightly from September 1, 2015. This is the highest inventory of all hogs and pigs since quarterly United States estimates began in 1988. Breeding inventory, at 6.00 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 62.3 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from last quarter. This is the highest market hog inventory since quarterly United States estimates began in 1988.

The September-November 2015 pig crop, at 30.3 million head, was down 1 percent from 2014. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, down 4 percent from 2014. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 10.53 for the September-November period, compared to 10.23 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 8.20 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.60 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.84 million sows farrow during the December-February 2016 quarter, down 2 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2015, but up 3 percent from 2014. Intended farrowings for March-May 2016, at 2.85 million sows, are down slightly from 2015, but up 1 percent from 2014.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 46 percent of the total United States hog inventory, unchanged from last year.