



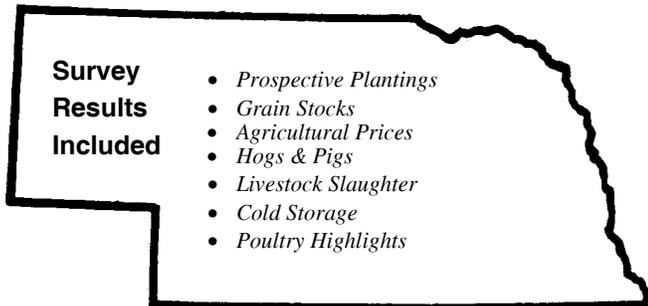
Nebraska Agri-Facts

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Issue 07-2008

Released April 3, 2008



Dear Nebraska Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusinesses:

The following narrative and tables are from recently published reports by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board. These data are direct results of information provided by Nebraska producers and agribusinesses to the surveys conducted each month by this office. Thank you for your response to these surveys.

Joseph L. Parsons
Director

March Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage devoted to soybeans, dry edible beans, and sugarbeets, and decrease acreage planted to corn, hay, oats, sunflowers, and wheat (sown last fall). Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.8 million acres for all purposes in 2008, down 6 percent from last year but still up 9 percent from 2006. Soybean growers intend to plant 5.0 million acres, up 32 percent from last year and just 1 percent below the record high set two years ago. Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.95 million acres, down 5 percent from a year earlier but 8 percent higher than the 2006 crop.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 350,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.5 million, would be down 6 percent from last year and the lowest since the series began in 1909. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 125,000 acres, up 14 percent from 2007. Oat planting intentions, at 100,000 acres, are down 17 percent from 2007 and the lowest in over 100 years. Sunflower planting intentions, at 45,000 acres, are down 8 percent from last year and the lowest since 1992. Sugarbeet plantings of 52,000 acres would be up 9 percent from a year ago.

Crop Summary: Acres Planted, Nebraska and United States, 2006-2008

Crop	Nebraska				United States			
	2006	2007	Inten- tions 2008 ¹	<u>2008</u> 2007	2006	2007	Inten- tions 2008 ¹	<u>2008</u> 2007
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	8,100	9,400	8,800	94	78,327	93,600	86,014	92
Soybeans	5,050	3,800	5,000	132	75,522	63,631	74,793	118
Sorghum	370	350	350	100	6,522	7,718	7,415	96
Oats	160	120	100	83	4,168	3,760	3,420	91
Dry Beans	140	110	125	114	1,629.8	1,526.9	1,398.5	92
Sugar Beets	61.3	47.5	52.0	109	1,366.2	1,269.8	1,131.8	89
All Hay	2,800	2,650	2,500	94	60,927	61,625	60,583	98
All Wheat	1,800	2,050	1,950	95	57,334	60,433	63,803	106
Winter Wheat	1,800	2,050	1,950	95	40,575	44,987	46,840	104
Sunflower - Oil	34	35	30	86	1,658	1,764	1,848	105
- Non-oil	19	14	15	107	292	304	305	100
- All	53	49	45	92	1,950	2,068	2,135	104

¹Intended plantings as indicated by reports from farmers
Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2008

Grain Stocks

Nebraska corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 767 million bushels, up 20 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 119 million bushels, down 19 percent from last year's record high. Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 29.4 million bushels, up 28 percent from a year ago.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 6.86 billion bushels, up 13 percent from March 1, 2007. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.43 billion bushels, down 20 percent from last year. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2008, totaled 710 million bushels, down 17 percent from a year ago.

Grain Stocks: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 2006-2008

Grain and Position	Nebraska				United States			
	March 1, 2006	March 1, 2007	March 1, 2008	2008 2007	March 1, 2006	March 1, 2007	March 1, 2008	2008 2007
	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>				<i>Percent</i>			
Corn								
On Farms	470,000	340,000	430,000	126	4,055,000	3,330,000	3,780,000	114
Off Farms ¹	336,280	301,568	336,772	112	2,932,328	2,738,250	3,078,895	112
Total	806,280	641,568	766,772	120	6,987,328	6,068,250	6,858,895	113
All Wheat								
On Farms	2,600	1,700	1,100	65	256,000	192,450	91,990	48
Off Farms ¹	25,238	21,227	28,263	133	716,215	664,278	617,650	93
Total	27,838	22,927	29,363	128	972,215	856,728	709,640	83
Soybeans								
On Farms	45,000	51,000	34,000	67	872,000	910,000	593,000	65
Off Farms ¹	75,247	96,585	84,880	88	797,206	876,887	835,102	95
Total	120,247	147,585	118,880	81	1,669,206	1,786,887	1,428,102	80
Sorghum								
On Farms	3,100	1,900	2,700	142	26,200	17,100	26,100	153
Off Farms ¹	12,694	10,716	11,245	105	166,936	125,122	159,471	127
Total	15,794	12,616	13,945	111	193,136	142,222	185,571	130
Oats								
On Farms	1,000	700	500	71	42,200	33,900	31,000	91
Off Farms ¹	2	2	2		32,673	37,158	48,038	129
Total	2	2	2		74,873	71,058	79,038	111

¹Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ²Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
Source: USDA NASS Grain Stocks, March 31, 2008

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary March 2008 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Mar 2007 ¹	Feb 2008 ¹	Mar 15, 2008	Mar 2007 ¹	Feb 2008 ¹	Mar 15, 2008	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
All wheat	Bushels	\$ 4.69	\$ 8.87	\$ 10.10	\$ 4.75	\$ 9.98	\$ 11.70	94	\$ 12.50
Corn	Bushels	3.28	4.44	4.75	3.43	4.53	4.83	61	7.89
Oats	Bushels	2.82	3.81	3.90	2.40	3.20	3.38	66	5.13
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	6.40	8.30	8.65	6.48	8.35	8.72	62	14.10
Soybeans	Bushels	6.75	11.90	11.90	6.95	11.70	11.90	61	19.50
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	98.00	88.00	89.00	119.00	133.00	139.00		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	99.00	90.00	90.00	121.00	138.00	143.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	90.00	76.00	77.00	115.00	122.00	128.00		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	24.90	32.20	34.70	25.70	32.20	32.20	51	63.40
Hogs	Cwt.	46.60	44.00	43.00	44.90	42.20	41.20	31	131.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	46.90	44.40	43.30	45.50	43.20	41.90		
Sows	Cwt.	33.90	25.10	28.10	33.00	22.90	25.10		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	95.70	93.90	93.80	91.60	89.00	88.70	37	239.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	97.10	95.10	95.00	97.70	94.20	93.80		
Cows	Cwt.	48.80	54.70	54.20	47.20	51.40	52.20		
Calves	Cwt.	125.00	125.00	124.00	122.00	120.00	120.00	35	346.00
Sheep	Cwt.	29.00	30.00		36.60	29.90			109.00
Lambs	Cwt.	92.50	89.20		95.50	96.80			272.00

¹Entire month average except hay. ²Parity price based on data for March 2008.
Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, March 28, 2008

Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2008, was 3.20 million head. This was 3 percent above March 1, 2007 but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 360,000 head, was unchanged from March 1, 2007 but up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.84 million head, was 4 percent above last year but 2 percent below last quarter.

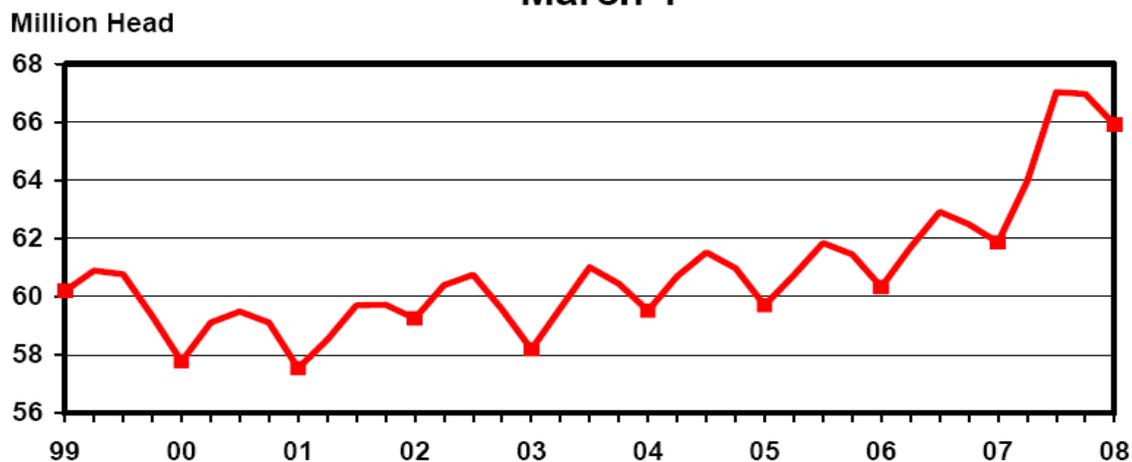
Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 65.9 million head on March 1, 2008. This was up 7 percent from March 1, 2007, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2007. Breeding inventory, at 6.14 million head, was up less than 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.8 million head, was up 7 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

Hogs and Pigs: March 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2007-2008¹

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2007	2008	2008/2007	2007	2008	2008/2007
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
March 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	3,100	3,200	103	61,860	65,909	107
Breeding	360	360	100	6,110	6,138	100
Market	2,740	2,840	104	55,749	59,770	107
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	1,050	1,040	99	20,381	21,897	107
60-119 pounds	730	770	105	13,356	14,291	107
120-179 pounds	530	600	113	11,679	12,443	107
180 pounds and over	430	430	100	10,334	11,140	108
Sows Farrowing						
December-February ²	180	190	106	2,905	3,051	105
March-May ³	185	185	100	3,033	3,047	100
December-May ^{2,4}	365	375	103	5,938	6,098	103
June-August ³	195	185	95	3,114	3,037	98
September-November	190			3,099		
June-November	385			6,213		
Pig Crop						
December-February ²	1,656	1,805	109	26,396	28,094	106
March-May	1,748			27,896		
December-May ²	3,404			54,293		
June-August	1,853			28,875		
September-November	1,805			28,690		
June-November	3,658			57,566		

¹ May not add due to rounding. ² December preceding year. ³ Intentions for 2008. ⁴ Actual farrowings for December 2007–February 2008 plus intentions for March-May 2008. Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, March 28, 2008

U.S. Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory March 1



Commercial Livestock Slaughter

February 2008 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 2007 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2008 contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, February 2008 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	Feb 2008 Percent of	
		Feb 2007	Jan 2008
Nebraska			
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	540.9	102	93
Hogs, head	645.2	117	90
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	568.0	106	92
United States			
Cattle, head	2,643.2	103	91
Calves, head	69.1	104	97
Hogs, head	9,378.1	116	89
Sheep & Lambs, head	211.4	103	99
Red Meat, mil, lbs.	3,967.6	110	90

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, March 20, 2008

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, February 2008 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Feb 2008 Percent of	
		Feb 2007	Jan 2008
	<i>1,000 Lbs</i>		
Total red meats	1,046,367	109	101
Beef	418,254	91	94
Pork	603,244	125	106
Poultry	1,169,853	125	106
Turkey	411,474	132	126
Chicken	753,151	121	97

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, March 20, 2008

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, February 2008 with Comparisons

Item	2007	2008	2008/2007
	<i>Millions</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	11.4	10.0	88
United States	348.8	343.4	98
Table Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	239	223	93
United States	5,943	6,053	102
Chickens Hatched, February			
United States			
Egg-type	36.8	37.5	102
Broiler	723.8	771.2	107

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, March 24, 2008

2007 Cropland Data Layer Available

The Cropland Data Layer for Nebraska depicting distribution of 2007 crops is now available on CD Rom. Order it at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/sarsexample3.html> or call 1-800-727-9540.

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