



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



MONTHLY AG UPDATE – OCTOBER 2008

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USDA/NASS NEW MEXICO FIELD OFFICE

Issue 2008 10 10 AG

Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm, or by email (1-800-530-8810 for information)

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in New Mexico feedlots with capacity of 1000 or more head totaled 167,000 head on September 1, 2008, up 3,000 head from the August total of 164,000 head. Placements for August decreased to 27,000 head from July. Marketings were 23,000 in August, up 2,000 head from July. Other disappearance remained unchanged from July's 1,000 head.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.0 million head on September 1, 2008. The inventory was 3 percent below September 1, 2007 and 9 percent below September 1, 2006. Placements in feedlots during August totaled 2.06 million, 3 percent below 2007 and 10 percent below 2006. Net placements were 2.01 million head. This is the second lowest placements for the month of August since the series began in 1996. During August, placements of

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE – OCTOBER 10, 2008

<u>Report</u>	<u>Release Date</u>
Cattle on Feed	September 19, 2008
October Crop Production	October 10, 2008
August Milk Production	September 18, 2008
Grain Stocks	September 30, 2008
Winter Wheat	September 30, 2008
Weekly Weather & Crop Progress	October 6, 2008
Agricultural Prices	September 29, 2008

cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000, 600-699 pounds were 410,000, 700-799 pounds were 566,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 720,000. Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.88 million, 9 percent below 2007 and 9 percent below 2006. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of August since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 49,000 during August, 2 percent below 2007 and 17 percent below 2006

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots^{1/}

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	9/1/07	8/1/08	9/1/08	DURING								
				8/07	7/08	8/08	8/07	7/08	8/08	8/07	7/08	8/08
AZ	348	357	362	36	37	33	28	35	27	1	1	1
CA	530	515	505	54	45	37	62	48	45	2	2	2
CO	850	750	770	170	*110	190	185	*175	165	5	5	5
ID	205	180	180	48	29	45	47	48	44	1	1	1
IA	490	475	470	71	51	72	80	75	75	1	1	1
KS	2,140	2,010	2,090	520	440	520	465	500	430	15	10	10
NE	1,930	1,920	1,960	465	320	445	435	440	395	10	10	10
NM	131	164	167	22	32	27	19	21	23	1	1	1
OK	310	290	305	75	46	70	69	55	54	1	1	1
SD	175	170	165	37	21	28	36	35	32	1	1	1
TX	2,740	2,590	2,580	520	460	510	550	520	510	10	10	10
WA	148	133	138	35	32	36	30	38	30	1	1	1
Oth Sts	305	315	305	66	43	48	60	57	54	1	1	1
US	10,302	9,869	9,997	2,119	*1,666	2,061	2,066	*2,047	1,884	50	45	49

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. * Revised.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Corn for Grain production forecast is 10.5 million bushels, compared to 9.6 million in 2007. Harvested acreage is forecasted at 60,000 acres with yields averaging 175.0 bushels per acre. Upland Cotton yields are forecast at 1,101 pounds per acre. Producers are expecting to harvest 34,000 acres. American-Pima yields are forecast at 800 pounds per acre and producers were expecting to harvest 3,000 acres. Sorghum for grain production is forecast at 3.3 million bushels with yields at 41.0 bushels per acres and an expected harvest of 80,000 acres. Peanut production is forecast to reach 28.0 million pounds with yields averaging 3,500 pounds per acre and harvested area is expected at 8,000 acres.

UNITED STATES: Corn production is forecast at 12.2 billion bushels, up 1 percent from last month but 7 percent below 2007.

Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 154.0 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from September and 2.9 bushels above last year. Soybean production is forecast at 2.98 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the September forecast and up 11 percent from last year. Upland cotton production is forecast at 13.3 million 480-pound bales, down 1 percent from last month and 28 percent below 2007. American-Pima production is forecast at 451,000 bales, down 2 percent from last month and down 47 percent from last year. Soybean production is forecast at 2.98 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the September forecast and up 11 percent from last year. Peanuts production is forecast at 4.93 billion pounds, up 3 percent from last month and up 34 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay production of dry hay is forecast at 71.4 million tons, up 1 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from last year. The October 1, 2008 forecast of pecan production is 204 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 47 percent from last year's crop and 2 percent below 2006.

Area Harvested, Yield, and Production for Selected States and United States, 2007 and Forecasted October 1, 2008

State	Area Harvested		Yield			Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008		2007	2008
				Sept 1	Oct 1		
	----- 1,000 Acres -----		----- Bushels -----			----- 1,000 Bushel-----	
Corn for Grain							
CO	1,060	1,120	142.0	145.0	140.0	150,520	156,800
NM	55	60	175.0	175.0	175.0	9,625	10,500
TX	2,000	2,050	148.0	124.0	127.0	296,000	260,350
US	86,542	79,197	151.1	152.3	154.0	13,073,893	12,199,908
Sorghum for Grain							
CO	150	180	37.0	27.0	27.0	5,550	4,860
NM	75	80	40.0	45.0	41.0	3,000	3,280
TX	2,450	2,950	66.0	52.0	52.0	161,700	153,400
US	6,805	7,236	74.2	66.1	64.1	504,993	464,186
Soybeans							
TX	92	210	37.5	23.0	22.0	3,450	4,620
US	64,141	75,479	41.7	40.0	39.5	2,675,822	2,983,023
Peanuts							
				----- Pounds -----		----- 1,000 Pound -----	
NM	10.0	8.0	3,500	3,500	3,500	35,000	28,000
TX	187.0	250.0	3,700	3,500	3,500	691,900	875,000
US	1,195.0	1,494.0	3,076	3,188	3,298	3,675,250	4,927,650
Upland Cotton							
				----- Pounds -----		----- 1,000 Bales 1/ -----	
AZ	168.0	128.0	1,469	1,425	1,425	514.0	380.0
NM	39.0	34.0	1,095	988	1,101	89.0	78.0
TX	4,700.0	3,350.0	843	748	759	8,250.0	5,300.0
US	10,201.0	7,585.0	864	839	839	18,355.1	13,260.0
Amer-Pima Cotton							
AZ	2.5	1.0	883	960	960	4.6	2.0
NM	4.6	3.0	856	800	800	8.2	5.0
TX	24.0	15.0	920	1,024	768	46.0	24.0
US	288.1	170.0	1,419	1,296	1,273	851.8	451.0
Alfalfa Hay							
				----- 1,000 Tons -----			
AZ	250	260	8.30	---	9.30	2,075	2,418
CO	800	830	3.70	---	3.50	2,960	2,905
NM	260	250	5.20	---	5.30	1,352	1,325
TX	140	150	5.5	---	4.60	770	690
US	21,670	20,778	3.35	---	3.44	72,575	71,424

1/ Production ginned and to be ginned. Yield reported in pounds per acre; production in bales (480 lb. net wt.).

U.S. AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.5 PERCENT

NEW MEXICO: Milk production in New Mexico during August totaled 652 million pounds. Milk per cow for the month averaged 1,935 pounds. Number of milk cows on farms was 337,000 head. New Mexico ranks 8th in the nation in milk production

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 14.5 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from August 2007. July revised production at 14.8 billion

pounds, was up 1.8 percent from July 2007. The July revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,717 pounds for August, 2 pounds below August 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 137,000 head more than August 2007, but 3,000 head less than July than July 2007, and 5,000 head more than June 2008.

Milk Cows and Production: July 2008 ^{1/} and August 2007 - 2008

State	Milk Cows ^{2/}			Milk per Cow ^{3/}			Milk Production ^{3/}		
	8/07	7/08	8/08	8/07	7/08	8/08	8/07	7/08	8/08
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	181	185	184	1,760	1,815	1,765	319	336	325
CA	1,819	1,846	1,843	1,900	1,850	1,840	3,456	3,415	3,391
CO	119	129	130	1,975	1,950	1,930	235	252	251
FL	126	121	120	1,215	1,375	1,265	153	166	152
ID	520	556	555	1,970	1,960	1,960	1,024	1,090	1,088
IL	103	102	102	1,480	1,520	1,455	152	155	148
IN	166	166	166	1,670	1,650	1,605	277	274	266
IA	215	215	215	1,640	1,660	1,660	353	357	357
KS	108	113	113	1,600	1,790	1,770	173	202	200
KY	88	90	88	1,035	1,030	1,000	91	93	88
MI	338	348	348	1,915	1,870	1,840	647	651	640
MN	463	465	465	1,555	1,595	1,560	720	742	725
MO	109	111	112	1,170	1,170	1,110	128	130	124
NM	335	338	337	1,855	2,000	1,935	621	676	652
NY	625	626	626	1,640	1,690	1,690	1,025	1,058	1,058
OH	276	282	282	1,470	1,540	1,500	406	434	423
OR	114	114	114	1,665	1,675	1,685	190	191	192
PA	550	546	548	1,610	1,630	1,590	886	890	871
TX	348	383	385	1,670	1,850	1,770	581	709	681
VT	139	140	140	1,540	1,585	1,535	214	222	215
VA	100	97	97	1,390	1,425	1,380	139	138	134
WA	240	245	245	2,000	2,000	1,985	480	490	486
WI	1,248	1,252	1,252	1,645	1,670	1,655	2,053	2,091	2,072
23 STS	8,330	8,470	8,467	1,719	1,743	1,717	14,323	14,762	14,539

^{1/} Revised. ^{2/} Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ^{3/} Excludes milk sucked by calves.

GRAIN STOCKS

Old crop **corn stocks** in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 1.62 billion bushels, up 25 percent from September 1, 2007. Of the total stocks, 500 million bushels are stored on farms, up 9 percent from a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 1.86 billion bushels, up 8 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 635 million bushels, up 28 percent from last September. Off-farm stocks, at 1.22 billion bushels, are down slightly from a year ago. The June - August 2008 indicated disappearance is 949 million bushels, up 18 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Old crop **grain sorghum** stored in all positions on September 1, 2008 totaled 52.8 million bushels, up 65 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks, at 3.55 million bushels, are up 65 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 49.2 million bushels, are up 65 percent from September 1, 2007. The June - August 2008 indicated disappearance from all positions is 48.3 million bushels, up 13 percent from the same period a year ago.

Date	2007			2008		
	On Farms	Off Farms ^{1/}	Total All Positions	On Farms	Off Farms ^{1/}	Total All Positions
-----1,000 Bushels-----						
CORN						
Mar 1	3,330,000	2,738,250	6,068,250	3,780,000	3,078,722	6,858,722
June 1	1,826,600	1,706,843	3,533,443	1,970,900	2,057,117	4,028,017
Sep 1	460,100	843,547	1,303,647	499,950	1,124,200	1,624,150
Dec 1	6,630,000	3,748,085	10,278,085			
SORGHUM						
Mar 1	17,100	125,122	142,222	26,100	159,808	185,908
June 1	5,380	69,490	74,870	7,000	94,019	101,019
Sep 1	2,150	29,903	32,053	3,550	49,200	52,750
Dec 1	51,400	239,850	291,250			
ALL WHEAT						
Mar 1	192,450	664,278	856,728	91,990	617,280	709,270
June 1	73,190	382,963	456,153	25,635	280,183	305,818
Sep 1	495,000	1,221,927	1,716,927	635,000	1,221,576	1,856,576
Dec 1	289,540	842,398	1,131,938			

^{1/} Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

WINTER WHEAT

NEW MEXICO: The 2008 winter wheat production for New Mexico is estimated at 4.2 million bushels, a decrease of 46.2% from the previous year. Yield was higher at 30.0 bushels per acre compared to 26.0 per acre in 2007. Acres harvested for grain is estimated at 140,000, down 53 percent.

UNITED STATES: Production totals 2.50 billion bushels in 2008, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 21 percent from 2007. Grain area is 55.7 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. The U.S. yield is 44.9 bushels per acre, up 1.4 bushels from the last forecast and up 4.4 bushels from last year.

Winter Wheat: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2007-2008

Crop	Area Planted ^{1/}		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	-----1,000 Acres-----				-----Bushels----		-----1,000 Bushels-----	
AZ	6	13	4	12	43.0	71.0	3,440	14,200
AR	820	1,070	700	980	41.0	57.0	28,700	55,860
CO	2,500	2,150	2,350	1,900	40.0	30.0	94,000	57,000
KS	10,400	9,500	8,600	8,900	33.0	40.0	283,800	356,000
MO	1,050	1,250	880	1,160	43.0	48.0	37,840	55,680
MT	2,240	2,600	2,190	2,420	38.0	39.0	83,220	94,380
NE	2,050	1,750	1,960	1,670	43.0	44.0	84,280	73,480
NM	490	430	300	140	26.0	30.0	7,800	4,200
OH	820	1,120	730	1,090	63.0	68.0	45,990	74,120
OK	5,900	5,600	3,500	4,500	28.0	37.0	98,000	166,500
SD	2,100	2,050	1,980	1,890	48.0	55.0	95,040	103,950
TX	6,200	5,800	3,800	3,300	37.0	30.0	140,600	99,000
UT	135	130	125	120	48.0	41.0	6,000	4,920
WA	1,720	1,750	1,690	1,720	64.0	56.0	108,160	96,320
WY	140	150	125	135	26.0	28.0	3,250	3,780
All Other States								
U.S.	44,987	46,181	35,952	39,614	42.2	47.2	1,515,989	1,867,903

1/ Includes area planted in preceding fall.

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 5, 2008

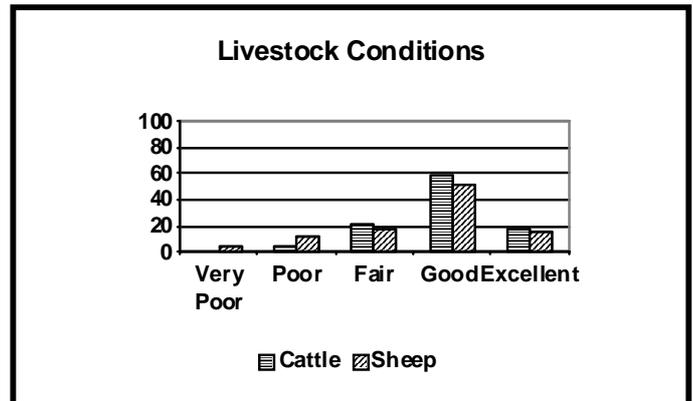
NEW MEXICO: Farmers are getting winter crops planted. Alfalfa was mostly good with the fifth cutting 73% complete and sixth cutting 16% complete. Cotton was mostly good with 50% of bolls opening. Corn was mostly good with 97% in the dent stage and 68% mature. Irrigated sorghum was mostly good with 83% coloring and 26% mature. Dry sorghum was mostly fair with 97% headed and 66% coloring and 15% mature. Ranchers are beginning to gather and ship cattle. Chiles were mostly good to fair with 94% of the green harvest and 27% of the red harvest completed. Peanuts were mostly fair with 35% harvested. Pecans were mostly good. Ranchers are beginning to gather and ship cattle. Cattle and sheep were mostly good. Range and pastures were mostly fair to good. There were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork. Topsoil moisture was 14% very short, 42% short and 44% adequate. Wind damage was 5% light and 1% moderate.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE (Green)	Harvested	94	89	93	93
CHILE (Red)	Harvested	27	24	24	18
CORN	Dent	97	84	100	100
CORN	Mature	68	40	87	92
CORN	Harvest-grain	7	2	22	20
COTTON	Opening Bolls	50	47	84	77
PEANUTS	Harvested	35	32	18	16
SORGHUM (ALL)	Headed	98	92	100	100
SORGHUM (ALL)	Coloring	72	69	100	79
SORGHUM (ALL)	Mature	19	10	36	21
WHEAT	Planted	88	81	95	93
WHEAT	Emerged	80	N/A	59	74

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	---	4	25	60	11
Chile	---	11	34	40	15
Corn	---	---	8	67	25
Cotton	---	---	11	59	30
Peanuts	---	5	75	20	---
Pecan	---	---	20	53	27
Sorghum (All)	---	3	45	48	4
Cattle	---	4	21	58	17
Sheep	5	11	17	51	16
Range/Pasture	3	12	35	34	16

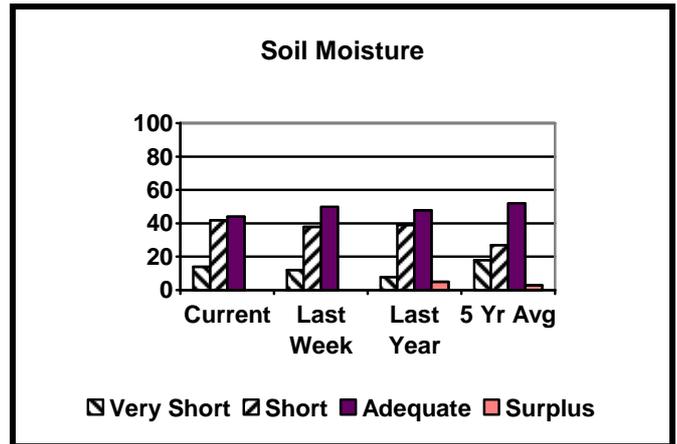


Additional Comments:

Curry: Receiving scattered showers with varied amounts. Silage being harvested, corn showing maturity. Winter wheat planting near completion - dry land also, though rain needed to keep it progressing. Some areas will show stress if no moisture received in the next few weeks. Calves and stockers being sold or delivered as shown by recent increases in auction receipts. **Torrance:** Harvest of crops continues. **Socorro:** Soil temperatures are still good for germination, but temperatures are dropping. Range grasses were starting to dry out and go dormant, but cooler temperatures should decrease any growth.

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	39	35	25	1
Northeast	10	53	37	---
Southwest	---	58	42	---
Southeast	---	18	82	---
State Current	14	42	44	---
State-Last Week	12	38	50	---
State-Last Year	8	39	48	5
State-5-Yr Avg.	18	27	52	3



WEATHER SUMMARY

Tranquil and rather uneventful weather was observed across New Mexico during the early part of the week. A strong upper level disturbance passed over New Mexico during the weekend... bringing heavy rain and some thunderstorms to the state. Some of the highest rainfall amounts were reported in the Albuquerque area where generally between one and two inches of rain fell... Saturday evening and Sunday.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS – SEPTEMBER 29 – October 5, 2008

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Week 29-Sept - 05-Oct.	Month 01-Oct - 05-Oct.	Accum. 1-Jan - 05-Oct.	Normal Oct	Normal Jan-Oct
Northwest								
Albuquerque	65.3	82	49	1.25	1.25	7.34	0.89	7.95
Chama	52.5	77	30	0.86	0.86	18.02	1.96	18.09
Farmington	62.9	82	47	0.87	0.87	5.37	0.85	7.18
Gallup	56.8	81	33	0.30	0.30	10.05	1.29	10.96
Grants	56.1	80	31	0.33	0.33	5.88	1.05	9.56
Johnson Ranch	55.9	83	35	0.74	0.74	6.14	1.11	10.16
Los Alamos	57.4	74	42	0.40	0.40	10.85	1.32	16.62
Red River	48.3	72	27	0.14	0.14	8.04	1.46	18.15
Santa Fe	59.7	82	40	1.26	1.26	9.90	1.04	12.58
Northeast								
Capulin	46.6	76	35	0.00	0.00	13.62	0.97	16.27
Clayton	65.1	87	46	0.04	0.04	11.07	0.90	14.28
Clovis	66.7	85	48	0.03	0.03	7.97	1.34	16.24
Las Vegas	57.4	79	40	0.24	0.24	13.69	1.51	17.78
Moriarty	56.6	84	36	0.51	0.51	8.03	1.10	11.77
Raton	59.7	85	38	0.02	0.02	9.51	0.97	15.61
Roy	61.5	82	44	0.15	0.15	12.49	1.05	14.79
Tucumcari	68.4	91	48	0.30	0.30	15.54	0.94	13.39
Southwest								
Animas	69.6	90	49	0.00	0.00	8.43	1.15	9.91
Deming	66.8	87	46	0.07	0.07	11.32	0.98	9.09
Gran Quivira	60.7	81	42	1.61	1.61	15.74	1.27	14.01
Quemado	53.4	77	30	0.55	0.55	7.28	1.18	12.59
Socorro	61.0	82	39	0.72	0.72	6.59	1.11	8.48
T or C	65.4	84	50	0.26	0.26	10.77	0.95	8.62
Southeast								
Alamogordo	63.6	84	46	0.47	0.47	9.87	1.30	11.21
Carlsbad	69.3	90	48	0.11	0.11	8.64	1.05	11.79
Carrizozo	60.9	78	42	0.91	0.91	8.94	1.19	11.31
Las Cruces	67.5	87	48	0.21	0.21	9.46	0.91	8.19
Roswell	65.5	87	46	0.07	0.07	7.96	1.19	11.83
Ruidoso	54.1	82	35	0.22	0.22	19.60	1.31	18.84
Tatum	65.7	89	44	0.00	0.00	10.31	1.49	15.02

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction - All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES RECEIVED

NEW MEXICO: Alfalfa hay prices for August averaged \$189.00 per ton, compared to \$197.00 per ton in July. All hay prices also dropped from \$194.00 per ton in July 2008, to \$189.00 per ton. Cow prices remained stable at \$60.70 per hundredweight. Steer and heifer prices increased by

\$1.00 from the July price of \$101.00 per hundredweight to \$102.00 per hundredweight in August. Calf prices also increased by \$1.00 to \$120.00 per hundredweight. Milk prices declined from \$19.00 per hundredweight to \$18.60 per hundredweight.

Prices Received by Farmers: Selected Commodities, July 2008 and August 2007- 08

Commodity	Unit	New Mexico			U.S. ^{1/}
		August 2007 ^{2/}	July 2008 ^{2/}	August 2008 ^{1/}	August
-----Dollars-----					
CROPS					
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	-	-	-	8.26
Cotton, Upland	Lb.	-	-	-	.594
Potatoes	Cwt.	-	-	-	11.32
Hay, all baled	Ton	158.00	194.00	186.00	165.00
Alfalfa, baled	Ton	160.00	197.00	189.00	180.00
Peanuts	Lb.	-	-	-	.201
Corn	Bu.	-	-	-	4.90
Wheat, all	Bu.	-	-	-	8.02
LIVESTOCK					
Sheep ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	26.90
Lambs ^{3/}	Cwt.	-	-	-	103.00
Cows	Cwt.	54.00	60.70	60.70	57.60
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	101.00	101.00	102.00	100.00
Calves	Cwt.	126.00	119.00	120.00	114.00
Milk	Cwt.	21.40	19.00	18.60	18.50

^{1/} Mid-month ^{2/} Entire month ^{3/} July - entire month