North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

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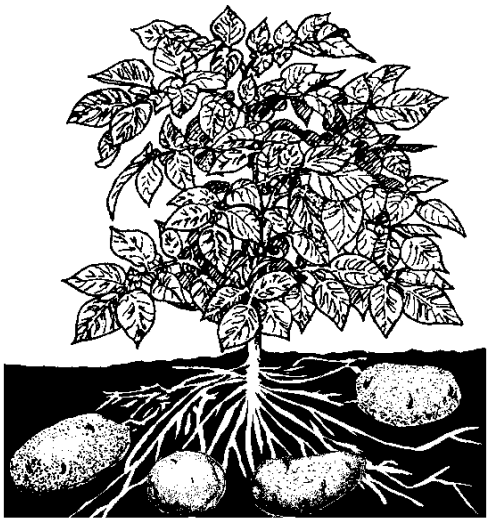
POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota
Growers, dealers and processors held 3.70 million hundredweight (cwt) of potatoes in storage May 1, 2011, up 12 percent from a year ago but 12 percent below the 2009 total. Current stocks represent 17 percent of the production, equal to 2010 but down 2 percent from 2009. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping. Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 18.3 million cwt, up from 15.8 million cwt a year ago but down from 18.5 million cwt 2 years ago. April disappearance totaled 2.20 million cwt, up from 1.70 million cwt last year and above 2.10 million cwt 2 years ago.

United States
The 13 major potato States held 65.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2011, down 27 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 19 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, 4 percentage points below May 1, 2010. Potato disappearance, at 286 million cwt, was 3 percent below May 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.1 million cwt, was down 17 percent from the same date in 2010.



Potato Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors – 13 Fall States: May 1, 2010-2011
(Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop.)

State	Crop of 2009		Crop of 2010		
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2010	Production	Stocks	
				April 1, 2011	May 1, 2011
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
North Dakota	19,125	3,300	22,000	5,900	3,700
California	3,960	600	2,280	600	350
Colorado	22,080	4,900	21,528	7,200	4,300
Idaho	132,500	38,500	114,440	42,500	30,000
Maine	15,263	3,900	15,892	5,900	3,800
Michigan	15,660	(D)	15,660	2,300	900
Minnesota	20,700	4,800	17,010	5,500	3,300
Montana	3,298	700	3,673	2,000	500
Nebraska	8,756	1,100	7,719	2,100	1,100
New York	4,950	(D)	5,120	500	200
Oregon	21,460	5,300	20,058	7,700	4,900
Washington	87,230	22,300	81,740	17,800	10,300
Wisconsin	28,980	3,800	24,293	5,300	2,300
Other States	-	410	-	-	-
13 State total	383,962	89,610	351,413	105,300	65,650

- Represents zero. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

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COUNTY LEVEL CATTLE INVENTORY

Cattle Inventory – North Dakota by County: January 1, 2011

County	All cattle	Beef cows	Milk cows
	(head)	(head)	(head)
Adams	38,000	15,300	(D)
Barnes	23,000	12,800	100
Benson	27,500	13,400	(D)
Billings	30,500	19,000	(D)
Bottineau	17,000	10,400	(D)
Bowman	49,500	21,500	-
Burke	13,500	(D)	-
Burleigh	62,000	32,500	300
Cass	11,300	5,600	(D)
Cavalier	3,300	(D)	-
Dickey	47,000	21,500	300
Divide	15,800	9,400	-
Dunn	77,000	45,000	300
Eddy	20,500	10,400	-
Emmons	66,000	32,000	1,200
Foster	19,000	7,300	(D)
Golden Valley	22,000	(D)	(D)
Grand Forks	19,500	(D)	(D)
Grant	60,000	36,000	400
Griggs	16,200	8,300	(D)
Hettinger	16,500	9,500	500
Kidder	60,000	34,000	300
LaMoure	39,000	15,800	400
Logan	58,000	23,000	500
McHenry	73,000	34,500	1,200
McIntosh	42,000	18,800	(D)
McKenzie	61,000	38,000	(D)
McLean	34,500	19,500	600
Mercer	34,500	21,500	(D)
Morton	89,000	44,500	4,000
Mountrail	30,500	20,500	(D)
Nelson	9,700	(D)	(D)
Oliver	48,500	19,300	1,000
Pembina	8,600	(D)	-
Pierce	28,000	15,200	300
Ramsey	4,700	2,300	-
Ransom	35,500	17,100	(D)
Renville	6,900	(D)	(D)
Richland	31,000	15,000	100
Rolette	26,000	14,600	(D)
Sargent	21,000	(D)	(D)
Sheridan	19,600	12,100	200
Sioux	40,500	26,500	100
Slope	29,500	17,600	-
Stark	57,000	27,500	1,100
Steele	4,800	2,600	-
Stutsman	54,000	26,000	1,000
Towner	6,000	(D)	(D)
Traill	4,600	1,000	-
Walsh	10,000	(D)	(D)
Ward	29,500	18,300	(D)
Wells	22,000	(D)	(D)
Williams	26,000	(D)	(D)
Combined Counties	-	84,900	6,100
State Total	1,700,000	880,000	20,000

- Represents zero. D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Public Research Yields High Returns...Measured in More Than Dollars

Increased productivity has been the main contributor to economic growth in U.S. agriculture for many years. The U.S. agricultural research system, including Federal, State, and private sector research, has helped drive this growth. Economic analysis consistently finds strong evidence that public investments—Federal and State—in agricultural research and development (R&D) yield high returns per dollar spent, with benefits accruing not only to the farm sector but also to consumers in the form of more abundant food at lower prices.

But clear evidence of the longrun value of agricultural R&D does not always meet the immediate needs of policymakers and agricultural research managers who are responsible for demonstrating continuing social and economic impacts and providing accountability to the taxpayers who fund agricultural research. They need to weigh the expected benefits and costs of particular research projects to prioritize research programs under increasingly tight budgets.

Assessments of the benefits of Federal research programs pose special challenges relative to determining the gains from other Federal programs. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 significantly increased Federal investments in science but also called for the development of new approaches to track resulting economic growth and job creation. Many economic studies that provide the strongest evidence for high returns to public research focus on aggregate data for the entire agricultural sector and analyze the effects of past investments rather than specific effects of current research programs. Data on the inputs and costs of research programs are relatively easy to obtain, but they typically do not include measures of the ultimate effects of research once it leaves the laboratory or research institution.

Even though research payoffs can be very high, they can be hard to attribute to individual research projects. Scientific research builds on previous findings, and related research efforts are often performed concurrently by universities, private firms, and other institutions. Benefits are typically realized after long lags, and adoption or commercialization may occur many years after the initial research was undertaken. Moreover, the measured benefits to the primary users of science and technology arising from Federal research do not include potential indirect benefits to downstream firms, consumers, public health, and the environment.

USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) accounts for the majority of Federal expenditures on agricultural research. ARS employs several methods to assess the quality and impact of its research. Among the most important of these is peer review, which is a structured assessment by experts from the same field of science, generally from outside the projects or programs being evaluated. Peer review is the most common method of Federal research evaluation, and it is widely used throughout the ARS prioritization, planning, and evaluation cycle. The greatest strength of peer review is the assessment of scientific merit of research programs, but it is not always well suited for quantifying market impacts or ultimate social benefits. Benefit-cost analysis is one economic approach that has been used for Federal research programs, but it is most effective for research programs that produce specific, near-market technologies—which miss important parts of the ARS research portfolio. Moreover, a well-done benefit-cost analysis can be time consuming and expensive.

ARS research facilitates numerous linkages between research peers, contributors, and users demonstrated by interviews with stakeholders such as food processors, natural resource managers, and representatives of universities, other Federal agencies, and international research institutions. While it is difficult to estimate the monetary value of such linkages, interest on the part of a diverse group of stakeholders may indicate a broad set of benefits. Bibliometric indicators, such as the frequency with which the research of ARS scientists is cited in other publications (or even patents), may help gauge some of the shorter term benefits of these linkages.

Recent developments in agricultural research pose new challenges for benefits assessments. Formerly, a substantial amount of Federal agricultural research was directed at improving production and input efficiency—goals that often have marketable, quantifiable results. Although production and efficiency remain primary missions of ARS research, newer research areas explore a broader set of goals for agriculture and food production. Research on the reduction of the harmful effects of agriculture on the environment as well as the increase in its beneficial impacts and on the improvement of food safety and human nutrition often contribute both to nonmarket environmental or health benefits and to Government policies and regulations to further those benefits.

Relationships between research investments and economic and social impacts are often indirect, with complex outcomes shaped by more than one factor, and often attributable to more than one definable research program. These impacts usually occur after considerable time lags. Economic analysis has shown repeatedly that the payoffs to public investment in agricultural research are large, but precise measurements of the economic benefits of particular research programs may remain elusive or be very costly to obtain. Economic reasoning can help to determine if a research program is addressing public goods, if the economic benefits are likely to be substantial, and if the research is addressing other public functions such as providing scientific support to regulatory or policy initiatives even when the calculation of the exact dollar value of the research is not possible.

For a full version of the report, please visit:

http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/June11/Features/PublicResearch.htm

Source: *Amber Waves*, USDA-ERS, June 2011

WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION & HAY STOCKS

North Dakota

Winter wheat producers reported they expect to harvest 16.7 million bushels from the 2011 North Dakota winter wheat crop. This is down 5 percent from last year and 36 percent below the 2009 level. Yield for this year's crop is forecast at 54 bushels per harvested acre, down only 1 bushel from the record set last year. A total of 310,000 acres of winter wheat are expected to be harvested, down from 320,000 last year and 545,000 in 2009.

Hay stocks on North Dakota farms totaled 1.25 million tons on May 1, down 5 percent from last year but 79 percent above the 2009 level. Disappearance for the period December 2010 through April 2011 was 4.1 million tons, compared to 4.2 million tons a year earlier.

United States

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.42 billion bushels, down 4 percent from 2010. Expected area for harvest as grain or seed totals 32.0 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Based on May 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 44.5 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels from last year.

All hay stored on farms May 1, 2011 totaled 22.2 million tons, up 6 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2010-May 1, 2011 totaled 79.9 million tons, compared with 86.3 million tons for the same period a year ago.

Winter Wheat Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production and Hay Stocks on Farms
North Dakota and United States: 2009-2011

(Data are latest estimates available. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun.)

Item	2009	2010	2011
Winter Wheat [1]			
North Dakota			
Planted....1,000 acres	580	330	340
Harvested for grain....1,000 acres	545	320	310
Yield per acre....bushels	48.0	55.0	54.0
Production....1,000 bushels	26,160	17,600	16,740
United States			
Planted....1,000 acres	43,346	37,335	41,229
Harvested for grain....1,000 acres	34,510	31,749	32,039
Yield per acre....bushels	44.2	46.8	44.5
Production....1,000 bushels	1,524,608	1,485,236	1,424,357
Hay Stocks			
North Dakota			
Quantity, May 1....1,000 tons	700	1,310	1,250
Quantity, December 1....1,000 tons	5,500	5,370	
United States			
Quantity, May 1....1,000 tons	22,065	20,931	22,217
Quantity, December 1....1,000 tons	107,222	102,134	

[1] 2011 winter wheat forecasted yield and production.

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