



# NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Northern Plains Region  
100 Centennial Mall North, Room 263, Lincoln, NE 68508 • (800) 582-6443

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**Contact:** Nicholas Streff  
(800) 582-6443  
[nicholas.streff@usda.gov](mailto:nicholas.streff@usda.gov)

## NORTHERN PLAINS FARM LABOR

**LINCOLN, Neb. February 11, 2021** - In the Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 36,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2020, down 3% from the July 2019 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 39,000 during the week of October 11-17, 2020, down 9% from the October 2019 reference week.

Farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.68 per hour during the July 2020 reference week, up 7% from the July 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$16.83 per hour, up \$0.93. Livestock workers earned \$15.57 per hour, up \$1.76. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$16.30, was up \$1.30 from the 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 44.6 hours during the July 2020 reference week, compared with 42.2 hours worked during the July 2019 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.83 per hour during the October 2020 reference week, up 6% from the October 2019 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$17.04 per hour, up \$0.63. Livestock workers earned \$15.52 per hour, up \$1.76. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$16.45, was up \$1.05 from the October 2019 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 46.0 hours during the October 2020 reference week, compared with 43.4 hours worked during the October 2019 reference week.

Access the National publication for this release at:

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