

worms, wireworms and similar insects. The next most abundant beetles were determined by Mr. W. S. Fisher of the U.S. National Museum as *Anchicera ephippiato* Vimm. These insects belong to a group which feed largely upon fungi or decaying vegetable matter, so are probably of little economic importance. Undetermined weevil larvae (not sweet clover weevil) were also frequently observed. An occasional adult wireworm, *Aelus mellilus* (Say), and wireworm larvae were also recovered. The fact that toads occasionally take wireworm larvae, which are subterranean insects, suggests that they may dig for a part of

their food, although wireworms will feed near the soil's surface when there is considerable moisture.

Miscellaneous organisms taken were damsel flies, armyworm and cutworm moths, cutworm larvae, snails and mites. The reason why so few cutworms were recovered from the stomachs was probably due to the fact that they occur early in the spring while this investigation was conducted during midsummer. The flies or diptera taken included chironomid midges, fungus gnats (mycetophilids) and minute black scavenger flies (scatopsids).

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- (3) Kirkland, A. H. 1897. The Habits, Food and Economic Value of the American Toad, *Bufo lentiginosus americanus* (LeC.) Hatch Exp. Sta. Mass. Agri. Col. Bul. No. 46, 30 pages.
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North Dakota Farm Prices

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A CHANGE has been made in the table which has been a part of this Bi-monthly report on North Dakota farm prices and upon which the report has been based.

This report as it has appeared in the Bi-Monthly Bulletin regularly since March 1940 has contained information concerning the prices received by farmers for 14 commodities produced by North Dakota farmers. These 15th of the month farm prices were compiled by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Fargo, North Dakota. The NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRICES report has here-to-fore contained price information on most of the principal North Dakota farm commodities but has not included price information for all the commodities as compiled for North Dakota by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician.

In order to give our readers more complete information on farm prices this NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRICES report has been expanded to include 26 commodities rather than 14. The price relatives for the various farm commodities will also be included in the table. As in the past, the lower part of the table will contain certain index numbers or indices of North Dakota agriculture. The North Dakota index numbers, however, are based on a different series as will be explained in the next paragraph. All of the data

contained in the table will be furnished to the Department of Agricultural Economics of the North Dakota Agricultural College by the Division of Agricultural Statistics, United States Department of Agriculture.

The North Dakota farm price index which is used in the table below and which will be used in such tables here-after is computed by the Division of Agricultural Statistics, Bureau of Agricultural Economics and is based upon 24 commodities which comprise 97 percent of the total income from crop and livestock products marketed by North Dakota farmers. The North Dakota index numbers used in all previous NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRICE reports in the Bi-Monthly Bulletin have been based on the N.D.A.C. index as computed by the Department of Agricultural Economics of the North Dakota Agricultural College. This index has always been based upon the North Dakota farm prices as compiled by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The N.D.A.C. farm price index has become out-of-date because certain revisions have been made in the basic farm price data and because the relative importance of certain farm enterprises in North Dakota has changed. The use of the index as computed by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician will give the reader a more up-to-date North Dakota farm price index.

The complete index series for the period July 1909 to July 1943, together with the 15th of the month average farm prices and the price relative for the same 34 year period, has been published by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician in their Bulletin on Farm Prices. A copy of this bulletin may be secured from the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Box 31, Fargo, North Dakota. In order to 'bridge the gap' between their bulletin and the data in the table below the data for the last six months of 1943 is being published in this issue of the Bi-Monthly Bulletin and will be found attached to an article entitled 'North Dakota Prices of Farm Products' by Ben Kienholz, Agricultural Statistician.

Now for a brief review of the farm price situation in North Dakota as of February 15th, 1944. The North Dakota farm price index was 1 point higher Feb. 15th than it was a month earlier due largely to some increase in the farm price of livestock. The index for grains was the same as on Jan. 15th as there was little change in grain prices for the month. The index for meat animals was up 9 points for the month with all meat animals showing gains of from 20 to 60 cents per hundred-weight. The index for dairy products was up 3 points due to the influence of a 1 cent increase in the

average farm price of butterfat. The poultry and eggs index was up 4 points as the result of small increases in the prices of chickens and eggs. The miscellaneous index was down 3 points the decrease being caused entirely by a 5 cent decrease per hundred pounds in the average farm price being received by farmers for potatoes as compared with the price a month earlier.

The North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid, that is, the purchasing power of North Dakota products was 105 on Feb. 15th which is the same as that of Jan. 15th, 1944.

**AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS
Feb. 15, 1944, WITH COMPARISONS**

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Office of the Agricultural Statistician

ROBERT S. MCCAULEY
Agricultural Statistician

BEN KIENHOLZ
Agricultural Statistician in Charge

Commodity	Unit	Average Prices				Price Relatives ¹		
		Feb. 15 1944	Jan. 15 1944	Feb. 15 1943	Aug. 1909 July 1914 Average	Feb. 15 1944	Jan. 15 1944	Feb. 15 1943
All Spring Wheat	bu.	1.44	1.44	1.16	.847	170	170	137
Durum	bu.	1.42	1.43	1.15	....	....	....	....
Other Spring	bu.	1.44	1.44	1.16	....	....	....	....
Corn	bu.	1.00	1.00	.73	.573	175	175	127
Oats	bu.	.67	.67	.45	.353	190	190	127
Barley	bu.	1.05	1.04	.60	.539	195	193	111
Rye	bu.	1.04	1.06	.56	.60	173	177	93
Flaxseed	bu.	2.80	2.81	2.59	1.708	164	165	152
Beef Cattle	cwt.	11.20	10.60	11.90	4.48	250	237	266
Veal Calves	cwt.	12.50	12.20	13.40	6.01	210	203	223
Sheep	cwt.	7.00	6.50	6.60	4.50	155	144	147
Lambs	cwt.	12.70	12.50	13.40	5.62	226	222	238
Hogs	cwt.	12.20	11.90	13.80	6.78	180	176	204
Wholesale Milk	cwt.	2.60	2.60	2.55	2.08	125	125	123
Retail Milk	qt.	.104	.105	.102	.063	165	167	162
Butter	lb.	.47	.47*	.49	.236	199	199	208
Butterfat	lb.	.51	.50	.50	.254	201	197	197
Chickens (Live)	lb.	.205	.199	.174	.099	207	201	176
Turkeys (Live)	lb.	.32	.32	.28	.125	256	256	224
Eggs	doz.	.282	.273	.312	.206	137	133	151
Loose Hay	ton	6.20	6.00	4.35	6.35	98	95	69
Horses	head	60.00	58.00	67.00	149.00	40	39	45
Milk Cows	head	103.00	101.00	105.00	....	....	....	....
Wool	lb.	.42	.42	.37	.171	246	246	216
Potatoes	bu.	1.05	1.10	1.00	.636	165	173	157
Alfalfa Seed	bu.	21.70	21.00	19.80	....	183	177	167
Sweet clover seed	bu.	6.15	6.15	4.95	....	139	139	111

¹Relation of current prices of each commodity to the average price of each commodity during the base period, August 1909 to July 1914.

*Revised.

INDICES OF NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE¹

	Feb. 15 1944	Jan. 15 1944	Feb. 15 1944
North Dakota farm price index ² (All Groups)	179	178	156
Grains	172	172	134
Meat Animals	217	208	235
Dairy Products	192	189	189
Poultry and Eggs	183	179	176
Miscellaneous	138	141	125
U. S. farm price index (All Groups)	195	196	184
U. S. index of prices paid by farmers	170	169	159
North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid ³	105	105	98

¹August 1909-July 1914=100.

²Calculated by weighted aggregative method on basis of 24 commodities.

³Ratio for North Dakota based on United States prices paid by farmers.