

North Dakota Prices of Farm Products

By

BEN KIENHOLZ

*Agricultural Statistician
Division of Agricultural Statistics
Bureau of Agricultural Economics*

PRICES received by farmers for farm products sold have been collected by the United States Department of Agriculture ever since January 1908.

In the beginning, only a limited number of items were included in the sample, but gradually more products were added until today prices are being collected for approximately 50 important farm products. Price data are collected by means of a printed questionnaire which is mailed out to a group of voluntary reporters who report on the 15th of each month. In North Dakota the group of price reporters number over 1,300 individuals or firms, who are well informed on the subject because they deal in products of the farm. Included in the group of reporters are elevator operators, shipping association managers, feed dealers, cream buyers, poultry produce dealers, and others.

Price Relatives and Index Numbers: Included in table 1 following this article are data representing price relatives for various farm commodities expressed as a percentage of the prices which prevailed during a given base period, namely, August 1909 to July 1914. Price relatives are of value to the reader and student in providing a rapid and easy way of comparing price changes which have occurred in a given product, from one period to another. Group index numbers which represent merely the weighted averages of a group of price relatives are also given in table 2. The commodities selected for the construction of the state index numbers comprise 97 percent of the total income from crop and livestock products marketed by North Dakota farmers.

The index of prices received to prices paid by North Dakota farmers, given in the last line of the table 2 represents the exchange value of a composite unit of farm products for a composite unit of the commod-

ities which farmers buy. These index numbers measure changes in relative values of groups of products only, and do not measure changes in the quantities of commodities sold, or in the quantities of commodities purchased.

In order that a portion of the available price information gathered by the Office of the Agricultural Statistician may be placed at the disposal of those who are interested in the subject of farm production and income, a bulletin containing North Dakota data for the period August 1909 to July 1943 has been published. A copy of this bulletin may be secured from the Office of the Agricultural Statistician, Box 31, Fargo, North Dakota.

The following tables bring up to date certain data contained in the bulletin. This price information, beginning with this issue of the Bi-monthly, will appear regularly with the article entitled "NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRICES" prepared by the Department of Agricultural Economics.

**Table 1—The Commodity Prices and Price Relatives for a Selected Group of North Dakota Farm Products
July 15 to December 15, 1943, inclusive**

Commodity	Unit	Average Prices						Price Relatives ¹					
		July 15 1943	Aug. 15 1943	Sept. 15 1943	Oct. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1943	Dec. 15 1943	July 15 1943	Aug. 15 1943	Sept. 15 1943	Oct. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1943	Dec. 15 1943
All Spring Wheat...	bu.	1.20	1.19	1.22	1.28	1.32	1.40	142	140	144	151	156	165
Durum.....	bu.	1.22	1.19	1.23	1.26	1.30	1.38	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Spring....	bu.	1.20	1.19	1.22	1.28	1.33	1.41	...	...	...	...	...	...
Corn.....	bu.	.85	.87	.86	.86	.86	.95	149	152	150	150	150	166
Oats.....	bu.	.56	.53	.58	.65	.65	.67	159	150	164	184	184	190
Barley.....	bu.	.87	.86	.90	.98	.97	1.00	161	160	167	182	180	186
Rye.....	bu.	.83	.73	.80	.87	.89	.99	138	122	133	145	148	165
Flaxseed.....	bu.	2.78	2.74	2.80	2.73	2.79	2.80	163	160	164	160	163	164
Beef Cattle.....	cwt.	12.00	11.80	11.60	11.10	10.70	10.70	268	263	259	248	239	239
Veal Calves.....	cwt.	13.00	13.20	13.10	12.70	12.20	11.90	216	220	218	211	203	198
Sheep.....	cwt.	6.30	6.10	5.70	6.20	6.10	6.20	140	135	126	136	135	137
Lambs.....	cwt.	12.80	12.40	12.10	11.90	11.70	12.10	228	221	215	212	208	215
Hogs.....	cwt.	12.60	12.80	13.20	13.20	11.90	12.10	186	189	195	195	176	178
Wholesale Milk....	cwt.	2.50	2.55	2.60	2.65	2.60	2.60	123	120	125	127	125	125
Retail Milk.....	qt.	.104	.104	.105	.105	.105	.105	165	165	167	167	167	167
Butter.....	lb.	.47	.47	.47	.48	.48	.48	199	199	199	204	204	204
Butterfat.....	lb.	.48	.48	.49	.50	.50	.50	189	189	193	197	197	197
Chickens (Live)....	lb.	.20	.203	.214	.20	.205	.205	202	205	216	202	207	207
Turkeys (Live)....	lb.	.24	.25	.27	.26	.325	.335	192	200	216	208	260	268
Eggs.....	doz.	.322	.329	.35	.362	.381	.387	156	160	170	176	185	188
Loose Hay.....	ton	4.30	4.25	4.50	4.70	5.40	5.90	68	67	71	74	85	93
Horses.....	head	70.00	65.00	65.00	62.00	58.00	58.00	47	44	44	42	39	39
Milk Cows.....	head	117.00	114.00	109.00	107.00	103.00	99.00	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wool.....	lb.	.43	.43	.42	.43	.42	.43	251	251	246	251	246	251
Potatoes.....	bu.	1.30	1.30	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	204	204	165	157	157	157
Alfalfa Seed.....	bu.	21.50	20.50	20.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	181	173	169	177	177	177
Sweet Clover Seed.	bu.	4.50	4.75	4.85	5.75	6.00	6.00	101	107	109	130	135	135

**Table 2—Index Numbers of Prices Received by N. D. Farmers¹
July 15 to December 15, 1943, inclusive**

	July 15 1943	Aug. 15 1943	Sept. 15 1943	Oct. 15 1943	Nov. 15 1943	Dec. 15 1943
North Dakota farm price index ² (All Groups).....	163	161	165	168	170	176
Grains.....	146	143	148	155	159	167
Meat Animals.....	228	227	227	222	208	210
Dairy Products.....	183	183	186	190	189	189
Poultry and Eggs.....	174	179	191	189	210	214
Miscellaneous.....	149	149	131	131	132	134
U. S. farm price index (All Groups).....	188	193	193	192	192	197
U. S. index of prices paid by farmers.....	165	165	165	166	167	168
N. D. ratio of prices received to prices paid ³	99	98	100	101	102	104

¹ August 1909-July 1914=100.

² Calculated by weighed aggregate method on basis of 24 commodities.

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

Footnote for Table 1, Page 41.

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

Wild buckwheat germinates most freely on summer fallow, about the same date as wheat. The grain drill will destroy many of these seedlings, but enough will remain or more will come up later to produce a heavy growth of the weeds. Surface cultivation during May, followed by a later seeded crop will help control this weed. (O. A. Stevens)