

North Dakota Farm Prices

by
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THERE was no significant change in the prices of North Dakota farm products on April 15th, 1944, as compared with the prices a month earlier.

The April 15th prices for grains were unchanged to 4 cents higher than for March 15th. Durum wheat was up 4 cents, corn, oats, and barley up 1 cent and spring wheat, rye and flaxseed unchanged. Grain prices were, with the exception of flaxseed, all higher than a year ago with the increases ranging from 19 to 44 cents. Flaxseed was 16 cents lower than on April 15th a year ago.

The farm prices of meat animals were generally stronger than a month earlier with lambs up 30 cents, beet cattle and veal calves up 10 cents. Hogs were unchanged but sheep were 10 cents lower. The April 15th farm price for butter was 1 cent lower which is the only change for dairy products for the month. Farm prices for turkeys were unchanged, for chickens substantially the same, but egg prices

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS APRIL 15, 1944, WITH COMPARISONS

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Commodity	Unit	Average Prices				Price Relatives ¹		
		April 15 1944	March 15 1944	April 15 1943	Aug. 1909 July 1914 Average	April 15 1944	March 15 1944	April 15 1943
All Spring Wheat.....	bu.	1.44	1.44	1.18	.847	170	170	139
Durum.....	bu.	1.46	1.42	1.19	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Spring.....	bu.	1.44	1.44	1.18	.....	.....	.....	.....
Corn.....	bu.	.99	1.00	.80	.573	173	175	140
Oats.....	bu.	.68	.67	.49	.353	193	190	139
Barley.....	bu.	1.08	1.07	.68	.539	200	198	126
Rye.....	bu.	1.04	1.04	.60	.60	173	173	100
Flaxseed.....	bu.	2.80	2.80	2.96	1.708	164	164	173
Beef Cattle.....	cwt.	11.40	11.30	12.30	4.48	254	252	275
Veal Calves.....	cwt.	12.60	12.50	13.50	6.01	210	208	225
Sheep.....	cwt.	6.70	6.80	6.50	4.50	148	150	144
Lambs.....	cwt.	13.20	12.90	13.50	5.62	235	230	240
Hogs.....	cwt.	12.40	12.40	13.90	6.78	183	183	205
Wholesale Milk.....	cwt.	2.60	2.60	2.55	2.08	125	125	123
Retail Milk.....	qt.	.105	.105	.104	.063	167	167	165
Butter.....	lb.	.47	.48	.50	.236	199	204	212
Butterfat.....	lb.	.51	.51	.51	.254	201	201	201
Chickens (Live).....	lb.	.199	.20	.184	.099	201	202	186
Turkeys (Live).....	lb.	.31	.31	.26	.125	248	248	208
Eggs.....	doz.	.254	.282	.308	.206	123	137	150
Loose Hay.....	ton	6.30	6.10	4.25	6.35	99	96	67
Horses.....	head	56.00	61.00	71.00	149.00	38	41	48
Milk Cows.....	head	105.00	103.00	116.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wool.....	lb.	.41	.42	.39*	.171	240	246	228
Potatoes.....	bu.	1.00	1.00	1.25	.636	157	157	197
Alfalfa Seed.....	bu.	22.30	21.30	21.20	.....	188	180	178
Sweet clover seed.....	bu.	6.80	6.30	5.00	.....	153	142	113

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

	April 15 1944	March 15 1944	April 15 1943
North Dakota farm price index ² (All Groups).....	180	180	161
Grains.....	172	172	140
Meat Animals.....	220	219	241
Dairy Products.....	192	192	193
Poultry and Eggs.....	172	180	172
Miscellaneous.....	136	135	145*
U. S. farm price index (All Groups).....	196	196	197*
U. S. index of prices paid by farmers.....	170	171	162
North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid ³	106	106*	99

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.

*Revised.

were almost 3 cents lower than a month earlier. The changes in the miscellaneous group of commodities were varied with hay, alfalfa seed, sweet clover seed, and milk cows registering increases in prices, and horses and wool prices showing some decrease. Potato prices were unchanged from that of a month earlier.

The North Dakota farm price index for April 15th, 1944, was 180 which is the same as that of March 15, 1944. The index for grains was 172 which is the same as the grain index for March 15th. The index for

dairy products was also unchanged remaining at 192. The index for meat animals was 220 which is 1 point higher than a month earlier. The index for the miscellaneous commodities was also up 1 point, moving from 135 to 136. The index for poultry and eggs was 172 which is 8 points less than it was on March 15th.

The North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid on April 15, 1944, was 106 which is the same as the revised index for March 15, 1944.

THOMAS E. LONG, Assistant Agricultural Engineer of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. During the past season (fall of 1943) Long has made efficiency studies on different methods of filling potato bins at several different storage plants in the northern part of the Red River Valley, measuring results in terms of pounds of potatoes per minute per man. When potatoes were run over a grader and into the bin, 77 pounds per minute per man were delivered; when run over the grader and conveyor into the bin, 116 pounds; when run over the conveyor from truck to bin, 178 pounds; when delivered to the bin by the use of a slide, 180 pounds; and when potato bags were carried from truck to bin, 96 pounds. In these days of labor shortages these differences are worthy of note.

(Adapted from Annual Progress Report of Purnell Project 93 "Development of Designs for Improving Construction and Management of Potato Storage Houses for the Red River Valley and other Northern Regions". T. E. Long, leader.)