

PRICES OF NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRODUCTS

By PERRY V. HEMPHILL¹

General trend of prices received by North Dakota farmers has been slightly downward for the past year. The North Dakota all-commodity farm price index for Jan. 15, 1949, was 259 while for Jan. 15, 1940, it was 237. Price movements of the various North Dakota farm products did not exactly follow this general pattern, however. The general trend for grain prices was downward from November, 1948, to August, 1949, then upward.

Prices for meat animals remained fairly constant for much of 1949, but dropped sharply the last three months. Dairy products were on a downward trend the first half of 1949 but on a slightly upward trend the last half of the year. North Dakota farm prices for poultry and eggs were on a downward trend for 1949 with a sharp decline the last three months. While the trend of North Dakota farm prices has been downward, an examination of the accompanying table will reveal that these prices are far above pre-war prices.

Farm prices received by North Dakota farmers for all spring wheat has hovered around \$2 per bushel for the past year, except for a seasonal decline at harvest. The farm price for corn has been in the neighborhood of \$1 per bushel most of the year. The farm price for oats declined the first half of 1949 but had recovered much of this loss by last December. The farm price for oats has been slightly lower for Jan. 15 and Feb. 15, 1950. The trend of barley prices has been very similar to that of oats, with a downward trend from November, 1948, to June, 1949, but with much of this loss recovered during the period of July to November, 1949, then downward since November.

North Dakota farm prices for flaxseed experienced a sharp drop during the year because of changes in control policies. The farm price of flaxseed for April, 1949, was \$5.63. The next month it was \$3.58. Since then the price has ranged between \$3.33 and 3.58. During the year potato prices also dropped sharply. The change came between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15, 1949. Since then the trend has been upward. The general trend of farm prices for alfalfa seed for 1949, taking the year as a whole, was downward, but the trend since October has been upward. There was little change in sweet clover seed prices the first half of 1949, but the trend has been upward since then. The trend of loose hay prices was down the first half of the year but up the last half.

General trend of beef cattle farm prices has been downward since July, 1949, with a slight upturn for February, 1950. Veal calf prices had a slight downward trend from April to November, 1949, but show an upward trend the last three months. The general trend of sheep prices has been upward since September, 1949. The North Dakota farm price for lambs has ranged between \$20.00 and \$22.00 for the last seven months. The general trend of hog prices was sharply downward for the year of 1949, but has shown an upward trend the last two months.

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CROPS:

Year and Month	All Spring Wheat per bu.	Corn per bu.	Oats per bu.	Barley per bu.	Rye per bu.	Flax-seed per bu.	Potatoes per bu.	Loose Hay per ton	Alfalfa seed per bu.	Clover seed per bu.
1929-30	\$1.00	\$.67	\$.33	\$.43	\$.79	\$2.85	\$1.33	\$6.72	\$17.40	\$ 3.50
1932-33	.36	.27	.09	.14	.22	.87	.23	5.47	7.50	1.40
1936-37	1.17	1.09	.39	.63	.67	1.82	1.19	5.37	14.00	5.40
1940-41	.67	.43	.21	.29	.32	1.32	.36	3.60	9.10	2.50
1944-45	1.40	.87	.55	.98	.96	2.84	1.31	6.70	21.10	6.20
1947-48	2.53	1.97	1.00	1.90	2.32	6.18	1.44	10.30	18.90	6.40
1948-49	2.03	1.25	.60	1.09	1.28	5.65	1.40	10.90	26.30	7.90
1949										
Dec. 1950	2.01	1.01	.58	1.08	1.17	3.47	1.10	10.80	23.30	9.60
Jan. 1950	1.98	1.02	.57	1.07	1.15	3.56	1.15	11.10	25.00	10.50
Feb. 1950	1.96	1.02	.56	1.07	1.06	3.52	1.20	11.10	25.00	11.00

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS:

Year and Month	Beef Cattle per cwt.	Veal Calves per cwt.	Sheep per cwt.	Lambs per cwt.	Hogs per cwt.	Milk Cows per head	Whole-sale Milk per cwt.	Retail Milk per qt.	Butter-fat per lb.	Wool per lb.
1929	\$ 8.30	\$11.10	\$ 6.30	\$10.70	\$ 8.40	\$ 82.	\$ 2.45	\$.098	\$.44	\$.29
1932	3.30	4.20	2.00	3.95	2.65	30.	1.55	.076	.16	.07
1936	5.00	6.30	3.55	7.50	8.20	45.	1.95	.087	.30	.25
1940	6.80	8.00	3.20	7.50	4.70	59.	1.85	.088	.27	.26
1944	8.90	11.80	5.90	12.10	12.30	100.	2.60	.106	.50	.43
1947	17.80	20.70	7.60	20.70	23.30	151.	3.79	.151	.71	.41
1948	20.50	23.60	8.60	22.00	21.90	196.	4.37	.166	.80	.44
1949										
Dec. 1950	18.50	22.00	9.00	20.50	14.10	195.	3.80	.165	.65	.42
Jan. 1950	18.20	22.00	9.50	21.00	14.20	190.	3.75	.165	.64	.41
Feb. 1950	19.00	22.80	9.70	22.00	15.60	190.	3.70	.165	.64	.41

POULTRY AND EGGS:

FARM PRICE INDICES

Year and Month	Chickens per lb.	Turkeys per lb.	Eggs per doz.	N. D. Farm Price Index	U.S. Farm Price Index	U.S. Index of Prices Paid	Ratio of Prices to Prices Rec'd ^a
1929	\$.17	\$.22	\$.24	129	149	167	77
1932	.08	.11	.10	52	68	124	42
1936	.12	.15	.18	111	114	127	87
1940	.10	.15	.13	86	100	125	69
1944	.21	.33	.28	174	195	169	103
1947	.21	.32	.35	308	278	231	133
1948	.24	.41	.36	292	287	248	117
1949							
Dec. 1950	.17	.37	.35	240	235	249	95
Jan. 1950	.17	.37	.24	237	235	249	95
Feb. 1950	.17	.32	.25	237	237	248	96

¹Yearly prices shown are weighted average prices for crop year.²Yearly prices shown are weighted average prices for calendar year.³Ratio for North Dakota based on United States prices paid by farmers.