

# Prices Of North Dakota Farm Products

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The North Dakota all-commodity index for Dec. 15, 1950, was 14 points higher than the previous month, reflecting the general increase in North Dakota farm prices for the month. Only two commodities, retail milk and chickens, failed to register a gain. The farm price of these two commodities was unchanged from that of the previous month. The farm price of six North Dakota commodities, beef cattle, veal calves, lambs, milk cows, alfalfa seed, and sheep, was the highest of record on Dec. 15, 1950. The record price of sheep, which is not shown on the accompanying table, was \$13.50 per hundred. The North Dakota farm price of sweet clover seed reached an all time record high on May 15, 1950. Thus seven of the North Dakota commodities reached all time highs during 1950. The North Dakota farm price of wool for Dec. 15, 1950, was within two cents of the all time record high.

All North Dakota farm prices for grains were higher than a year ago. Potato and sweet clover seed farm prices were lower than a year ago. Alfalfa seed farm price, at an all time record high, was obviously higher than a year ago. The North Dakota Dec. 15, 1950 farm prices of livestock and livestock products were all higher than a year ago. The farm prices of wool, chickens, and eggs were also higher, but that of turkeys was slightly lower than a year ago. The percent of parity situation for North Dakota commodities for Dec. 15, 1950, were as follows: wheat 88%, corn 77%, oats 72%, barley 79%, rye 74%, flaxseed 78%, potatoes 44%, beef cattle 133%, veal calves 136%, lambs 138%, hogs 87%, wholesale milk 86%, butterfat 92%, wool 113%, chickens 60%, turkeys 92%, eggs 83%.

A review of the farm price trends of North Dakota products shows that wheat has had a level trend around \$2.00 per bushel for over two years, except for some seasonal variations. Corn has experienced an upward trend since November, 1949 and was at the highest point of that period on Dec. 15, 1950. The farm price trend of oats for the first half of 1950 was upward. This was followed by a downward trend until October, but the last two months has shown a full recovery of that loss. The farm price trend for barley in 1950 has been identical to that of oats. Rye has also followed the same yearly farm price pattern as oats except that the price decline of the fall months has been more than recovered. In fact, the Dec. 15 price for rye was the highest it has been any month for almost two years. The price trend for flaxseed for the first part of 1950 was about steady, followed by a sharp decline which has been largely recovered the last two months of the year. Potatoes, geared to a price support program, show an upward trend the first part of 1950. This was followed by a sharp price decline for September and October, then the prices tended upward slightly for November and December.

The trend of North Dakota farm prices of beef cattle and veal calves has been rather sharply upward since November, 1949, except for a seasonal decline during the fall of 1950, but recovered to reach an all time record farm price on Dec. 15, 1950. The farm price of lambs has been steadily upward since December a year ago. The general trend of the farm price for hogs was generally upward the first part of 1950 but has shown a general downward trend since August. The trend of milk cows has been upward since September, 1949. The farm price of wholesale milk experienced a downward trend the first half of 1950, but the trend was reversed the last half of the year. The farm price of retail milk has been steady for much of the year except for an increase in the months of August and September. The yearly farm price trend of butterfat for North Dakota has been the same as wholesale milk for 1950, slightly downward the first half of the year and slightly upward the last half of the year. The farm price of wool has been somewhat sharply upward since the early months of 1950. The North Dakota farm price trend for chickens was upward from March to August, 1950 but downward the balance of the year. The price trend for turkeys was upward much of the year, but prices have experienced a seasonal decline the latter part of the year. The farm prices for North Dakota eggs were steady the first part of the year but have been sharply upward the last four months.

A composite picture of the trend of North Dakota farm prices for 1950 is shown by reviewing the trend of the all-commodity index. The trend of the index was upward from February to July, then downward from July to October, and then upward again for November and December.

# PRICES OF NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRODUCTS

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## CROPS<sup>1</sup> (\$ per bushel)

Year	Spring Wheat	Corn	Oats	Barley	Rye	Flax- seed	Pota- toes	Alfalfa Seed	Sweet Clover Seed
1929.....	\$1.00	\$ .67	\$ .33	\$ .43	\$ .79	\$2.85	\$1.33	\$17.40	\$3.50
1932.....	.36	.27	.09	.14	.22	.87	.23	7.50	1.40
1935-39.....	.83	.57	.24	.37	.43	1.60	.57	12.20	3.45
1947.....	2.52*	1.97	1.00	1.90	2.32	6.18	1.44	18.90	6.40
1948.....	2.01*	1.24*	.59*	1.04*	1.30*	5.58*	1.39*	26.20*	7.90
1949.....	1.99	1.09	.55	1.03	1.12	3.56	1.14	23.30	8.70
Dec.....	2.01	1.01	.58	1.08	1.17	3.47	1.10	23.30	9.60
1950									
Oct.....	1.93	1.18	.57	1.10	1.07	2.88	.70	25.60	6.20
Nov.....	1.95	1.25	.68	1.13	1.16	3.06	.75	28.30	6.10
Dec.....	2.04	1.30	.71	1.21	1.32	3.52	.80	30.60	7.10
U.S. Parity <sup>4</sup>									
.....	2.31	1.68	.99	1.54	1.79	4.53	1.83	.....	.....

## LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS<sup>2</sup>

Year	Beef Cattle (cwt.)	Veal Calves (cwt.)	Lambs (cwt.)	Hogs (cwt.)	Milk Cows (Hd.)	Whsle. Milk (cwt.)	Retail Milk (qt.)	Butter- fat (lb.)	Wool (lb.)
1929.....	\$8.30	\$11.10	\$10.70	\$ 8.40	\$ 82.	\$2.45	\$ .098	\$ .44	\$ .29
1932.....	3.30	4.20	3.95	2.65	30.	1.55	.076	.16	.07
1935-39.....	5.80	7.05	7.40	7.35	49.	2.05	.087	.34	.23
1947.....	17.80	20.70	20.70	23.30	151.	3.79	.151	.71	.41
1948.....	20.50	23.60	22.00	21.90	196.	4.26*	.166	.80	.44
1949.....	17.80	20.80	21.20	16.80	188.	3.74	.165	.63	.43
Dec.....	18.50	22.00	20.50	14.10	195	3.90*	.165	.65*	.42
1950									
Oct.....	21.50	25.50	24.70	18.00	225.	3.85	.170	.64	.56
Nov.....	22.40	26.00	26.50	17.20	225.	3.90	.170	.65	.56
Dec.....	24.00	27.50	27.40	17.40	230.	3.95	.170	.67	.60
U.S. Parity <sup>4</sup>									
.....	18.00	20.20	19.80	19.90	.....	4.58	.....	.73	.53

## POULTRY AND EGGS<sup>2</sup>

## FARM PRICE INDICES (1910-14=100)

Year	Chickens (lb.)	Turkeys (lb.)	Eggs (doz.)	N. Dak. Prices Rec'd	U. S. Prices Rec'd	U. S. Prices Paid	Ratio of Prices Pd. to Prices Rec'd <sup>3</sup>
1929.....	\$ .17	\$ .22	\$ .24	129	148	160	81
1932.....	.08	.11	.10	52	65	112	46
1935-39.....	.12	.17	.28	101	107	125	81
1947.....	.21	.32	.35	306*	275	239*	128
1948.....	.24	.41	.36	292	285	259	113
1949.....	.19	.34	.36	244*	249	250	98
Dec.....	.17	.36	.35	238*	233	246	97*
1950							
Oct.....	.19	.34	.31	239	268	261	92
Nov.....	.18	.34	.39	245	276	263	93
Dec.....	.18	.35	.44	259	286	265	98
U.S. Parity <sup>4</sup>							
.....	.30	.38	.53				

<sup>1</sup>Yearly prices are weighted average prices for crop year.

<sup>2</sup>Yearly prices are weighted average prices for calendar year.

<sup>3</sup>Ratio of North Dakota prices received to United States prices paid by farmers.

<sup>4</sup>Price which would give that commodity a parity ratio of 100, on U. S. average basis.

\*Revised