

Prices of North Dakota Farm Products

By Perry V. Hemphill¹

The farm prices for North Dakota products continue their upward trend. The North Dakota all-commodity price index for Feb. 15, 1951, was 18 index points or 7 per cent higher than the previous month. All the grains were higher than the previous month. The increases range from 3 cents per bushel for barley to 25 cents per bushel for flaxseed. The farm price for potatoes was up 5 cents, alfalfa seed was up \$2.10 and sweet clover seed was up \$1.40 per bushel.

The North Dakota farm prices of all meat animals were higher on Feb. 15, 1951, than the previous month. In fact, the farm prices of beef cattle, veal calves, lambs, and sheep were the highest of record for the third consecutive month. The farm price for milk cows was also the highest of record for the third consecutive month.

There was little change in the farm prices of dairy products for Feb. 15 as compared with the price a month earlier. For the month, the farm price of wholesale milk was down 10 cents per hundred pounds and that of butterfat was unchanged. The farm price of retail milk was also unchanged but was at a record high price. The farm price of wool was also at a record high. The farm price of wool on Feb. 15, 1951 was \$1.05 per pound. Nine months ago it was 41 cents per pound.

The farm prices of all of the North Dakota commodities, with the exception of potatoes and sweet clover seed, were higher on Feb. 15, 1951 than a year earlier. The percentages of the farm price increases for the year are as follows: wheat 14%, corn 43%, oats 43%, barley 25%, rye 48%, flaxseed 26%, alfalfa seed 33%, beef cattle 39%, veal calves 41%, lambs 49%, hogs 41%, milk cows 30%, wholesale milk 5%, retail milk 4%, butterfat 12%, wool 156%, chickens 23%, turkeys 6%, and eggs 20%. The Feb. 15, 1951 farm price of potatoes was 25% lower and that of sweet clover seed 22% lower than a year earlier.

The U. S. parity prices for certain North Dakota commodities are shown in the accompanying table. The percentage comparison of the U. S. parity prices with North Dakota prices received indicates that the per cent of parity is as follows: wheat 95%, corn 85%, oats 83%, barley 91%, flaxseed 97%, potatoes 51%, beef cattle 136%, veal calves 143%, lambs 154%, hogs 105%, wholesale milk 83%, butterfat 96%, wool 191%, chickens 68%, turkeys 87%, and eggs 58%. Parity prices have now taken on added significance due to the fact that the Defense Production Act of 1950 under which the present General Ceiling Price Regulation is functioning, requires that under certain conditions parity prices for farm commodities must be taken into consideration in the determination of ceiling prices.

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PRICES OF NORTH DAKOTA FARM PRODUCTS

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CROPS: (\$ 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
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
1950									
Feb.....	1.96	1.02	.56	1.07	1.06	3.52	1.20	25.00	11.00
Dec.....	2.04	1.30	.71	1.21	1.32	3.52	.80	30.60	7.10
1951									
Jan.....	2.11	1.38	.73	1.31	1.44	4.20	.85	31.20	7.20
Feb.....	2.24	1.46	.80	1.34	1.57	4.45	.90	33.30	8.60
U.S. Parity ⁴									
2-15-51..	2.36	1.71	.96	1.48	1.73	4.61	1.76	.....	.....

LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS²

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
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
1950									
Feb.	19.00	22.00	22.00	15.60	190.	3.70*	.165	.64	.41
Dec.	24.00	27.50	27.40	17.40	230.	3.95	.170	.67	.60
1951									
Jan.	24.40	29.00	30.00	19.20	240.	4.00	.172	.72	.95
Feb.	26.40	31.10	32.70	22.00	247.	3.90	.172	.72	1.05
U.S. Parity ⁴									
2-15-51..	19.40	21.80	21.30	20.90	.....	4.69	.....	.75	.55

POULTRY AND EGGS²

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'ds
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
1948.....	.24	.41	.36	292	285	259	113
1949.....	.19	.34	.36	244	249	250	98
1950							
Feb. ....	.17	.32	.25	237	237	248	96
Dec. ....	.18	.35	.44	259	286	265	98
1951							
Jan. ....	.18	.34	.28	272	300	272	100
Feb. ....	.21	.34	.30	290	313	276	105
U.S. Parity ⁴							
2-15-51..	.31	.39	.52				

¹Yearly prices are weighted average prices for crop year.

²Yearly prices are weighted average prices for calendar year.

³Ratio of North Dakota prices received to United States prices paid by farmers.

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

*Revised