

North Dakota Farm Prices

By

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THE North Dakota Farm Price Index for October 15, 1944, was 5 points higher than it was a month earlier. The index for grains was also 5 points higher than a month earlier, for meat animals 1 point higher, for dairy products no change, for poultry and eggs 11 points higher, and the miscellaneous group of commodities was 2 points higher. A comparison of the October 15, 1944 indexes with the indexes of a year earlier shows that the all-commodity index was 7 points higher, grain index 6 points higher, meat animal index 16 points higher, dairy products index no change, poultry and eggs index no change, and the index of miscellaneous commodities 9 points higher.

The price of most of the grains on October 15, 1944, was a few cents higher than a month earlier. The greatest gain in price was in the price of rye with an increase of 15 cents; corn was down 1 cent, barley down 3 cents, and flaxseed registered no change. A comparison of the October 15th prices with the prices of a year earlier shows that durum wheat was 10 cents higher, other spring wheat 9 cents higher, corn 6 cents higher, rye 5 cents higher, and flaxseed 11 cents higher. During the past year the price of oats had declined 17 cents and the price of barley 8 cents.

For the month, beef cattle prices declined 10 cents a hundred, the price of veal calves was unchanged, sheep prices were up 30 cents per hundred, lamb prices up 20 cents per hundred, and hog prices up 30 cents per hundred. A comparison of the October 15th farm prices with those that prevailed a year

ago shows that beef cattle prices were \$1.60 higher, veal calf prices 30 cents higher, sheep prices down 50 cents and hog prices down 20 cents.

There has been little change in the prices of dairy products for the month or for the year ending October 15, 1944. The only change in this group of farm commodities was a fraction of a cent increase in the retail price of milk. Poultry and egg prices were all slightly higher for the month with turkeys up 3 cents per pound and chickens and eggs each up a fraction of a cent. Turkey prices were 7 cents higher than they were a year ago. Chicken prices were about the same as a year ago and egg prices were almost 7 cents lower.

The purchasing power of North Dakota prices—that is, the ratio of North Dakota prices received to the prices paid—stood at 102 on October 15, 1944.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS**Oct. 15, 1944, With COMPARISONS**

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Commodity	Unit	Average Prices			Price Relatives ¹			
		Oct. 15 1944	Sept. 15 1944	Oct. 15 1943	Aug. 1909 July 1914 Average	Oct. 15 1944	Sept. 15 1944	Oct. 15 1943
All Spring Wheat.....	bu.	1.34	1.32	1.28	.847	162	156	151
Durum	bu.	1.36	1.34	1.26	.....		
Other Spring	bu.	1.37	1.31	1.28				
Corn	bu.	.92	.93	.86	.573	161	162	150
Oats	bu.	.48	.45	.65	.353	136	127	184
Barley	bu.	.90	.93	.98	.539	167	173	182
Rye	bu.	.92	.77	.87	.60	153	128	145
Flaxseed	bu.	2.84	2.84	2.73	1.708	166	166	160
Beef	cwt.	10.80	10.90	9.20*	4.48	241	243	205
Veal Calves	cwt.	12.60	12.60	12.30*	6.01	210	210	205
Sheep	cwt.	5.70	5.40	6.20	4.50	126	120	136
Lambs	cwt.	11.80	11.60	11.90	5.62	210	206	212
Hogs	cwt.	13.00	12.70	13.20	6.78	192	187	195
Wholesale Milk	cwt.	2.65**	2.65	2.65	2.08	127	127	127
Retail Milk	qt.	.107	.106	.105	.063	170	167	167
Butter	lb.	.48	.48	.48	.236	204	204	204
Butterfat	lb.	.50	.50	.50	.254	197	197	197
Chickens (Live)	lb.	.208	.204	.20	.099	210	206	202
Turkeys (Live)	lb.	.33	.30	.26	.125	264	240	208
Eggs	doz.	.294	.283	.362	.206	143	137	176
Loose Hay	ton	6.30	5.50	4.70	6.35	99	87	74
Horses	head	50.00	54.00	62.00	149.00	34	36	42
Milk Cows	head	96.00	96.00	107.00	.....		
Wool	lb.	.40	.40	.43	.171	234	234	251
Potatoes	bu.	1.10	1.10	1.00	.636	173	173	157
Alfalfa seed	bu.	21.00	21.70	21.00	.....	177	183	177
Sweet clover seed	bu.	6.30	6.00	5.75	.....	142	135	130

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

* Revised.

**Preliminary.

INDICES OF NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE¹

	Oct. 15 1944	Sept. 15 1944	Oct. 15 1943
North Dakota farm price index ² (All Groups)	173	168	166
Grains	161	156	155
Meat Animals	217	216	201
Dairy Products	190	190	190
Poultry & Eggs	189	178	189
Miscellaneous	140	138	131
U. S. farm price index (All Groups)	194	192	194*
U. S. index of prices paid by farmers	170	170	165*
North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid ³	102	99	101

¹ August 1909—July 1914 = 100.

² Calculated by weighted aggregative method on basis of 24 commodities.

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

* Revised.