

# North Dakota Farm Prices

By  
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The trend of North Dakota farm prices continue to be upward. The all-commodity farm index for North Dakota for April 15th 1946 was 201. This is the first time since Sept. 1920 this index has been above 200. The index for grains on April 15th 1946 was 198 which is the highest index for grains since Oct. 15th 1920. The April 15th 1946 meat animals index at 240 has only been exceeded three times, once during the first world war period, when on May 15th 1919 it was 241 and twice during the second world war period, March 15th 1943 when it hit a record high of 242 and April 15th 1943 when it was 241. For more than three years there has been comparatively little change in the North Dakota dairy products index and for the past five months it has been unchanged at 195 yet that figure has not been exceeded since Nov. 15th 1920 at which time the farm index for dairy products was 196. The index for poultry and eggs for April 15th 1946 was relatively high at 180. In fact, when the seasonalness of poultry and egg prices is considered, it is high, as the April 1946 index is the second highest April North Dakota farm index for poultry and eggs ever reported. The highest April index of record was the April 15th 1945 index of 187.

The April 15th 1946 North Dakota farm prices for grains were unchanged to higher for the month but all the grains with the exception of flaxseed were higher than for the same date two months earlier. For the two months period ending April 15th, the changes in farm prices were, spring wheat up 2 cents, corn up 5 cents, oats up 2 cents, barley up 5 cents, rye up 49 cents and flaxseed unchanged. The April 15th 1946 farm price of \$1.55 per bushel is the highest spring wheat price reported since February 1925. The April 15th 1946 farm price of \$1.12 for barley is the highest since July 1920. Rye prices continue to sky-rocket. The April 15th 1946 farm price for rye was \$2.38 which is only 6 cents under the high of the first world war period which was April 1918.

Meat animal prices were also unchanged to higher over that of the previous month but all prices in this group were, on April 15th 1946 higher than two months earlier as beef cattle were up \$1.20, veal calves up 10 cents, sheep up 50 cents, lambs up 80 cents, and hogs up 20 cents for the two months period. The April 15th 1946 farm price of \$13.90 per hundred for lambs is the second highest monthly price ever reported by the North Dakota Federal Statistician. The highest price of \$14.10 for lambs was in April 1918.

All dairy products prices were unchanged for the month ending April 15, 1946. However an examination of previous North Dakota farm prices for these commodities reveals that the farm price of retail milk, which for the past several months has been 11.2

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## AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS April 15, 1946, With COMPARISONS

Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Office of the Agricultural Statistician  
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Commodity	Unit	Average Prices				Price Relatives <sup>1</sup>		
		April 15 1946	March 15 1946	April 15 1945	Aug. 1909 July 1914 Average	April 15 1946	March 15 1946	April 15 1945
All Spring Wheat	bu.	1.55	1.55	1.46	.847	183	183	172
Durum	bu.	1.58	1.57	1.49	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other Spring	bu.	1.54	1.54	1.45	.....	.....	.....	.....
Corn	bu.	1.00	.97	.78	.573	175	169	136
Oats	bu.	.66	.66	.57	.353	187	187	161
Barley	bu.	1.12	1.11	.98	.539	208	206	182
Rye	bu.	2.38	2.08	1.10	.60	397	347	183
Flaxseed	bu.	2.83	2.83	2.85	1.708	166	166	167
Beef Cattle	cwt.	12.40	11.80	11.70*	4.48	277	263	261*
Veal Calves	cwt.	13.40	13.30	12.70*	6.01	223	221	211*
Sheep	cwt.	6.70	6.70	7.00	4.50	148	148	155
Lambs	cwt.	13.90	13.20	13.30	5.62	247	235	237
Hogs	cwt.	13.60	13.60	13.40	6.78	201	201	198
Wholesale Milk**	cwt.	2.70	2.70	2.65	2.08	130	130	127
Retail Milk	qt.	.112	.112	.110	.063	178	178	175
Butter	lb.	.51	.51	.48	.236	216	216	204
Butterfat**	lb.	.51	.51	.50	.254	201	201	197
Chickens (Live)	lb.	.200	.197	.209	.099	202	199	219
Turkeys (Live)	lb.	.310	.310	.320	.125	248	248	264
Eggs	doz.	.284	.281	.295	.206	138	136	143
Loose Hay	ton	6.80	7.00	7.00*	6.35	107	110	110*
Horses	head	30.00	31.00	43.00	149.00	20	21	29
Milk Cows	head	111.00	110.00	104.00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wool	lb.	.43	.44	.42*	.171	251	257	246*
Potatoes	bu.	1.20	1.15	1.50	.636	189	181	236
Alfalfa seed	bu.	20.70	21.20	21.50	.....	174	179	181
Sweet clover seed	bu.	6.10	6.10	6.20	.....	137	137	140

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

\* Revised.

\*\* Does not include Dairy Production Payments.

Indices of North Dakota Agriculture <sup>1</sup>

	April 15 1946	March 15 1946	April 15 1945
North Dakota farm price index <sup>2</sup> (All Groups)	201	197	184*
Grains .....	198	194	173
Meat Animals .....	240	233	230*
Dairy Products .....	195	195	191
Poultry & Eggs .....	180	179	187
Miscellaneous .....	147	144	170*
U. S. farm price index (All Groups) .....	212	209	203
U. S. index of prices paid by farmers .....	181	180*	173
North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid <sup>3</sup> .....	111	109*	106

<sup>1</sup> August 1909-July 1914—100.<sup>2</sup> Calculated by Percentage method.<sup>3</sup> Ratio for North Dakota based on United States prices paid by farmers.

\* Revised.

cents per quart, has not been higher since April 15th 1921, that butter has not been reported higher than the 51 cents per pound reported for April 15th 1946 since November 1920 and that butterfat has not been reported higher than the April 15th 1946 farm price of 51 cents per pound since October 1920. The farm prices for poultry and eggs show little change for the month ending April 15th 1946 but these prices are relatively

high as indicated by the index for this group of commodities.

The farm prices of the miscellaneous group of commodities on April 15th 1946 as compared with the previous month were, loose hay down 20 cents per ton, horses down \$1.00 per head (a new record low), milk cows up \$1.00 per head, wool down 1 cent per pound, potatoes up 5 cents per bushel, alfalfa seed down 50 cents per bushel and sweet clover seed unchanged.

The hard red spring wheat breeding program of North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, and the Dominion of Canada as measured by the performance of Ceres, Thatcher, Rival, and Mida as compared to old Fife wheat has put an extra 600 million bushels of wheat into North Dakota wheat bins in the last 30 years. An estimate made in the last five years (1941-1945) indicates that the increased production due to experiment station wheats in this state alone has amounted to \$48,000,000 or \$700 per farm per year.