

North Dakota Farm Prices

By

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There was a substantial increase in North Dakota farm prices following the cessation of price controls on June 30th. The July 15, 1946 farm price of 8 North Dakota farm commodities was the highest ever reported by the Federal Agricultural Statistician. The farm price of 6 other commodities was the highest it had been since 1921. This means that 14 of the 25 principal farm commodities of North Dakota were as high or higher in price than they were just prior to the disastrous price decline of 1921. The commodities that reached record high prices were corn, beef cattle, veal calves, lambs, retail milk, butter, butterfat and milk cows. The North Dakota all-commodity price index for July 15th was up 39 points over that of June 15th but by August 15th the index had dropped 7 points, largely as a result of price declines in grains.

The farm prices of all grains for the month ending July 15th, 1946 were higher with the increases ranging from 78 cents per bushel for corn down to 8 cents for oats but by August 15th all grains with the single exception of flaxseed had lost much of their gains. Flaxseed advanced another 15 cents making a total gain of 53 cents for the two months. The North Dakota price index for grains went up 36 points for July 15th but dropped back 21 points for August 15th.

The North Dakota farm price of all meat animals increased sharply for the month ending July 15th and the farm price for hogs also increased sharply for the month ending August 15th. The total increases for the two months ending August 15th were \$4.00 per hundred for beef cattle, \$2.30 for veal calves, 50 cents for sheep, \$2.40 for lambs and \$5.10 for hogs. The North Dakota farm price index for meat animals on July 15th was a record 286 or 48 points above that of June 15th. This index on August 15th had advanced another 32 points reaching an all time record of 318.

The farm price of all the commodities in the dairy products group also advanced for the month ending July 15th with wholesale milk advancing 30 cents per hundred pounds, retail milk 1 and 1/10 cents per quart, butter and butterfat each 21 cents per pound. These sharp advances resulted in an all time record farm price index of 268 for dairy products on July 15th, 1946.

The farm prices of poultry and eggs were also higher on July 15th but did not advance sharply as did many of the farm commodities. On August 15th chickens were down 2 cents per pound for the month, there was no change in the farm price of turkeys and eggs were down over 4 cents per dozen. The farm price of horses continued to advance with an increase of \$2.00 per head for July 15th and \$3.00 per head for August 15th. Milk cows advanced to an all time record farm price of \$131.00 per head on July 15th but dropped back \$3.00 by August 15th.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY NORTH DAKOTA FARMERS AUG. 15, 1946, WITH COMPARISONS

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Office of the Agricultural Statistician

OVIDE E. GRENIER
Agricultural Statistician
Acting in Charge

Commodity	Unit	Average Prices			Price Relatives ¹			
		Aug. 15 1946	July 15 1946	Aug. 15 1945	Aug. 1909 July 1914 Average	Aug. 15 1946	July 15 1946	Aug. 15 1945
Spring Wheat	bu.	1.80	1.96	1.48	.847	213	231	175
Summer	bu.	1.95	2.00	1.53	.....		
Winter Spring	bu.	1.76	1.95	1.47	.....		
Barley	bu.	1.59	2.00	.96	.573	277	349	167
Oats	bu.	.63	.79	.46	.353	178	224	130
Rye	bu.	1.28	1.40	.99	.539	237	260	184
Timothy	bu.	1.50	2.00	1.26	.60	250	333	210
Alfalfa seed	bu.	3.60	3.45	2.85	1.708	211	202	167
Cattle	cwt.	16.20	15.40	10.10*	4.48	362	344	225*
Calves	cwt.	16.20	16.20	12.50*	6.01	270	270	208*
Sheep	cwt.	7.20	7.80	6.40	4.50	159	172	142
Hogs	cwt.	15.90	15.80	13.00	5.62	283	281	231
Pigs	cwt.	18.70	15.30	13.40	6.78	276	226	198
Wholesale Milk**	cwt.	3.40	3.25	2.65	2.08	163	156	127
Whole Milk	qt.	.131	.131	.111	.063	208	208	176
Skimmed	qb.	.72	.72	.48	.236	305	305	204
Butterfat**	lb.	.71	.72	.50	.254	280	283	197
Chickens (Live)	lb.	.219	.230	.248	.099	221	232	251
Ducks (Live)	lb.	.330	.330	.230	.125	264	264	264
Geese (Live)	doz.	.288	.290	.332	.206	140	141	161
Broiler	ton	6.80	6.20	6.90	6.35	107	98	109
Hens	head	37.00	34.00	36.00	149.00	25	23	24
Cows	head	123.00	131.00	101.00	.....		
Calves	lb.	.43	.43	.43*	.171	251	251	246
Goats	bu.	1.90	1.15	1.80	.636	307	181	283
Alfalfa seed	bu.	20.60	21.00	21.00	.....	174	177	177
Red clover seed	bu.	6.00	6.00	6.50	.....	135	135	146

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

2. Revised.

3. Does not include Dairy Production Payments.

INDICES OF NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE¹

	Aug. 15 1946	July 15 1946	Aug. 15 1945
North Dakota farm price index ² (All Groups)	235	242	185*
Grains	216	237	176
Meat Animals	318	286	213
Dairy Products	265	268	191
Poultry & Eggs	189	192	206
Miscellaneous	201	142	192*
South Dakota farm price index (All Groups)	249	244	204
South Dakota index of prices paid by farmers	204	199	173
North Dakota ratio of prices received to prices paid ³	115	122	107

1. August 1909 - July 1914—100.

2. Calculated by the percentage method.

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

4. Revised.

Clifford Volkerding, B.S., N. Dak. Agr. College '38, and Ph. D. Cornell '42, formerly with the Wabash River Terre Haute, Ind. Ordnance plant operated by the DuPont Chemical Co. has been named Associate Soil Scientist in the Experiment Station and Assistant Dean of the School of Agriculture at the North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, N. Dak.