

Agricultural Prices



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Prices Received Index Increases 1 Point

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in March was 97 based on 1990-92=100, up 1 point (1.0 percent) from February. This is a usual February to March increase due to the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell. Higher seasonal marketings of strawberries, milk, broilers, and tomatoes more than offset the relatively lower marketings of cattle, cotton, oranges, and corn. Price decreases from February for milk, soybeans, broilers, and hogs more than offset price increases for cattle, lettuce, oranges, and eggs.

Compared with March 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from March 1998 for soybeans, corn, hogs, and wheat more than offset price increases for milk, lettuce, strawberries, and carrots.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 115 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from February but 1 point (0.9 percent) below March 1998. Since February, lower prices for feeder cattle, complete feeds, feed concentrates, herbicides, and feed supplements were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, feeder pigs, insecticides, and potash and phosphate fertilizers.

Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92=100	1998		1999	
	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar
Prices Received	101	102	96	97
Prices Paid	117	116	115	115
Ratio <u>1/</u>	86	88	83	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Prices Received by Farmers

The March All Farm Products Index was 97 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 1.0 percent from February but down 4.9 percent from March 1998.

All Crops: The March index was 100, up 1.0 percent from February but 9.9 percent below March 1998. From February, price increases for vegetables and potatoes and dry beans more than offset price decreases for oilseeds, cotton, and feed grains and hay.

Food Grains: The March index, at 101, was unchanged from the previous month but was 14 percent below March 1998. The March all wheat price, at \$2.74 per bushel, was unchanged from February but 59 cents below March 1998.

Feed Grains & Hay: The March index was 91, unchanged from last month but 19 percent below March 1998. The corn price, at \$2.04 per bushel, was down 1 cent from February and 51 cents below the March 1998 price. The all hay price, at \$78.50 per ton, was down 50 cents from last month and \$16.80 below March 1998.

Oil-Bearing Crops: The March index, at 82, was down 6.8 percent from February and 28 percent below March 1998. The soybean price, at \$4.55 per bushel, decreased 25 cents from February and was \$1.85 below March 1998. This was the lowest monthly price since October 1986.

Fruit and Nuts: The March fruit and nuts index, at 107, was up 5.9 percent from the previous month and 14 percent above March 1998. An increase in the price of oranges offset price declines for strawberries and lemons.

Commercial Vegetables: The March index, at 119, was up 3.5 percent from last month but was 4.0 percent below March 1998. Price increases for lettuce, carrots, sweet corn, and cauliflower more than offset price declines for onions, tomatoes, and asparagus.

Livestock and Products: The March index, at 94, was unchanged from last month but down 1.1 percent from March 1998. Compared with a year ago, prices were down for hogs, calves, and eggs, but up for cattle, all milk, broilers, and turkeys.

Meat Animals: The March index, at 78, was up 1.3 percent from last month but 4.9 percent below a year ago. The March hog price was \$26.50 per cwt, down \$1.10 from February and \$8.40 below a year ago. The March beef cattle price, of \$62.10, was up \$1.50 from last month and 80 cents above February 1998.

Poultry and Eggs: The March index, at 109, was unchanged from February but 0.9 percent above a year ago. The March broiler price, at 35.8 cents per pound, was down 0.8 cent from February. An increase in domestic demand for eggs over shadowed a weak export market, with market egg prices rising 3.0 cents to 53.1 cents per dozen. Supplies of eggs continue to be 2 to 3 percent above a year ago. Turkey prices increased 1.3 cents to 37.0 cents per pound. Cold storage holdings were considerably below last year's levels.

Dairy Products: The March index, at 115, was down 3.4 percent from February but was 4.5 percent above March 1998. The March all milk price, at \$15.00 per cwt, was down \$0.50 from February but up \$0.60 from last year. February milk production was up 4.3 percent from last year. Prices decreased for both fluid and manufacturing grade milk. Cheese prices were steady during March following sharp declines during January and February.

Index Numbers of Prices Received, United States, March 1999,
with Comparisons

Index	1910-14=100				1990-92=100		
	1998		1999		1998		1999
	Average: 1990-92:	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
All Farm Products	639	649	*612	613	102	96	97
All Crops	500	548	*487	491	111	*99	100
Food Grains	325	376	321	320	118	101	101
Feed Grains & Hay	363	405	*326	325	113	*91	91
Cotton	517	540	*473	460	105	*92	90
Tobacco	1263	1574	*1696	1696	104	*112	112
Oil-Bearing Crops	554	626	*481	449	114	88	82
Fruit & Nuts	716	655	*705	746	94	*101	107
Commercial Vegetables	698	831	*769	798	124	*115	119
Potatoes & Dry Beans	540	542	*488	500	107	*96	99
Other Crops	493	532	532	532	108	108	108
Livestock & Products	768	726	*721	721	95	*94	94
Meat Animals	1021	833	*787	790	82	77	78
Dairy Products	799	885	*953	922	110	*119	115
Poultry & Eggs	282	303	307	307	108	109	109
Food Commodities					100	*96	96

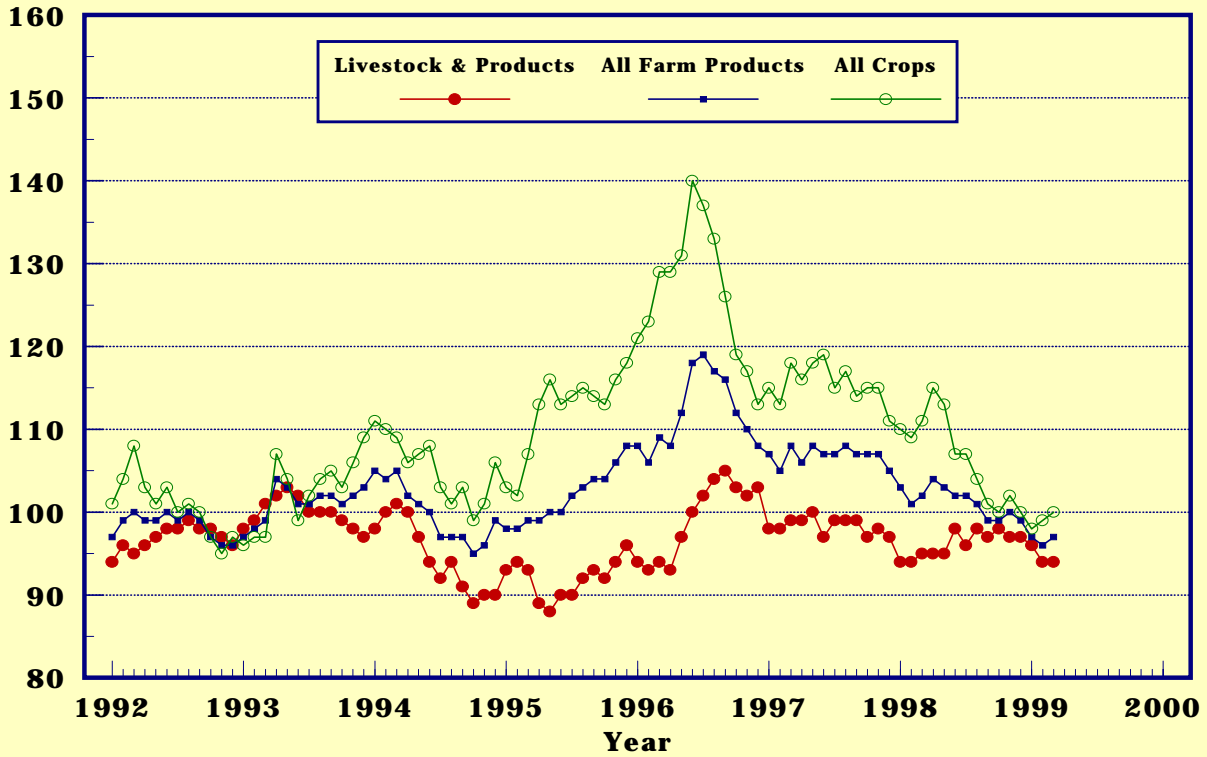
* Revised.

Selected Index Numbers for Prices Received and Paid,
1990-92=100, by Months, United States, 1998 and 1999

Month	Index of Prices Received						Index of Prices Paid			
	All Farm Products		All Crops		Livestock and Products		All Items		Production Items	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Jan	103	97	110	98	94	96	117	115	116	111
Feb	101	96	109	99	94	94	117	115	115	111
Mar	102	97	111	100	95	94	116	115	114	111
Apr	104		115		95		116		114	
May	103		113		95		116		114	
Jun	102		107		98		115		113	
Jul	102		107		96		115		112	
Aug	101		104		98		114		111	
Sep	99		101		97		113		110	
Oct	99		100		98		114		110	
Nov	100		102		97		114		110	
Dec	99		100		97		113		110	

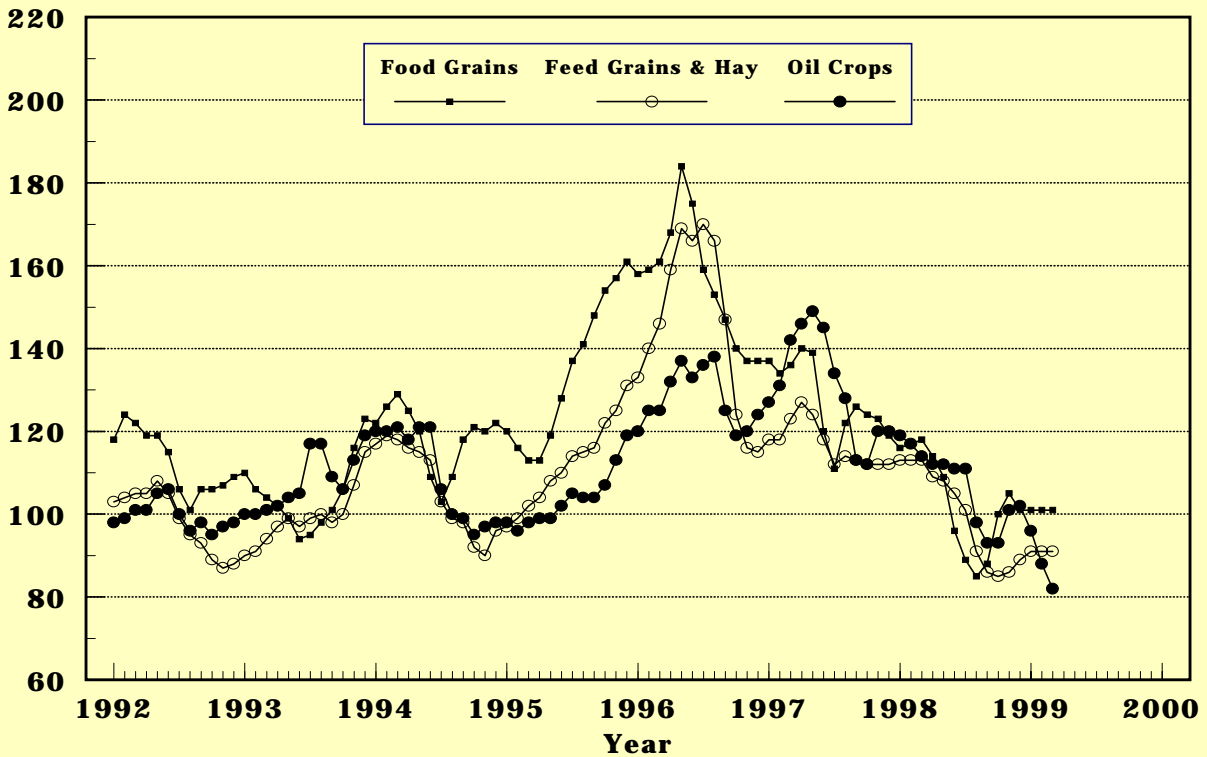
Prices Received, Major Indexes, US

Index Values(1990-92=100)



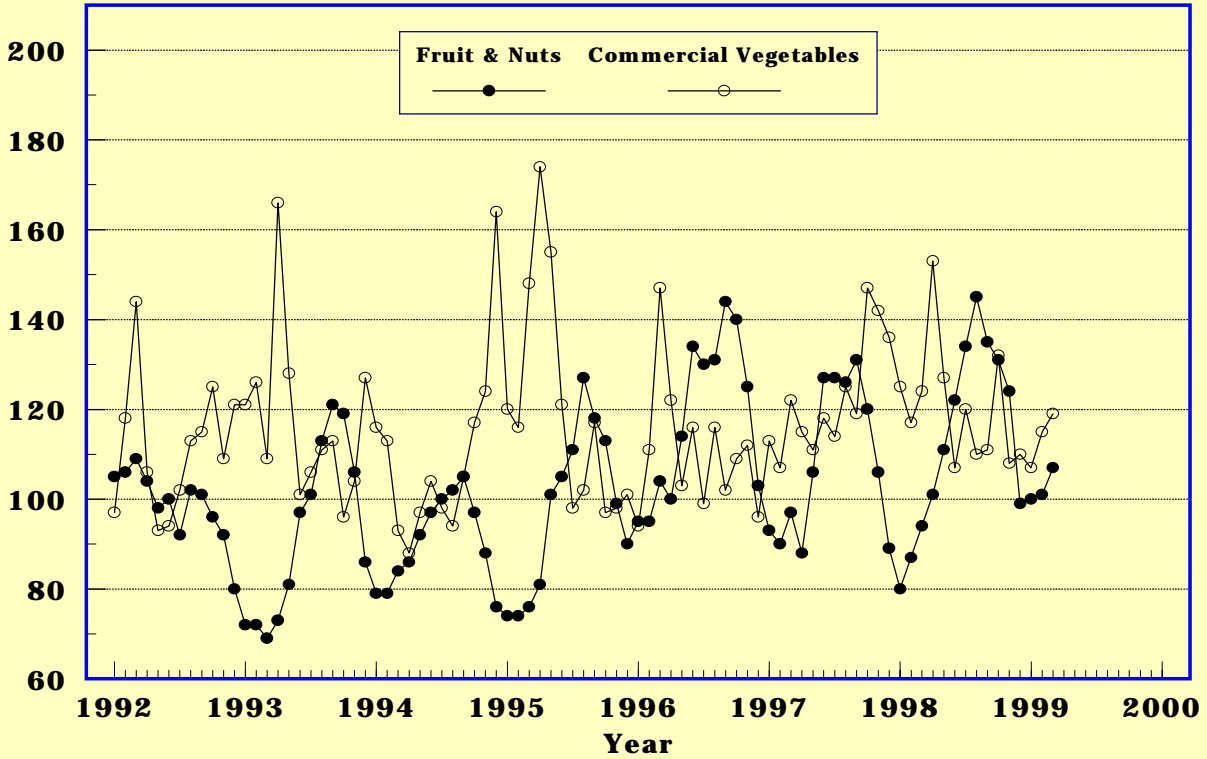
Prices Received, Food, Feed & Oil Indexes, US

Index Values(1990-92=100)



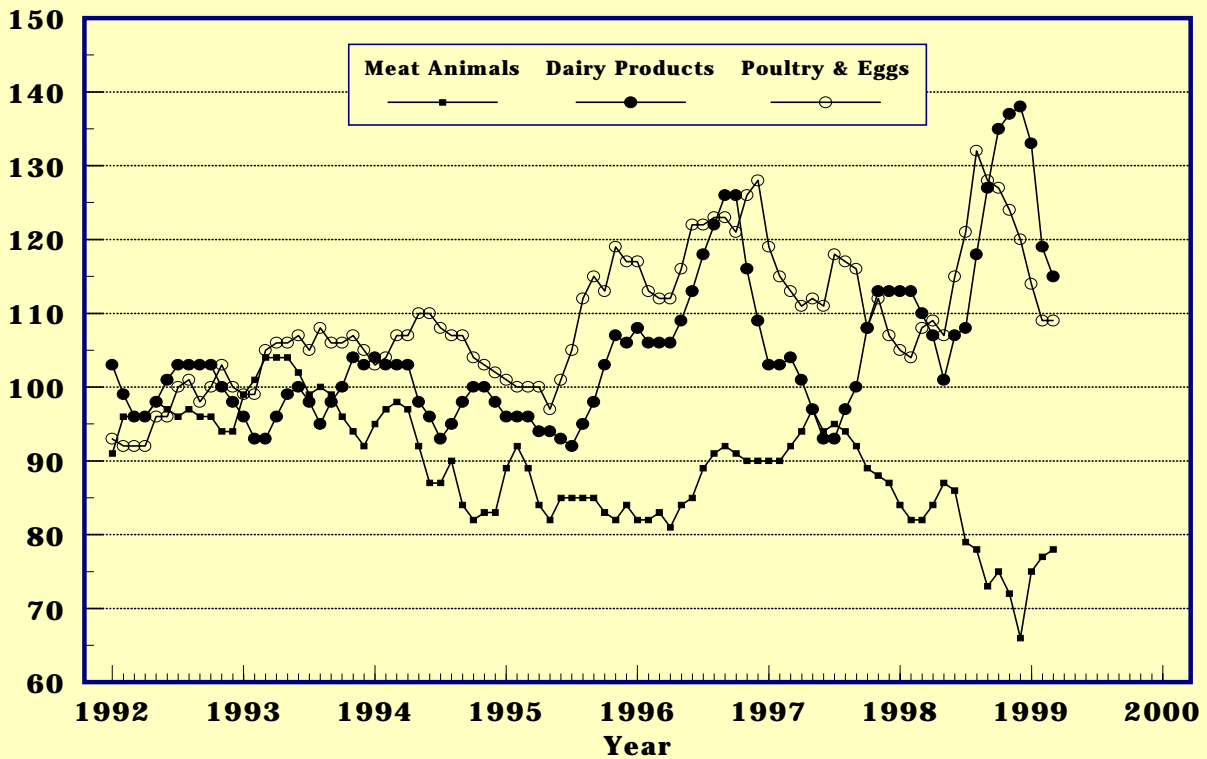
Prices Received, Fruit/Vegetable Indexes, US

Index Values(1990-92=100)



Prices Received, Livestock Product Indexes, US

Index Values(1990-92=100)



Prices Received, United States,
March 1999, with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1990-92	Entire Month		Preliminary
			Mar 1998	Feb 1999	Mar 1999
Dollars					
Field Crops					
Barley, All	Bu	2.12	2.40	1.84	1.86
Feed	Bu	1.90	1.99	1.58	1.52
Malting	Bu	2.43	2.73	2.17	2.19
Beans, Dry Edible	Cwt	19.10	20.20	18.40	17.70
Corn	Bu	2.30	2.55	2.05	2.04
Cotton, Upland	Lb	.606	.639	.560	.544
Cottonseed	Ton	96.00		141.00	
Flaxseed	Bu	4.27	6.26	5.05	4.84
Hay, All, Baled 1/	Ton	76.30	95.30	79.00	78.50
Alfalfa 1/	Ton	77.20	102.00	82.00	82.40
Other 1/	Ton	60.00	76.30	70.40	67.40
Oats	Bu	1.22	1.64	1.20	1.20
Peanuts, In-Shell	Lb	.304			
Potatoes	Cwt	5.82	6.41	5.61	5.82
Rice, Rough	Cwt	7.07	9.67	8.97	8.93
Sorghum Grain	Cwt	3.75	4.02	3.16	3.13
Soybeans	Bu	5.61	6.40	4.80	4.55
Sunflower 2/	Cwt	9.50	12.10	12.20	11.10
Tobacco	Lb	1.740	1.810	1.950	1.950
Wheat, All	Bu	2.96	3.33	2.74	2.74
Winter	Bu	2.93	3.16	2.56	2.56
Durum	Bu	2.86	4.70	2.84	2.86
Other Spring	Bu	3.11	3.43	3.10	3.10
Hard Red Winter	Bu			2.60	
Soft Red Winter	Bu	2.87	3.10	2.18	
Hard Red Spring	Bu			3.16	
White	Bu	3.24	3.05	2.64	
Fruit					
Citrus-Equiv on-tree					
Grapefruit	Box	5.77	.410	1.60	1.67
Lemons	Box	10.10	1.63	5.23	4.01
Limes	Box	10.15		24.50	64.50
Oranges	Box	5.79	5.14	5.60	6.02
Tangelos	Box	5.82		3.65	
Tangerines	Box	15.11	8.68	14.27	13.49
Temples	Box	6.23	3.32	5.95	3.76
Non-citrus					
Apples, Fresh 3/	Lb	.212	.205	.150	.157
Grapes, Fresh 3/	Ton	506.00			
Peaches, Fresh 3/	Lb	.216			
Pears, Fresh 3/	Ton	370.00	272.00	362.00	331.00
Strawberries, Fresh	Lb	.560	.801	1.22	1.01

1/ Mid-month price.

2/ KS, MN, ND and SD average.

3/ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only), OR (pears only) and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

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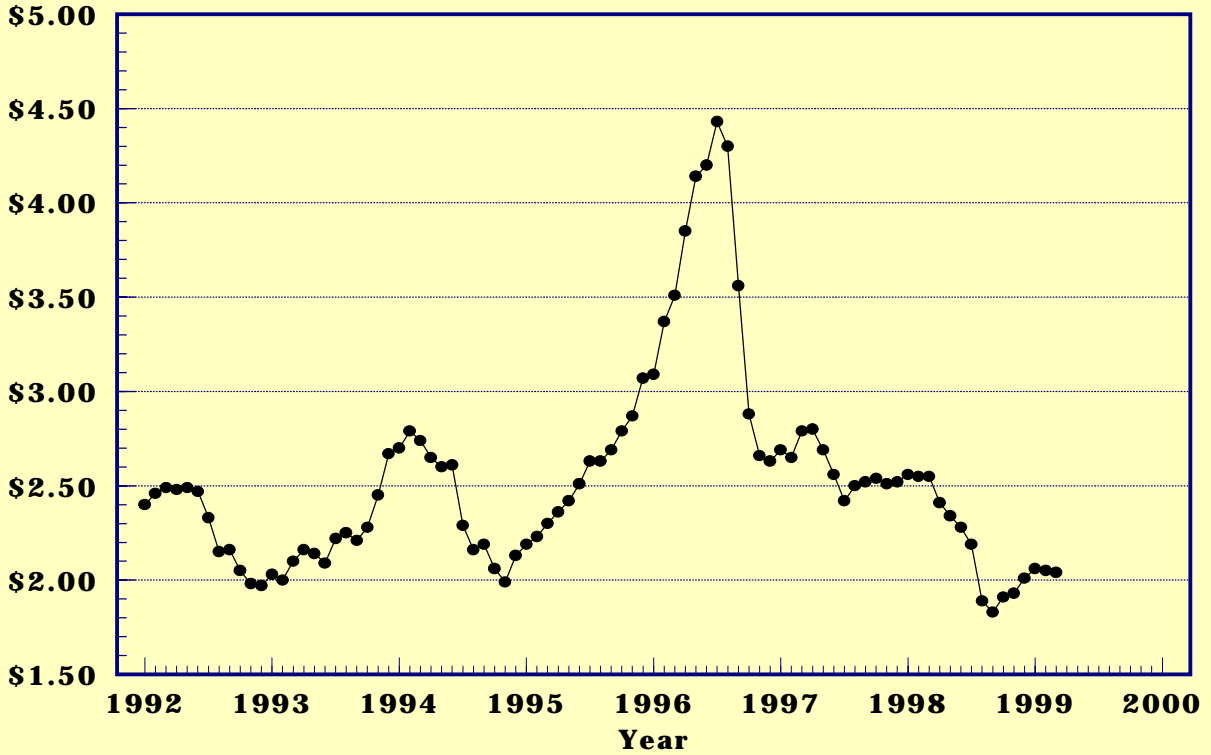
Prices Received, United States,
March 1999, with Comparisons (continued)

Commodity	Unit	Average 1990-92	Entire Month		Preliminary
			Mar	Feb	Mar
			1998	1999	1999
Dollars					
Vegetables, Fresh 1/					
Asparagus	Cwt	79.80	144.00	119.00	103.00
Broccoli	Cwt	22.50	31.40	20.10	19.40
Cantaloupes	Cwt				
Carrots	Cwt	13.20	13.20	19.60	21.00
Cauliflower	Cwt	26.80	49.30	30.80	34.60
Celery	Cwt	11.60	16.40	8.47	8.23
Corn, Sweet	Cwt	15.70	24.50	19.60	26.30
Cucumbers 2/	Cwt				
Lettuce	Cwt	11.90	13.40	15.40	18.30
Onions	Cwt	12.80	21.20	13.80	11.30
Snap Beans 2/	Cwt		68.80	47.90	45.50
Tomatoes	Cwt	32.30	33.20	35.20	31.40
Livestock					
Calves	Cwt	94.30	89.80	86.90	86.50
Cattle, All Beef	Cwt	72.90	61.30	60.60	62.10
Cows	Cwt	49.60	36.00	34.70	34.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	77.10	64.30	63.60	65.50
Milk Cows 3/	Head	1130.00			
Hogs, All	Cwt	47.70	34.90	27.60	26.50
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	48.40	35.30	28.10	26.90
Sows	Cwt	39.50	26.70	18.10	20.30
Lambs	Cwt	56.20	70.10	67.20	
Sheep	Cwt	23.40	41.00	30.20	
Dairy and Poultry					
Milk, All 4/	Cwt	13.06	14.40	15.50	5/15.00
Fluid Grade	Cwt	13.10	14.50	15.60	5/15.10
Mfg Grade	Cwt	11.80	12.90	12.30	5/12.10
Broilers, Live 6/	Lb	.317	.352	.366	.358
Eggs, All 7/	Doz	.643	.699	.652	.679
Market 7/	Doz	.546	.571	.501	.531
Turkeys, Live 6/7/	Lb	.380	.346	.357	.370
Adjusted for Seasonal Variation					
Eggs, All	Doz	.545	.679	.621	.653
Milk, All 4/	Cwt	9.71	14.40	15.66	15.15

- 1/ F.O.B. shipping point.
- 2/ Monthly estimates began January 1995.
- 3/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for Jan, Apr, Jul, and Oct.
- 4/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
- 5/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.70, fluid milk 3.70, mfg grade 3.82.
- 6/ Liveweight equivalent price.
- 7/ Mid-month price.

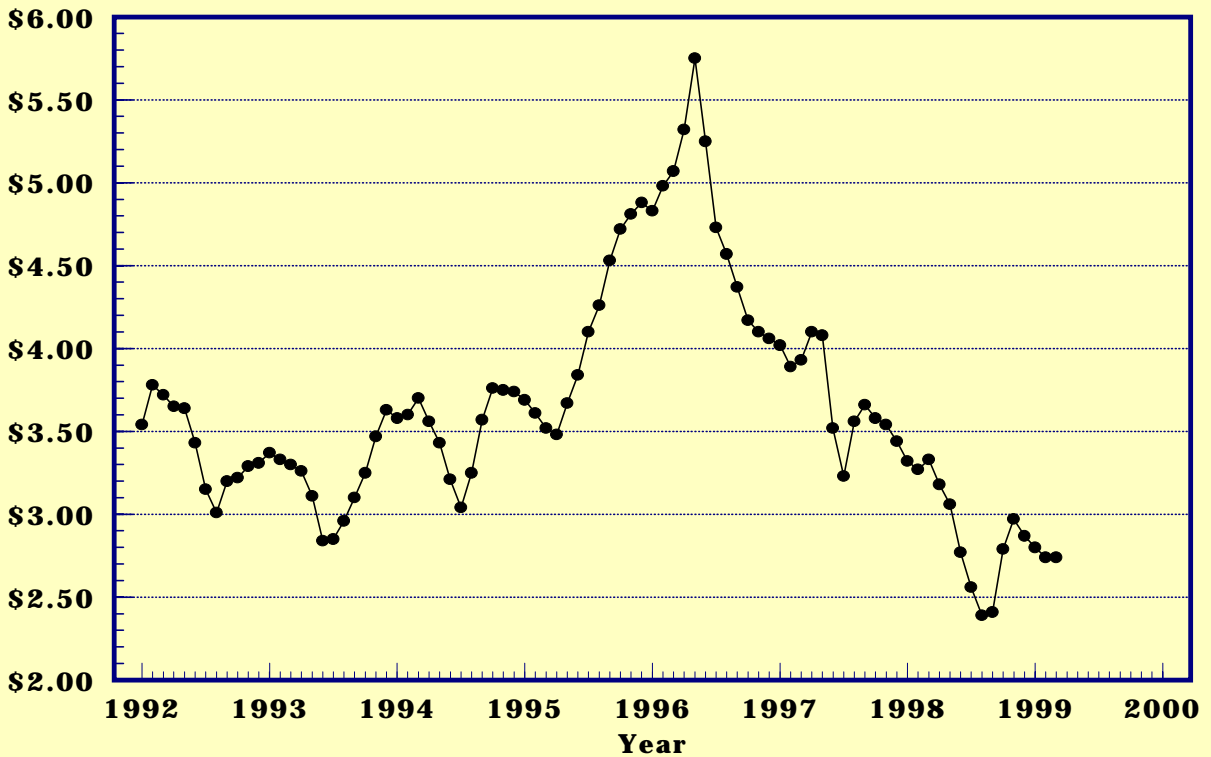
Prices Received, Corn, US

Dollars per Bu



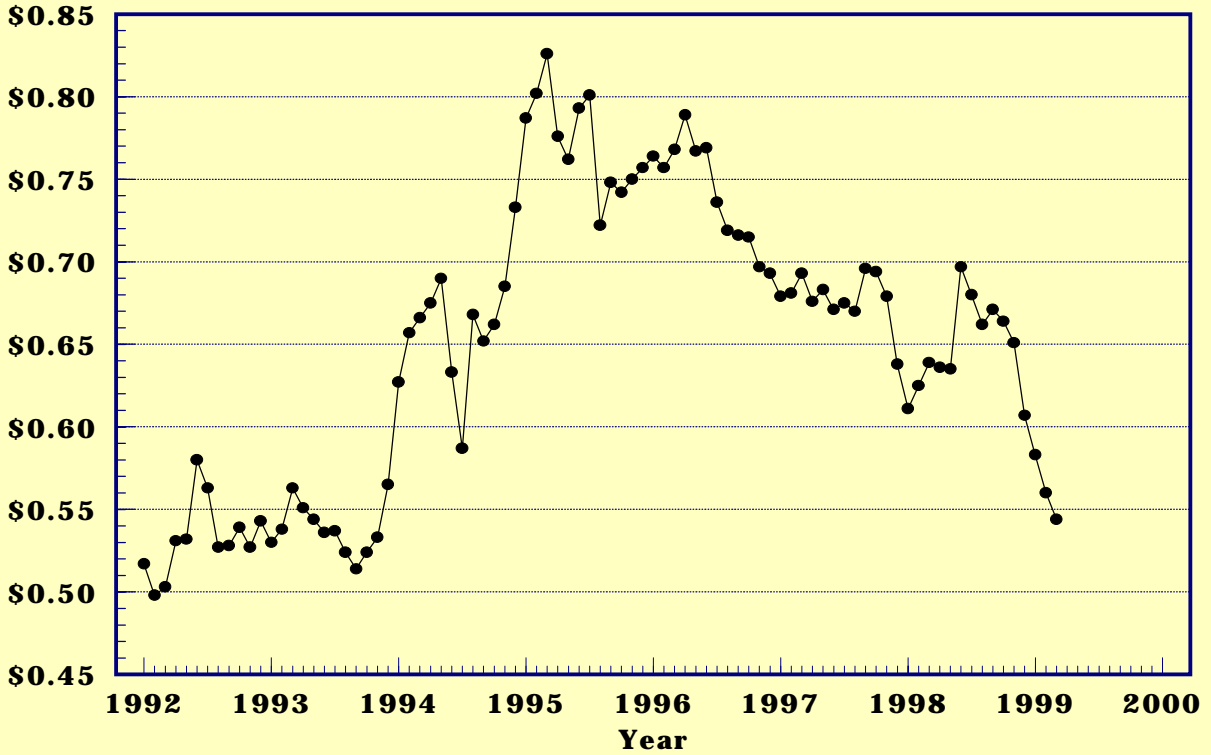
Prices Received, Wheat, US

Dollars per Bu



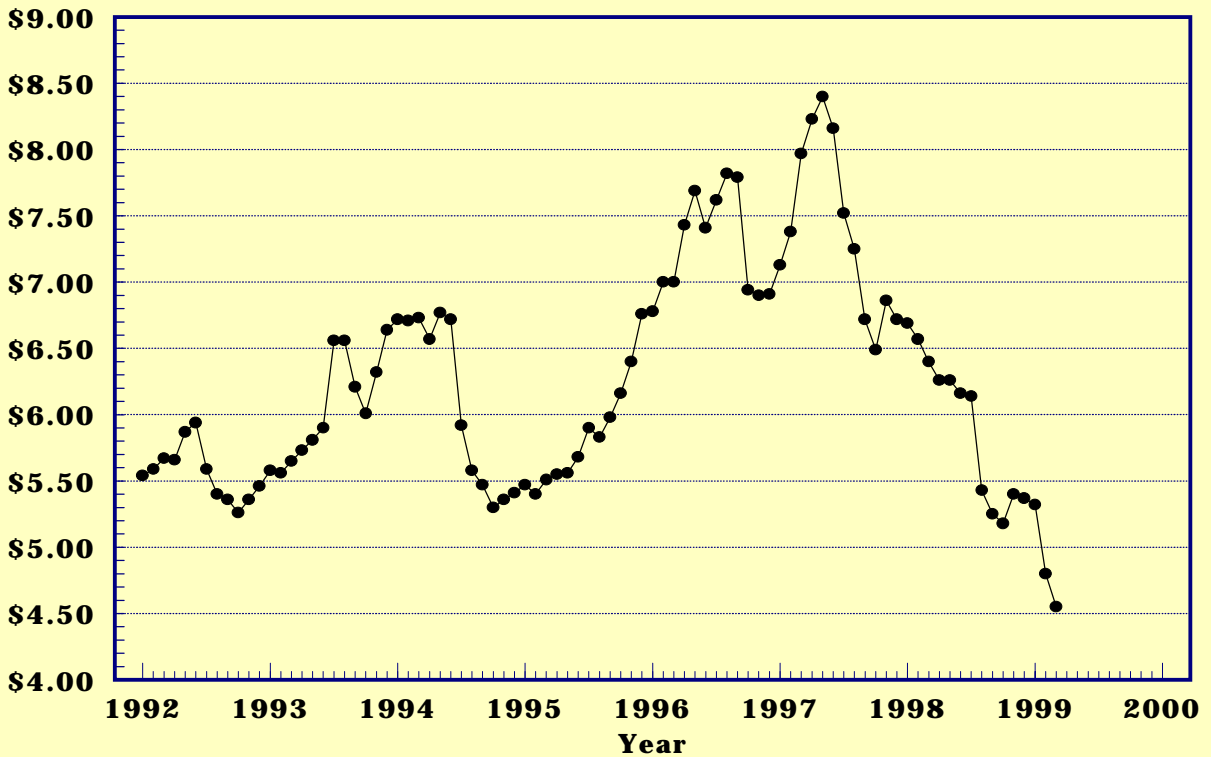
Prices Received, Cotton, US

Dollars per Lb



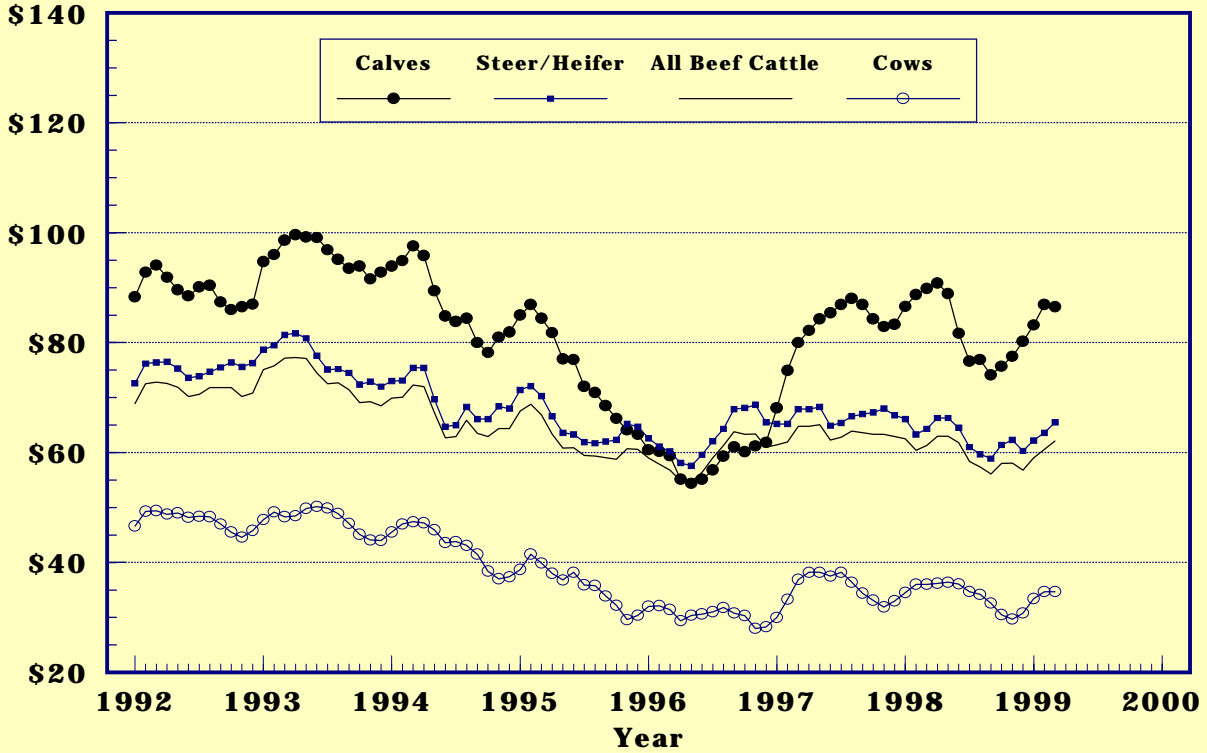
Prices Received, Soybeans, US

Dollars per Bu



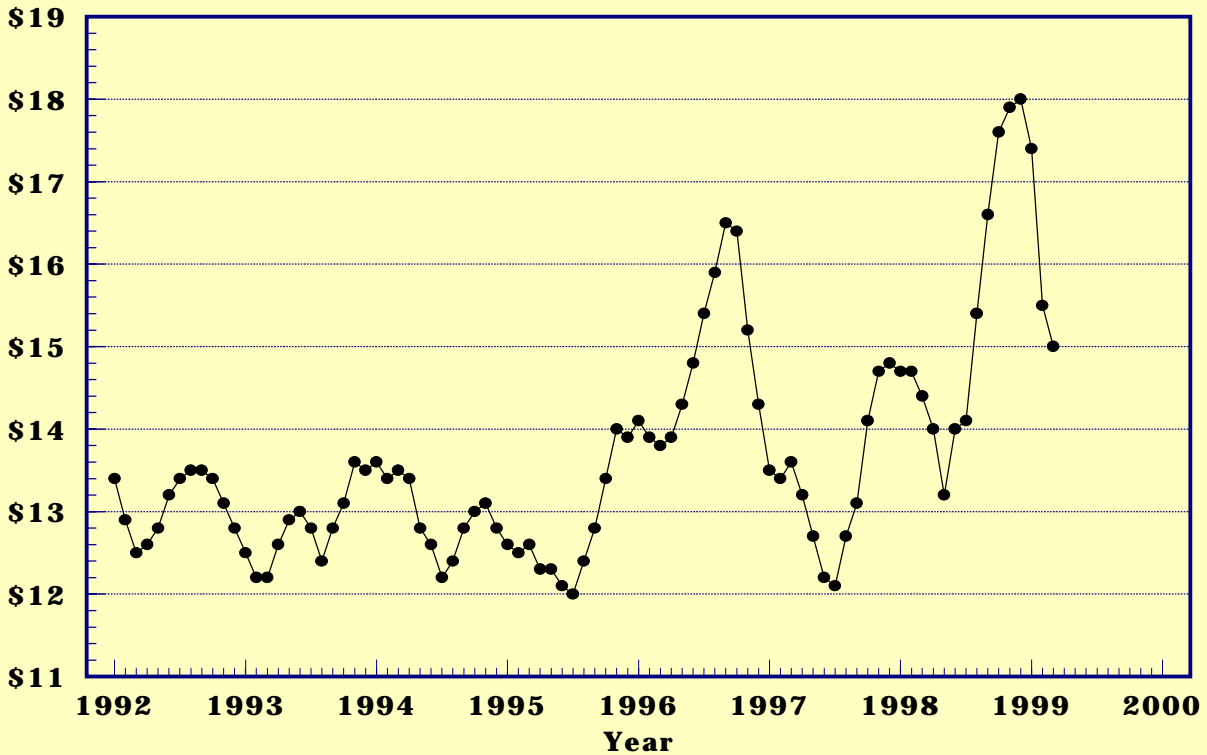
Prices Received, Cattle, US

Dollars per Cwt



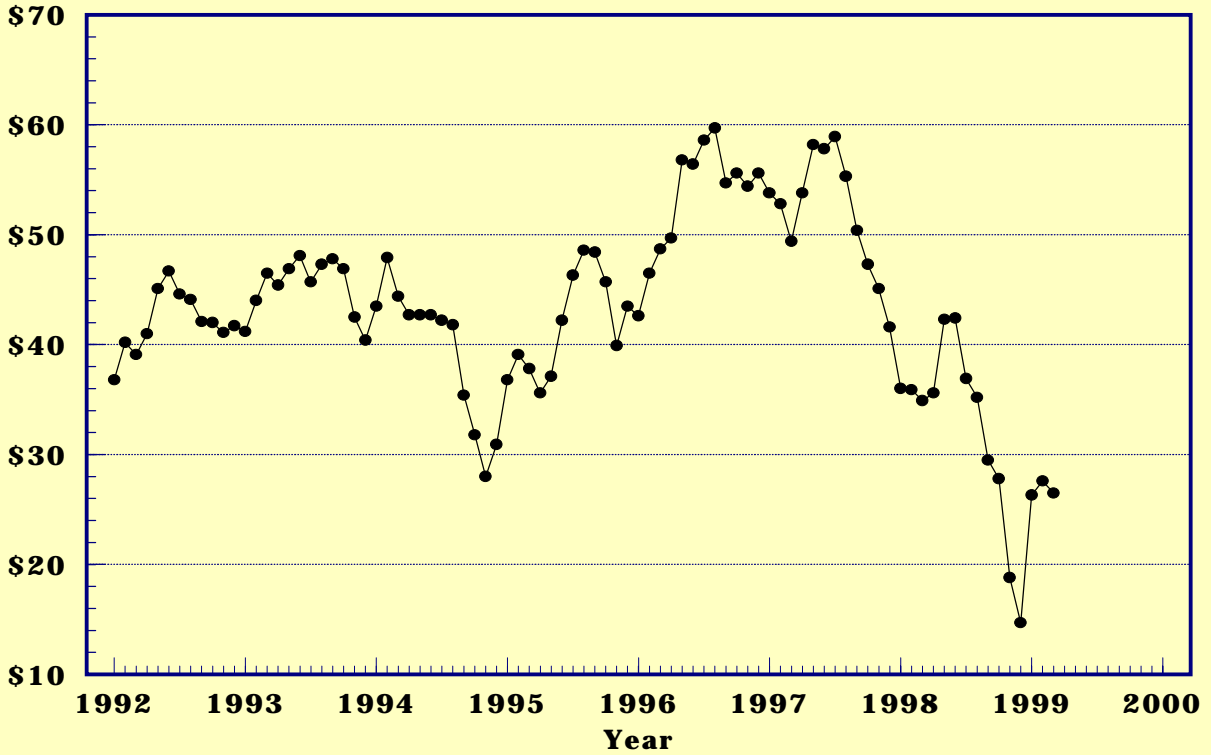
Prices Received, Milk, US

Dollars per Cwt



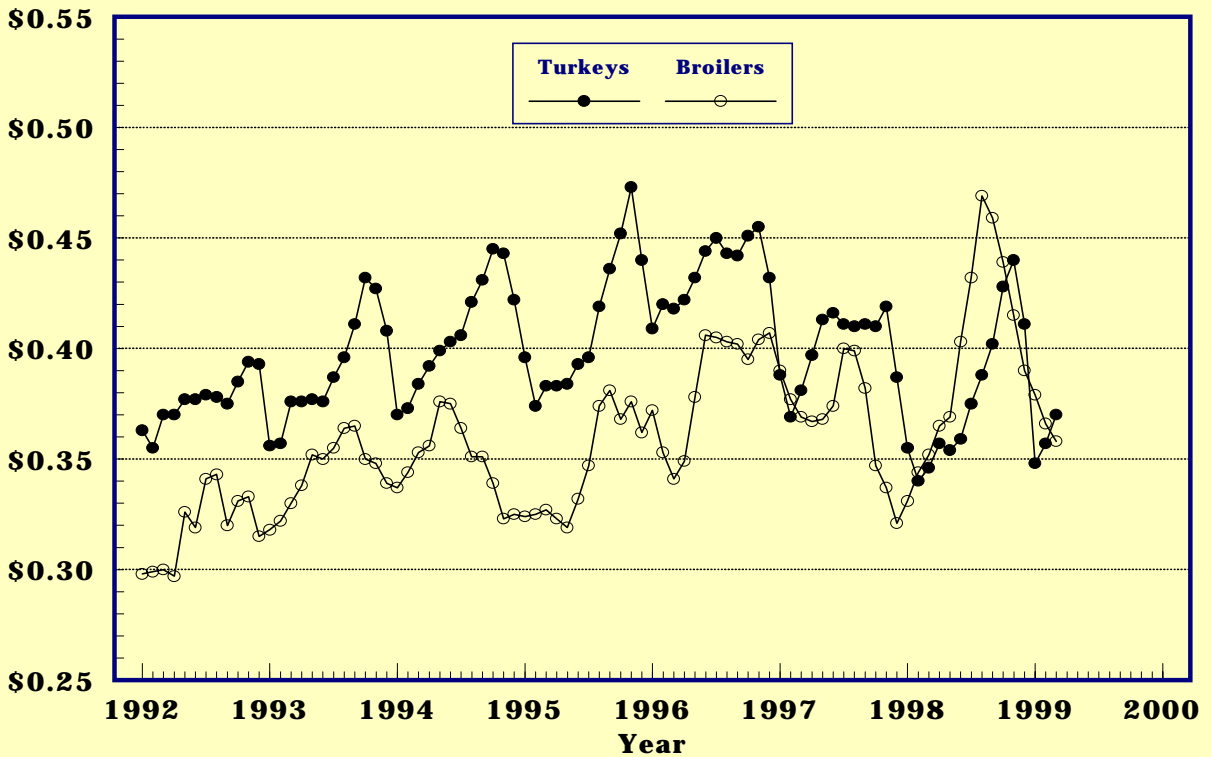
Prices Received, Hogs, US

Dollars per Cwt



Prices Received, Turkeys & Broilers, US

Dollars per Lb



Wheat: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	All Wheat		Winter Wheat		Durum Wheat		Oth Spring Wheat	
	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/
	Dollars per Bushel							
AR	2.11	2.48	2.11	2.48				
CA	3.01	3/	2.57	3/	3/	4/		
CO	2.66	2.45	2.66	2.45			2.49	4/
ID	2.74	2.76	2.51	2.60			2.91	3.00
IL	1.88	2.05	1.88	2.05				
IN	2.34	2.23	2.34	2.23				
KS	2.49	2.48	2.49	2.48				
MI	2.43	2.45	2.43	2.45				
MN	3.06	3.10	2.65	4/	4/	4/	3.06	3.10
MO	2.21	2.40	2.21	2.40				
MT	3.08	3.08	2.92	2.90	3.13	3.00	3.26	3.30
NE	2.49	2.62	2.49	2.62				
ND	2.98	3.04	2.45	4/	2.73	2.85	3.06	3.10
OH	2.19	2.15	2.19	2.15				
OK	2.38	2.48	2.38	2.48				
OR	2.83	2.86	2.83	2.85			2.84	2.95
SD	2.77	2.61	2.42	2.36	4/	3/	3.11	2.85
TX	2.56	2.37	2.56	2.37				
WA	2.87	2.90	2.83	2.89			3.09	3.05
US	2.74	2.74	2.56	2.56	2.84	2.86	3.10	3.10

- 1/ Entire month.
- 2/ Mid-month.
- 3/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual buyers.
- 4/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.

Prices Received for Selected Agricultural Commodities, by Months, United States, 1998 and 1999

Month	All Wheat		Corn		Soybeans		Beef Cattle 1/		All Hogs	
	1998	1999 2/	1998	1999 2/	1998	1999 2/	1998	1999 2/	1998	1999 2/
	Dollars per Bushel						Dollars per Cwt			
Jan	3.32	2.80	2.56	2.06	6.69	5.32	62.50	59.00	36.00	26.30
Feb	3.27	2.74	2.55	2.05	6.57	4.80	60.40	60.60	35.90	27.60
Mar	3.33	2.74	2.55	2.04	6.40	4.55	61.30	62.10	34.90	26.50
Apr	3.18		2.41		6.26		63.00		35.60	
May	3.06		2.34		6.26		63.00		42.30	
Jun	2.77		2.28		6.16		61.80		42.40	
Jul	2.56		2.19		6.14		58.40		36.90	
Aug	2.39		1.89		5.43		57.40		35.20	
Sep	2.41		1.83		5.25		56.10		29.50	
Oct	2.79		1.91		5.18		58.00		27.80	
Nov	2.97		1.93		5.40		58.10		18.80	
Dec	2.87		2.01		5.37		56.80		14.70	

- 1/ Cows, steers and heifers.
- 2/ Current month prices are mid-month; prices for previous months are for the entire month.

Grains: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	Barley 1/		Corn		Oats		Soybeans		Sorghum Grain	
	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/
	Dollars per Bushel						Dollars per Cwt			
AL										
AR							4.83	4.62	3.68	3.61
CA	4/	4/								
CO	1.74	5/	1.98	1.90						
GA			2.74	2.70			4.59	4.69		
ID	2.20	2.44								
IL			2.13	2.15	1.63	1.55	4.95	4.65	3.61	3.55
IN			2.20	2.20			4.94	4.58		
IA			1.98	1.95	1.42	1.40	4.61	4.45		
KS			1.96	1.92			4.58	4.31	3.04	3.01
KY			2.24	2.20			4.91	4.65		
LA							4.74	4.68		
MI			1.95	2.00	1.54	1.55	4.86	4.55		
MN	1.52	1.45	1.81	1.85	1.03	1.10	4.51	4.40		
MS							4.93	4.81		
MO			1.99	2.10			4.77	4.60	3.45	3.15
MT	2.05	1.90			1.06	1.10				
NE			1.95	1.99	1.25	1.25	4.67	4.50	3.05	3.15
NC			2.53	2.40			4.92	4.55		
ND	1.70	1.70			.91	.85				
OH			2.11	2.10	1.52	1.40	4.87	4.65		
OK									3.10	3.18
OR	1.78	1.80			1.35	1.45				
PA			2.53	2.45	1.60	1.60				
SD	1.88	1.60	1.61	1.69	1.07	1.05	4.39	4.12		
TN			2.36	2.30			4.87	4.70		
TX			2.18	2.05					3.73	3.65
UT	1.93	1.81								
WA	1.66	1.77								
WI			1.89	1.95	1.25	1.30	4.55	4.40		
WY	4/	4/								
US	1.84	1.86	2.05	2.04	1.20	1.20	4.80	4.55	3.16	3.13

1/ The Three-State (MN, ND and SD) Feed Barley price for March 1999 is \$1.66.
 2/ Entire month. 3/ Mid-month. 4/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Malting and Feed Barley: Prices Received Selected States, February and March 1999

State	Malting Barley		Feed Barley	
	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar
	Dollars per Bushel			
ID	1/	1/	1.88	1.75
MN	1.98	1.90	1.37	1.30
MT	2.58	2.50	1.46	1.30
ND	1.87	1.85	1.32	1.35
SD	1/	1/	1/	1.22
WY	1/	1/	2/	2/

1/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
 2/ Insufficient sales to establish a price.

Field Crops: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	Dry Edible Beans		Sunflower		Flaxseed		Tobacco		Peanuts 4/	
	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 3/	Feb 1/	Mar 4/
	---- Dollars per Cwt		---- Dollars per Bu		---		Dollars per Pound		---	
AL										
CA	39.80	39.40								
CO	14.60	14.10								
FL										
GA										
ID	16.70	16.80								
IN							1.835			
KS			5/	5/						
KY							1.900	1.870		
MD										
MI	19.11	18.00								
MN	19.60	19.00	15.00	15.30						
MO							1.895			
NE	16.80	16.40								
NC										
ND	13.80	13.10	12.80	12.00	5.06	4.85				
OH							1.855			
OK										
SC										
SD			8.96	8.09	5/	4.70				
TN							2.190	2.110		
TX										
VA										
WV										
US	18.40	17.70	12.20	11.10	5.05	4.84	1.950	1.950		

- 1/ Entire month.
- 2/ Mid-month.
- 3/ Based on sales through first half of month.
- 4/ Marketing year Aug - Jan.
- 5/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual buyers.

Tobacco: Prices Received, by Area and Type, March 1999, with Comparisons

Class by Type	Type	Mar 1998	Feb 1999	Mar 1999 1/
Dollars per Pound				
Fire-cured				
VA Belt	21			2/
Eastern District	22	2.185	2.215	2.135
Western District	23	1.950	2.045	1.990
Total Fire-cured	21-23	2.150	2.180	2.110
Light Air-Cured				
Burley	31	1.755	1.850	1.735
Total Light Air-Cured	31-32	1.760	1.850	1.735
Dark Air-cured				
One Sucker Belt	35			3/
Green River Belt	36			3/
Sun-cured Belt	37			2/
Total Dark Air-cured	35-37			
US	11-37	1.810	1.950	1.950

- 1/ Based on sales during the first half of the month.
- 2/ Sales closed in January.
- 3/ Sales closed in February.

Field Crops and Apples: Prices Received, by States,
February and March 1999

State	Cotton, Upland		March			Apples Fresh Use 1/4/
	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Cotton- seed 5/	Hay, Baled 3/ All	Alfalfa Other	
	Dollars per Pound		Dollars per Ton			Dol/Lb
AL	6/	6/				
AZ	.548	6/	105.00	105.00	95.00	
AR	.579	.579				
CA	.611	.606	97.00	102.00	42.00	.152
CO			81.00	81.00	89.00	
GA	.558	.550				
ID			77.00	77.00	68.00	
IL			78.00	82.00	60.00	
IA			73.00	74.00	56.00	
KS			72.00	75.00	58.00	
KY			96.00	123.00	80.00	
LA	.568	.561				
MI			85.00	90.00	65.00	.170
MN			69.00	74.00	48.00	
MS	.584	.576				
MO			66.00	101.00	59.00	
MT			59.00	60.00	52.00	
NE			42.00	43.00	39.00	
NV			81.00	80.00	87.00	
NM			121.00	124.00	92.00	
NY			101.00	120.00	81.00	.153
NC	.589	.548				
ND			45.00	52.00	36.00	
OH			87.00	105.00	55.00	.250
OK			85.00	100.00	63.00	
OR			100.00	105.00	75.00	
PA			106.00	126.00	97.00	.220
SD			41.00	45.00	30.00	
TN	.584	.572				
TX	.516	.507	82.00	136.00	79.00	
UT			65.00	66.00	45.00	
VA						.220
WA			83.00	74.00	109.00	.152
WI			61.00	65.00	45.00	
WY			71.00	71.00	64.00	
US	.560	.544	78.50	82.40	67.40	.157

1/ Entire month. 2/ Based on sales during the first half of the month.
3/ Mid-month. 4/ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA,MI,NY and WA.
Price at point of first sale for other states. 5/ Marketing year
August-February. 6/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of
individual operations.

Upland Cotton and Rice: Prices Received and Marketings,
United States, March 1999, with Comparisons

Item	Unit	Jan 1999 1/	Feb 1999 1/	Mar 1999 2/
Cotton, Upland				
Average Price	Dollars/Pound	.583	.560	.544
Marketings 3/	1,000 Bales	1435	801	NA
Rice				
Average Price	Dollars/Cwt	9.05	8.97	8.93
Marketings 4/	1,000 Cwt	13705	13033	NA

1/ Entire month. 2/ Based on purchases for the first half of the month.
3/ Expanded data from sample of about 60 percent of buyers. 4/ Purchases
by private firms and rice (rough equivalent) shipped by cooperatives.

Citrus Fruit: Prices and Equivalent Returns, by Utilization,
by State and United States, March 1999

Commodity And State	F.O.B. Packed Fresh	Equivalent Returns					
		Packinghouse-door			On-tree		
		All	Fresh	Process	All	Fresh	Process
Dollars per Box 1/							
Grapefruit							
AZ	13.10	7.05	7.66	-0.26	5.11	5.72	-2.20
CA	13.30	5.57	7.86	-0.26	3.63	5.92	-2.20
FL	13.60	3.82	5.56	3.05	1.50	3.67	0.54
White Seedless	15.10	3.59	6.50	2.90	1.24	4.55	0.45
Colored Seedless	12.80	4.10	5.10	3.30	1.81	3.25	0.65
Other		3.00		3.00	1.20		1.20
TX	15.10	4.92	6.40	1.50	3.79	5.25	0.40
CA-AZ	13.20	6.10	7.78	-0.26	4.16	5.84	-2.20
US	13.80	3.90	5.70	3.00	1.67	3.92	0.54
Lemons							
AZ	18.90	6.11	10.46	2.08	2.47	6.82	-1.56
CA	20.80	7.98	12.36	2.08	4.34	8.72	-1.56
US	20.50	7.65	12.07	2.08	4.01	8.43	-1.56
Limes							
FL	80.00	69.50	69.50		64.50	64.50	
Oranges							
AZ	29.30	17.40	23.35	1.77	15.36	21.31	-0.28
Navel and Misc	27.20	16.05	21.18	0.66	14.07	19.20	-1.32
Valencia	30.70	18.24	24.80	2.36	16.16	22.72	0.28
CA	26.20	11.18	20.15	0.72	9.20	18.16	-1.27
Navel and Misc	25.60	10.47	19.58	0.66	8.49	17.60	-1.32
Valencia	30.80	20.24	24.90	2.36	18.16	22.82	0.28
FL	17.50	7.64	10.39	7.52	5.80	8.49	5.69
Early and Mids	16.70	7.11	9.60	7.10	5.36	7.70	5.35
Valencia	17.50	7.73	10.40	7.60	5.88	8.50	5.75
TX							
Valencia	19.50	6.51	10.70	3.37	5.24	9.40	2.12
CA-AZ							
Navel and Misc	25.70	10.68	19.66	0.66	8.70	17.68	-1.32
Valencia	30.80	19.37	24.86	2.36	17.29	22.78	0.28
US	21.50	7.87	14.84	7.33	6.02	12.91	5.50
Tangerines							
AZ	34.30	19.67	28.40	0.66	17.59	26.32	-1.42
CA	20.80	8.88	14.90	0.66	6.80	12.82	-1.42
FL	29.00	17.70	20.40	8.70	14.41	17.20	5.10
US	28.60	16.32	20.92	4.73	13.49	18.09	1.88
Temples							
FL	17.50	5.83	10.40	5.00	3.76	8.50	2.90

1/ Net lbs. per box: Grapefruit-AZ & CA-67, FL-85, TX-80; Lemons-76; Limes-88; Oranges-AZ & CA-75, FL-90, TX-85; Tangerines-AZ & CA-75, FL-95; Temples-90.

Potatoes: Prices Received, by States,
February and March 1999

State	Feb	Mar	State	Feb	Mar
: Dollars per Cwt			: Dollars per Cwt		
AL			NC		
AZ			ND - All 1/	5.65	5.80
CA - All	14.00	16.00	- Fresh 2/	5.00	NA
- Winter	22.60	26.50	- Processing	5.55	NA
- Spring			OH	6.95	7.50
- Summer			OR	5.75	6.10
- Fall	7.25	7.35	PA	9.35	9.65
CO - All 1/	4.05	4.40	TX		
- Fresh 2/	3.85	NA	VA		
FL	25.50	25.40	WA - All	5.35	5.15
ID - All 1/	3.95	4.15	- Processing	4.80	NA
- Fresh 2/	3.50	NA	WI - All 1/	4.75	5.25
- Processing	4.30	NA	- Fresh 2/	4.05	NA
ME	6.40	6.70	- Processing	4.85	NA
MI	6.90	7.20			
MN	5.80	5.75	US - All 1/	5.61	5.82
NY	9.15	9.30	- Fresh 2/	6.44	NA
			- Processing	4.94	NA

- 1/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed.
2/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices.

Cattle: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	Cows 1/		Steers & Heifers:		Beef Cattle 4/		Calves	
	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/	Feb 2/	Mar 3/
	Dollars per Cwt							
AZ	34.80	34.40	62.50	64.20	62.20	63.90	81.30	81.00
AR	32.30	32.00	68.10	64.80	57.00	55.30	81.30	86.20
CA	34.60	34.40	62.50	64.00	47.20	48.00	81.00	81.00
CO	36.60	35.80	64.50	67.10	62.50	65.20	84.20	88.50
FL	35.30	35.00	67.00	68.90	41.30	40.80	83.30	81.50
GA	35.40	35.60	66.50	66.50	46.30	48.00	80.80	80.90
ID	34.90	35.90	64.20	66.60	57.70	59.20	80.00	82.00
IL	34.10	34.50	61.10	63.20	60.60	62.60	105.00	107.00
IA	36.20	37.40	62.50	65.90	59.30	62.50	79.30	80.80
KS	33.80	35.10	64.70	66.00	63.80	65.10	92.00	88.00
KY	34.00	33.00	67.00	67.00	59.10	58.80	78.00	80.00
LA	34.90	34.00	70.00	69.00	44.70	43.80	81.60	81.00
MI	34.20	34.00	55.60	57.50	47.00	48.10	65.00	60.00
MN	35.60	36.00	59.90	60.50	55.40	56.10	72.60	74.00
MO	33.70	33.70	71.70	72.00	63.30	63.60	82.60	82.90
MT	36.20	37.10	76.40	73.30	68.80	67.90	85.70	84.40
NE	32.20	31.40	62.60	66.50	61.90	65.40	87.80	89.10
NM	37.70	37.20	75.60	73.40	60.40	60.40	87.40	85.60
ND	35.30	35.40	71.70	72.10	67.30	67.00	81.00	81.50
OH	35.00	36.00	60.80	62.00	58.20	59.40	71.30	70.00
OK	34.30	35.30	72.60	70.20	69.20	67.10	86.60	82.90
OR	36.10	37.10	72.10	73.90	61.30	62.90	80.00	80.20
PA	35.80	35.70	58.20	58.20	52.30	52.40	98.50	88.50
SD	33.70	35.00	76.20	76.20	71.50	71.70	83.50	82.50
TN	33.90	33.70	70.00	69.00	55.90	54.90	80.00	81.00
TX	33.20	33.00	65.00	65.00	62.50	62.40	87.50	86.90
VA	31.00	30.00	65.50	67.50	52.70	53.60	76.10	78.90
WI	35.40	35.20	58.40	62.50	45.10	46.70	108.00	106.00
WY	38.80	39.50	75.40	75.00	72.80	71.50	91.90	90.00
US	34.70	34.70	63.60	65.50	60.60	62.10	86.90	86.50

- 1/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
- 2/ Entire month.
- 3/ Mid-month.
- 4/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

Hogs: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	Sows		Barrows and Gilts		All Hogs	
	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/	Feb 1/	Mar 2/
	Dollars per Cwt					
GA	18.50	18.70	29.00	28.50	28.00	27.50
IL	17.50	20.00	26.50	24.00	25.70	23.70
IN	18.20	19.10	27.90	24.90	26.90	24.30
IA	22.80	25.50	29.90	28.70	29.60	28.60
KS	18.30	21.90	26.10	24.40	25.10	24.10
KY	18.00	20.00	31.00	32.00	30.50	31.50
MI	19.50	18.50	28.50	28.50	28.00	27.90
MN	18.90	21.50	28.40	26.50	28.10	26.40
MO	15.20	17.50	23.00	22.50	22.40	22.10
NE	20.20	24.50	30.60	29.00	30.50	28.90
NC	20.20	21.70	27.20	27.50	27.10	27.40
OH	18.10	19.00	27.00	26.00	26.80	25.80
PA	16.50	16.70	26.90	25.60	25.30	24.30
SC	20.90	21.20	26.40	24.30	26.10	24.10
SD	18.60	22.50	30.90	30.30	29.70	29.50
TN	18.80	19.00	27.80	26.50	26.90	25.80
TX	16.30	15.50	25.90	22.20	24.70	21.30
VA	23.00	20.00	27.00	24.00	26.90	23.90
WI	16.50	16.70	26.00	23.90	24.80	23.00
US	18.10	20.30	28.10	26.90	27.60	26.50

1/ Entire month
 2/ Mid-month.

Sheep and Poultry: Prices Received, by States,
February and March 1999

State	February		March		
	Sheep 1/	Lambs 1/	Turkeys 2/3/	Broilers 1/4/	Eggs 2/5/
	---- Dollars per Cwt ----		Dollars per Pound		Dol/Doz
AL				.360	.490
AZ					
AR			.38	.350	.510
CA	30.00	68.50	.44	.380	.565
CO	30.90	67.40			
CT					.600
DE				.361	
FL					.440
GA				.365	.500
ID	29.00	66.00			
IN			.35		.560
IA	27.10	60.10	.37		.438
KS	24.00	67.00			
ME					.660
MD				.361	
MI					.490
MN	22.60	64.50	.34		.520
MS				.355	.580
MO			.38		.435
MT	31.10	69.10			
NE	26.90	62.50			
NM					
NY					.636
NC			.36	.355	.429
OH	31.40	66.50			.562
OR	30.50	62.00			
PA			.37	.360	.570
SC					.474
SD	29.30	73.90			
TX	35.40	67.60		.360	.530
UT	27.00	63.00			
VA			.37	.340	
WA					.666
WY	31.00	66.90			
US	30.20	67.20	.370	.358	.531

1/ Entire month.

2/ Mid-month.

3/ IN, IA, MN and PA are actual liveweight prices. All other State prices are equivalent liveweight returns to producers (see footnote 4 for formula).

4/ Liveweight equivalent price. Derived from ready-to-cook (RTC) prices using the following formula: (RTC price minus processing cost) * (dressing percentage) = liveweight equivalent price.

5/ Market (table) eggs.

Milk and Milk Cows: Prices Received, by States, February and March 1999

State	February				March				
	Fluid Grade Milk 1/ Price	Fat Test	Manufacturing Grade Milk Price	Fat Test	All Milk 2/ Price	Fat Test	All Milk 2/3/ Price	Fat Test	Milk Cows 4/ Price
	Dol/Cwt	Pct	Dol/Cwt	Pct	Dol/Cwt	Pct	Dol/Cwt	Pct	Dol/Head
AL	19.20	3.59			19.20	3.59	18.10	3.54	
AZ	14.10	3.65			14.10	3.65	13.70	3.62	
AR	18.40	3.70			18.40	3.70	17.40	3.70	
CA	15.40	3.73	14.50	4.07	15.39	3.73	15.00	3.67	
CO	15.90	3.65			15.90	3.65	15.40	3.67	
FL	21.20	3.57			21.20	3.57	21.00	3.60	
GA	19.20	3.61			19.20	3.61	18.10	3.55	
ID	12.00	3.65	13.00	3.82	12.00	3.66	11.90	3.63	
IL	15.20	3.80	12.50	3.72	15.00	3.80	14.90	3.75	
IN	17.20	3.80	11.40	3.94	16.80	3.81	15.30	3.76	
IA	13.80	3.85	12.00	3.86	13.70	3.85	13.60	3.78	
KS	15.00	3.73	11.20	3.84	14.90	3.73	14.40	3.70	
KY	18.50	3.71	9.80	3.81	18.40	3.71	17.40	3.64	
LA	19.10	3.42			19.10	3.42	18.00	3.35	
MD	16.80	3.83			16.80	3.83	16.40	3.76	
MI	16.90	3.78	10.50	3.83	16.80	3.78	15.90	3.75	
MN	13.60	3.76	11.70	3.78	13.47	3.76	13.40	3.75	
MS	19.10	3.55			19.10	3.55	18.00	3.53	
MO	16.80	3.70	14.20	3.85	16.70	3.71	15.50	3.65	
NE	14.20	3.75	10.70	3.79	14.00	3.75	13.60	3.72	
NM	14.80	3.60			14.80	3.60	14.60	3.56	
NY	15.80	3.73			15.80	3.73	15.10	3.72	
NC	20.00	3.75	12.30	4.04	19.90	3.75	18.90	3.72	
ND	13.70	3.80	11.60	3.76	13.00	3.79	12.70	3.78	
OH	17.30	3.84	14.20	3.81	17.10	3.84	15.50	3.81	
OK	17.00	3.61			17.00	3.61	16.00	3.57	
OR	15.20	3.73	13.50	4.05	15.20	3.73	15.30	3.68	
PA	17.20	3.77	10.40	3.89	17.10	3.77	16.00	3.74	
TN	19.30	3.73	9.50	3.79	19.20	3.73	18.10	3.66	
TX	15.90	3.59			15.90	3.59	15.50	3.53	
UT	14.90	3.68	13.10	3.74	14.70	3.69	14.30	3.62	
VT	16.70	3.78			16.70	3.78	16.30	3.78	
VA	20.10	3.67	13.50	3.68	20.00	3.67	19.00	3.67	
WA	15.20	3.73			15.20	3.73	15.30	3.69	
WI	13.20	3.80	12.20	3.89	13.14	3.81	13.20	3.81	
US	15.60	3.73	12.30	3.85	15.50	3.74	15.00	3.70	

- 1/ Including milk diverted to manufacturing.
- 2/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
- 3/ Preliminary.
- 4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published Jan, Apr, Jul and Oct.

Parity Price Equivalent for Manufacturing Milk 1/: United States, February and March 1999, with Comparisons

Item	Mar 1998	Feb 1999	Mar 1999
Parity Equivalent.....Dol per Cwt	26.27	27.60	27.51
Average Price F.O.B.....Dol per Cwt	12.90	12.30	2/12.10
Average Fat Test of Milk..Percent	3.81	3.85	2/3.82

- 1/ The parity price equivalent during 1999 is 91.1 percent of the parity price of all milk sold to plants, compared with 90.9 percent in 1998. For additional details, see January 1999 issue of "Agricultural Prices".
- 2/ Preliminary.

United States Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received as
Percent of Parity Prices Based on Data for March 1999, with Comparisons 1/

Commodity and Unit	: Adjusted: : Base : Prices	Parity Prices Based on Data for			: Prices as Percent : of Parity		
		: Mar : 1998	: Feb : 1999	: Mar : 1999	: Mar : 1998	: Feb : 1999	: Mar : 1999
		Dollars			Percents		
Basic Commodities							
All Wheat, Bu	: .626	9.52	9.63	9.58	35	28	29
Rice, Cwt	: 1.78	26.50	27.40	27.30	36	33	33
Corn, Bu	: .428	6.47	6.58	6.55	39	31	31
Cotton, Lb	:						
American Upland	: .113	1.69	1.74	1.73	38	32	31
Extra Long Staple	: .145	2.22	2.23	2.22			
Peanuts, Lb	: .0425	.636	.654	.651			
Tobacco, By Type, Lb	:						
Flue-Cured 11-14	: .252	3.75	3.88	3.86			
VA Fire-Cured, 21	: .249	3.66	3.83	3.81			
KY-TN Fire-Cured, 22-23	: .313	4.69	4.81	4.79	46	45	44
Burley, 31	: .266	3.95	4.09	4.07	44	45	43
Maryland, 32	: .231	3.27	3.55	3.54	54		
Dark Air-Cured, 35-36	: .266	3.93	4.09	4.07			
Sun-Cured, 37	: .226	3.29	3.48	3.46			
PA Seedleaf, 41	: .193	2.80	2.97	2.95			
Cigar Filler & Binder,	:						
42-44, 54-55	: .217	3.21	3.34	3.32			
Puerto Rican Filler, 46	: .173	2.61	2.66	2.65			
Cigar Binder, 51-52	: .552	7.37	8.49	8.45			
Designated Nonbasic							
All Milk, Sold to	:						
Plants, Per Cwt	: 1.97	28.90	30.30	30.20	2/50	2/52	2/50
Honey, Extracted, Lb	: 3/.0878	1.29	1.35	1.34			
Wool and Mohair							
Wool, Lb	: .125	4.07	1.92	1.91			
Mohair, Lb	: .231	10.90	3.55	3.54			
Other Nonbasic							
Barley, Bu	: .383	5.82	5.89	5.86	41	31	32
Cottonseed, Ton	: 15.90	237.00	245.00	243.00		58	
Dry Edible Beans, Cwt	: 3.26	49.60	50.10	49.90	41	37	35
Flaxseed, Bu	: .780	11.80	12.00	11.90	53	42	41
Oats, Bu	: .224	3.57	3.45	3.43	46	35	35
Potatoes, Cwt	: .860	12.60	13.20	13.20	51	43	44
Rye, Bu	: .326	4.90	5.01	4.99			
Sorghum Grain, Cwt	: .674	10.20	10.40	10.30	39	30	30
Soybeans, Bu	: .905	13.90	13.90	13.90	46	35	33
Sweetpotatoes, Cwt	: 2.04	24.30	31.40	31.20			
Apples, Fresh, Lb 5/	: .0290	.429	.446	.444	48	34	35
Citrus (equiv on-tree), box:	:						
Grapefruit	: .524	10.60	8.06	8.02	4	20	21
Lemons	: 1.20	17.30	18.50	18.40	9	28	22
Limes (FL)	: 1.17	18.20	18.00	17.90		136	360
Oranges	: .747	13.60	11.50	11.40	38	49	53
Tangerines	: 1.79	28.60	27.50	27.40	30	52	49
Temples (FL)	: .635	11.40	9.77	9.72	29	61	39
Beef Cattle, Cwt	: 9.80	149.00	151.00	150.00	41	40	41
Calves, Cwt	: 12.50	190.00	192.00	191.00	47	45	45
Hogs, Cwt	: 6.58	101.00	101.00	101.00	35	27	26
Lambs, Cwt	: 10.10	152.00	155.00	155.00	46	43	
Sheep, Cwt	: 4.21	62.10	64.70	64.50	66	47	
Eggs, Doz	: .0964	1.43	1.48	1.48	2/47	2/42	2/44
Turkeys, Live, Lb	: .0576	.867	.886	.882	40	40	42

--continued

Parity Prices Based on Data for March 1999, United States 1/ (continued)

Other Nonbasic Commodities	Adj Base Prices	Parity Prices	Other Nonbasic Commodities	Adj Base Prices	Parity Prices
	Dollars			Dollars	
Field Crops and Misc Commodities			Noncitrus Fruit		
Hops, Lb	.239	3.66	Peaches, cont.		
Spearmint Oil, Lb	1.85	28.30	Processing 6/		
Tobacco, Lb			Excl Dried		
Type 61	2.78	42.60	Clingstone,		
			CA, Ton	31.60	484.00
Noncitrus Fruit			Pears, Ton		
Apples, Ton 7/			Fresh 5/	51.70	792.00
Processing	19.80	303.00	Dried, CA 7/	148.00	2270.00
Apricots, Ton			Plums, CA, Ton		
Fresh 8/	122.00	1870.00	Fresh, Equiv		
Dried, CA	293.00	4490.00	on-Tree	53.70	822.00
Avocados, Ton 8/	192.00	2940.00	Prunes, Dried,		
Cherries			CA, Ton 7/	135.00	2070.00
Sweet, Ton	157.00	2400.00	Prunes and Plums,		
Tart, Lb	.0265	.406	Excl CA, Ton		
Cranberry, Bbl 6/	7.55	116.00	Fresh 10/	55.30	847.00
Dates, CA, Ton 8/	139.00	2130.00	Processing 7/		
Grapes, Ton			Excl Dried	22.40	343.00
Raisin Variety	142.00	2170.00	Tree Nuts 11/		
Other Dried	58.40	894.00	Almonds, Lb	.227	3.48
Kiwifruit, Ton	72.60	1110.00	Hazelnuts, Ton	117.00	1790.00
Nectarines			Pistachio, Lb	.164	2.51
Fresh, Calif,			Walnuts, Ton	179.00	2740.00
Ton 8/	63.00	965.00			
Olives, CA			Vegetables, Cwt 12/		
Canning, Ton 6/	93.20	1430.00	Fresh		
Papayas (HA) Lb	.0479	.733	Carrots 9/	1.78	27.30
Peaches			Cauliflower 9/	4.31	66.00
Fresh, Lb 5/	.0384	.588	Celery 9/	1.85	28.30
Dried, CA,			Honeydew Melons	2.52	38.60
Ton	119.00	1820.00	Lettuce	2.15	32.90
			Onions 9/	1.70	26.00
			Tomatoes	4.47	68.40

- 1/ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956. See January "Agricultural Prices" for details on adjusted base price and parity price computations.
- 2/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price.
- 3/ Wholesale extracted. Adjusted base price derived from state annual averages prices weighted by production. For 1982 through 1985 the national averages are the support prices.
- 4/ Average local market price, excluding incentive payments.
- 5/ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only), OR (except peaches), and WA. Price at point of first sale for other states.
- 6/ Equivalent returns for bulk fruit at first delivery point.
- 7/ Equivalent returns at processing plant door.
- 8/ Equivalent returns at packinghouse door.
- 9/ Includes some processing.
- 10/ Based on "as sold" prices for fresh fruit in all states.
- 11/ Prices in-shell basis except almonds which are shelled basis.
- 12/ F.O.B. shipping point prices.

Wool and Mohair: Prices Received, Marketing Year Average,
by States, 1997-98 1/

State	Wool		Mohair	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	Dollars per Pound			
AL	.48	.38		
AK	1.00	.90		
AZ	.58	.47	1.70	1.25
CA	.79	.61		
CO	.89	.53		
CT	.55	.55		
ID	.74	.66		
IL	.43	.25		
IN	.34	.26		
IA	.42	.26		
KS	.58	.42		
KY	.41	.32		
LA	.58	.33		
ME	.50	.55		
MD	.68	.50		
MA	.60	.40		
MI	.44	.31		
MN	.43	.34		
MO	.45	.33		
MT	1.01	.78		
NE	.52	.41		
NV	.90	.58		
NH	.65	.70		
NJ	.55	.50		
NM	1.07	.89	1.90	1.30
NY	.54	.45		
NC	.59	.49		
ND	.76	.55		
OH	.43	.32		
OK	.58	.39	2.00	1.75
OR	.61	.48		
PA	.53	.47		
SD	.90	.59		
TN	.50	.45		
TX	1.06	.63	2.28	2.59
UT	.75	.62		
VT	.65	.50		
VA	.58	.44		
WA	.65	.55		
WV	.61	.51		
WI	.53	.39		
WY	.98	.77		
Oth 2/	.55	.45		
US	.84	.60	2.25	2.48

1/ Average local market for wool and mohair sold.

2/ Includes AR, DE, FL, GA, MS, RI and SC.

Reliability of Prices Received Estimates

Definition: Prices received represent sales from producers to first buyers. They include all grades and qualities. The average commodity price from the survey multiplied by the total quantity marketed theoretically should give the total cash receipts for the commodity.

Survey Procedures: Primary sales data used to determine grain prices were obtained from probability samples of 2600 mills and elevators. These procedures ensure that virtually all grain moving into commercial channels has a chance of being included in the survey. Generally, States surveyed account for 90 percent or more of total U.S. production. Livestock prices are obtained from packers, stockyards, auctions, dealers, and market check data from AMS-USDA, private marketing organizations, and state commodity groups and agencies. Inter-farm sales of grain and livestock are not included since they represent very small percentages of the total marketings. Grain marketed for seed is also excluded. Fruit and vegetable prices are obtained from sample surveys and market check data from AMS-USDA, private marketing organizations, state agencies, and universities.

Summary and Estimation Procedures: Survey quantities sold are expanded by strata to state levels and used to weight average strata prices to a state average. State prices are then weighted to a U.S. price based on expanded marketings. Recommendations are prepared by the State Statistical Offices and reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board in Washington, D.C. State recommendations are reviewed for reasonableness with survey data, other States, and recent historic estimates.

Revisions: For most items, the current month's price represents a 3-5 day period around the mid-month. Previous month's prices represent actual dollars received for quantities sold during the entire month. Revisions are published in monthly issues of "**Agricultural Prices**".

Reliability: U.S. price estimates based on probability surveys generally have a sampling error of less than one percent for the major commodities such as corn, wheat, soybeans, cotton, and rice. Current methods of summarization for non-probability commodities are not designed directly to calculate sampling errors. However, analytical measures approximate the U.S. relative sampling errors at around five percent. Any nonsampling errors are attributed to such things as the inability to obtain correct information, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, mistakes in coding or processing the data, etc. Efforts are made at each step in the survey process to minimize these nonsampling errors.

Prices Paid by Farmers

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 115 (1990-92=100), the same as February 1999 but 0.9 percent below March 1998.

Production Index: The farm production, goods, and services index for March at 111 was unchanged from last month but 2.6 percent below last year. Since February, lower prices for feeder cattle, complete feeds, feed concentrates, herbicides, and feed supplements offset higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, feeder pigs, insecticides, and potash and phosphate fertilizers.

Feed: At 94, the feed index was 2.1 percent less than February and 16 percent less than last March. Since February, prices were lower for all feed components.

Livestock and Poultry: The index for livestock and poultry purchases at 92, was 2.1 percent lower than than last month but 1.1 percent above last year. Since February, lower prices for feeder cattle more than offset higher prices for feeder pigs.

Fertilizer: The fertilizer index, at 108, was up 0.9 percent from February but 5.3 percent less than March a year ago. Since February, prices were higher for nitrogen and potash and phosphate fertilizers.

Agricultural Chemicals: At 118, the chemical index was unchanged from last month but 3.3 percent less than last March. Lower prices in March for herbicides offset higher prices for insecticides.

Fuels: The fuels index, at 76, was up 7.0 percent from a month earlier but 15 percent below March 1998. Compared to last month, prices were higher for diesel fuel and gasoline but lower for LP gas.

Farm Machinery: The March farm machinery index was 133, unchanged from February but 1.5 percent above last March. Since February, prices were slightly higher for other machinery.

Consumer Price Index: The February 1999 Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent before seasonal adjustment to a level of 164.5 (1982-84=100). This compares to the January index of 164.3. For the 12-month period ending in February, the overall index has increased 1.6 percent.

Index Numbers of Prices Paid by Farmers and Related Parity Ratios
United States, March 1999 With Comparisons

Indexes and Ratios	: 1910-14 = 100			: 1990-92 = 100			
	: 1998			: 1999			
	: Mar	: Feb	: Mar	: Mar	: Feb	: Mar	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Prices Paid by Farmers for	:						
Commodities & Services,	:						
Interest, Taxes, & Wage	:						
Rates (PPITW)	:	1546	*1534	1531	116	115	115
Production	:	1105	*1079	1076	114	*111	111
Feed	:	546	*467	457	112	*96	94
Livestock and Poultry	:	1167	*1197	1174	91	*94	92
Seeds	:	1186	1216	1216	120	123	123
Fertilizer	:	416	*393	394	114	107	108
Agricultural Chemicals	:	753	*729	727	122	*118	118
Fuels	:	690	*547	588	89	*71	76
Supplies & Repairs	:	838	*852	852	118	120	120
Autos & Trucks	:	3170	*3177	3171	119	*119	119
Farm Machinery	:	3290	*3346	3349	131	133	133
Building Material	:	1602	*1609	1613	118	118	119
Farm Services & Rent	:	1420	1446	1446			
Farm Services	:				116	116	116
Rent	:				124	130	130
Interest 1/	:	2702	2783	2783	108	111	111
Taxes 2/	:	3185	3276	3276	119	122	122
Wage Rates	:	4917	5105	5105	131	136	136
Production, Interest, Taxes,	:						
& Wage Rates (PITW)	:	1548	*1528	1525	115	114	114
Family Living-CPI 3/	:	1541	*1562	1562	120	122	122
Ratio (Received\Paid)	:				88	83	84
Parity Ratio 4/	:	42	40	40			
Parity Ratio Adjusted 5/	:	45	42	42			
PPITW Adjusted for	:						
Productivity 6/	:	1047	1057	1056			
Crop Sector (PPITW)	:				119	119	120
Livestock Sector (PPITW)	:				114	*111	110
Farm Sector (Production)	:				106	*99	97
Non-Farm Sector (Production)	:				118	117	118

* Revised.

- 1/ Interest per acre on farm real estate debt and interest rate on farm non-real estate debt.
- 2/ Farm real estate taxes payable per acre.
- 3/ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), for the previous month converted by the USDA.
- 4/ Ratio of index of prices received to PPITW (1910-14=100).
- 5/ Based on estimated cash receipts, from marketings and government payments, the preliminary adjustment factor is 1.057 for 1999 and the revised factor is 1.065 for 1998.
- 6/ PPITW is adjusted based on productivity trend for the prior 15 years.

Prices Paid Indexes and Annual Weights for Input Components and
Sub-Components United States, March 1999 With Comparisons

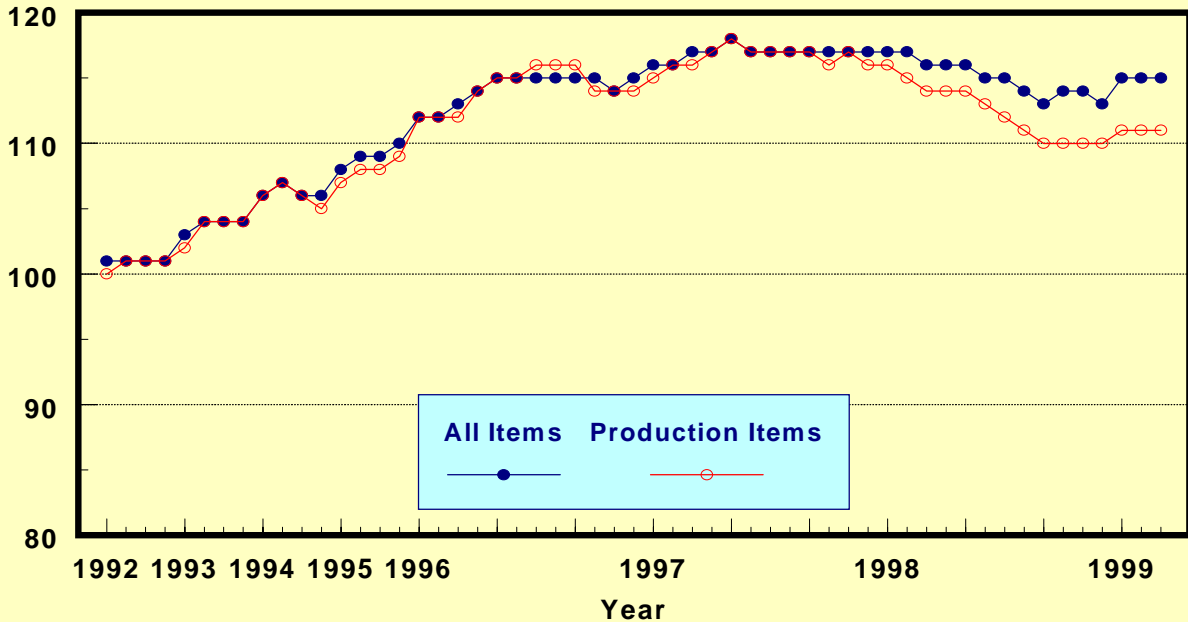
Index	Relative Weights		Input Indexes		
	5-Year Moving Average 1/		1998	1999	
	1998	1999	Mar	Feb	Mar
	----	Percent	----	(1990-92=100)	---
Production Items	67.0	67.4	114	*111	111
Feed	11.6	11.6	112	*96	94
Feed Grains	2.1	2.1	108	*87	86
Complete Feeds	5.1	5.1	114	*103	101
Hay/Forages	1.3	1.3	125	104	103
Concentrates	1.9	1.9	108	*95	90
Supplements	1.3	1.3	101	*75	73
Livestock & Poultry	7.5	7.2	91	*94	92
Feeder Cattle	5.9	5.6	92	91	88
Feeder Pigs	0.6	0.6	68	*96	102
Milk Cow Replacements	0.6	0.6	95	111	111
Poultry	0.5	0.4	106	106	106
Seeds	2.8	2.8	120	123	123
Field Crops	2.5	2.6	119	123	123
Grasses/Legumes	0.3	0.3	130	123	123
Fertilizer	4.8	4.9	114	107	108
Mixed Fertilizer	2.1	2.1	117	*115	115
Nitrogen	2.0	2.0	110	*96	96
Potash & Phosphate	0.7	0.7	113	*117	119
Agricultural Chemicals	3.7	3.8	122	*118	118
Herbicides	2.4	2.4	117	*110	108
Insecticides	0.9	0.9	136	*141	146
Fungicides/Other	0.5	0.5	118	*114	114
Fuels	2.7	2.7	89	*71	76
Diesel	1.4	1.4	83	*63	69
Gasoline	1.0	1.0	98	*83	89
LP Gas	0.3	0.3	92	*73	72
Farm Supplies & Repairs	5.4	5.6	118	120	120
Supplies	1.8	1.9	115	*116	116
Repairs	3.6	3.7	120	122	122
Autos & Trucks	1.4	1.4	119	*119	119
Autos	0.2	0.2	113	113	112
Trucks	1.2	1.3	120	*120	120
Farm Machinery	4.1	4.0	131	133	133
Tractors	0.9	0.9	130	131	131
Self-Propelled	1.7	1.6	130	*133	133
Other Machinery	1.6	1.5	133	*135	135
Building Materials	2.7	2.8	118	118	119
Farm Services	12.2	12.4	116	116	116
Custom Rates	1.3	1.3	115	117	117
Other Services	10.9	11.1	116	116	116
Rent	8.1	8.2	124	130	130
Cash	3.7	3.7	140	141	141
Share	4.5	4.5	111	121	121
Interest	5.0	4.5	108	111	111
Taxes	3.2	3.1	119	122	122
Wage Rates	6.9	6.9	131	136	136
Family Living-CPI	18.0	17.7	120	122	122

1/ Weights may not add due to rounding.

* Revised.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Major Indexes US, by Quarter and Month 1/

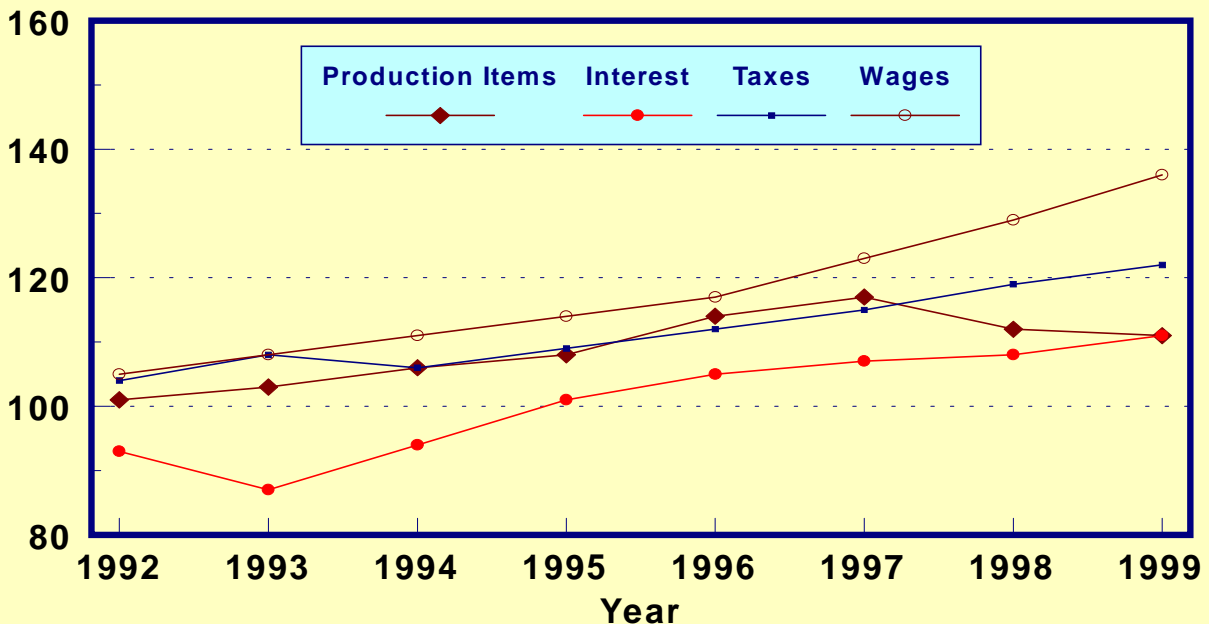
Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values are monthly beginning in 1996.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Major Indexes US, Annual Averages 1/

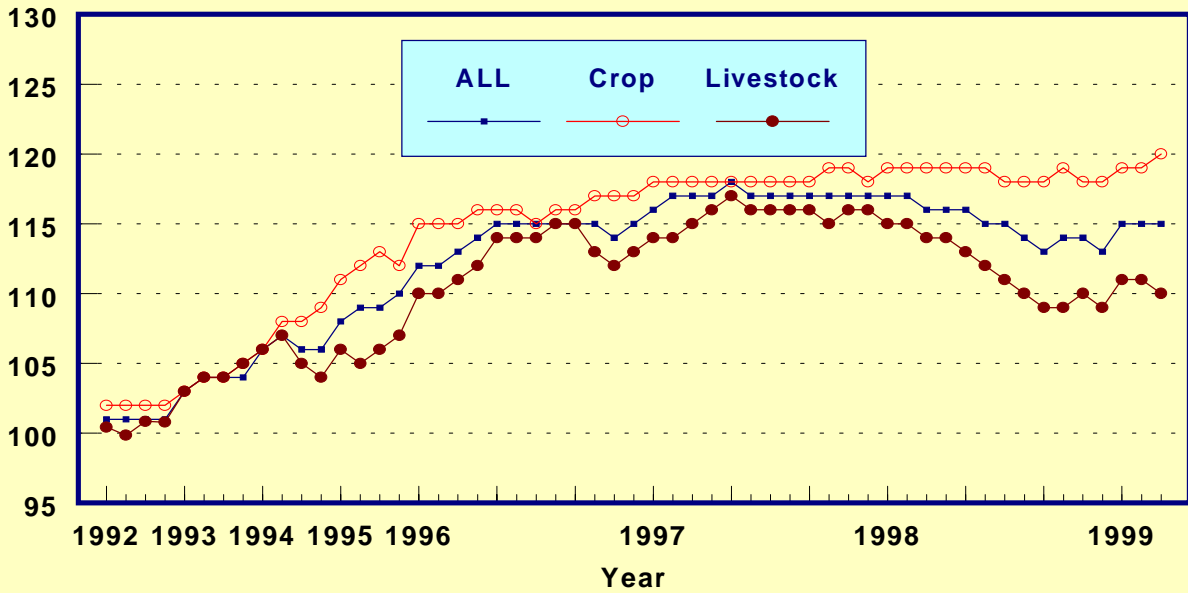
Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values for 1999 are year-to-date averages.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Indexes, All Items US, By Farm Type 1/

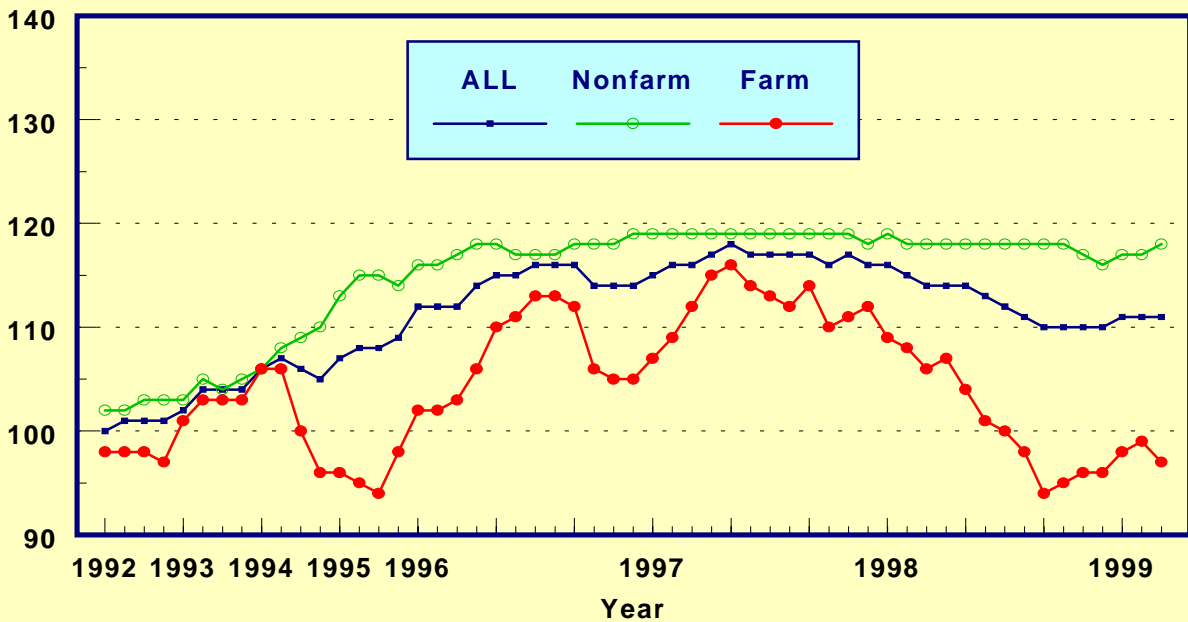
Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values are monthly beginning in 1996.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Indexes, All Production Items US, By Sector Origin 1/

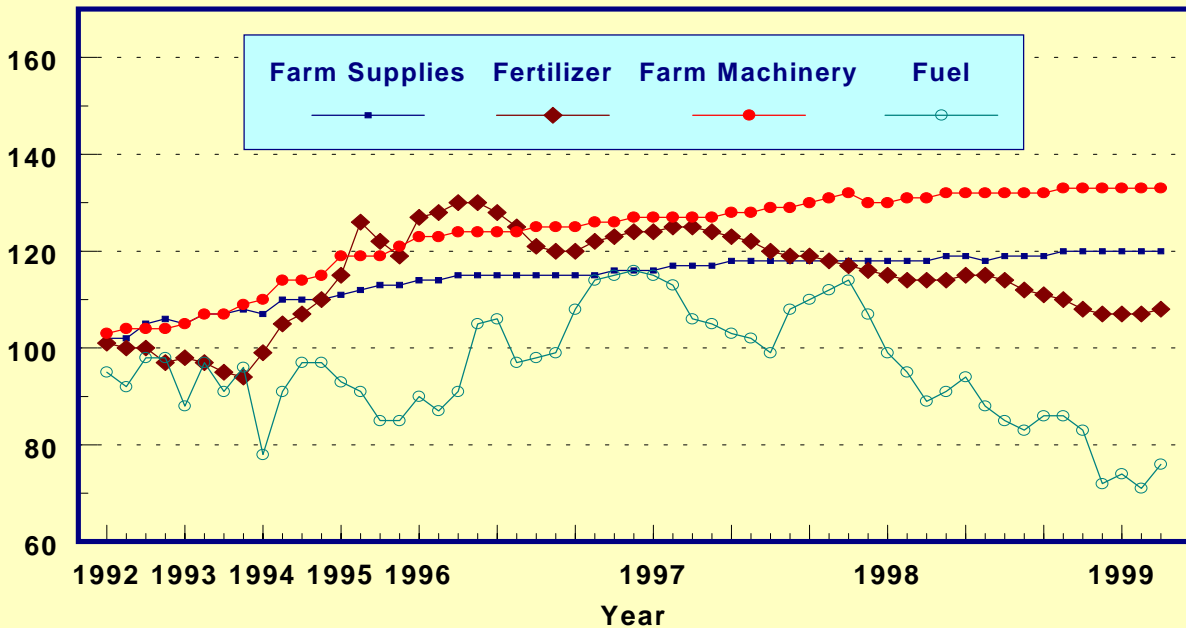
Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values are monthly beginning in 1996.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Selected Production Indexes US, By Non-Farm Sector 1/

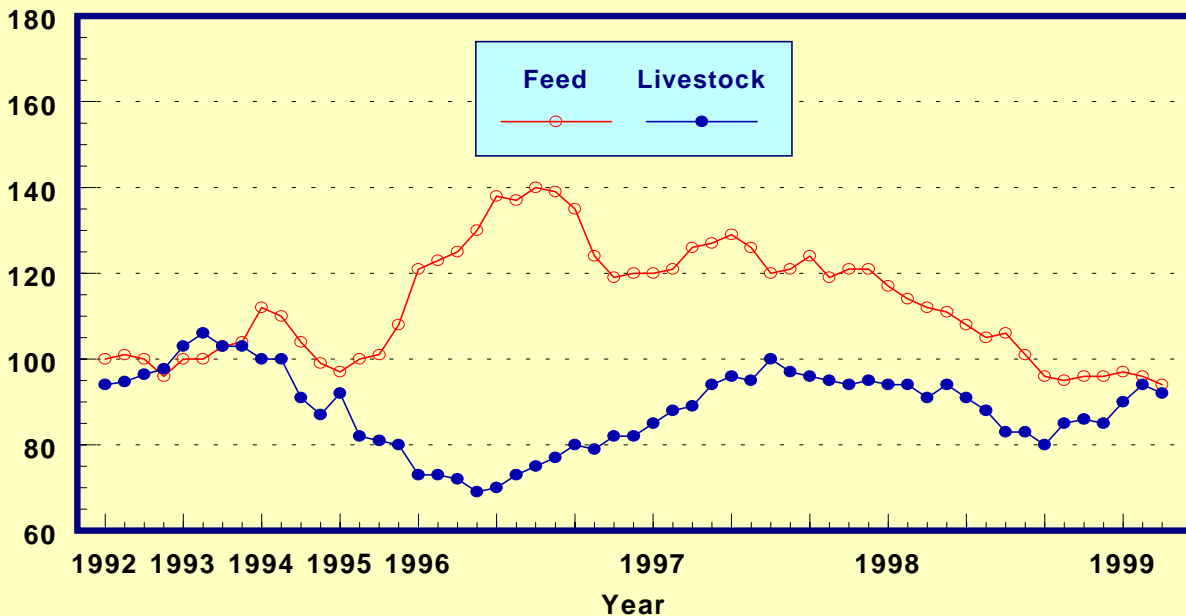
Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values are monthly beginning in 1996.

Prices Paid by Farmers, Selected Production Indexes US, By Farm Sector 1/

Percent (1990-92=100)



1/ Index values are monthly beginning in 1996.

Feed Price Ratios: United States, March 1999 With Comparisons

Feed Price Ratio 1/	1998		1999	
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar
Broiler-Feed: Pounds of Broiler Grower feed equal in value to 1 pound of broiler, live weight	*4.9	6.7	6.8	
Market Egg Feed: Pounds of Laying Feed equal in value to 1 dozen Eggs	9.4	10.6	11.5	
Hog-Corn: Bushels of Corn equal in value to 100 pounds of Hog, live weight	13.7	*13.5	13.0	
Milk-Feed: Pounds of 16% Mixed Dairy Feed equal in value to 1 pound of Whole Milk	*2.73	*3.70	3.61	
Steer & Heifer-Corn: Bushels of Corn equal in value to 100 pounds of Steer & Heifers, live weight	*25.2	*31.0	32.1	
Turkey-Feed: Pounds of Turkey Grower equal in value to 1 pound of Turkey, live weight	*5.3	*7.0	7.5	

1/ Effective January 1995, prices of commercial prepared feeds are based on current U.S. prices received for corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, and all wheat.
 * Revised.

Prices Used to Calculate Feed Price Ratios
 United States, March 1999 With Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	1998		1999	
		Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar
Dollars					
Broilers, Live	Lb	.352	.366	.358	
Eggs, Market	Doz	.571	.501	.531	
Hogs, All	Cwt	*34.90	*27.60	26.50	
Milk	Cwt	14.40	*15.50	15.00	
Steers and Heifers	Cwt	64.30	*63.60	65.50	
Turkeys, Live	Lb	.346	.357	.370	
Corn	Bu	2.55	*2.05	2.04	
Hay, Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	102.00	82.00	82.40	
Soybeans	Bu	6.40	*4.80	4.55	
Wheat, All	Bu	3.33	*2.74	2.74	

* Revised.

Feeder Livestock and Poultry: Prices Paid, United States,
 March 1999 With Comparisons

Item	Unit	1998		1999	
		Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar
Dollars					
Feeders and Stockers Cattle and Calves	Cwt	78.00	76.80	74.30	

Prices Paid by Farmers

Definition: Prices paid by farmers represent the average costs of inputs purchased by farmers and ranchers to produce agricultural commodities. Conceptually, the average price when multiplied by quantity purchased should equal total producer expenditures for the item.

Survey Procedures: The prices paid data are obtained from establishments that sell goods and services to farmers and ranchers. Annually, about 8,500 firms are randomly selected from lists by type of item sold with an average response rate in the range of 75-80 percent. Firms are asked to report the price for the specified item "most commonly bought by farmers" or that was the "volume seller". Approximately 135 items are surveyed each April to represent all production input items purchased. The survey reference period for most items is the 5 business days centered around the 15th of the month. Separate prices paid surveys are conducted for, agricultural chemicals, fuels, feed, fertilizer, machinery, and seed.

Summary and Estimation Procedures: The annual April Paid Survey is summarized as a nonprobability survey. Average prices reported are aggregated to the region and U.S. level using weights available from expenditure data and other administrative sources. Price recommendations are prepared by the State Statistical Offices and Headquarters for review by the Agricultural Statistics Board in Washington, D.C. Also, the change in price level for individual items surveyed are combined to the regional and U.S. levels, and are published as prices paid indexes referenced to a specific base period. Prices paid indexes for new autos and trucks, building materials, farm supplies, motor supplies, and marketing containers are updated based on price changes measured in selected Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indexes.

Revisions: Any revisions are published in the monthly and in annual issues of "Agricultural Prices". The basis for revision must be supported by additional data that directly affect the level of the estimate. More revisions are likely in April when separate prices paid surveys are conducted, in lieu of BLS indexes, by the USDA to measure price change.

Reliability: Current methods of summarization in April are not designed directly to calculate sampling errors. However, analytical measures approximate the U.S. relative sampling errors for major items around 10 percent. Any nonsampling errors are attributed to such things as the inability to obtain correct information, differences in interpreting questions or definitions, mistakes in coding or processing the data, etc. Efforts are made at each step in the survey process to minimize these nonsampling errors.

Program Change: Effective January 1, 1995, the National Agricultural Statistics Service updated the weights and changed the construction of its prices paid and received by farmers indexes. A Federal Register Notice dated October 28, 1994 discussed these program modifications.

A 1990-92 reference and base period replaced the 1977 reference and 1971-73 base weight period. Five-year moving average weights replaced the current fixed 1971-73 base period weights. The 1910-14=100 price indexes, required by statute for computing parity prices, were linked forward based on the changes in the new 1990-92=100 indexes. The new indexes were constructed by multiplying the ratios of the current prices to the base period prices by the moving average weights (adjusted for seasonal marketing patterns for the prices received indexes).

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Report Features

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The next "Agricultural Prices" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on April 30, 1999.

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