



## Hired Workers Up 17 Percent in Cornbelt II Region; Wage Up 86 Cents from One Year Ago

**Cornbelt II Region:** There were 28,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the week of April 7-13, 2013, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.07 per hour during the April 2013 survey week, up 86 cents from April 2012. The number of hours worked averaged 28.9 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 32.6 hours in April 2012.

**United States:** Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 732,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2013, down 2 percent from the April 2012 reference week. There were 596,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2013, up 4 percent from the January 2012 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.91 per hour during the April 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.92 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.46, up 51 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.10 per hour, was up 48 cents from a year earlier. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2013 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.02 per hour during the January 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.86 per hour, up 5 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.39 per hour compared with \$10.96 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.07 per hour, was up 49 cents from January 2012. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.7 hours during the January 2013 reference week, compared with 39.6 hours a year earlier.

### Farm Labor: Employment, Wage Rates, and Hired Workers

Year and Month	Hired Workers 1,000	Hours Worked Hours per Week	Hired Workers <sup>1</sup> Wage Rates for Type of Worker			
			Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock	All Hired Workers
----- Dollars per Hour -----						
<b>CORN BELT II REGION<sup>2</sup></b>						
<b>2009</b>						
January	20	34.0	11.06	11.27	11.20	11.40
April	22	31.8	10.35	12.45	11.15	11.80
July	28	33.6	10.88	10.05	10.55	11.01
October	30	31.1	10.46	11.23	10.75	10.85
<b>2010</b>						
January	23	33.5	11.40	10.77	11.00	10.98
April	27	39.0	10.47	11.23	10.75	10.87
July	33	31.9	10.51	11.45	10.95	11.20
October	29	37.8	11.62	11.02	11.40	11.60
<b>2011</b>						
January	17	36.3	11.29	10.86	11.00	11.40
April	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
July	33	37.1	12.25	11.43	12.00	12.15
October	33	38.3	12.07	10.60	11.50	11.66
<b>2012</b>						
January	17	36.5	11.90	10.93	11.30	11.50
April	24	32.6	11.94	11.60	11.80	12.21
July	30	37.6	11.58	10.41	11.10	11.57
October	29	36.2	11.87	10.84	11.50	12.09
<b>2013</b>						
January	28	30.8	12.27	12.40	12.35	13.15
April	28	28.9	12.09	12.27	12.20	13.07

<sup>1</sup> Includes all workers and methods of pay except those workers paid by piece rate. <sup>2</sup> Corn Belt II Region: Iowa, Missouri

The complete report can be found under **Publications** on the USDA NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

# MONTHLY PRICES

## Prices Received by Farmers

<u>IOWA</u>	May 2012	April 2013	May <sup>1</sup> 2013
-----Dollars-----			
Corn .....	6.31	7.10	6.90
Soybeans .....	13.80	14.40	14.90
Oats .....	4.04	4.85	4.60
All Hay, baled .....	128.00	233.00	252.00
Alfalfa Hay, baled .....	142.00	251.00	275.00
Other Hay, baled .....	92.00	165.00	174.00
Milk Cows <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Milk (whls) .....	16.80	20.10	20.50

  

<u>UNITED STATES</u>	May 2012	April 2013	May <sup>1</sup> 2013
-----Dollars-----			
Corn .....	6.34	6.97	6.88
Soybeans .....	14.00	14.40	14.80
Oats .....	4.12	4.42	4.10
All Hay, baled .....	201.00	200.00	203.00
Alfalfa Hay, baled .....	217.00	215.00	221.00
Other hay, baled .....	148.00	162.00	154.00
Hogs, all .....	62.80	61.80	67.00
Brw & Gilts .....	63.20	61.90	67.80
Sows .....	52.10	57.90	52.00
Beef Cattle .....	122.00	124.00	125.00
Cows .....	87.70	80.90	80.10
Strs & Hfrs .....	125.00	128.00	129.00
Calves .....	176.00	155.00	151.00
Milk Cows <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Milk (whls) .....	16.20	19.50	19.80
Eggs (mkt) <sup>3</sup> .....	0.828	0.882	1.170

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary

<sup>2</sup> Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices estimated in January, April, July, and October.

<sup>3</sup> Eggs are mid-month prices.

## Prices Index Summary, United States

<u>PRICES RECEIVED INDEX</u>	May 2012	April 2013	May 2013	May 2012	April 2013	May 2013
		1910-14=100		1990-92=100		
All Products .....	1144	1217	1232	180	192	194
Crops .....	1059	1102	1096	214	222	221
Food grains .....	694	783	774	219	247	244
Feed grains & hay .....	977	1068	1053	274	300	295
Oilseeds .....	1371	1370	1396	250	250	255
Lvstk .....	1155	1254	1303	151	164	170
Meat Animals .....	1624	1626	1662	159	160	163
Dairy Prod. ....	997	1200	1218	124	149	152
Poultry & eggs .....	451	526	565	161	187	201

  

<u>PRICES PAID INDEX</u>	May 2012	April 2013	May 2013	May 2012	April 2013	May 2013
		1910-14=100		1990-92=100		
Prices Paid .....	2857	2920	2912	215	219	219
Production .....	2217	2261	2254	228	233	232
Feed .....	1227	1295	1276	251	265	261
Livestock & pltry .....	2208	2023	1981	173	158	155
Seeds .....	3606	3776	3776	364	381	381
Fertilizer .....	1257	1224	1251	343	334	341
Chemicals .....	938	957	940	152	155	152
Fuels .....	2786	2744	2719	361	356	352
Ratio .....	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	84	88	89
Parity Ratio <sup>1</sup> .....	40	42	42	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Ratio of index of prices received to index of prices paid for commodities and services, interest, taxes, and farm wage rates.

## WHAT DOES LATE PLANTING MEAN FOR IOWA'S CROP ACREAGE?

With the 2013 planting season progressing at the slowest pace since 1993, everyone involved with agriculture is wondering how many acres of corn and soybeans farmers will ultimately get in the ground this year. To help answer that question, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will spend the first two weeks of June surveying over 5,000 farmers across Iowa to get a clear indication of the production and supply of major commodities for the year.

"In March, Iowa farmers reported that they intended to plant 14.2 million acres of corn, the same amount as in 2012, and 9.4 million acres of soybeans, slightly more than last year. To determine if these intentions have changed, we are reaching out to producers to find out what they actually planted as well as update the amount of grain in storage and livestock inventories. Together, this information will provide a comprehensive picture of how things are shaping up in 2013 for the U.S. agriculture industry following last year's drought." said Greg Thessen, director of the NASS Iowa Field Office.

Between May 29 and June 15, NASS representatives will visit selected areas of land in Iowa and conduct personal interviews with the operators of land inside those areas. Other producers will also be contacted by mail or telephone to report on crop acreage, grain stocks and livestock inventories.

According to Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, "Farmer participation in NASS surveys is critical because farmers as well as the entire agricultural community need accurate and reliable information to make sound production and marketing decisions. Due to the late start to planting this year, the NASS reports will not only eliminate speculation about potential acreage but also help producers make critical decisions about marketing their crops this year. The information is also used extensively by state, local, and national leaders to address agricultural related issues that may impact producers."

By taking a few minutes to participate, the 5,000 selected operators can help ensure the results are as accurate as possible. The information provided by respondents is protected by law and NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

Upcoming NASS reports, based on data from these surveys, and their release dates are: *Acreage, Grain Stocks, and Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This survey data also contribute to NASS's monthly Crop Production reports and the USDA's *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*. All reports are available on the NASS web site at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Iowa Field Office at 800-772-0825.