### **Farm Market Report**

Hay Market Reports
Compiled by USDA Market News Service • St. Joseph, Mo.-Portland

Hay prices are dollars per ton or dollars per bale when sold to retail outlets. Basis is current delivery FOB barn or stack, or delivered

Grade guidelines used in this report have the following relationship to Relative Feed Value (RFV), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients), or Crude Protein (CP) test num-

| ,                     | 3       | / /   |           |       |  |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|--|
| bers:                 |         |       |           |       |  |
| Grade                 | RFV     | ADF   | TDN       | CP    |  |
| Supreme               | 185+    | <27   | 55.9+     | 22+   |  |
| Premium               | 170-185 | 27-29 | 54.5-55.9 | 20-22 |  |
| Good                  | 150-170 | 29-32 | 52.5-54.5 | 18-20 |  |
| Fair                  | 130-150 | 32-35 | 50.5-52.5 | 16-18 |  |
| Utility               | <130    | 36+   | <50.5     | <16   |  |
| WASHINGTON-OREGON HAY |         |       |           |       |  |
| (Columbia Basin)      |         |       |           |       |  |

(USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash. March 27

Last year 1,320 2,425 6,370 Compared to March 20: Supreme and Premium Export Alfalfa not tested this week. Fair/Good dry cow and feeder hay \$10 lower in a light test. Trade very slow for domestic and export markets Most interests are waiting for new crop. Demand remains good for higher testing supplies of Alfalfa and wheat straw, light demand for dry cow and feeder supplies. Retail/Feedstore hav steady. Demand remains good.

Last week

This week FOB

This week FOB

2,873

|                            |           | Ions | Price     |  |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|--|
| Alfalfa Large Square       | Fair/Good | 500  | \$155-160 |  |
| Alfalfa Small Square       | Premium   | 155  | \$250-260 |  |
| Timothy Grass Large Square | Fair/Good | 575  | \$120-130 |  |
| Timothy Grass Small Square | Good      | 90   | \$200     |  |
| OREGON                     | AREA HAY  |      |           |  |
| (USDA Market News)         |           |      |           |  |
| Portland, Ore.             |           |      |           |  |
| Mare                       | ch 27     |      |           |  |

Last week

2,128

Last year

Compared to March 20: Prices trended generally steady compared to the same quality last week. Trade activity and demand increased this week. The continued good weather in several areas of Oregon has slowed down demand, as pasture grasses are growing causing end users to be able to turn animals out on pasture rather than purchase and feed additional hay. Few containers available at the shipping ports has slowed down the ability to export hay overseas. Several producers have sold all that they plan to sell for this season. \\

|                        |         | Tons | Price |
|------------------------|---------|------|-------|
| EASTERN OREGON         |         |      |       |
| Alfalfa Large Square   | Good    | 1000 | \$150 |
| Triticale Large Square | Good    | 56   | \$125 |
| KLAMATH BASIN          |         |      |       |
| Alfalfa Large Square   | Premium | 180  | \$200 |
|                        |         |      |       |

|   | Good       | 25  | \$180     |  |  |
|---|------------|-----|-----------|--|--|
| Small Square  | Good       | 26  | \$210     |  |  |
| Alfalfa/Orchard Mix                                       |            |     |           |  |  |
| Small Square  | Good/Prem. | 45  | \$230     |  |  |
| LAKE COUNTY   |            |     |           |  |  |
| Alfalfa Large Square                                      | Supreme    | 472 | \$250-270 |  |  |
|   | Premium    | 635 | \$235     |  |  |
|   | Good       | 74  | \$170-175 |  |  |
| Small Square  | Supreme    | 54  | \$250     |  |  |
|   | Premium    | 65  | \$200-220 |  |  |
|   |            | 30  | \$220     |  |  |
|   | Fair/Good  | 30  | \$150     |  |  |
| Alfalfa/Oat Mix Large Square                              | Premium    | 30  | \$150     |  |  |
| Triticale Large Square                                    | Premium    | 121 | \$140-150 |  |  |
| Forage Mix-Three Way                                      |            |     |           |  |  |
| Large Square  | Premium    | 30  | \$165     |  |  |
| Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Wasco Counties: No new sales |            |     |           |  |  |

HARNEY COUNTY: No sales confirmed

**IDAHO HAY** (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash March 27

| 10,250               | 3,900                     | 6,000                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Compared to Ma       | rch 20: Premium/Supren    | ne Alfalfa sharply higher |
| this week on impre   | oved demand. Fair/Good    | d Feeder quality Alfalfa  |
| steady. Trade mod    | erate to active this weel | k. Demand turned good     |
| for higher testing s | supplies. Due to drough   | t conditions in Nevada,   |
| more Idaho hay is b  | peing shipped there. Exp  | orters reporting they are |
| being able to ship   | more hay oversees now.    | Retail/feed store/horse   |
| not tested this wee  | k.                        |                           |

|                                    | Tons  | Price   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Prem./Sup.<br>Fair/Good<br>Utility | 8300<br>500<br>1200   | \$195-200<br>\$120<br>\$80  |
| Fair/Good                          | 250   | \$85  |
| CALIFORNIA HAY                     |   |   |
| (USDA Market News)                 |   |   |
| Moses Lake, Wash.                  |   |   |
| March 20                           |   |   |
| Last week                          | La  | st year   |
| 5,943                              | 1   | 1,925   |
|                                    | Fair/Good<br>Utility<br>Fair/Good<br>CALIFORNIA HAY<br>(USDA Market News)<br>Moses Lake, Wash.<br>March 20<br>Last week | Prem./Sup. 8300 Fair/Good 500 Utility 1200 Fair/Good 250  CALIFORNIA HAY (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash. March 20 Last week La |

Compared to March 20: All classes traded weak on light demand and on light tests. Milk prices remained in the mid-teens, which affected the demand from dairies for test hay. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the overall trend toward drought persistence or intensification prevailed, with relief confined to a few scattered locales in the Four Corners Region and southeastern California. The West continues to cope with much-above-normal temperatures, further depleting already-dire snowpacks and reducing spring runoff prospects over much of the region

| REGION 1: North Inter-Number Includes the counties Plumas. |         | Shasta,         | Lassen             | and |
|--|---------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| Alfalfa  | Premium | <b>Tons</b> 100 | <b>Price</b> \$220 |     |

|                              |                | 10115      | riice      |    |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----|
| falfa                        | Premium        | 100        | \$220      |    |
|                              | Good           | 75         | \$305      |    |
|                              |                | 100        | \$185      |    |
| rairie Grass                 | Premium        | 60         | \$300      |    |
| orage Mix-Three Way          | Premium        | 125        | \$240      |    |
| EGION 2: Sacramento Valley   |                |            |            |    |
| Includes the counties of Tel | nama, Glenn, E | Butte, Col | lusa, Sutt | le |
| de Cierre Marrede Dieser V   | ala El Darada  | Colona     | `~~r~m~n   | 4. |

Tons Price Alfalfa Cubes Good 50 \$280 REGION 3: Northern San Joaquin Valley Includes the counties of San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced and Mariposa.

Alfalfa Supreme 50 \$290 REGION 4: Central San Joaquin Valley Alfalfa Premium 100 \$275 Del \$250 Grass Premium 100 REGION 5: Southern California

| Includes the counties of Kern, Northeast Los Angeles, and West-<br>ern San Bernardino. |              |      |           |  |  |
|--|--------------|------|-----------|--|--|
| om our bornarano.  |              | Tons | Price     |  |  |
| Alfalfa  | Premium      | 1050 | \$232.50- |  |  |
| 240  |              |      |           |  |  |
| Forage Mix-Three Way   | Premium      | 75   | \$240     |  |  |
| REGION 6: Southeast California   |              |      |           |  |  |
| Alfalfa  | Supreme      | 54   | \$218     |  |  |
|  |              | 150  | \$235-240 |  |  |
|  | Prem./Sup.   | 90   | \$215     |  |  |
|  |              | 90   | \$215     |  |  |
|  | Premium      | 500  | \$210     |  |  |
|  |              | 291  | \$210-220 |  |  |
|  |              | 628  | \$205-214 |  |  |
|  |              | 400  | \$190     |  |  |
|  |              | 437  | \$210-230 |  |  |
|  | Good/Prem.   | 2100 | \$196-200 |  |  |
|  |              | 300  | \$160     |  |  |
|  |              | 50   | \$210-220 |  |  |
|  |              | 100  | \$180     |  |  |
|  | Good         | 50   | \$165     |  |  |
|  |              | 70   | \$145     |  |  |
|  | Utility      | 175  | \$110     |  |  |
|  | Utility/Fair | 1200 | \$130     |  |  |
| Bermuda Grass  | Premium      | 75   | \$200     |  |  |
|  | Good/Prem.   | 75   | \$210     |  |  |
|  | Good         | 25   | \$180     |  |  |
| Teff   | Premium      | 75   | \$220     |  |  |

Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock

NA

NA

\$9.22

\$9.81

Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties

Single Car Units via BNSF

Madera County

Kern County

Glenn County

Colusa County

Solano County

**FOB Turlock** FOB Tulare

CORN - U.S. No. 2 Yellow

### Grain Market Reports Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Portland

Grains are stated in dollars per bushel or hundredweight (cwt.) except feed grains traded in dollars per ton. National grain report bids are for rail delivery unless truck indicated

**PORTLAND GRAIN** (USDA Market News) Portland March 27

PACIFIC NORTHWEST MARKET SUMMARY

Cash wheat bids for March delivery ended the reporting week on Thursday, March 26 lower, compared to March 19 noon bids for March delivery

May wheat futures ended the reporting week on Thursday, March 26, lower follows compared to March 19 closes: Chicago May wheat futures 12.75 cents lower at \$4.9925. Kansas City 7.25 cents lower at \$5.43 and Minneapolis wheat futures trended 9.50 cents lower at \$5.6325. Chicago May corn futures trended 17.75 cents higher at \$3.9125 while May soybean futures closed 12.75 cents higher

Bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat delivered to Portland in unit trains or barges during March for ordinary protein were 10 to 12.75 cents per bushel lower from \$6.15-6.3925, mostly \$6.2725 compared to March 19 noon bids for March delivery of \$6.25-6.52, mostly \$6.3850. White club wheat premiums for ordinary protein nearby delivery were \$2.40 for this week compared to \$2.40 last week.

One year ago bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat any protein for March delivery by unit trains and barges to Portland were \$7.6175-7.85, mostly \$7.7350 and bids for White Club Wheat were \$8.1175-8.35, mostly \$8.2350.

Nearby bids for U.S. 1 Soft White wheat ordinary protein started the reporting week on March 20 at mostly \$6.4750, then moved higher to mostly \$6.4950 on March 23 before dropping lower on March 24 to mostly \$6.4425 and continuing lower to March 25 to mostly \$6.42. March 26, bids moved lower to mostly \$6.2725.

Several exporters are not issuing bids for nearby delivery. Forward month bids for soft white wheat ordinary protein were as follows: April and May \$6.15-6.3925, June not available and August New Crop \$6.0425-6.30. One year ago, forward month bids for soft white wheat for any protein were as follows: April \$7.5175-7.85, May

Bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed maximum 10.5 percent protein during March trended 12 to 22.75 cents per bushel lower from \$6.8925-7.25, mostly \$7.0625 per bushel compared to last week ranging from \$7.12-7.37, mostly \$7.2825. The white club wheat premiums for guaranteed 10.5 percent protein this week were \$2 to \$2.40, mostly \$2.24 compared to the previous week's from \$2

to \$2.40, mostly \$2.24. Nearby bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed 10.5 percent

protein began the week on March 20 at mostly \$7.40, then moved fractionally higher to mostly \$7,4050 before dropping lower to mostly \$7.2650 on March 24 and then to mostly \$7.22 on March 25. March 26 bids were lower at mostly \$7.0625. Forward month bids for soft white wheat guaranteed 10.5 percent protein were as follows: April \$6.8925-7.25, May \$6.8925-7.36, June \$6.7975-7.39 and August New Crop \$6.0425-6.48.

Bids for 11.5 percent protein U.S. 1 Hard Red Winter Wheat for March delivery were \$7.25 cents per bushel lower compared to March 19 noon bids. On March 26, bids were as follows: March \$6.43-6.63, mostly \$6.53; April \$6.43-6.68; May \$6.43-6.73; June \$6.6375-6.6875 and August New Crop \$6.40-6.55.

Bids for non-guaranteed 14.0 percent protein U.S. 1 Dark Northern Spring Wheat for Portland delivery for March delivery were 9.50 cents per bushel lower compared to March 19 noon bids in lining up with the higher Minneapolis May wheat futures. On March 26, bids for non-guaranteed 14 percent protein were as follows: March 8.2325-8.8825, mostly 8.7325; April and May 8.2325-8.8825; June \$7.94-8.99 and August New Crop \$7.0175-7.2675. COARSE FEEDING GRAINS

Bids for U.S. 2 Yellow Corn delivered full coast Pacific Northwest – BN 110 car shuttle trains for March delivery were \$4.9125-4.9725 per bushel. Forward month corn bids for April were \$4,8125-4,8525. May were \$4.8325-4.8525, June/July were \$4.9975-5.0575 and October and November were \$4.9975-5.0575. Bids for U.S. 1 Yellow Soybeans delivered full coast Pacific Northwest - BN 110 car. shuttle trains for March delivery were \$10.7450 per bushel. Forward month soybean bids for April were \$10.5450-10.6450, May were \$10.5450. September were \$10.5025-10.5225. October were \$10.5025-10.5525 and November were \$10.5125-10.5425. Bids for U.S. 2 Heavy Wheat Oats for March delivery held steady at \$3.8475 per bushel. PACIFIC NORTHWEST EXPORT NEWS

There were 11 grain vessels in Columbia River ports on Thursday, March 26, with three docked compared to 10 last Thursday with four docked. There were no new confirmed Commodity Credit Corpora-

> **CALIFORNIA GRAINS** (USDA Market News) March 26

Prices in dollars per cwt., bulk Inc.= including; Nom.= nominal Ltd.= limited; Ind.= indicated; NYE=Not fully estimated.

GRAIN DELIVERED Destination Price per cwt. BARLEY - U.S. No. 2 (46-lbs. per bushel) Rail Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock NA Petaluma-Santa Rosa

Chino Valley-Los Angeles Petaluma-Santa Rosa Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock \$9.52 Los Angeles-Chino Valley Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties SORGHUM - U.S. No. 2 Yellow Los Angeles-Chino Valley via BNSF Single \$11.27 Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock OATS - U.S. No. 1 White Los Angeles-Chino Valley \$15.60 OATS - U.S. No. 2 White Petaluma Truck WHEAT - U.S. No. 2 or better - Hard Red Winter (Domestic Values for Flour Milling) Los Angeles 12 percent Protein \$13.02 Los Angeles 13 percent Protein \$13.22 Los Angeles 14 percent Protein \$13.42 Los Angeles 11-12 percent Protein Los Angeles 12 percent Protein \$12.05 Los Angeles 13 percent Protein Los Angeles 14 percent Protein NA WHEAT - U.S. Durum Wheat Imperial County Kings-Tulare-Fresno Counties WHEAT - Any Class for Feed FOR Tulare Truck/Rail Los Angeles-Chino Valley \$12.30-13.15 Truck Petaluma-Santa Rosa Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock King-Tulare-Fresno Counties Merced County Colusa County

Prices paid to California farmers, seven-day reporting period ending March 26: No confirmed sales.

### **Livestock Auctions**

Cattle prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals per pair or head as indicated

California SHASTA

(Shasta Livestock Auction) Cottonwood, Calif. March 27

Last week 1.045

Compared to March 20: Slaughter cows and bulls \$4-5 lower. No big numbers in any category. Steers outnumber heifers 2 to 1. Market mixed compared to last week. Off lots and singles \$25-50 lower than top offerings Slaughter cows: Breakers \$101-107, \$108-

117 high dress; Boning \$95-100; Cutters \$85-96. Bulls 1 and 2: \$105-122; \$123-127 high dress Feeder steers: 300-400 lbs. \$305: 400-450 lbs. \$307.50; 450-500 lbs. \$272.50-317.50; 500-550 lbs. \$267-276; 550-600 lbs. \$246-274; 650-700 lbs. \$232-247: 700-750 lbs. \$219: 800-900 lbs. \$215

Feeder heifers: 300-400 lbs. \$292-310; 400-450 lbs. \$267-295: 500-550 lbs. \$240-250: 550-600 lbs. \$222-242.50; 600-650 lbs. \$220;

Pairs: Couple sets of full mouth pairs \$3000-

Broken mouth pairs \$1685-2200. Calvy cows: No test.

Idaho CALDWELL

(Treasure Valley Livestock) March 27

Steers: 300-400 lbs. \$302.50; 400-500 lbs. \$246.25; 500-600 lbs. \$219.75; 600-700 lbs. \$195.75: 700-800 lbs. \$190.75: 800-900 lbs. \$157.25; 900-1000 lbs. \$153.25; 1000 lbs. and up \$138.75.

Heifers: 200-300 lbs. \$300: 300-400 lbs \$273.50; 400-500 lbs. \$230; 121 lbs. \$212.25; 600-700 lbs. \$204.50; 700-800 lbs. \$161.25; 800-900 lbs \$147 25: 900-1000 lbs \$125: 1000 lbs and up \$106.25.

Cows (wt.): 700-800 lbs. \$94.75; 800-900 lbs \$94: 900-1000 lbs. \$90.75: 1000-1100 lbs. \$94: 1100-1200 lbs. \$103.50; 1200-1300 lbs. \$100.50; 1300-1400 lbs. \$99.25; 1400-1500 lbs. \$103.75; 1500-1600 lbs. \$100.75; 1600-1700 lbs. \$102.75. Bull calves (wt.): 300-400 lbs. \$131.75; 400-500 lbs. \$190.25; 500-600 lbs. \$172.75; 600-700 lbs. \$180.25: 700-800 lbs. \$192.25: 800-900 lbs. \$91; 1100-1200 lbs. \$109; 1200-1300 lbs. \$115; 1400-1500 lbs. \$119

Bulls (wt.): 1500-1600 lbs. \$113; 1600-1700

lbs. \$117; 1700-1800 lbs. \$127.75; 2000-2100 lbs \$130: 2100-2200 lbs \$128

Pairs (hd.): 1000 lbs. and up \$1825 Bred heifers (hd.): 800 lbs. and up \$1400. Stock cows (hd.): 800 lbs. and up \$1650. Bull calves (hd.): 100-200 lbs. \$630; 200-300

Heifer calves (hd.): 100-200 lbs. \$505: 200-300 lbs. \$620; 300-400 lbs. \$670.

Steer calves (hd.): 100-200 lbs. \$325; 200-300 lbs. \$415: 300-400 lbs. \$601: 400-500 lbs. \$815.

Washington **TOPPENISH** (Toppenish Livestock Auction) (USDA Market News)

Moses Lake, Wash. March 27

Last week 1.650 1.550 1.425 Compared to March 20 at the same market:

Stocker and feeder cattle steady to \$10 higher. Majority of feeder cattle offered this week were hay wintered. Trade active with very good demand and good buyer attendance. Slaughter cows \$4-8 higher. Slaughter bulls steady, due in part to improved demand for the raw product. Trade active with very good demand. Slaughter cows 53 percent, Slaughter bulls 5 percent, and

feeders 42 percent of the supply. The feede supply included 54 percent steers and 46 percent heifers. Near 52 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$302.50; 500-600 lbs. \$270-279; 500-600 lbs. \$286-288.50, Thin Fleshed; 600-700 lbs \$234-236: 600-700 lbs \$265 Thin Fleshed 700-800 lbs. \$207-211.50; 700-800 lbs. \$237 243.50, Thin Fleshed; 800-900 lbs. \$180-189. Feeder Holstein Steers: Large 2-3: 300-400 lbs \$232.50-235; 500-600 lbs. \$200.

Feeder Bulls: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$315: 500-600 lbs. \$238: 700-800 lbs. \$200 Large 2-3: 100-200 lbs. \$500, Per Head; 200-300 lbs. \$600, Per Head.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$277.50-296; 400-500 lbs. \$263-269; 500-600 lbs. \$247-255; 600-700 lbs. \$244-245.50; 600-700 lbs. \$230. Full: 700-800 lbs. \$206-207.50. Large 1-2: 1100-1200 lbs. \$146.50. Small and Medium 1-2: 400-500 lbs. \$242.50; 500-600 lbs. \$243.50. Slaughter Cows:

Boning 80-85 percent lean 1200-2000 lbs. \$98 104; Lean 85-90 percent lean 1000-1600 lbs. \$97-103: Lean 90 percent lean 900-1300 lbs. \$82-89. Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2 1200-2100 lbs.

#### Cattle Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Oklahoma City-Des Moines-St. Joseph, Mo.-Moses Lake, Wash.

Cattle prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals per pair or head as indicated.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER CATTLE (Federal-State Market News) Oklahoma City-Des Moines March 27

Compared to March 20: No direct cattle traded at time of report. Boxed beef prices March 27 noon averaged \$248.53 that is \$4.63 higher than March 20. The Choice/Select spread is \$3.81 Slaughter cattle on a national basis for negotiated cash trades through March 27 at noon totaled about 1,100 head. The previous week's total head count was 79,631 head.

Slaughter Cows and Bulls (Average Yielding Prices): Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to \$1 higher. USDA's Cutter cow carcass cut-out value March 27 at noon was \$231.81 up

NATIONAL FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE (Federal-State Market News) St. Joseph, Mo.

March 27 This week Last week Last year 323,400 Compared to March 20: Yearling feeder cattle traded firm to \$5 higher with instances \$6-8 higher. Direct sales were active this week and posted the full advance on feeder cattle. Steer and heifer calves sold mostly steady to \$5 highclasses of feeder cattle this week. The South-

ern Plains received rain and warm weather to

help improve wheat crop conditions, and boost summer grazing interest on very good buyer demand. With "grass fever" in full swing following the higher temperatures, market signals from late last week started finding confidence as most major sale barns noticed higher prices as farmer feeders and local backgrounders entered

Cattle feeding can be frustrating at times with expensive overhead, fluctuations in feed prices and volatile market prices but grazing cattle on grass can be just as satisfying and rewarding. Inexpensive growth and gains are what backgrounders receive on pasture and what moti vates cattlemen and farmer feeders to assemble their stockers each year.

At the St. Joseph Stockyards on March 25 sold a string of 105 head of fancy black steers weighing 828 lbs. settled on a bid of \$234 with a part load of lighter steer mates in thin condition weighing 710 lbs. dropping the gavel at \$266. Demand continues to remain very good for popular weight steer calves weighing 400-650 lbs., with many areas selling 500-550 lb. steer calves selling near

or above the \$3/lb. level. Cattle futures busted out of the gate on March 21 with sharp triple-digit gains after the fat cattle market closed \$2-3 higher March 20 with most live prices trading from \$163-165. Open interest for Live and Feeder cattle contracts has increased with this rally. Live and feeder cattle markets are starting to see prices that many analysts thought we might not see for a while or so soon. Cattle feeders are finding confidence with tight

supplies and seeing some bullish momentum on the board as boxed beef prices received a shot in the arm at midweek with sharp gains as Choice product closed above \$250. This week's reported auction volume included 56 percent over 600 lbs. and 41 percent heifers **AUCTIONS** 

This week Last year Last week 215 800 265.700 224.300 WASHINGTON 1,900. 57 pct over 600 lbs. 47 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 600-650 lbs. \$234.56; 750-800 lbs. \$211.07. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 550-600 lbs. \$252.75; half load 620 lbs. \$244; 650-700 lbs. \$239.96. DIRECT

This week Last week Last year 32,100 70,600 SOUTHWEST (Arizona-California-Nevada) 6,700. 9 pct over 600 lbs. No heifers. Holsteins: Large 3 275 lbs. \$295 July Del; 300 lbs. \$2650-270 July Del; 325 lbs. \$283 current Del; 325 lbs. \$282-286.50 April Del; 700 lbs. \$163 April Del. NORTHWEST (Washington-Oregon-Idaho)

4000. 98 pct over 600 lbs. 35 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 Current FOB Price 700 lbs. \$226 Idaho; 850-900 lbs. \$190-193 Washington-Oregon. Current Delivered Price 800-900 lbs. \$197-206 Idaho; 900-950 lbs. \$190 Idaho; 900 lbs. \$206 value added Idaho. Future FOB Price 600-700 lbs. \$220-240 calves for November-December Idaho. Heifers: Current FOB Price 650-700 lbs. \$210-211 Washington-Oregon; 800 lbs. \$190-191 Washington-Oregon. Current Delivered Price 800-850 lbs. \$186-196 Idaho. Future FOB Price 550-600 lbs. \$240 for November Idaho NORTHWEST DIRECT CATTLE (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash. March 27

Last year This week Last week 4,000 3,100 4,750 Compared to March 20: Feeder feeder cattle \$1-6 higher. Trade remains slow to moderate with good demand. The feeder supply included 65 percent steers and 35 percent heifers. Near 98 percent of the supply weighed over 600 lbs. Prices are FOB weighing point with a 1-4 percent shrink or equivalent and with a 5-10 cent slide on calves and a 3-8 cent slide on yearlings. Delivered prices include freight, commissions and other expenses Current sales are up to 14 days delivery. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB

Price: 700 lbs. \$226 Idaho; 850-900 lbs. \$190-193 Washington-Oregon. Current Delivered Price: 800-900 lbs. \$197-206 Idaho; 900-950 lbs \$190 Idaho; 900 lbs. \$206 value added Idaho Future FOB Price: 600-700 lbs. \$220-240 calves for November-December Idaho Heifers: Current FOB Price: 650-700 lbs. \$210-

211 Washington-Oregon; 800 lbs. \$190-191

Washington-Oregon; Current Delivered Price: 800-850 lbs. \$186-196 ldaho. Future FOB Price: 550-600 lbs. \$240 for November Idaho. Replacement Heifers (Per Head): Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB: 700 lbs. \$1800 ldaho. Bred Heifers (Per Head): Future Delivery FOB Price: 1050 lbs. \$2250 for October Idaho 1-3 mos

### Potato Market Reports Compiled by North American Potato Market News and USDA

Prices are weekly averages of daily prices. All prices are in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.). FWA is a weighted average of shipping point prices or common packs in each area. Weights differ by area. GRI is the Grower Returns Index for each individual area.

FRESH RUSSET POTATO MARKET REPORT (North American Potato Market News) (USDA Market News)

March 28 Market Commentary: Russet consumer bag prices remain under pressure, while prices for 40-70 count

cartons are moving up SHIPPING AREA GRI Chg Chg 10 lb. Film IDAHO BURBANKS \$0.04 \$27 \$12.23 \$0.06 \$5.25 \$1.50 \$5.50 -\$0.50 IDAHO NORKOTAH \$11.98 \$5.24 -\$0.13 \$25.50 \$0 \$5.50 -\$0.50 COLUMBIA BASIN \$13.50 \$0.03 \$5.87 \$0.02 \$23 \$1 \$6.50 -\$0.50 KLAMATH BASIN \$23.50 \$8 \$0 \$14.47 \$0

### Sheep/Wool Market Reports Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Greeley, Colo.-San Angelo,

Wool prices in cents per pound and foreign currency per kilogram, sheep prices in dollars per

hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals on per head basis as indicated NATIONAL WOOL REVIEW (USDA Market News) Greeley, Colo.

Domestic wool trading on a clean basis was at a standstill this week and there were no confirmed trades. Shearing has become widespread, espe cially across the Western states. Storms in the early part of the month caused a lot of shearing to be put on hold while they passed through. The recent warmer weather has now allowed shearing to begin again. Shearing will continue to be heavy over the next several weeks, but a majority of the producers say they are at least a week to two weeks behind their normal schedule. Domestic wool trading on a greasy basis was at a standstill this week and there were no confirmed trades

Domestic wool tags \$.60-.70 No. 2 \$.50-.60 \$.40-.50 No. 3 NATIONAL SHEEP SUMMARY (USDA Market News San Angelo, Texas March 5

Compared to March 20: Light slaughter lambs were \$10-50 lower; heavy slaughter lambs were steady to \$5 lower. Slaughter ewes were uneven mostly steady to \$5 lower. Feeder lambs were \$5 20 lower. At San Angelo, Texas, 2,546 head sold in a weather shortened sale. Equity Electronic Auction sold 375 slaughter lambs in Oregon. In direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs were not tested. 5,100 head of negotiated sales of slaughter lambs were steady to \$3 lower. 11,600 head of formula sales under 65 lbs. were not well tested; 65-75 lbs. were \$10 to \$12 lower; 75-85 lbs. were \$5 to \$8 higher; 85-95 lbs. were steady to \$1 lower; over 95 lbs. were \$5 to \$7 lower 6.711 lamb carcasses sold with 45 lbs, and down \$28.32 lower; 45-65 lbs. \$3.61 to \$4.85 higher; 65-75 lbs. \$.23 higher; and 75 lbs. and heavier \$.23 to \$.63 lower

SLAUGHTER LAMBS Choice and Prime 2-3: San Angelo: shorn and wooled 110-145 lbs. \$130-139: 150-185 lbs. \$122-129.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS Choice and Prime 1: San Angelo: 30-40 lbs. \$220-232; 40-60 lbs. \$216-226: 60-70 lbs. \$200-214: 70-80 lbs. \$195-206; 80-90 lbs. \$190-200; 90-105 lbs. \$160-190. DIRECT TRADING (Lambs with 3-4 percent shrink or equivalent):

5100: Slaughter Lambs shorn and wooled 128-166 lbs. \$127.39-163.10 (wtd avg \$141.99). SLAUGHTER EWES:

San Angelo: Good 2-3 (fleshy) 83-85; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) \$88-100, few \$106-110; Utility 1-2 (thin) \$80-87; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) \$70-72; Cull 1 (extremely thin) no test. FEEDER LAMBS Medium and Large 1-2 San Angelo: new crop 45-65 lbs. \$191-202:

70-80 lbs. \$184-193; 80-85 lbs. \$174-180; 93 lbs. \$175. old crop 79 lbs. \$170; 88 lbs. \$161 REPLACEMENT EWES Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: no test.

NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB CARCASS Choice and Prime 1-4: 45 lbs. down \$520.77 \$408.83 45-55 lbs. 55-65 lbs. \$348.97 65-75 lbs. \$323.04 75-85 lbs. \$308.41

\$295.11 85 lbs. and up Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 46,000 compared with 42,000 last week and 43,000 last year.

## California Egg Reports Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Des Moines

Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms

DAILY CALIFORNIA SHELL EGGS (USDA Market News) Des Moines, Iowa March 27

Benchmark prices are steady. Asking prices for next week are 5 cents higher for Large and unchanged on all other sizes. The undertone is steady. Offerings and supplies are light to mostly moderate. Demand is usually moderate. Market activity is slow. Small benchmark price \$1.63. Size Size

Range 242 Extra large Jumbo 233 227 183 Large SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons.

delivered store door Size 234-246 Extra large Jumbo 214-226 212-221 Large

# Amid bird flu outbreak, Minn. turkey farmers increase security

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP) — Poultry producers in the nation's top turkey state are taking extra steps to protect

their flocks after a devastating strain of bird flu was confirmed at two Minnesota farms in as many days last week, a disease that had already slammed the doors shut on some key export markets.

Most producers in the state's \$750 million industry were already strict about day-to-day biosecurity to try to ensure that no bird flu enters or leaves their barns, but they're redoubling their efforts. The confirmation Saturday of the highly pathogenic H5N2 strain of avian influenza at a turkey farm in Stearns County, the third outbreak at a Minnesota farm this month, raised the stakes because it's one of the top poultry producing counties in the state. The first two farms were relatively isolated.

Poultry farms are now scrubbing down truck tires with disinfectant on their way on and off farms, and some operators are using dedicated employees and equipment for each individual barn on their property to cut the chances of spreading the flu from building to building, said Steve Olson, executive director of both the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and the Chicken and Egg Association

of Minnesota. If a barn needs

service such as electrical work, he said, owners may wait until things settle down.

'Pins and needles," is how Olson described farmers moods Monday. Saturday's announcement followed Friday's confirmation at a farm in Lac qui Parle County near the western border. The three outbreaks together killed tens of thousands of turkeys directly, and forced the farm owners to kill tens of thousands more to prevent any spread.

Nobody has figured out yet how the virus got into any of the affected barns, said Dr. Carol Cardona, a bird flu expert at the University of Minnesota.

Most U.S. turkeys and chickens spend their entire lives indoors to keep them away from waterfowl and other wild birds that could introduce diseases. Migratory ducks and geese don't normally become sick from bird flu, but they're a natural reservoir and can spread the viruses via their droppings. That's why commercial farms typically require everyone entering barns to don protective coveralls and even make them shower on their way in and out.

Cardona said biosecurity doesn't always work because it depends on everyone doing everything right all the time.

"Biosecurity is very dependent on human behavior. It's not a perfect science, Cardona said.