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## **NASS report shows continued decline in most farm prices**

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The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported Friday that the preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices received by farmers dropped 12 points (8.6%) from January, but is still at 127 percent, compared to the 1990-1992 baseline (1990-92 = 100).

The Crop Index is down 12 points (7.5 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for lettuce, milk, corn, and eggs and higher prices for snap beans, strawberries, hogs, and turkeys. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

Here's a summary of the report:

**Food Grains:** The February index, at 207, is down 4.6% from the previous month and 29 percent below a year ago. The February all wheat price, at \$5.73 per bushel, is down 48 cents from January and \$4.37 below February 2008.

**Feed Grains & Hay:** The February index is 179, down 4.8% from last month and 7.3% below a year ago. The corn price, at \$4.13 per bushel, is down 23 cents from last month and 41 cents below February 2008. The all hay price, at \$132 per ton, declined \$4.00 from January but increased \$3.00 from last February. Sorghum grain, at \$5.09 per cwt, is 75 cents below January and down \$3.26 from February last year.

**Cotton:** The February index, at 72, is down 5.3% from January and 31% below last year. The February price, at 43.6 cents per pound, is down 2.5 cents from the previous month and 19.4 cents from last February.

**Oil-Bearing Crops:** The February index, at 173, is down 3.4% from January and 18% lower than February 2008. The soybean price, at \$9.58 per bushel, decreased 39 cents from January and is \$2.12 below February 2008.

Fruits & Nuts: The February index, at 121, is up 1.7% from January but 18% lower than a year ago. The price increase for strawberries more than offset price decreases for apples, lemons, and oranges.

Commercial Vegetables: The February index, at 130, is down 25% from last month but 10% above February 2008. Price declines for lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and onions more than offset price increases during February for snap beans, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Potatoes & Dry Beans: The February index, at 157, is down 5.4% from last month but 17% above February 2008. The all potato price, at \$8.94 per cwt, is down 46 cents from January but up \$1.43 from last February. The all dry bean price, at \$34.30 per cwt, is down \$1.20 from the previous month but \$2.30 above February 2008.

Livestock and Products: The February index, at 109, is 4.4% below last month and down 17% from February 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, cattle, eggs, calves, and turkeys. Prices for broilers and hogs are higher than last year.

Meat Animals: The February index, at 106, is unchanged from last month but 7.8% lower than last year. The February hog price, at \$43.50 per cwt, is up 70 cents from January and \$1.30 higher than a year ago. The February beef cattle price of \$80.20 per cwt is up 10 cents from last month but \$8.80 lower than February 2008.

Dairy Products: The February index, at 88, is down 14% from a month ago and 40% lower than February last year. The February all milk price of \$11.50 per cwt is down \$1.80 from last month and \$7.60 from February 2008. The fluid grade milk price is down \$1.80 and the manufacturing grade milk price declined 60 cents from the previous month.

Poultry & Eggs: The February index, at 141, is down 5.4% from January and 9.0% below a year ago. The February market egg price, at 63.9 cents per dozen, decreased 25.7 cents from January and is 58.1 cents below February 2008. The February broiler price, at 47.0 cents per pound, is down 1.0 cent from January but 1.0 cent above a year ago. The February turkey price, at 46.4 cents per pound, is up 2.6 cents from the previous month but down 1.1 cents from a year earlier.