

**IDAHO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK**

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## IDAHO AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

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This report discusses Idaho farm and ranch revenue during calendar-year 1999.

Estimated 1999 farm and ranch revenue is \$3.435 billion, up 3% from last year and breaking the record set in 1996 (Table 1). Livestock production makes up 48% of total 1999 farm-gate revenue and crop production makes up the other 52%.

### Livestock

The **beef** industry (cattle & calves) is in every Idaho county. The 1999 revenue from cattle and calves was up to its highest level since 1992. Production changed little from the previous year, but prices were up about five percent.

Idaho **dairy** receipts set a record for the second consecutive year, maintaining the industry's position as the top revenue producer for Idaho farmers and ranchers. Although prices declined, Idaho milk production was up eleven percent. Growth of the dairy industry is a bright spot in Idaho agriculture. In addition to the dairy producers many feed producers benefit from this growth.

The "other livestock" category in Table 1 includes eggs, hogs, mink, poultry, sheep and wool. The Idaho trout industry, the nations largest, is not included in Table 1.

### Crops

Table 1 reports crop revenue on a *calendar year basis*. For storage crops, that means that parts of two or more crops are sold in the Jan-Dec calendar year. For example, part of the 1999 potato crop was sold in the summer and fall of 1999, but the rest will be sold out of storage in the winter, spring and summer of 2000.



**Barley** revenue was down due to lower prices and lower production. Eastern Idaho is the largest producing region. Idaho's crop is split evenly between malting and feed varieties.

**Bean** revenue was down due to lower prices. Magic Valley growers produce nearly three-fourths of Idaho's dry beans.

Idaho's **greenhouse & nursery** industry continues on a growth trend. Nursery growers market high-quality landscaping plants across western North America.

**Hay** production, located in every Idaho county, continues to be a significant revenue producer. Idaho's booming dairy industry is pushing up demand for high-quality hay.

Idaho's **onion** industry is an important part of southwestern Idaho's agricultural economy. Although prices are volatile, the industry again had receipts of \$50 million.

Idaho **potato** growers put a smaller crop into storage during the fall of 1999. Since potato prices are quite sensitive to changes in supply, price increases will more than offset the production decline. Calendar-year 1999 potato revenue is estimated at \$660 million, which is close to the record of \$694 million in 1996.

**Wheat** revenue decreased due to lower production. Prices were up slightly from the low levels of 1998. Growers produced 42% of the state's wheat in Eastern Idaho, 22% in the Magic Valley, 10% in Southwestern Idaho and 26% in Northern Idaho.

The "other crops" category in Table 1 includes apples, cherries, corn, lentils, mint, oats, peaches, peas, plums, prunes and sweet corn as well as grass seed and other crops for which USDA does not estimate Idaho value of production.

**TABLE 1**  
**IDAHO CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS**  
**(Million Dollars)**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Percent Change
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>						
Cattle and Calves	618	574	656	653	700	7%
Milk	508	653	634	829	850	3%
Other Livestock	115	106	115	103	105	2%
<b>TOTAL LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>CROPS</b>						
Barley	145	145	141	128	115	-10%
Beans	39	52	44	40	35	-13%
Greenhouse/Nursery	53	55	58	61	65	7%
Hay	188	198	256	215	200	-7%
Onions	42	51	40	51	50	-2%
Potatoes	677	694	525	574	660	15%
Sugar Beets	191	210	239	223	225	1%
Wheat	399	430	423	271	270	0%
Other Crops	182	196	152	172	160	-7%
<b>TOTAL CROPS</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,363</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>3%</b>

**SOURCES:**

1995-1998: Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service

1999: Forecasted by J Guenthner & H Jensen, University of Idaho