

A Study of the Farm Commodity Chart as of August 2007

Bureau of Economic Analysis USDA NASS

Commodity	Unit	Market Price	100% Parity	Farmer's/Rancher's Net Loss
Wheat, All	bu*	\$5.64	\$11.00	\$5.36
Corn	bu	\$3.26	\$8.10	\$4.84
Barley	bu	\$3.54	\$7.64	\$4.10
Grain Sorghum	cwt*	\$5.93	\$13.80	\$7.87
Soybeans	bu	\$7.72	\$17.90	\$10.18
Oats	bu	\$2.25	\$4.54	\$2.29
Dry Edible Beans	cwt	\$25.80	\$57.40	\$31.60
Cotton, Upland	lb*	\$0.449	\$2.07	\$1.62
All Milk	cwt	\$21.60	\$40.50	\$18.90
Beef Cattle	cwt	\$91.70	\$214.00	\$122.30
Calves	cwt	\$129.00	\$308.00	\$179.00
Hogs	cwt	\$51.60	\$123.00	\$71.40
Lambs	cwt	\$98.60	\$251.00	\$152.40

Wheat from the field, beef from the cattle ranch, milk from the dairy, cotton from the cotton fields, etc.

*bu = bushel
 *lb= pound
 *cwt= 100 pounds
 1 bu wheat = 60 lbs
 1 bu corn = 56 lbs
 1 bu oats =32 lbs

Farmers and ranchers sell their commodities at the wholesale market place where they must accept the price offered by the few corporate buyers, such as Archer Daniels Midland, Cargill, Con Agra, Continental, and others who control the market.

This is the price that the USDA estimates the farmer/rancher must receive in order to "break even" ("parity") after growing the grain and cotton, feeding the cattle, milking the cows, etc. This amount is supposed to reflect a "real world" value of the farm commodities in comparison to all other industrial goods and services.

This is the loss the farmer/rancher must make up, from income outside of the farm or ranch, often by working two jobs in town (husband and wife working) or by going into debt, mortgaging the land and, with compound interest, eventually losing the farm to the bank. This has been the fate of over 6 million good-sized farms since 1953, and has been called the "industrialization of farming."

If you have questions or comments, [click here](#)

You may also call or write to:

Al P. Schmitz, Pres.
 406-488-3437
 410 3rd Ave .S.W. #107
 Sidney, MT 59270

Dale Hill, Sec./Treas.
 13050 CR 331
 Lambert, MT 59243