

County Agent News
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Lower Crop Prices but Higher Livestock Prices for 2015

I'm not sure how livestock prices can get any higher, especially feeder calves, but those are the projections found in the NDSU Extension publication "Plotting a Course 2015" (EC1090).

The publication shows 2015 price projections for crops and livestock produced in the state and price estimates for future years. Price projections are given for the major crop commodities, including wheat, durum, oats, feed barley, malting barley, oil sunflowers, nonoil sunflowers, corn, soybeans, canola, flaxseed, winter wheat, dry beans, dry peas, lentils, alfalfa hay and mixed hay.

Price projections for livestock and livestock products include beef steers and heifers at various weights, cull cows, slaughter steers, slaughter hogs, slaughter ewes, slaughter lambs, feeder lambs and milk. The publication also provides historical prices as a reference.

"Crop prices show a large downturn from previous years, but livestock prices are up, especially beef prices, which are at record highs," Haugen says. "The estimated short-term planning prices should be used as a guide in setting price expectations for 2015 production. These planning prices can be used for preparing annual enterprise budgets and annual whole-farm cash flow projections.

The short-term prices should not be used for planning capital purchases or expansion alternatives that would extend beyond the next production year."

To obtain this publication, "Plotting a Course 2015" (EC1090), call the NDSU Extension Service/Burke County at 701-377-2927 or email us at dan.folske@ndsu.edu The publication is also on the web at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/pubs/agecon/market/ec1090.pdf>