


# FOCUS



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## How Does Your Herd Compare?

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — These data are calculated using information pulled from Pennsylvania DHIA's mainframe computer each week. It is a one-week summary representing approximately one-fourth of the herds on test, as they are tested monthly.

These data are valuable from a business management standpoint and can be used for comparing your operations to the averages from about one-fourth of the herds across the state.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 5/21/94 and 5/28/94

Number of Herds Processed	1,041
Number of Cows Processed	66,666
Number of Cows Per Herd	64.0
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	18,695
%-Fat	3.67
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	687
%-Protein	3.19
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	597
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	319
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	13.13
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	7.67
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.30
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.54
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.29
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,455

<b>*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)</b>	
A: Grain	7,544
B: Hay	2,104
C: Silage	14,858
D: Day Pasture	53
<b>*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)</b>	
A: Grain	578
B: Hay	90
C: Silage	229
D: Pasture	15
<b>*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)</b>	
	914
<b>*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)</b>	
	1,540
<b>*Grain to Milk Ratio</b>	
	1:2.4
<b>*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)</b>	
	4.89
<b>Avg Level For 942 SCC Herds</b>	
	365,245

\*Member-generated figures

## Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's this week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania. Remember these are averages so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your loca-

tion and the quality of your crop.	
Corn, No. 2y - 3.054 bu.	5.45 cwt.
Wheat, No. 2 - 3.37 bu.	5.63 cwt.
Barley, No. 3 - 2.28 bu.	4.87 cwt.
Oats, No. 2 - 1.64 bu.	5.12 cwt.
Soybeans, No. 1 - 6.56 bu.	10.95 cwt.
Ear Corn 84.14 ton	4.21 cwt.
Alfalfa Hay - 105.00 ton	5.25 cwt.
Mixed Hay - 106.25 ton	5.31 cwt.
Timothy Hay - 117.50 ton	5.88 cwt.

# NFU Wants Investigation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Recent large drops in the prices of fed cattle and soybeans have led the National Farmers Union to call for a Justice Department investigation into possible price manipulation and antitrust violations on the part of buyers.

In a letter to Assistant Attorney General Anne Bingaman, NFU President Leland Swenson said he believes the precipitous market price drops are "a direct result of the highly concentrated, oligopolistic structure of the marketing, transportation, processing, retailing, and trading industry."

Cattle futures prices have dropped 13 percent in just the last four weeks, according to NFU, while soybean futures went down the daily 20 cent limit several days this week. Farmers in several Midwest areas found themselves unable to sell soybeans at all to local elevators. Some farmers believe buyers simply held out until prices dropped rather than paying farmers more.

"Agriculture policymakers in the U.S. have been pushing the issue of more market flexibility for farmers," said Swenson. "But, as soybean farmers have once again experienced this week, many times farmers have no marketing flexibility because of the lack of market competition."

Swenson also pointed out that the slide in cattle prices of \$20 per hundredweight over the past year comes at a time when beef exports to Mexico have reportedly "surged" as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Traders received a 20 percent reduction in tariffs on beef exported to Mexico when NAFTA went into effect.

All in all, Swenson says the "iniquities" associated with the price drops result in economic hardship for producers and emotional stress on farm families as a result.

"Today's farmers and ranchers must be competitive business managers, but the unjustifiable market manipulation results in every decision made by producers to be a make or break decision."

NFU believes antitrust laws should be enforced to limit the control over farm product marketing, processing, retailing, and trading that only a handful of firms enjoy today. In cattle, 75 percent of slaughtering is done by four firms. Soybean crushing is handled to a great extent by only two firms.

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