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Nebraskans Down Under

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Cornhusker Economics

Cooperative Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Nebraskans Down Under

Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	5/9/03
<u>Livestock and Products,</u>			
<u>Average Prices for Week Ending</u>			
Slaughter Steers, Ch. 204, 1100-1300 lb Omaha, cwt	\$68.72	\$80.96	\$79.26
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame, 600-650 lb Dodge City, KS, cwt	90.46	86.26	90.14
Feeder Steers, Med. Frame 600-650 lb, Nebraska Auction Wght. Avg	90.29	94.76	96.80
Carcass Price, Ch. 1-3, 550-700 lb Cent. US, Equiv. Index Value, cwt	106.85	125.49	125.18
Hogs, US 1-2, 220-230 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	36.00	33.50	44.00
Feeder Pigs, US 1-2, 40-45 lb Sioux Falls, SD, hd	35.84	*	*
Vacuum Packed Pork Loins, Wholesale, 13-19 lb, 1/4" Trim, Cent. US, cwt	97.20	91.97	102.47
Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 115-125 lb Sioux Falls, SD, cwt	*	91.50	107.00
Carcass Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 1-4, 55-65 lb FOB Midwest, cwt	145.10	193.74	192.65
<u>Crops,</u>			
<u>Cash Truck Prices for Date Shown</u>			
Wheat, No. 1, H.W. Omaha, bu	2.91	3.46	3.37
Corn, No. 2, Yellow Omaha, bu	1.98	2.33	2.39
Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow Omaha, bu	4.63	5.89	6.25
Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow Kansas City, cwt	3.56	4.27	4.32
Oats, No. 2, Heavy Minneapolis, MN, bu	1.97	1.97	1.73
<u>Hay,</u>			
<u>First Day of Week Pile Prices</u>			
Alfalfa, Sm. Square, RFV 150 or better Platte Valley, ton	105.00	127.50	125.00
Alfalfa, Lg. Round, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	60.00	75.00	72.50
Prairie, Sm. Square, Good Northeast Nebraska, ton	90.00	117.50	117.50
* No market.			

G'day mate was the phrase that twenty Nebraska ag folks heard as they stepped off the plane in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia this past March. It all began in 1998 at the International Women in Ag program in Washington D.C. It was there that the idea of a Nebraska - Tasmania ag woman exchange was born. The exchange program was based on the premise that ag women would learn more about international agriculture by experiencing another country's agriculture first hand. The Nebraska delegation at the International Women in Ag Conference invited the Australia delegation to first visit our state.

Through connections made at the conference a group of eighteen ag men and women visited Nebraska in September of 2001. The group toured different aspects of Nebraska agriculture and stayed with ag families across the state. As part of the audience at the 2001 Women in Ag Conference the Australian's learned about the diversity of products that are produced in the state. The men and women commented on how much all ag folk are alike in the challenges that each is facing in agriculture. The delegation then invited Nebraska ag women to come to Tasmania in 2003, which is how twenty Nebraska ag producers became familiar with the G'day mate greeting.

The 28 hours of plane rides and the loss of one day proved to be one of the hardest parts of the trip. In Tasmania we were greeted with sunshine and a state that, like ours, was going through a summer of drought. Since the seasons are reversed "down under" we arrived at the end of their harvest season. Our group quickly saw how dry the country had been and saw no relief in sight, until the day we left when the



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country received between 2 to 4 inches of rain. Each Nebraskan spent time on three different farms across Tasmania. Like Nebraska, Tasmania is very diverse in the commodities it raises. This was not always the case. Tasmania, when it was settled and up until the 1970's was basically a sheep and dairy state. The main commodities were wool, lamb and milk. But then the bottom fell out of the wool market and the state's farmers were scrambling to find other commodities that would keep them on their farms. Since that time the diversity of commodities in the state has increased. Nebraska ag families had the opportunity to stay on farms that had completely changed their way of doing business.

The Nebraska ag families experienced many different types of crops including spuds, potatoes grown for chips or as we know them french fries, and poppies legally grown for Johnson and Johnson Company to be used in the production of morphine. Other crops included broccoli, carrots, raspberries, truffles, onions, peas, beans and pyrethrum, the active ingredient in fly spray. Other families are doing value-added production in flowers, timber and cheese.

Grass fed dairies have always been a part of the Tasmanian landscape. Because of the milder weather, dairy cows are grazed all year round with the help of irrigation. The majority of the dairies in Tasmania milk only 9 to 10 months out of the year. The markets for the milk are fluid milk, cheeses and Cadbury chocolates. Some of the dairies are adding to their value by processing cheese and selling it in their own stores.

Wineries have boomed over the last twenty years in Tasmania. The climate and land are excellent for growing grapes. The winery usually has a tasting room and sales directly from the vineyard. Nebraska is just beginning to discover the wine market, and it was of great interest to our group to see how Tasmania has become known for its excellent vineyards.

The question many times becomes why take ag women and men to other countries. At the end of the trip I asked the group what they learned. I believe their answers will tell you why international exchanges are worthwhile.

"It opened up my eyes to change and how we need to look beyond what we have always done."

"People are all the same, they are just trying to make a living in agriculture."

"I was amazed at all they do and grow here."

"I have learned so much about other types of agriculture."

"I learned about...."

When we learn from each other we expand our view of agriculture and the opportunities that are out there. International travel expands the view of ag producers and changes their attitudes toward global agriculture.

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