



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NORTHERN PLAINS FARM LABOR

LINCOLN, Neb. May 26, 2021 - In the Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 35,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2021, down 17% from the April 2020 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 27,000 during the week of January 10-16, 2021, down 23% from the January 2020 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.53 per hour during the April 2021 reference week, up 4% from the April 2020 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$16.55 per hour, up \$0.66. Livestock workers earned \$15.40 per hour, up \$0.81 from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$15.95, was up \$0.75 from the April 2020 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 43.0 hours during the April 2021 reference week, compared with 41.5 hours worked during the April 2020 reference week.

Farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$16.59 per hour during the January 2021 reference week, up 1% from the January 2020 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$16.94 per hour, up \$0.11. Livestock workers earned \$15.14 per hour, up \$0.51 from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$15.85, was up \$0.30 from the January 2020 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 42.0 hours during the January 2021 reference week, compared with 40.9 hours worked during the January 2020 reference week.

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