This is the fourth year that Nevada Cooperative Extension (NCE) and Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) have produced a fact sheet summarizing agricultural data for Pershing County. All of the information in this fact sheet came from the 1999-2000 Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service’s Annual Report and the 1997 Census of Agriculture. It is hoped that this county version will be helpful to those seeking agricultural data pertinent to Pershing County. Special thanks go to the Pershing County farmers and ranchers whose voluntary participation in the NASS surveys provide this information. Questions regarding any of these statistics or additional information are welcomed.

Located in northwestern Nevada, Pershing County’s population has continued to climb over the last several years, reaching 7,460 during 1999-2000 time period. The main industries are mining and agriculture. Pershing County is one of the foremost agricultural production regions in Nevada. The county lists 120 farms and ranches covering nearly 120,000 acres excluding public grazing allotment lands. Average farm size is 995 acres. Alfalfa hay, alfalfa seed, and small grains are the principle crops. Sheep and cattle commonly graze dormant fields during the winter months. The county is home to the state’s largest sheep and cattle feedlots. While agricultural production is valued at approximately $42 million annually, if one considers the multiplier effect of this production, the total economic impact on the county is much greater. Tables 1–3 summarize these data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Pershing County Demographics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms and Ranches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Market Value of Products Sold / Farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Production Expenses / Farm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Agricultural Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Value ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Hay</td>
<td>18,000 acres harvested</td>
<td>$7,264,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Hay</td>
<td>4,000 acres harvested</td>
<td>$1,053,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Seed</td>
<td>4,100 acres harvested</td>
<td>$4,422,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Wheat</td>
<td>1,600 acres harvested</td>
<td>$247,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
<td>4,000 acres harvested</td>
<td>$988,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>400 acres harvested</td>
<td>$112,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle &amp; Calves</td>
<td>28,000 head, January 1st inventory</td>
<td>$18,480,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>10,500 head, January 1st inventory</td>
<td>$990,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$33,557,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Average Price Received / Amount Produced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount ($) / Unit</th>
<th>Production / Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Hay</td>
<td>83.50 / ton</td>
<td>4.8 tons / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Hay</td>
<td>83 / ton</td>
<td>3.4 tons / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfalfa Seed</td>
<td>1.35 / pound</td>
<td>780 pounds / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Wheat</td>
<td>2.75 / bushel</td>
<td>90 bushels / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Wheat</td>
<td>2.60 / bushel</td>
<td>97 bushels / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>2.35 / bushel</td>
<td>96 bushels / acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle &amp; Calves</td>
<td>660.00 / head</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>110.00 / head</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alfalfa hay continues to be the most important crop in terms of both acres harvested and value of production. Alfalfa seed is second, followed by all other hay, winter wheat, spring wheat, and barley. Together, these crops were valued at $14,087,800 during 1998. Livestock, including cattle and calves, as well as sheep, were valued at $19,470,000. Figures 1–2 provide an overview of historical cattle numbers and major crops by acre.

The census of agriculture counts as a farm every place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold or normally would have been sold during the census year. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation. The latest census lists some interesting characteristics concerning farms in Pershing County. The following table shows the number of farms by size and sales.

Table 4. Characteristics of Farms by Size and Sales for Pershing County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farms by Size</th>
<th>Number of Farms</th>
<th>Farms by Sales</th>
<th>Number of Farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 9 acres</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Less than $2,500</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 49 acres</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$2,500 to $4,999</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 179 acres</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$5,000 to $9,999</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180 to 499 acres</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>$10,000 to $24,999</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 to 999 acres</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$25,000 to $49,999</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 acres or more</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$50,000 to $99,999</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Farms</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td><strong>$100,000 or more</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Cash Receipts ($)</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson</td>
<td>198,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Churchill</td>
<td>38,058,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>18,962,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>8,796,000</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elko</td>
<td>49,228,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esmeralda</td>
<td>4,016,000</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eureka</td>
<td>13,133,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt</td>
<td>57,315,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lander</td>
<td>12,794,000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>7,317,000</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyon</td>
<td>53,959,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral</td>
<td>1,809,000</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nye</td>
<td>27,792,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pershing</td>
<td>32,679,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storey</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washoe</td>
<td>13,247,000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>7,024,000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pershing County moved up to the fifth position for cash receipts after being in sixth last year. While the rankings shifted a little in cash receipts all other data and rankings stayed the same.

For any additional information or questions concerning the Pershing County data presented in this fact sheet please contact the authors at their respective addresses.

Don Breazeale
Extension Educator
Pershing County Cooperative Extension
P.O. Box 239
Lovelock, NV 89419
(775) 273 – 2923

Martin Owens
State Statistician
Nevada Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 8880
Reno, NV 89507
(775) 784 - 5584