

Agriculture Prices at a Glance- \$\$\$\$\$

August - September 2012

A-B denotes the difference between 1st preference & second preference and sometimes between wholesale & retail and bulk or small amounts . Trend (H) means Higher over last 30 to 60 day (L) Lower (S) Steady

Prices intend on being farm gate in Belize dollars - usually price per lb

Belize Cattle	T	A	B
Young str. & bulls 750- 1100 lbs	H	1.40 - 1.45	1.35 - 1.40
Cows & heifers for butcher	H	1.10 - 1.20	(thin).95 - 1.10
Heifers for breeding 500-800 lbs	H	1.15 - 1.20	1.05 - 1.15
Young grass cattle 350- 650 lbs	H	1.35 - 1.40	1.20 - 1.35
U.S. Cattle			
U.S. price: corn fed 1000- 1200 lbs	H	1.19-US=2.38-Bz	
U.S. price: feeders 600- 800 lbs	L	1.37-US=2.74-Bz	
U.S. price: calves 450- 600 lbs	L	1.50-US=3.00-Bz	
U.S. price: aged butcher cows	H	.90-US=1.80-Bz	

Belize Hogs			
Weiner pigs 25 -30 lbs- by the head	S	\$95.00 - \$100.00	
Butcher pigs 160 - 230 lbs	S	1.80 - 1.85	1.75 - 1.80

Belize Sheep			
Butcher lambs	S	2.00 - 2.25	1.75- 2.00
Mature ewes	S	1.70 - 1.75	1.60 - 1.70

Belize Chickens			
Broilers live per lb	S	1.22 - 1.24	1.21 - 1.22
Spent hens	S	.70 - .72	.68 - .70

Fruits & Vegetables			
Tomatoes, cabbages, cucumbers	S	whosal/75-1.75-ret-\$1.00-\$2.50	
Local potatoes	S	.80-.90	.70 - .80
Local onions	S	1.00 - 1.10	.80 - 1.00

Grains, Beans & Rice	T	A	B
Belize yellow corn	S	.26 - .28	.25 - .26
White Corn	S	.26 - .28	.24 - .26
Corn/ local retail (low volume)	S	.32 - .37	.28 - .32
U.S corn @ 7.77-per 56 lb bushel	H	\$27.75/ BZ/ 100#+10¢ frt to BZ	
U.S soy beans 16.51per 60lb/bush	H	\$55/BZ per 100#+10¢ frt to BZ	
Guatemala corn price/Peten	H	.35 - .38	.33 - .35
Belize Milo	S	.22 - .25	.20 - .22
R-K's, little reds & blacks (beans)	S	.85- 1.00 farm price	
Black eyed peas	S	.90- 1.00 farm price	
Milled retail rice per pound	S	.87- .88 farm price	
Citrus			
Oranges per 90 lb box-lb.solid basis	S	\$14.25 Est. 2012 price	
Grapefruit per 90 lb box	S	\$ 6.50 Est. 2012 price	
Sugar			
White sugar 112 lbs- controlled	S	.45 per bag + 3-5 cent mark up	
Brown sugar 112 lbs- controlled	S	.39 per bag + 3-5 cent mark up	
Special farm items			
Eggs- tray of 30 eggs	S	5.00 farm- retail .25 per egg	
WD milk per lb to farmer	S	contract .50 & non contract .35	

Dear Ag Readers: Today I will write about weather and its effect on producers and consumers. In this part of the world, we are affected by what happens in the US. The US exports thirteen million hundred-pound bags of corn to Guatemala annually. (They have approx. 13 million people or 1 bag per person.) Guatemala is our most logical export destination because of closeness and heavy usage. Cheap corn in the US= cheap corn in Guatemala = cheap corn in Belize ***** On the other hand ---high corn in the US =high corn in Guatemala = high corn in Belize***** (it costs 9¢-12¢ to ship corn from US to Guat and 4¢ -5¢ from Bze. to Guat.) All this is true 80-90% of the time; sometimes other factors have an effect. Probably you are aware of the horrible drought in the US that covers over 26 of the 50 states. In the major corn and soy bean growing areas there will be a reduced harvest and in some cases none at all. Soy beans at 16.50 US per 60 lb bushel is the highest price on record, Corn and other food grains are likely to follow.(Corn has already gone up \$1.00 US a bushel.) In this corn season in Belize we started out with too much rain and planting was difficult and delayed. Then we got some nice rains; insect and worm pressure are minor to average. We are looking forward to a good harvest of increased acreage accompanied by good prices- I project prices at 32¢ and above for the new crop corn - This guess doesn't cost you anything and it may not be worth anything, but the fundamentals look to be in place . We have to stay on our knees and pray to God that high winds and hurricanes miss us this year. All the best, John Carr