

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

AUG 2014

A-B denotes the difference between 1st preference & 2nd preference and sometimes between wholesale & retail and bulk or small amounts . Trend (H) means Higher over last 30 to 60 days (L) Lower (S) Steady.

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

	T	A	B
<b>BELIZE CATTLE</b>			
Young str. & bulls - 750-1100 lbs	H	1.95 - 2.05	1.60 - 1.90
Cows & heifers for butchers	H	1.40 - 1.60	1.30 - 1.40
Heifers for breeding 500-800 lbs	H	1.80 - 2.00	NA
Young grass cattle - 350-650 lbs	H	steers 1.95 - 2.10	heifers 1.50
<b>U.S. CATTLE</b>			
U.S. price - corn fed - 1000-1200 lbs	H	US\$ 1.62 - 1.64	
U.S. price - feeders 600-800 lbs	H	US\$ 2.20	
U.S. price - aged butcher cows	H	D1 & D2 US\$ 1.21	D3 - US\$ 1.10
<b>BELIZE HOGS</b>			
Weaner pigs - 25-30 lbs - by the head	H	85.00 - 120.00	
Butcher pigs 160 - 230 lbs	H	2.15	1.95
<b>BELIZE SHEEP</b>			
Butcher Lambs	S	2.00 - 2.25	1.50 - 1.75
Mature Ewes	S	1.75	1.50
<b>BELIZE CHICKEN</b>			
Whole sale dressed	S	2.41	
Broilers - live per lb	S	1.23	
Spent hens	H	4.00 + per 4 lb bird	
<b>CITRUS</b>			
Oranges per 90 lb box-lb. solid basis	H	Estimated final price 1.8445 pps	
Grapefruit - per 90 lb box		9.8690 / box (2.4248 pps) est final	

	T	A	B
<b>GRAINS, BEANS &amp; RICE</b>			
Belize yellow corn	S	.225 - .25	.21 - .22
White corn, wholesale Bagged	H	.35	.32
Corn/local retail (low volume)	L	.265	
US corn	L	US\$ 3.65 / 56 lb bushel	
US non-GMO yellow corn	L	US\$ 4.05 / 56 lb bushel	
Guatemala white corn price/Peten	H	.45 (Q160/quintal)	
Belize soy beans	L	.57	.55
US soy beans	L	US\$10.58 /60 lb bushel	
Belize milo		None Available	
Red kidney beans	L	1.70 farm price	
Little reds & black beans	S	1.25 - 1.30	
Black eyed peas	H	.65 - .70	
Paddy rice per pound	S	.40 - .53 farm price, dried	
<b>SUGAR/HONEY</b>			
Sugar cane, ton	H	estimates 2014 crop: \$62.72	
Bagasse		pending agreement	
Honey per lb (Cayo)	S	2.50 (approximately 12 lbs/gal)	
<b>SPECIAL FARM ITEMS</b>			
Eggs - tray of 30	L	4.50 farm price	
WD milk per lb to farmer	S	contract .53; non contract .53	
Raw milk (farmer direct sales)	S	8.50 gal (5 gal + 8.00 gal)	
<b>CACAO</b>			
Cacao beans (TCGA) /lb	S	2.75 dried fermented	
Cacao beans (TCGA) /lb	S	1.10 wet beans	
US Cacao beans, New York, metric ton	H	US\$ 3,160.00	

Lots of rumblings and changes in the world at large and reflected as domino-like effects into ag affairs. Corn, wheat and soy all low; some (Brock at [deltafarmpress.com](http://deltafarmpress.com)) describes/predicts a “collapsing market” for corn and soy. With low world prices, not much increase in acreages planted in the Belize this season. In North America, a bumper crop is predicted due to ideal weather there. The Ukraine/Russia situation has all on alert. There is increasing tight credit for Russian and Ukrainian farmers; the EU cut financing to 5 major Russian banks in July, which will affect 2015 planting.

Cattle: BLPA’s Macpherson reports “demand {is} outstripping supply.” Local cattle prices soaring. US cattle prices are still rising, with low inventory /falling grain prices. Spent hens also are scarcity, part of the continuous cycle of glut/shortage, prices are \$4/bird reaching \$8! Eggs down, but will rise again.

Avocadoes – example of the range in weather/marketing conditions within our tiny country. Scarcity driving up Cayo prices, while bumper crop in North with low \$.50/lb wholesale prices there. The ying to that yang is that (Bze) Northern corn crop expected only medium yields due to insufficient rain at critical times.

Overall we’ve been extremely fortunate in Belize, having been spared the brunt of bad weather. Drought conditions along Pacific coastal regions of C. America, from Guatemala to Costa Rica affecting cattle/grain prices – Melchor (Peten) white (tortilla) corn is fetching a startling Bz\$.45/lb. D. Thompson (Bmp) reports that all of 2014 to the end of July, rainfall well below normal, and July low side of normal.

Thanks to all assisting Belize Ag Report with information collated in this page, including BEL-CAR, Palm Springs, BLPA, Don Thompson, too many to name. We invite farmers and ag-minded folk to share your news with us. Rewarding farming wishes to all, B. Roberson

**\*\*\*These prices are the best estimates only from our best sources and simply provide a range to assist buyers and sellers in negotiations.\*\*\***