

Rainfall was plentiful and periodically excessive during the early part of the growing season. Some of the New Jersey corn and soybean fields were so wet that both planting and harvesting were delayed or prevented. The wet and cool weather conditions during the month of April, in 2005, delayed hay cutting in most fields. Cool temperatures, along with a lack of surface moisture, during May continued to delay crop and pasture development. Harvest of small grains was delayed by weather conditions during May. Cool temperatures, and inadequate rainfall, continued into the month of June further delaying crop development. Milder temperatures by mid-July improved field crops conditions. Above normal temperatures, along with a lack of rainfall, during August necessitated irrigation in many localities. Mild weather conditions, and a lack of rainfall, continued in September and early October, resulting in decreased hay yields in most localities. Heavy rainfall during most of October delayed harvest, and the planting of small grain crops.

Corn planted in 2005 totaled 80,000 acres, 62,000 of which were harvested for grain. Yield decreased 21 bushels to 122 bushels per acre from the previous year's yield of 143 bushels per acre. Production totaled 7.56 million bushels, down 27 percent from 2004. Growers received \$2.00 per bushel for their grain, a decrease of 20 cents from 2004's price of \$2.20 per bushel. The total crop value for corn for grain decreased 33 percent from \$22.7 million in 2004 to \$15.1 million in 2005.

Soybean planted acreage decreased by 10,000 acres to 95,000; while harvested acreage was down by 12,000 acres from 2004. Soybean yield was down 14 bushels from 2004's yield of 42 bushels per acre to 28 bushels per acre in 2005. Production decreased to 2.55 million bushels in 2005 from 4.33 million bushels in 2004. The prices received by growers increased by 20 cents from \$5.45 per bushel in 2004 to \$5.65 per bushel in 2005. The total crop value decreased by 39 percent to \$14.4 million.

The 28,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2005 were unchanged from 2004. Harvested acreage was set at 23,000, a decrease of 1,000 acres below 2004's harvested acres. Yield at 53 bushels per acre was 6 bushels more than the previous year's. Production at 1.22 million bushels was up 8 percent from 2004. The

season average price of \$3.15 per bushel was 15 cents less than the price in 2004. The total crop value increased by 3 percent to \$3.84 million.

Barley planted and harvested acreage unchanged from 2004 at 3,000 and 2,000, respectively. Yield was 71 bushels per acre, an increase of 8 bushels above last year's. Production in 2005 increased by 13 percent to 142,000 bushels. The prices received by growers decreased by 10 cents from \$2.10 per bushel in 2004 to \$2.00 per bushel in 2005. The value of barley produced increased by 7 percent from \$265,000 in 2004 to \$284,000 in 2005.

All hay harvested acres was down by 5,000 acres in 2005. Alfalfa hay acres decreased by 5,000 to 25,000; while other hay acres remained unchanged, at 90,000 acres, from the previous year. Yield per acre of alfalfa hay decreased by 1.00 ton to 2.70 tons per acre, and the yield per acre of other hay decreased by .30 ton to 1.60 tons per acre. The overall hay yield was 1.84 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 68,000 tons and other hay production was 144,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 212,000 tons. The season average price for all hay decreased \$1.00 per ton from \$122.00 per ton in 2004 to \$121.00 per ton in 2005. Overall, total hay crop value decreased by 26 percent in 2005 to \$25.6 million

Potatoes planted acreage decreased by 200 acres from 2004 to 2,100 acres in 2005. All planted acreage was harvested. Yield was 255 hundredweight per acre, a decrease of 15 hundredweight from 2004. Production was 536,000 hundredweight in 2005 compared with 594,000 hundredweight in 2004. The price per hundredweight in 2005 was \$7.15 compared with \$5.50 in 2004. Total crop value increased by 17 percent from \$3.27 million in 2004 to \$3.83 million in 2005 as the results of the higher price.

Sweet potato planted and harvested acreage, at 1,200 acres, was the same as in 2004. Yield was 130 hundredweight per acre, a decrease of 10 hundredweight compared with last year's. Production was 156,000 hundredweight, a 7 percent decrease from 2004. The season average price was \$23.70 per hundredweight compared with \$26.30 in 2004. Value of production was \$3.70 million, \$721,000 less than a year ago.