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# PRESS RELEASE

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NEWS

For Immediate Use

## New Jersey's March 1, 2006 Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, 2006, New Jersey farmers expect to plant less acreage of corn, soybeans, wheat, and sweet potatoes. All hay and barley acreage remained unchanged from the previous year.

**Barley** planted acreage is expected to total 3,000, unchanged from 2005 and 2004.

**Corn** planted acreage is expected to total 75,000, down 5,000 acres from a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest number of planted corn acres on record in the state. The record book for planted acreage began in 1926 when New Jersey producers planted 191,000 acres of corn. Corn acreage is expected to be down due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

**All hay** acreage intended for harvest is expected to total 115,000, unchanged from a year ago but 5,000 acres less than 2004.

**Soybeans** planted acreage is expected to total 90,000, down 5,000 acres from last year and 15,000 acres from two years ago. If realized, this will be the lowest acreage planted since 1973 when 88,000 acres were planted.

**Sweet potato** acreage is expected to total 1,100 acres, down 100 acres from 2005 and 2004.

**Winter wheat** seeding for the 2006 season totaled 23,000, unchanged from December but down 5,000 acres from a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest number of winter wheat acreage sown.

### Prospective Plantings Compared to 2005 Acreage: New Jersey and United States, March 1, 2006

	New Jersey			US		
	2005	2006 <sup>1/</sup>	% Change	2005	2006 <sup>1/</sup>	% Change
	--- 1,000 acres ---			--- 1,000 acres ---		
<b>Barley</b>	3	3	NC	3,875	3,667	-5
<b>Corn</b>	80	75	-6	81,759	78,019	-5
<b>Hay, All <sup>2/</sup></b>	115	115	NC	61,649	61,478	<-1
<b>Soybeans</b>	95	90	-5	72,142	76,895	+7
<b>Sweet Potato</b>	1.2	1.1	-8	90.4	94.2	+4
<b>Winter Wheat <sup>3/</sup></b>	28	23	-18	40,433	41,404	+2

<sup>1/</sup> Intended plantings in 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

<sup>2/</sup> Intended area harvested for 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

<sup>3/</sup> Winter wheat was planted last fall.

NC = No change.