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New Jersey's FARM FACTS

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New Jersey Farm Real Estate Value Rises Six Percent from Previous Year

New Jersey farm real estate value, a measurement of the average value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$10,900 per acre as of January 1, 2006, up 3.8 percent from the previous year. The Garden State ranked fourth among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Rhode Island's real estate value per acre was the highest value per acre in the country, at \$12,500, followed closely by Massachusetts at \$11,600. Connecticut's real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$11,400 per acre. Delaware's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$10,200 per acre followed by Maryland's ranking of sixth, at \$8,900 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$11,200 per acre on January 1, 2006, up 6.7 percent from January 1, 2005. New Jersey ranked second among the states that publish cropland value per acre, behind Arizona at \$12,000 per acre. Delaware ranked third in cropland value per acre, at \$9,800. Maryland, at \$8,800 per acre, ranked fourth nationally for cropland value per acre.

New Jersey pasture value per acre ranked first in the nation among the states that publish this value, averaging \$11,700, 3.5 percent above the previous year. Maryland, at \$8,300 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value per acre. Florida's pasture value per acre ranked third, at \$7,500.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$47.50 per acre during the 2006 crop year, unchanged from the 2005 crop year. The average value of pasture rented for cash for the Northeast Region averaged \$26.00. States included in this region are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.



Farm Real Estate: 1/ Average Value per Acre, by Northeast Region and States within the Region, January 1, 2002-2006

Region and State	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 05-06
	-----Dollars-----					Percent
Northeast:	3,000	3,200	3,550	*4,110	4,550	10.7
Connecticut	8,500	9,500	10,200	10,800	11,400	5.6
Delaware	3,700	4,000	6,000	8,400	10,200	21.4
Maine	1,600	1,750	1,850	1,950	2,050	5.1
Maryland	4,000	4,150	5,700	7,900	8,900	12.7
Massachusetts	8,100	9,300	9,900	10,500	11,600	10.5
New Hampshire	2,800	3,100	3,250	3,450	3,700	7.2
New Jersey	8,600	9,100	9,750	*10,500	10,900	3.8
New York	1,610	1,700	1,780	*1,920	2,050	6.8
Pennsylvania	3,250	3,450	3,650	*4,220	4,790	13.5
Rhode Island	8,300	9,300	10,200	11,200	12,500	11.6
Vermont	1,900	2,050	2,150	2,300	2,450	6.5

*Revised

1/ Includes the value of both land and buildings on farms.

2004-2005 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Salem, Warren, and Sussex which produced 17.8, 11.5, and 9.6 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing other hay counties were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 42.2, 24.5, and 16.8 thousand tons, respectively.

2004-2005 Alfalfa Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	3,600	3,200	3.5	2.5	12,600	8,000
Somerset	1,300	900	4.0	1.9	5,200	1,710
Sussex	5,500	4,800	3.2	2.0	17,600	9,600
Warren	4,800	3,600	3.8	3.2	18,240	11,520
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	1,900	1,600	3.7	3.0	7,030	4,800
Monmouth	2,000	1,700	3.7	2.1	7,400	3,570
District 80 (South)						
Cumberland	1,600	1,200	3.9	3.4	6,240	4,080
Gloucester	2,000	1,800	4.5	2.4	9,000	4,320
Salem	5,300	4,800	4.0	3.7	21,200	17,760
Other Counties 1/	2,000	1,400	3.2	1.9	6,490	2,640
State	30,000	25,000	3.7	2.7	111,000	68,000

1/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

2004-2005 Other Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	27,000	26,400	1.9	1.6	51,300	42,240
Morris	3,300	3,400	1.8	1.8	5,940	6,120
Somerset	7,900	7,800	1.8	1.1	14,220	8,580
Sussex	16,400	16,300	1.7	1.5	27,880	24,450
Warren	10,000	9,900	2.0	1.7	20,000	16,830
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	5,500	5,800	2.0	2.3	11,000	13,340
Mercer	2,200	2,400	1.7	1.9	3,740	4,560
Middlesex	1,000	1,300	1.6	1.7	1,600	2,210
Monmouth	2,900	2,700	1.7	1.5	4,930	4,050
Ocean	600	500	1.4	1.4	840	700
District 80 (South)						
Atlantic	700	900	1.4	1.2	980	1,080
Camden	900	800	2.0	1.5	1,800	1,200
Cape May	900	900	1.6	1.4	1,440	1,260
Cumberland	2,200	2,600	2.5	1.6	5,500	4,160
Gloucester	2,400	2,300	2.5	1.6	6,000	3,680
Salem	5,900	5,700	2.3	1.6	13,570	9,120
Other Counties 1/	200	300	1.3	1.4	260	420
State	90,000	90,000	1.9	1.6	171,000	144,000

1/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

New Jersey 2006 Blueberry Crop

Ideal spring weather conditions caused this year's blueberry harvest to start earlier than normal. The quality of berries looks good. Bloom was reported 17% light, 49% average, and 34% heavy. Set of fruit was reported 18% light, 51% average, and 31% heavy.

New Jersey Blueberries, 2004-2006, Acres, Yield, Production, & Value of Production

Year	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre 1/ (Lbs)	Production (1,000 Lbs)	
			Total	Utilized
2004	7,500	5,200	39,000	39,000
2005	7,500	6,000	45,000	45,000
2006	7,500	2/	47,000	2/

1/ Yield is derived from utilized production.

2/ Not available until January 2007.

New Jersey 2006 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

- **Apple** production is forecast at 45 million pounds, unchanged from last year. Growing conditions are rated good. Apples are sizing well. Early varieties are being harvested in the southern portion of the state. Prospects for this year's crop are good.
- **Peach** production is forecast at 36,000 tons, up 1,000 tons from July forecast. Fruit quality and size are rated good to excellent. Current prices and demand are strong. Harvest of peach was one week earlier than usual and will continue until the mid-September.

Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Units	Final 2005	- Total Production -	
			Forecast July 1, 2006	Forecast August 1, 2006
NEW JERSEY				
Apples	Million Pounds	45.0	1/	45.0
Peaches	Tons	35,000	35,000	36,000
UNITED STATES				
Apples	Million Pounds	9864.9	1/	9,619.7
Peaches	Tons	1,184,550	1,058,300	1,053,800

1/ First apple forecast is August 1.

New Jersey's Soybean Crop Up 19 Percent

- **Corn** production is forecast at 7.56 million bushels, unchanged from last year. Producers expect 122 bushels per acre for the 2006 crop. The state record yield per acre is 143 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year (1996-2005) state average yield is 104.8 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain, at 62,000 acres, unchanged from 2005.
- **Soybean** yield is forecast at 33 bushels per acre, up 5 bushels from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 42 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year average yield is 31.9 bushels. Production is expected to total 3.04 million bushels, up 19 percent from 2005. Soybean harvested area is expected to total 92,000 acres, 1,000 acres more than 2005.

Acres, Yield, and Production of Corn and Soybeans, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2005	Forecast 2006	2005	Forecast 2006	2005	Forecast 2006	2005	Forecast 2006
NEW JERSEY								
	- - - - - Thousand				- Bushels -		- Thousand Bushels -	
Corn for grain	80	75	62	62	122.0	122.0	7,564	7,564
Soybeans	95	95	91	92	28.0	33.0	2,548	3,036
UNITED STATES								
	- - - - - Thousand				- Bushels -		- Million Bushels -	
Corn for grain	81,759	79,366	75,107	72,091	147.9	152.2	11,112.1	10,975.7
Soybeans	72,142	74,939	71,361	73,935	43.3	39.6	3,086.4	2,927.6

Notes: Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2006, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The next crop production forecast will be released September 12, 2006.

July Farm Prices Received Index Down 0.8 percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 117, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from June. The Crop Index is down 2.4 percent, while the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for grapes, cantaloupes, hogs and broccoli. Higher prices were received for cattle, broilers, asparagus and snap beans. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of grapes, wheat, tomatoes and hay offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupes, potatoes and asparagus.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 0.9 percent from July 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, decreased 0.8 percent from last month but was unchanged from July 2005.

Prices Paid Index is unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 148 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 0.7 percent from June and 5.0 percent above July 2005. Higher prices in July for feeder cattle, feed grains, gasoline, and diesel fuel more than offset lower feeder pigs, milk cows, nitrogen fertilizers and herbicides.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2005	June 2006	July 2006
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.37	2.78	2.46
Corn, per bushel	2.11	2.14	2.20
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	99.70	109.00	107.00
Soybeans, per bushel	6.65	5.61	5.60
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	0.157	0.277	0.336
Strawberries, per cwt	50.60	51.40	59.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	22.20	23.00	21.30
Lettuce, per cwt	11.00	11.80	11.20
Tomatoes, per cwt	28.00	32.00	26.90
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	85.00	84.20	86.10
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	88.20	88.50	90.40
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	53.80	46.70	47.00
Calves, per cwt	133.00	133.00	136.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	0.440	0.390	0.400
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	0.527	0.563	0.456
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	14.80	11.90	11.90

^{1/} Mid-month price.

^{2/} Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, and NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

^{5/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{6/} July 2006 Fat test percent: all milk 3.54, fluid milk 3.54, and mfg grade 3.73.

To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the USDA, NASS, New Jersey Field Office at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.

