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# New Jersey's FARM FACTS

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## New Jersey 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 from 2005 and 2004.

**Winter wheat** seeding for 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</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.

NC = No change.



## New Jersey Farm Numbers and Land in Farms Down from 2004

The number of New Jersey farms in 2005 is estimated at 9,800 farms, down 100 farms from the previous year. Total Garden State land in farms, at 790,000 acres, is down 30,000 acres from 2004. The average farm size is 81 acres, compared to 83 acres the previous year.

## United States Farms and Land in Farms Down Slightly in 2005

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, down 0.6 percent from 2004. Land in farms is estimated at 933 million acres, down 2.9 million from the previous year. The average farm size is 444 acres compared to 443 acres in 2004.

### Number of Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

| State             | 2000         | 2001         | 2002         | 2003         | 2004         | 2005         |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                   | Number       | Number       | Number       | Number       | Number       | Number       |
| Maryland          | 12,400       | 12,300       | 12,200       | 12,100       | 12,100       | 12,100       |
| <b>New Jersey</b> | <b>9,700</b> | <b>9,800</b> | <b>9,900</b> | <b>9,900</b> | <b>9,900</b> | <b>9,800</b> |
| New York          | 37,500       | 37,500       | 37,000       | 37,000       | 36,000       | 35,600       |
| Pennsylvania      | 59,000       | 58,500       | 58,200       | 58,200       | 58,200       | 58,200       |
| United States     | 2,166,780    | 2,148,630    | 2,135,360    | 2,126,860    | 2,112,970    | 2,100,990    |

### Land in Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

| State             | 2000        | 2001        | 2002        | 2003        | 2004        | 2005        |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                   | 1,000 Acres |
| Maryland          | 2,130       | 2,100       | 2,080       | 2,060       | 2,050       | 2,040       |
| <b>New Jersey</b> | <b>830</b>  | <b>830</b>  | <b>820</b>  | <b>820</b>  | <b>820</b>  | <b>790</b>  |
| New York          | 7,670       | 7,660       | 7,660       | 7,650       | 7,600       | 7,550       |
| Pennsylvania      | 7,690       | 7,710       | 7,700       | 7,700       | 7,700       | 7,700       |
| United States     | 945,080     | 942,070     | 940,300     | 938,650     | 936,295     | 933,400     |

### Average Farm Size: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

| State             | 2000      | 2001      | 2002      | 2003      | 2004      | 2005      |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                   | Acres     | Acres     | Acres     | Acres     | Acres     | Acres     |
| Maryland          | 172       | 171       | 170       | 170       | 169       | 169       |
| <b>New Jersey</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>85</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>81</b> |
| New York          | 205       | 204       | 207       | 207       | 211       | 212       |
| Pennsylvania      | 130       | 132       | 132       | 132       | 132       | 132       |
| United States     | 436       | 438       | 440       | 441       | 443       | 444       |

**Farm Definition History:** The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability to the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.



## 2004-2005 Corn County Estimates, New Jersey

| County                       | Acres Planted For All Purposes |               | Acres Harvested |               | Yield Per Acre (Bushels) |              | Production (Bushels) |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                              | 2004                           | 2005          | 2004            | 2005          | 2004                     | 2005         | 2004                 | 2005             |
| <b>District 20 (North)</b>   |                                |               |                 |               |                          |              |                      |                  |
| Hunterdon                    | 7,500                          | 6,500         | 6,600           | 5,400         | 140.0                    | 133.0        | 924,000              | 718,200          |
| Morris                       | 1,300                          | 1,200         | 1,100           | 1,100         | 128.0                    | 98.0         | 140,800              | 107,800          |
| Somerset                     | 3,300                          | 3,300         | 3,100           | 2,200         | 125.0                    | 85.0         | 387,500              | 187,000          |
| Sussex                       | 5,100                          | 4,800         | 2,800           | 2,700         | 126.0                    | 121.0        | 352,800              | 326,700          |
| Warren                       | 19,900                         | 19,100        | 15,900          | 12,100        | 144.0                    | 125.0        | 2,289,600            | 1,512,500        |
| <b>District 50 (Central)</b> |                                |               |                 |               |                          |              |                      |                  |
| Burlington                   | 8,500                          | 7,000         | 7,800           | 6,400         | 136.0                    | 113.0        | 1,060,800            | 723,200          |
| Mercer                       | 3,600                          | 3,400         | 3,400           | 3,100         | 135.0                    | 123.0        | 459,000              | 381,300          |
| Middlesex                    | 3,900                          | 3,300         | 3,700           | 3,100         | 150.0                    | 120.0        | 555,000              | 372,000          |
| Monmouth                     | 2,300                          | 2,000         | 2,200           | 1,600         | 124.0                    | 107.0        | 272,800              | 171,200          |
| Ocean                        | 600                            | 500           | 400             | 300           | 127.0                    | 89.0         | 50,800               | 26,700           |
| <b>District 80 (South)</b>   |                                |               |                 |               |                          |              |                      |                  |
| Cumberland                   | 5,500                          | 5,300         | 4,900           | 4,300         | 154.0                    | 124.0        | 754,600              | 533,200          |
| Gloucester                   | 4,100                          | 3,700         | 3,300           | 2,700         | 145.0                    | 121.0        | 478,500              | 326,700          |
| Salem                        | 19,700                         | 19,300        | 16,200          | 16,500        | 155.0                    | 130.0        | 2,511,000            | 2,145,000        |
| Other Counties <sup>1/</sup> | 700                            | 600           | 600             | 500           | 98.0                     | 65.0         | 58,800               | 32,500           |
| <b>State</b>                 | <b>86,000</b>                  | <b>80,000</b> | <b>72,000</b>   | <b>62,000</b> | <b>143.0</b>             | <b>122.0</b> | <b>10,296,000</b>    | <b>7,564,000</b> |

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



## 2004-2005 Soybean County Estimates, New Jersey

| County                       | Acres Planted For All Purposes |               | Acres Harvested |               | Yield Per Acre (Bushels) |             | Production (Bushels) |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------|
|                              | 2004                           | 2005          | 2004            | 2005          | 2004                     | 2005        | 2004                 | 2005             |
| <b>District 20 (North)</b>   |                                |               |                 |               |                          |             |                      |                  |
| Hunterdon                    | 7,100                          | 5,500         | 7,000           | 5,200         | 44.0                     | 34.0        | 308,000              | 176,800          |
| Somerset                     | 1,600                          | 1,500         | 1,500           | 1,400         | 41.0                     | 20.0        | 61,500               | 28,000           |
| Warren                       | 6,300                          | 6,100         | 6,200           | 5,900         | 47.0                     | 40.0        | 291,400              | 236,000          |
| <b>District 50 (Central)</b> |                                |               |                 |               |                          |             |                      |                  |
| Burlington                   | 24,000                         | 21,800        | 23,500          | 20,700        | 41.0                     | 31.0        | 963,500              | 641,700          |
| Mercer                       | 6,200                          | 5,200         | 6,100           | 5,000         | 41.0                     | 27.0        | 250,100              | 135,000          |
| Monmouth                     | 5,400                          | 4,800         | 5,300           | 4,600         | 42.0                     | 25.0        | 222,600              | 115,000          |
| <b>District 80 (South)</b>   |                                |               |                 |               |                          |             |                      |                  |
| Cumberland                   | 13,000                         | 10,700        | 12,800          | 10,200        | 41.0                     | 20.0        | 524,800              | 204,000          |
| Gloucester                   | 10,500                         | 9,100         | 10,300          | 8,900         | 42.0                     | 25.0        | 432,600              | 222,500          |
| Salem                        | 24,200                         | 23,800        | 23,900          | 23,300        | 42.0                     | 28.0        | 1,003,800            | 652,400          |
| Other Counties <sup>1/</sup> | 6,700                          | 6,500         | 6,400           | 5,800         | 41.8                     | 23.6        | 267,700              | 136,600          |
| <b>State</b>                 | <b>105,000</b>                 | <b>95,000</b> | <b>103,000</b>  | <b>91,000</b> | <b>42.0</b>              | <b>28.0</b> | <b>4,326,000</b>     | <b>2,548,000</b> |

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



**March 2006 Farm Prices Received Index  
Down 0.9 Percent from Last Month**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March 2006, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 0.9 percent below the February 2006 Index. The Crop Index is up 2.6 percent while the Livestock Index is down 2.6 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of asparagus, strawberries, milk and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton and corn.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 5.0 percent from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, is 0.9 percent below last month and down 5.7 percent from March 2005.

**Prices Paid Index Down 0.7 Percent from Last Month**

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 144 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was down 0.7 percent from February but 3.6 percent above March 2005. Lower prices in March 2006 for feeder cattle, LP gas, nitrogen fertilizers and feed concentrates were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, herbicides and hay and forages.

**Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States**

| Item                                    | Entire Month |          | Preliminary |
|---|--------------|----------|-------------|
|   | Mar 2005     | Feb 2006 | Mar 2006    |
| - - Dollars - -                         |              |          |             |
| <b>Field Crops</b>                      |              |          |             |
| Barley, per bushel                      | 2.49         | 2.57     | 2.55        |
| Corn, per bushel                        | 2.02         | 2.02     | 2.01        |
| Hay, all, baled, per ton <sup>1/</sup>  | 92.60        | 95.00    | 97.10       |
| Soybeans, per bushel                    | 5.95         | 5.67     | 5.55        |
| <b>Fruit, fresh</b>                     |              |          |             |
| Apples, per lb <sup>2/</sup>            | 0.184        | 0.259    | 0.256       |
| Strawberries, per cwt                   | 60.90        | 104.00   | 71.40       |
| <b>Vegetables, fresh</b>                |              |          |             |
| Corn, Sweet, per cwt                    | 26.10        | 35.00    | 35.60       |
| Lettuce, per cwt                        | 27.90        | 12.10    | 16.10       |
| Tomatoes, per cwt                       | 40.70        | 57.60    | 37.80       |
| <b>Livestock and Livestock Products</b> |              |          |             |
| Beef Cattle, per cwt                    | 91.00        | 92.40    | 89.20       |
| Steers and Heifers, per cwt             | 95.20        | 97.80    | 94.10       |
| Cows, per cwt <sup>3/</sup>             | 55.00        | 49.70    | 49.90       |
| Calves, per cwt                         | 136.00       | 142.00   | 138.00      |
| Broilers, live, per lb <sup>4/</sup>    | 0.440        | 0.380    | 0.370       |
| Eggs, all, per dozen <sup>1/</sup>      | .526         | 0.495    | 0.664       |
| Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5/ 6/</sup>     | 15.60        | 13.50    | 12.80       |

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month price.

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

<sup>3/</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>4/</sup> Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

<sup>5/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

<sup>6/</sup> March 2006 fat test percent: all milk 3.72, fluid milk 3.72 and mfg grade 4.00.



To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Field Office at [www.nass.usda.gov/nj/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj/) or call 1-800-328-0179.

