

Highlights

Agriculture is important to New York State. Agricultural production returned over \$3.1 billion to the farm economy in 2003. About 25 percent of the state's land area, or 7.65 million acres are used by the 37,000 farms to produce a very diverse array of food products. Here are some of the items in which New York ranks high nationally:

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

Dairy and animal production in New York provided \$1.91 billion to farmers in 2003. That accounts for 61 percent of all cash receipts.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk is New York's leading agricultural product and is produced all across the state. Milk sales account for one-half of total agricultural receipts. Production in 2003 was 12.0 billion pounds with a value of \$1.56 billion. New York is the nation's 3rd leading producer and Wyoming is the State's leading county.

MEAT PRODUCTION

New York livestock producers marketed 238 million pounds of meat animals during 2003 bringing in \$133 million in cash receipts. Sales from cattle and calves accounted for \$121 million, hogs and pigs returned \$9.5 million, and sheep and lambs provided \$2.5 million.

POULTRY PRODUCTION

The value of New York eggs, ducks, broilers and turkeys plus the value of sales for other chickens totaled \$66.2 million for 2003. Eggs made up \$56.3 million of the total followed by broilers at \$5.11 million. New York ranks 22nd among all egg producing states.



CROP PRODUCTION

Field crops, fruits and vegetables return \$1.2 billion to New York farmers in 2003.

FRUITS

New York's fruit crop receipts were valued at \$168 million in 2003. Apples and grapes lead New York fruit crops in value.

APPLES

New York ranks 2nd nationally with receipts worth about \$103 million in 2003. Three general areas produce most of the apples: along the southern Lake Ontario shore, along the Hudson Valley, and along the upper Lake Champlain Valley. New York's leading varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Rome, Idared, and Red Delicious.

GRAPES

Wine and juice grape production place New York 3rd behind California and Washington. The crop was worth \$38.6 million in 2003. Two-thirds of the production was for juice and one-third went into wines. The four major producing areas are: Lake Erie area, the Finger Lakes, the Hudson Valley and the eastern end of Long Island.

TART CHERRIES

Production in New York ranks 5th in the Nation. Production totaled 7.2 million pounds with a value of \$2.26 million.

PEARS

Production ranked 4th in the nation with 14,800 tons and had a value of \$5.51 million.

STRAWBERRIES

Strawberries are the 3rd most valuable fruit in New York and places New York 7th in national production. Growers harvested 5.00 million pounds in 2003. The crop returned \$7.75 million to growers.

VEGETABLES

The value of vegetables totaled \$321 million in 2003. Fresh market vegetables rank 6th and processing vegetables are 8th among all states. Leading crops in New York are cabbage, sweet corn and onions.

CABBAGE

The nation's 2nd largest producer, cabbage is principally grown south of Lake Ontario in Monroe, Genesee, Orleans, Ontario and Niagara counties. New York cabbage is typically stored for sale as fresh during winter months. Value of the fresh market crop in 2003 totaled \$38.7 million.

SWEET CORN

Produced statewide, fresh market sweet corn had a value of \$92.9 million. Concentrations are found in the Lower Hudson Valley and around the Genesee Valley. The 2003 fresh market crop worth \$84.3 million, placed 3rd nationally and the processing crop valued at \$8.52 million ranked 6th.

ONIONS

An important crop with receipts of \$49.9 million in 2003. Onions are grown in New York's muck soils in Orange, Orleans, Oswego, Madison and Wayne counties. The state ranked 8th in production for 2003 with 381 million pounds.



SNAP BEANS

Grown in the Central and Western regions for fresh and processing. The 2003 crop was valued at \$40.4 million. Fresh production accounted for 66 percent of the total and puts New York 4th across the nation. Processing sales of \$13.4 million rank New York 3rd.

OTHER VEGETABLES

Tomatoes (\$26.0 million - 9th nationally), pumpkins (\$9.94 million - 6th nationally), cucumbers (\$12.5 million - 6th nationally), squash (\$23.5 million - 5th nationally), green peas for processing (\$9.82 million - 5th nationally), cauliflower (\$2.07 million).

FIELD CROPS

New York produces a variety of field crops largely in support of its dairy industry. Corn, oats and wheat are most widely grown with soybeans steadily increasing in importance. New York ranks 2nd in corn silage, valued at \$252 million. Production of grain corn ranked 21st with a value of \$149 million. Soybean production was valued at \$33.8 million. The state placed 12th in oat production, 29th in wheat and 28th for soybeans. Hay production put New York 17th and was valued at \$454 million in 2003. Most hay is used on farms and its value is realized through sale of milk and livestock. Potatoes reached a value of \$61.8 million in 2003 and made New York the 14th leading producer.

MAPLE SYRUP

At \$5.63 million, New York ranks 3rd behind Maine in value and 3rd with 255,000 gallons produced behind Vermont and Maine in 2004.

FLORICULTURE CROPS

In 2003, New York floriculture products were valued at \$196 million. Bedding and garden plants top the list of commodities. New York's floriculture output ranks 5th nationally. A variety of crops are produced in 24 million square feet of covered area and on 1,042 acres of open ground. Christmas trees provide about \$18 million of sales and made New York the 11th leading producer in 2001.