



Keystone Ag Digest

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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<i>This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."</i>			

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Pennsylvania during June 2008 totaled 890 million pounds, 1.9 percent above last June's production of 873 million pounds. The number of milk cows in the state during the month averaged 546,000 head, 2,000 less than May, and 3,000 less than June 2007. Production per cow averaged 1,630 pounds in June, 90 pounds less than May's production per cow of 1,720 pounds and 40 pounds more than June 2007.

Milk production in the 23 states surveyed during June 2008 totaled 14.7 billion pounds, up 3.4 percent compared to production in these same states during June 2007. May revised production, at 15.4 billion pounds, was up 3.5 percent from May 2007. The May revision represented an increase of 14 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major states averaged 1,737 pounds for June, 25 pounds above June 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major states was 8.46 million head, 158,000 head more than June 2007, and 1,000 head more than May 2008.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

United States' butter production was 144 million pounds, 15.8 percent above May 2007 but 4.4 percent below April 2008. Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 828 million pounds, 0.5 percent above May 2007 and 2.3 percent above April 2008. Italian type cheese production totaled 346 million pounds, 1.7 percent below May 2007 but 0.6 percent above April 2008. American type cheese production totaled 347 million pounds, 4.5 percent above May 2007 and 3.0 percent above April 2008. Frozen products: (comparisons with May 2007) Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 80.0 million gallons, down 7.2 percent. Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 39.5 million gallons, up 1.0 percent. Sherbet (hard) --- 5.56 million gallons, down 8.8 percent. Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 6.72 million gallons, up 15.1 percent.

PRODUCTION OF SELECTED DAIRY PRODUCTS

Products	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008
<i>000 Lbs.</i>			
PENNSYLVANIA			
Butter	7,325	7,818	7,288
Ice Cream	3,327	2,860	3,041
UNITED STATES			
Butter	123,991	150,118	143,582
Cheese:			
American Types	332,537	337,392	347,369
Swiss	28,304	25,873	28,004
Brick and Muenster	9,013	8,888	9,603
Cream and Neufchatel	61,034	55,008	56,777
Mozzarella	280,745	273,771	271,888
Other Italian	70,815	69,834	73,641
Total Italian Types	351,560	343,605	345,529
All Other	25,844	23,375	26,681
Total	824,627	810,178	828,410
NF Dry Milk, Human	115,381	132,998	129,043
Yogurt, Plain & Flavored	300,437	300,300	299,233
<i>000 Gal.</i>			
FROZEN PRODUCTS:			
Ice Cream, Hard	86,180	75,984	80,017
Ice Cream, Lowfat	39,094	36,992	39,501
Ice Cream, Nonfat	1,314	1,174	1,181
Sherbet, Hard	6,092	5,670	5,557
Frozen Yogurt, Total	5,838	6,201	6,717
FOR PRODUCTS:			
Ice Cream Mix	47,482	44,049	45,157
Ice Cream Mix, Lowfat	23,801	21,125	22,639
Ice Cream Mix, Nonfat	738	688	680
Sherbet Mix	4,019	3,673	3,501
Yogurt Mix	3,805	3,758	4,071

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			23 States		
		Jun 2007	May 2008	Jun 2008	Jun 2007	May 2008	Jun 2008
Milk Cows	Thous.	549	548	546	8,302	8,459	8,460
Milk Per Cow	Lbs.	1,590	1,720	1,630	1,712	1,818	1,737
Milk Production	Mil. Lbs.	873	943	890	14,216	15,375	14,697

CROP FORECAST

Based on July 1, 2008 forecast for yield and production, the Keystone state's farmers expect to produce more oats, barley, winter wheat, potatoes, and peaches this year.

Oat acreage for grain, at 80,000, is unchanged from last year's harvested acres. The July 1, 2008 oat yield is forecast at 63 bushels per acre, 7 bushels per acre above the final yield of 2007. If realized, the resulting oat production of 5.04 million bushels will be up 13 percent from last year. Winter wheat acres to be harvested for grain are expected to total 185,000, up 30,000 acres from last year. The July 1, 2008 winter wheat yield is forecast at 58.0 bushels per acre, which is unchanged from both the June 1 projected yield and last year's final yield. The resulting winter wheat production of 10,730 million bushels will be up 19 percent from last year's production of 8.99 million bushels. Barley acreage for grain at 55,000 is up 13,000 acres from 2007. Barley yield is expected to be 74.0 bushels per acre this year for an expected production of 4.07 million bushels. This production is up 33 percent from last year's production of 3.07 million bushels. Fall potatoes were planted on 11,000 acres this year, up 5 percent from last year. Harvest is expected from 10,500 acres, also up 5 percent from a year ago. Peach production in Pennsylvania is expected to be 23,000 tons. This is up 19 percent from 2007.

At the United States level, oat production is forecast at 92.9 million bushels, 1 percent above last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. The expected yield for oats, forecast at 64.4 bushels per acre, is up 3.5 bushels from 2007. Growers expect to harvest 1.44 million acres for grain, down 4 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the smallest harvested area on record. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels. This is up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008, but up 12 percent from last year. Barley production for 2008 is forecast at 218 million bushels, 3 percent above 2007. Based on conditions as of July 1, the average yield is forecast at 59.8 bushels per acre, down less than 1 bushel from last year. Expected area for harvest for grain, at 3.64 million acres, is up 4 percent from 2007.

For the United States, fall potatoes were planted on 929,100 acres this year, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below 2006. Harvested area is forecast at 916,200 acres, also down 8 percent from 2007 and 7 percent below 2006. This decrease in planted acreage can partly be attributed to higher prices from competing crops, which influenced growers to plant crops other than potatoes.

CROP PROSPECTS - JULY 1, 2008 WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Year	Pennsylvania				United States				Unit
		Acreage (000)		Production		Acreage (000)		Production		
		Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	(000)	Planted	Harvested	Per Acre	(000)	
Corn	2007	1,410	980 ¹	128.0	125,440	93,600	86,542 ¹	151.1	13,073,893	Bu.
	2008	1,370	950 ¹	²	²	87,327	78,940 ¹	²	²	Bu.
Sorghum	2007	15	3 ¹	56.0	168	7,718	6,805 ¹	74.2	504,993	Bu.
	2008	16	4 ¹	²	²	7,271	6,405 ¹	²	²	Bu.
Wheat, Winter	2007	170	155	58.0	8,990	44,987	35,952	42.2	1,515,989	Bu.
	2008	195	185	58.0	10,730	46,605	40,252	46.3	1,864,245	Bu.
Oats	2007	115	80	56.0	4,480	3,760	1,505	60.9	91,599	Bu.
	2008	110	80	63.0	5,040	3,467	1,443	64.4	92,872	Bu.
Barley	2007	55	42	73.0	3,066	4,020	3,508	60.4	211,825	Bu.
	2008	65	55	74.0	4,070	4,130	3,640	59.8	217,819	Bu.
Soybeans	2007	425	420	41.0	17,220	63,631	62,820	41.2	2,585,207	Bu.
	2008	445	440	²	²	74,533	72,121	²	²	Bu.
Hay, Dry Alfalfa	2007	-	600	3.00	1,800	-	21,670	3.35	72,575	Ton
	2008	-	520	²	²	-	20,778	²	²	Ton
Hay, Dry Other	2007	-	1,200	2.00	2,400	-	39,955	1.95	77,729	Ton
	2008	-	1,230	²	²	-	39,661	²	²	Ton
Tobacco, All	2007	-	7.9	2,050	7,175	-	356.0	2,187	778,624	Lbs.
	2008	-	8.8	²	²	-	348.0	²	²	Lbs.
Potatoes, Fall	2007	10.5	10.0	220	2,200	1,010.6	996.7	410	409,082	
	2008	11.0	10.5	³	³	929.1	916.2	³	³	

¹ Harvested for grain, remainder of planted acres for silage and other uses. ² Not available until August. ³ Not available until November.

MINK PELT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania mink pelt production in 2007 totaled 70,240 pelts, up 6 percent from 2006. Average prices for mink pelts produced in Pennsylvania are not available. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2008 totaled 16,450, down 13 percent from the previous year. Forty percent of the females bred to produce kits are of the black color class.

United States' mink pelt production in 2007 totaled 2.83 million pelts, down 1 percent from 2006. Wisconsin, the largest mink producing state, produced 914,100 pelts. Utah, the second largest producing

state, produced 599,430 pelts. Mink pelts produced during the 2007 crop year were valued at \$186 million dollars, up 34 percent from \$139 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 2007 crop year was \$65.70, up \$17.30 from \$48.40 in 2006. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2008 totaled 691,170, down 1 percent from the previous year. There were 283 mink farms producing pelts in 2007, up 1 percent from a year ago. Leading States were Wisconsin with 71 farms, Utah with 65 farms and Idaho with 24.



VEGETABLE ACREAGE

Vegetable processors in Pennsylvania have contracted 10,800 acres of snap beans in 2008, up 10 percent from the 9,800 acres contracted in 2007.

Pennsylvania's forecasts based on the 2008 July Fresh Market Vegetable Survey indicate a 6 percent decrease in harvested acreage for fresh market sweet corn. Fresh market sweet corn acres for harvest are forecast at 13,400, down from the 14,200 acres harvested in 2007.

United States' processors have contracted 1.20 million acres to be planted to the nation's five major vegetable crops (snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes). This is down slightly from last year. Acreage increases for sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, and green peas more than offset declines in snap beans and tomatoes. Green pea contracted production, at 426,830 tons, was

down 2 percent from 2007. Contracted tomato production is forecast at 12.2 million tons, down 3 percent from 2007.

At the United States level, prospective acreage for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the summer quarter in the major producing states is forecast to be 282,400 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Acreage declines in snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, head lettuce, and tomatoes more than offset acreage increases in carrots and celery. Cucumbers and bell peppers harvested area remains unchanged. Area forecast for melon harvest is 109,900 acres, down 8 percent from last year. Cantaloup area is forecast at 34,000 acres, 7 percent below 2007. Honeydew area, at 13,000 acres, is down 6 percent from last year. Watermelon area, at 62,900 acres, is 9 percent below a year ago.

2007 FRUIT PRODUCTION

Pennsylvania apple production was 470 million pounds in 2007, unchanged from 2006. Of this 470 million pounds, 467 million pounds were utilized. The average utilized yield per bearing acre was 21,900 pounds. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$66.5 million, up 11 percent from 2006. Pennsylvania ranked fourth in U.S. apple production behind Washington, New York, and Michigan. Washington produced 5.20 billion pounds, New York produced 1.31 billion pounds, and Michigan produced 770 million pounds.

Tart cherry production was 3.5 million pounds from 600 acres. The yield per bearing acre was 5,830 pounds, down from 7,430 pounds in 2006. The preliminary farm level value was \$1.4 million. Michigan, the top tart cherry producing state, harvested 196 million pounds.

Pennsylvania grape growers produced 84,000 tons from 12,100 acres in 2007. The preliminary farm level value was \$20.9 million. There were 71,500 tons of Concords, 5,600 tons of Niagara, and 6,900 tons of other grapes crushed in 2007. Grapes processed for wine totaled 14,500 tons, down 10 percent from 2006. Pennsylvania ranked fifth in grape production behind California, Washington, New York, and Michigan.

Pennsylvania peach production was 19,400 tons from 4,300 acres in 2007. The average utilized yield per bearing acre was 4.51 tons per acre. The preliminary farm level value of the crop was \$17.5 million. Pennsylvania ranked fourth in peach production behind California, New Jersey, and Michigan. Pear production was 4,000 tons from 800 acres in 2007. The preliminary farm level value was \$2.9 million.

2006 - 2007 FRUIT: UTILIZED PRODUCTION & VALUE

Crop	Utilized Production				Value of Utilized Production			
	Pennsylvania		United States		Pennsylvania		United States	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Million Pounds</i>				<i>(000) Dollars</i>			
Apples.....	467.0	467.0	9,775.5	9,069.9	59,813.0	66,489.0	2,236,112.0	2,579,714.0
Tart Cherries.....	5.2	3.5	248.6	248.7	1,474.0	1,392.0	53,454.0	67,923.0
	<i>Tons</i>							
Pears	3,800.0	4,000.0	831,120.0	871,850.0	2,706.0	2,869.0	329,928.0	363,092.0
Peaches.....	21,300.0	19,400.0	987,080.0	1,117,185.0	19,454.0	17,524.0	512,867.0	504,566.0
Grapes.....	82,000.0	84,000.0	6,365,850.0	7,017,000.0	20,607.0	20,913.0	3,303,668.0	3,447,034.0

[†] Sweet cherry estimates discontinued in 2006.

JULY 1, 2008 FRUIT FORECASTS WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Year	Production	
		Pennsylvania	United States
		<i>Tons</i>	
Peaches.	2006	21,600	1,010,120
	2007	19,400	1,128,740
	2008	23,000	1,097,150
		<i>Million Pounds</i>	
Tart Cherries	2006	5.2	263.8
	2007	3.5	251.9
	2008	3.0	177.3

TILLAGE PRACTICES

The second survey of tillage practices for field crops in the Commonwealth has just been completed. The first survey was conducted in 2007. The tillage survey was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. It was conducted in conjunction with NASS's annual June Agricultural Survey. In order to address the problem of highly erodible soil and soil compaction, many farmers have turned to no-till and minimum till practices. Until recently there were no survey based estimates of how many acres had been converted from conventional tillage practices to alternative methods. Over the past few years several industry groups, including the No-Till Alliance, Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation have requested that NASS's Pennsylvania Field Office provide information on the tillage practices used in Pennsylvania.

In 2008, conventional tillage was used on 30% of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, up only slightly from the 29.2% recorded in 2007. No-till was practiced on 50% of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 20%. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 31% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 48% of the acreage, and the remaining 21% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. In soybeans, conventional till was used on 20% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 62% of the acreage, and the remaining 18% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices. Alfalfa seeding showed the biggest change, with 40% of the acres reported as being seeded using no-till practices.

PENNSYLVANIA: TILLAGE PRACTICES BY CROP, 2008

Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,370,000	660,000	48	290,000	21	420,000	31
Soybeans	445,000	275,000	62	80,000	18	90,000	20
Barley	65,000	31,000	48	12,000	18	22,000	34
Winter Wheat ⁵	195,000	95,000	49	40,000	21	60,000	31
Oats	105,000	30,000	29	18,000	17	57,000	54
Total ⁶	2,180,000	1,091,000	50	440,000	20	649,000	30
Alfalfa Seedings ^{7/8}	-	-	40	-	20	-	40

¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Conventional Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. ⁷ New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2008. ⁸ Alfalfa seeded acres will be available in January 2009.

County estimates for **2008** can now be found online for hay, forage, barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum. Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass and click on 'QuickSTATS'



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