

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



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QUARTERLY AG SURVEY

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How many acres will be planted to corn and soybeans? What will spring planting conditions mean for Maryland Farmers. There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. To gather reliable, objective information, the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers and ranchers for the June Agricultural Survey. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2004.

One of our experienced field or office staff will be contacting local producers beginning May 28th. The information they gather is widely used. Producers rely on these data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension

agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

“We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses,” Norman Bennett, State Director, says. “Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data.” MASS works with farmers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/md or call 1-800-675-0295.

MARYLAND FIELD ENUMERATORS BY COUNTY

ALLEGANY

Carolyn Ganoe

ANNE ARUNDEL

Jerry Shaw
Richard Livingston

BALTIMORE

Grayson Bowers
Richard Frounfelter

CALVERT

Jerry Shaw

CARROLL

Grayson Bowers

CECIL

Jacqui England

CAROLINE

Melaine Minear
Linda Sockrider

CHARLES

Robert Fastnaught
Jerry Shaw

DORCHESTER

Patsy Low
Janice Russell

FREDERICK

Judy Koliopulos
Nola Ramsburg

GARRETT

Carolyn Ganoe

HARFORD

Jacqui England

HOWARD

Richard Frounfelter

KENT

P.A. Keating

MONTGOMERY

Richard Frounfelter

PRINCE GEORGE'S

Jerry Shaw
Richard Livingston

QUEEN ANNE'S

P.A. Keating

ST. MARY'S

Robert Fastnaught

SOMERSET

Patsy Low
June Brandenburg

TALBOT

Patsy Low
Melaine Minear

WASHINGTON

Judy Koliopulos

WICOMICO

Patsy Low
June Brandenburg

WORCESTER

June Brandenburg
Kay Spinnato

CROP PRODUCTION

This Crop Production Report is the result of the May Agricultural Yield Survey. We wish to thank the producers who help to make this report possible.

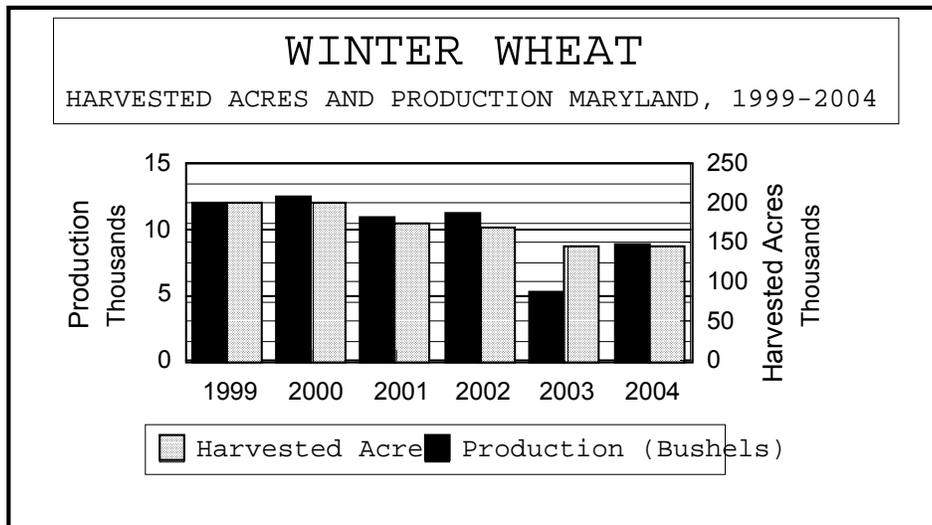


The winter wheat crop in Maryland is expected to yield an average of 61 bushels per acre, based on May 1 conditions. This average yield, combined with harvested acreage of 145,000 acres, translates to an overall production level of 8,845,000 bushels, 65 percent greater than last year's production. The average yield is forecast at 24 bushels per acre higher than last year's final average of 37 bushels per acre. According to the Maryland Crop Progress and Condition Report, the condition of the wheat crop for the week ending May 2nd was 14 percent excellent, 64 percent good, 19 percent fair, and 3 percent poor.

U.S. Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season.

Winter Wheat Acreage and Production, MD, DE, and U.S., 2003-2004						
State	Harvested Acres		Average Yield		Production	
	2003	2004 ¹	2003	2004 ¹	2003	2004 ¹
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
Delaware	47	43	41.0	63.0	1,927	2,709
Maryland	145	145	37.0	61.0	5,365	8,845
United States	36,541	35,082	46.7	44.2	1,707,069	1,550,395

¹ Forecast



FARM LABOR

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 825,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 252,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago. The largest increases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific, (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee

and West Virginia) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions and in California. In the Pacific region and California the development of fruit, vegetables and spring planted crops was nearly two weeks ahead of normal, which heightened the demand for hired workers. Although moderate rains fell in parts of the Southeast region, the majority of the region remained drier than normal. Irrigation of cropland increased and supplemental feeding of livestock became active as pastures deteriorated, both of which caused greater demand for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, continued expansion in the equine and poultry industries kept the demand for livestock workers at a high level. In the Mountain I region, above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation led to increased farm and ranch activity, which caused a greater need for hired workers.

FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, APRIL 11-17, 2004, WITH COMPARISON ¹

FARM EMPLOYMENT	APRIL 06-12, 2003	JANUARY 11-17, 2004	APRIL 11-17, 2004
	THOUSAND		
Hired Workers	781	* 662	825
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	619	* 549	648
149 Days or Less	162	113	177
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	157	*185	252
Hired Farm & Service Workers	938	*847	1,077
	HOURS PER WEEK		
Hours Worked Hired	40.1	38.1	40.7
	DOLLARS PER HOUR		
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	9.16	9.41	9.22
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	8.49	8.55	8.58
Field	8.40	8.39	8.46
Livestock	8.75	*8.83	8.95

* Revised.

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

JUNE RELEASE CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1 Crop Progress	2 Weather Crop Summary Broiler Hatchery	3	4 Dairy Products
7 Poultry Slaughter Crop Progress	8 Weather Crop Summary	9 Broiler Hatchery	10	11 Crop Production
14 Crop Progress	15 Weather Crop Summary	16 Broiler Hatchery Milk Production	17	18
21 Crop Progress	22 Weather Crop Summary Chicken & Eggs	23 Broiler Hatchery	24	25 Livestock Slaughter Quarterly Hogs and Pigs
28 Crop Progress	29 Weather Crop Summary Ag Prices	30 Broiler Hatchery Acreage Grain Stocks		

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Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>