



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

New England Field Office

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USDA MEASURES FRUIT and VEGETABLE CROPS

[Concord, New Hampshire] The New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is preparing to collect data for fresh market fruit and vegetable prices and yields. Throughout October and November, nearly 3000 fruit and vegetable growers in New England will be contacted for their assistance in this region wide effort. "The information from this survey probably directly impacts New England fruit and vegetable growers more than any other survey we do," said Gary Keough, director of the New England Field Office of NASS. "Growers can use the information when making business plans and marketing decisions. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) relies on the average yields and prices to administer farm programs. Cooperative Extension uses the data to provide needed outreach and education, and for state departments and agencies of agriculture to aid growers."

NASS will ask growers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont to provide yield and price information on tree fruits, berries, melons, and over 25 different fresh market vegetables. Connecticut growers will be contacted for apple, peach, and sweet corn data only. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified.

National fruit and vegetable statistics for the 2009 crop will be available in January 2010 on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov within minutes of the scheduled release time. Exact publication dates and times will be available in October 2009. The ***New England Fruits and Vegetables 2009 Crop*** publication will be available in March 2010 on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh.