



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA MAKES ANNUAL COUNT OF FLORICULTURE CROPS (CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS ONLY)

In 2002, over one-third of the cash receipts received by agricultural producers in Connecticut and Massachusetts were generated by the greenhouse and nursery industry. Floriculture accounts for a large portion of the nursery and greenhouse industry in these two States. How many floriculture operations were in business in 2003? How does the total value of sales compare with previous years in these two States? These are just two of the questions that will be answered by the upcoming Floriculture Survey.

The 2003 annual Commercial Floriculture Survey is a census of all known commercial floriculture operations that produce and sell a minimum of \$10,000 of fresh-cut flowers, potted flowering plants, foliage plants, bedding plants, or cut cultivated florist greens in a year. This annual survey is part of a national program of official USDA statistics for the floriculture industry. It is important to have reliable information about this portion of the agricultural economy. This survey is the only official source of annual floriculture statistics for the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for conducting this survey within these two States. In late December 2003, approximately 900 Connecticut and Massachusetts floriculture producers will receive questionnaires. During the second half of January, non-respondents will be contacted by telephone or in person. The results of the survey are used by producers, grower associations, extension specialists, university researchers, suppliers, lenders, and lawmakers when reviewing farm practices and policies.

As with all NASS survey work, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish State and National statistics which will be published in the **Floriculture Crops 2003 Summary** available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ on April 27, 2004.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire it is responsible for agricultural statistics for all six States in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.

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