



New Jersey's Corn for Grain Production Up 70 Percent from Previous Year

- **Corn for grain** production is set at 6.89 million bushels, up 2.83 million bushels from the drought year of 2002. Production increased 70 percent from last year's crop. Yield increased 55 bushels per harvested acre for the 2003 crop. The state record yield is 134, set in 2000. The 10-year (1993-2002) state average yield is 98 bushels per harvested acre. Area harvested for grain is set at 61,000 acres, down 9,000 from last year.
- **Corn for silage** production is set at 270 thousand tons, up 50 percent from the previous year. Yield per acre is also 50 percent above 2002. Acres cut for corn silage remains unchanged at 18 thousand acres.
- **Alfalfa Hay** production is set at 105 thousand tons, up 30 thousand tons from 2002. Yield increased by 17 percent to 3.5 tons per acre for 2003. Harvested acreage increased by 5,000 acres to 30,000 acres in 2003.
- **Other Hay** production is set at 162 thousand tons, up 27 thousand tons from 2002. Yield increased by 20 percent to 1.8 tons per acre for 2003. Harvested acreage remains unchanged at 90,000 acres.
- **Soybean** production increased from 2.23 million bushels in 2002 to 2.99 million bushels in 2003, up 34 percent. Yield is set at 34 bushels per acre, up 11 bushels from last year. The state record yield is 40 bushels per acre, set in 2000. The 10-year average yield is 30 bushels per harvested acre. Area harvested for beans is set at 88,000 acres, down 9,000 from last year.

Acreage, Yield, and Production of Corn, Hay, and Soybeans

Crop	Unit	Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
NEW JERSEY		<i>- Thousand Acres -</i>		<i>- Units -</i>		<i>- Thousand Units -</i>	
Corn for grain	Bu.	70	61	58.0	113.0	4,060.0	6,893.0
Corn for silage	Tons	18	18	10.0	15.0	180.0	270.0
Hay, All	Tons	115	120	1.83	2.23	210.0	267.0
Alfalfa Hay	Tons	25	30	3.0	3.5	75.0	105.0
Other Hay	Tons	90	90	1.5	1.8	135.0	162.0
Soybeans	Bu.	97	88	23.0	34.0	2,231.0	2,992.0
UNITED STATES		<i>- Thousand Acres -</i>		<i>- Units -</i>		<i>- Million Units -</i>	
Corn for grain	Bu.	69,313	71,139	130.0	142.2	9,007.7	10,113.9
Corn for silage	Tons	7,490	6,528	14.0	16.2	105.0	105.9
Hay, All	Tons	64,497	63,342	2.34	2.48	151.0	157.1
Alfalfa Hay	Tons	23,135	23,578	3.19	3.24	73.8	76.3
Other Hay	Tons	41,362	39,764	1.86	2.03	77.1	80.6
Soybeans	Bu.	72,437	72,321	38.0	33.4	2,749.3	2,417.6



A special "Thank You"

goes to New Jersey Farmers who have helped us by completing the **December Agricultural Survey**.

New Jersey Winter Wheat Planted Down 23 Percent

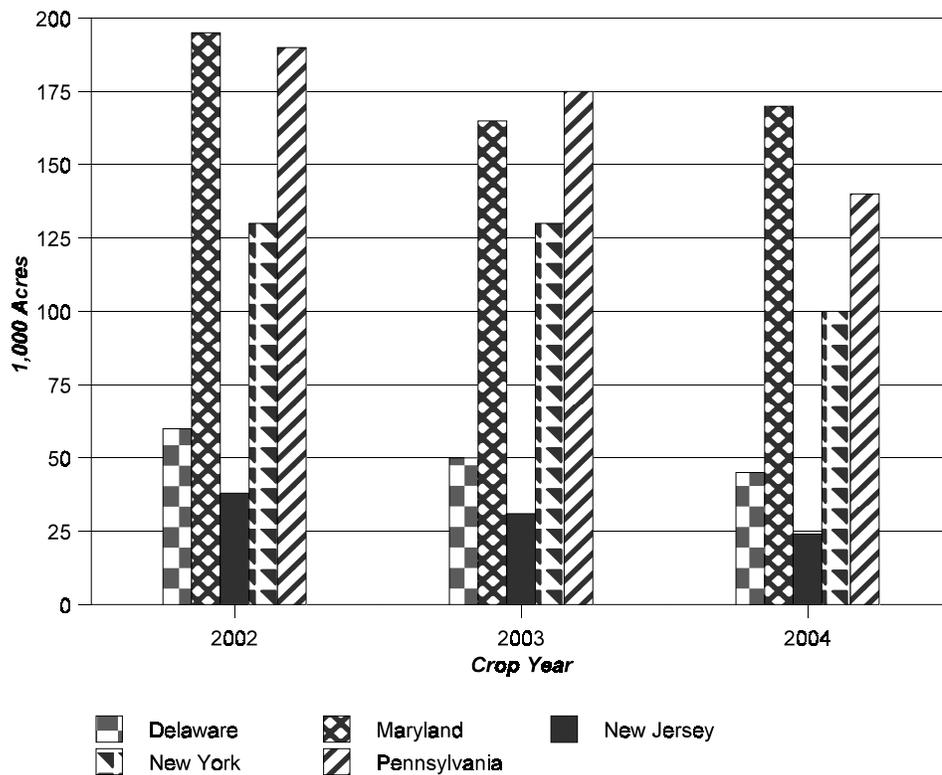
New Jersey winter wheat seeded area for 2004 is expected to total 24,000 acres, down 23 percent from 2003. This is a record low for the Garden State, surpassing 1978's record low of 25,000 acres.

United States winter wheat seeded area for 2004 is expected to total 43.5 million acres, down 3 percent from 2003. Approximate class acreage breakdowns are: Hard Red Winter, 31.0 million; Soft Red Winter, 8.3 million; and White Winter, 4.2 million.

Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by Selected States and United States, 2002-2004

State	Crop Year			2004 as Percent of 2003
	2002	2003	2004	
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>
Delaware	60	50	45	90
Maryland	195	165	170	103
New Jersey	38	31	24	77
New York	130	130	100	77
Pennsylvania	190	175	140	80
United States	41,845	44,945	43,464	97

Winter Wheat: Area Seeded, by Selected States, 2002-2004

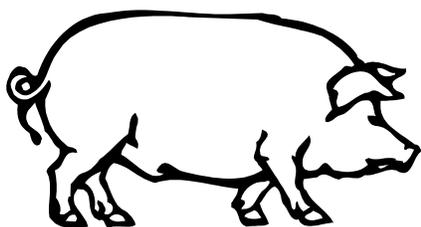


Hogs and Pigs

New Jersey's hog and pig inventory set a new State record low of 12,000 head as of December 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory at 1,000, was down by 1,000 from 2002. Market hog inventory fell by 15 percent from the previous year to 11,000 as of December 1, 2003.

The under 60 pounds class inventory was 1,000 head, 60-119 pounds inventory was 2,000 head, 120-179 pounds inventory was 3,000 head, and the 180 pounds inventory and over class was 5,000 head.



U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003.

Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

Nationwide, market hogs and pigs, less than 60 pounds, totaled 19.8 million head, up 2 percent from previous year. Market hogs, weighing 60 to 119 pounds, totaled 13.3 million, also up 2 percent from previous year. The 120 to 179 pound market hog weight category was 10.8 million head, down slightly from a year ago. Inventory for market hogs, weighing 180 pounds or more, totaled 10.2 million head, up slightly from previous year.

Hog and Pigs: Breeding, Market, and Total Inventory by Selected States, and United States, December 1, 2002-2003 1/

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2002	2003		2002	2003		2002	2003	
		Number	as % of 2002		Number	as % of 2002		Number	as % of 2002
	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head	Percent			
Delaware	4.5	3.0	67	17.5	15.0	86	22.0	18.0	82
Maryland	7.0	6.0	86	38.0	34.0	89	45.0	40.0	89
New Jersey	2.0	1.0	50	13.0	11.0	85	15.0	12.0	80
New York	9.0	9.0	100	77.0	64.0	83	86.0	73.0	85
Pennsylvania	125.0	120.0	96	955.0	980.0	103	1,080.0	1,100.0	102
United States	6,012.0	5,966.0	99	53,501.0	54,074.0	101	59,513.0	60,040.0	101

1/ The total may not add to breeding plus market hogs due to rounding.

Market Hogs and Pigs: Inventory Number by Weight Group, Selected States, and United States, December 1, 2002-2003 1/

State	Under 60 Lbs.		60-119 Lbs.		120-179 Lbs		180 Lbs. and Over	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Head							
Delaware	6.0	6.5	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.5	2.5
Maryland	10.0	10.0	7.0	7.0	9.0	9.0	12.0	8.0
New Jersey	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	6.0	5.0
New York	30.0	24.0	17.0	15.0	15.0	13.0	15.0	12.0
Pennsylvania	340.0	360.0	250.0	235.0	185.0	185.0	180.0	200.0
United States	19,461.0	19,821.0	13,054.0	13,250.0	10,881.0	10,839.0	10,105.0	10,164.0

1/ Weight groups may not add to total market hogs due to rounding.

Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in December 2003, at 115, based on 1990-92=100, is 1.7 percent below the November Index. The Livestock Products Index is down 3.4 percent from November 2003, while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for eggs, milk, lettuce, and cattle more than offset higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli, and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, wheat, milk, and lettuce offset decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and corn.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 15 percent from December 2002. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, is 3.3 percent below last month but 19 percent above December 2002.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The December 2003, Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from November but 4 percent above December 2002. Lower prices in December for feeder cattle and gasoline offset higher prices for complete feeds, feed concentrates, feed grains, and nitrogen fertilizers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Dec 2002	Nov 2003	Dec 2003
<i>Dollars</i>			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.91	2.86	2.41
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	91.10	80.70	81.30
Soybeans, per bushel	5.46	7.05	7.29
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.263	.274	.285
Strawberries, per lb		1.940	1.770
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	18.30	25.90	27.40
Lettuce, per cwt	30.00	45.20	40.00
Tomatoes, per cwt	38.00	34.60	34.80
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	70.40	93.70	92.70
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	75.00	100.00	98.60
Cows, per cwt	34.60	47.80	49.90
Calves, per cwt	95.30	112.00	113.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.290	.370	.380
Eggs, all, per dozen	.571	1.050	.775
Milk, all, per cwt ^{2/}	11.55	14.36	13.70

^{1/} Mid-month

^{2/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.



For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.

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