



# AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 6.5. Temperatures were below normal the beginning of the week. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 10% short and 90% adequate. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, orchard clean-up, removing plastic mulch, planting cover crops, harvesting corn for grain and silage, harvesting soybeans, irrigating fall vegetables, and baling hay. In some areas, standing corn stalks suffered wind damage. Late soybeans were hit by frost. Short soybean vines made harvesting pods difficult. Some deer damage to sweet potato fields were reported. Unharvested fall bell peppers suffered from frost in the north. Apple harvest continued in most localities. Milk production increased in response to cooler weather conditions.

## SOIL MOISTURE TABLE

	<b>THIS WEEK</b>	<b>LAST WEEK</b>	<b>PREVIOUS YEAR</b>
<b>VERY SHORT</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>SHORT</b>	10%	0%	6%
<b>ADEQUATE</b>	90%	70%	88%
<b>SURPLUS</b>	0%	30%	6%

## RANGE AND PASTURE

	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PREVIOUS WEEK</b>	<b>PREVIOUS YEAR</b>
<b>VERY POOR</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>POOR</b>	0%	0%	0%
<b>FAIR</b>	45%	30%	61%
<b>GOOD</b>	55%	70%	39%
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	0%	0%	0%

### JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR OCTOBER 14, 2003

**Acorn Squash** - Fair to good quantity of good quality product.

**Beets** - Good quantity and quality available.

**Broccoli** - Being harvested this week in good volume.

**Brussels Sprouts** - Being harvested this week in good volume.

**Butternut Squash** - Fair to good quantity of good quality product.

**Cauliflower** - Being harvested this week in good volume.

**Cabbage** - Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantity and quality. We'll have them into November until a hard freeze.

**Cranberries** - Harvesting a good volume of excellent quality berries this week with slightly higher prices (+ 15%) paid to farmers this year. We do have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year. They're also available in a myriad of product packaging options.

**Cucumbers** - Fair to good quality and minimal quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Finishing up.

**Eggplants** - Decreasing quality and quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Finishing up.

**Escarole & Endive** - Good quality product is now being harvested in good volume.

**Greens** - Very good quality and good quantity of Collards, Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard. We should have these greens into November until a hard freeze.

**Green Onions** - Good quantity and quality should be available into November.

**Herbs** - Good to excellent quality and good quantity for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula is in excellent quality and good quantity. These herbs do well in the cool weather. Basil doesn't like the cooler weather very much and is in poor to fair quality and fair quantity. Mustard and Mint also prefer warmer weather and are now found in fair to good quality and quantity. Recent winds have created some variability in herb quality due to wind damage. We should have the hardier herbs until the end of the month.

**Leeks** - Good quantity and quality available.

**Lettuces** - Even though there are good quantities of good quality Red, Green, Romaine, and Iceberg lettuces around, low prices are causing many growers not to bother harvesting them.

**Peaches** - Growers are finished picking peaches with excellent size, color, and flavor but we still have a few to sell. The yellow varieties of Encore, Lauroi, Autumn Glo and Parade varieties are available.

**Peppers** - Fair to good quality and decreasing quantity available as growers finish picking product that's still in the fields. The cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Finishing up.

**Pickles** - Fair to good quality and minimal quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening. Finishing up.

**Pumpkins** - The cool and wet spring caused late planting this year and a light fruit set as well. We have 1/3 less supply this year with wholesale prices proportionately higher. Know your pumpkin grower as with all of this summer's wetness, only growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have excellent quality this year.

**Spinach** - Good quantity and excellent quality of product available. Can handle some frost.

**Sweet Corn** - Finishing up with a decreasing quantity of variable quality corn.

**Sweet Potatoes** - Good quality and quantity are now available.

**Tomatoes** - September weather allowed for some beautiful late season round, plum, and grape tomatoes. The cooler temperatures have slowed ripening and the commercial harvest is complete though you'll still be able to harvest a few from your backyard or local farm marketer until frost.

**Turnips** - Good quantity and quality available.

**White Potatoes** - Good quantity and quality available for another week or two.

**Yellow Squash** - Fair quality and decreasing quantity available. Finishing up.

**Zucchini** - Fair quality and decreasing quantity available. Finishing up.