

Supplemental Feeding Was Necessary

Outdoor activities included harvesting corn silage, cutting and baling hay, spraying, irrigating, picking peaches, picking apples, harvesting vegetables and planting fall vegetables. Days suitable for field work, for the week ending Sunday, September 11, 2005, were 6.8 Topsoil moisture was rated 75% very short, 23% short and 2% adequate. Temperatures were above normal during the week. Harvest of cantaloup, eggplant, snap beans, cucumbers, pepper, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes continued in the state. Corn and soybeans were rated in mostly fair condition across the state. The fourth cutting of alfalfa hay began in some fields of the southern district. Potato harvest continued. Vegetables rated in mostly good condition. Peach harvest neared completion in the central district. Apple harvest continued. Apple crop condition was rated good. Pasture was rated in mostly fair condition. In the central district, livestock producers were providing supplemental feeding due to inadequate pasture condition.

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

Arugula & Cilantro - Harvesting good quality and quantity with the cooler temperatures.

Baby Arugula & Baby Spinach - Harvesting in good quality and volume.

Basil - Harvesting in good quantity and quality until frost.

Beets - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Cabbage - Now harvesting a fall crop in fair to increasing quantities and good quality.

Cantaloupes - Harvesting good quality product in light to decreasing quantity. Finishing up.

Collards & Kale - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Cucumbers & Pickles (Kirby cucumbers) - Harvesting both in good quantity and quality.

Dill - Harvesting in good quality and quantity with the cooler temperatures.

Eggplant - Harvesting Italian and Asian varieties in good quantity and great quality. The fall brings out the best in this vegetable.

Escarole/Endive - Just started harvesting a good quality fall crop in light to increasing volume.

Greens - Good quality and quantities harvested of Kholrabi, Mustard, and Swiss Chard.

Green Beans - Harvesting in good quality and quantity.

Green Onions & Leeks - Spring planted varieties are available in good quality and quantity.

Lettuces - Just started harvesting good quality Boston in light to increasing quantities. The harvesting of Red & Green Leaf is beginning this week.

Nectarines - The Fantasia variety is being harvested in fair to decreasing volume and will be finishing up in the next couple of weeks. Expect good size, flavor, and finish.

Okra - Harvesting in good to decreasing quantity and good quality. Finishing up in a few weeks.

Parsley - Harvesting in good quantity and quality.

Peaches - Many peaches are still waiting to be picked. The Jersey Queen varieties are being harvested in good to fair volume through this week. The Encore, our most heavily planted peach variety, is now being harvested in fair to increasing volume. The Lauro variety is also being harvested and will be in volume next week. We'll have good quality

yellow peaches until the end of the month. The white variety Lady Nancy is finishing up as Snow Giant comes into good volume. White peaches will be available for another two weeks in decreasing quantity. Fruit quality, size, and flavor are all very good.

Peppers - Harvesting in good quantity and quality. We also have an excellent assortment of great quality hot peppers available. It's been a very good growing season for hot peppers.

Squash - Harvesting good quality Yellow and Zucchini in good quantities. Also harvesting a fair to good volume of good quality Acorn & Spaghetti squashes. Harvesting a good volume of good quality Butternut.

Sweet Corn - Harvesting in fair to decreasing quantity and good quality. Good wholesale availability until at least next week. Quantity and quality varies after that due to fall insect pressures.

Sweet Potatoes - Should begin harvesting later this week. It will be another week of curing before they're ready for market.

Tomatoes & Plum Tomatoes - Harvesting rounds and plums in good quantity and quality.

White Potatoes - Harvesting a good volume of the redskin variety Norland and Superior round variety. There will be a large crop of good quality potatoes this year. Source your New Jersey white potatoes in their distinctive "Jersey Fresh" bags. A number of chain stores have made large displays of these in the past and they've sold quite well.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Broccoli - Should begin harvesting late next week in Central Jersey.

Brussel Sprouts - Should begin harvesting in Central Jersey by the second week of October.

Cauliflower - Should begin harvesting by the beginning of October in Central Jersey.

Cranberries - The main harvest of fresh market dry harvested berries should begin in early October though the increasing demand for white cranberries will see some berries beginning to be harvested about the third week of September.

Pumpkins - Downy mildew set in early this year in these fields due to another cool and wet Spring. Rutgers extension specialists are looking to do increased disease studies after several poor years in a row for this crop. These will be hard to source in Jersey this season.

Spinach - Should begin harvesting next week.