



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.usda.gov/nass/



Contact: Becky Cross, 1-800-328-0179
bcross@nass.usda.gov

FOR RELEASE FEB. 6 - FEB. 20, 2004

New Jersey Farmers Provide Financial Snapshot

Today's farmers and ranchers face constant challenges as they battle lower prices, higher input costs, land values, and rent. These and other issues place economic strain on farmers—but how much? USDA will give New Jersey farmers the chance to answer that question by participating in the 2003 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

“Reliable, accurate descriptions of the current economic health of New Jersey farms and ranches is crucial,” said Becky Cross, State Statistician, “especially when policymakers, farm organizations, analysts, local USDA agents, news media, farm suppliers, lenders, and others make decisions that affect growers.” Congress studied the results from previous studies carefully when they crafted the Farm Bill.

Producers chosen to participate in the 2003 Agricultural Resource Management Survey will be visited by an interviewer to complete the report at the farm or ranch operator's convenience. Results will be published in a series of reports on the current farm financial situation.

Farm Production Expenditures, the first report with results from the survey, will be released July 15, 2004. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/ or call 1-800-727-9540.

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AG ECONOMIC SURVEY WILL MEASURE FARM FINANCIAL HEALTH

(State) farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to “let their voice be heard” by participating in the 2002 Agricultural Resource Management Survey. This survey provides vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture. Most importantly, these statistics are used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that impact the future of America’s farmers and ranchers.

(State/local tailored example of a specific benefit) is just one example of local benefits resulting from these surveys. Data collected will present the only objective, true picture of the financial well-being of (State) farm operators and will provide an accurate portrayal as congress assesses the impact of the new Farm Bill. These data are also a resource when policymakers determine Federal assistance. In 2001, direct government payments totaled \$20.7 billion dollars.

Agricultural producers chosen to participate in the survey will represent from 50 to 100 fellow producers, and will therefore make an important contribution to the overall welfare of America’s farmers and ranchers. All individual data collected are held strictly confidential by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). Only statistical totals are published for selected geographic regions and the Nation.

Results from the survey will be used by farm and ranch operators, farm organizations, commodity groups, lenders, university researchers, news media, local USDA agencies, farm suppliers, and others to compute prices paid, evaluate economic challenges facing America’s food and fiber producers, determine the need for farm assistance, measure the cost of agricultural production, and assess the ability for producers to maintain sustainable farms.

Farm Production Expenditures, the first report with results from the survey, will be released July 17, 2003. For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the National Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/ or call 1-800-727-9540.