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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

**FARM FACTS***"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"*

New Jersey  
Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
P.O. Box 330  
Phone: 1(800) 328-0179  
Fax: 1 (800) 625-7581  
[www.nass.usda.gov/nj/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj/)

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**New Jersey Prospective Plantings for 2005****NEW JERSEY'S CORN AND SOYBEAN ACREAGE BOTH DOWN**

As of March 1, 2005, New Jersey farmers intended to plant less acreage of corn and soybeans this year. All hay, barley, sweet potato, and winter wheat acreage remained unchanged from the previous year.

**Barley** planted acreage is expected to total 3,000, unchanged from a year ago. Last year, barley planted acreage was at the lowest point on record since 1938. The record book began in 1926.

**Corn** planted acreage is expected to total 78,000, down 8,000 acres, or 9 percent below a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest number of planted corn acres on record in the state. The record book for planted acreage began in 1926 when New Jersey producers planted 191,000 acres of corn. Corn acreage is expected to be down due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

**All hay** acreage intended for harvest is expected to total 120,000, unchanged from a year ago. In fact, all hay acreage for harvest has remained unchanged since 1996.

**Soybeans** planted acreage is expected to total 100,000, down 5,000 acres, or 5 percent below a year ago. Producers were asked if Asian Rust was a factor in their planting intentions. In the Northeastern Region (DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA), 12 percent of the soybean farm operators who were aware of Asian Rust reported that it was a factor in their planting intentions. Forty-four percent of these operators said they decreased their soybean planting intentions in 2005.

More information on intended soybean acreage and the effect of Asian soybean rust on planting intentions is available at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bbp/pspl0305.pdf>.

**Sweet potato** acreage is expected to total 1,200 acres, unchanged from a year ago.

**Winter wheat** planted acreage is expected to total 28,000, unchanged from a year ago. In 2004, winter wheat planted acreage was at an all time record low in New Jersey. The record book began in 1909, when planted acreage was 87,000.

**Prospective Plantings Compared to 2004 Acreage: New Jersey and United States, March 1, 2005**

	New Jersey			US		
	2004	2005 <sup>1/</sup>	% Change	2004	2005 <sup>1/</sup>	% Change
	--- 1,000 acres ---			--- 1,000 acres ---		
<b>Barley</b>	3	3	NC	4,527	3,974	(12)
<b>Corn</b>	86	78	(9)	80,930	81,413	1
<b>Hay, All <sup>2/</sup></b>	120	120	NC	61,916	62,940	2
<b>Soybeans</b>	105	100	(5)	75,208	73,910	(2)
<b>Sweet Potato</b>	1.2	1.2	NC	97.4	94.9	(3)
<b>Winter Wheat</b>	28	28	NC	43,350	41,613	(4)

<sup>1/</sup> Intended planting for 2005 as indicated by reports from farmers.

<sup>2/</sup> Intended area harvested for 2005 as indicated by reports from farmers.

NC = No change.

( ) = negative value.



A special **"Thank You"** goes to New Jersey farmers who have helped us by completing the March Agricultural Survey.

## New Jersey Farm Numbers and Land in Farms Unchanged

The number of New Jersey farms in 2004 is estimated at 9,900 farms, unchanged from previous year. Total Garden State land in farms, at 820,000 acres, is unchanged from 2003 and 2002, but down ten thousand acres from previous years. The average farm size is 83 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

## United States Farms and Land in Farms down Slightly in 2004

The number of farms in the United States in 2004 is estimated at 2.11 million, down 13 thousand from 2003. Land in farms is estimated at 937 million acres, down 2.1 million from previous year. The average farm size is 443 acres compared to 441 acres in 2003.

### Number of Farms: Selected States and United States, 1999-2004

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Maryland	12,600	12,400	12,300	12,200	12,100	12,100
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>9,700</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>9,900</b>
New York	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,000	37,000	36,000
Pennsylvania	59,300	59,000	58,500	58,200	58,200	58,200
United States	2,187,280	2,166,780	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860	2,113,470

### Land in Farms: Selected States and United States, 1999-2004

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>					
Maryland	2,160	2,130	2,100	2,080	2,060	2,050
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>820</b>
New York	7,710	7,670	7,660	7,660	7,650	7,600
Pennsylvania	7,670	7,690	7,710	7,700	7,700	7,700
United States	948,460	945,080	942,070	940,300	938,650	936,600

### Average Farm Size: Selected States and United States, 1999-2004

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Maryland	171	172	171	170	170	169
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>83</b>
New York	206	205	204	207	207	211
Pennsylvania	129	130	132	132	132	132
United States	434	436	438	440	441	443

**Farm Definition History:** The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability to the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.

## 2003-2004 Corn County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>District 20 (North)</b>								
Hunterdon	6,400	7,500	4,800	6,600	103.0	140.0	494,400	924,000
Morris	1,000	1,300	800	1,100	88.0	128.0	70,400	140,800
Somerset	3,200	3,300	2,600	3,100	78.0	125.0	202,800	387,500
Sussex	4,700	5,100	2,400	2,800	85.0	126.0	204,000	352,800
Warren	18,400	19,900	14,300	15,900	116.0	144.0	1,658,800	2,289,600
<b>District 50 (Central)</b>								
Burlington	8,300	8,500	6,400	7,800	105.0	136.0	672,000	1,060,800
Mercer	3,000	3,600	2,000	3,400	98.0	135.0	196,000	459,000
Middlesex	4,000	3,900	3,200	3,700	106.0	150.0	339,200	555,000
Monmouth	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,200	108.0	124.0	237,600	272,800
Ocean	500	600	400	400	96.0	127.0	38,400	50,800
<b>District 80 (South)</b>								
Cumberland	5,000	5,500	3,900	4,900	122.0	154.0	475,800	754,600
Gloucester	3,700	4,100	2,400	3,300	126.0	145.0	302,400	478,500
Salem	18,900	19,700	15,200	16,200	129.0	155.0	1,960,800	2,511,000
Other Counties <sup>1/</sup>	500	700	400	600	101.0	98.0	40,400	58,800
<b>State</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>86,000</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>6,893,000</b>	<b>10,296,000</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

## 2003-2004 Soybean County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
<b>District 20 (North)</b>								
Hunterdon	6,300	7,100	6,200	7,000	33.0	44.0	204,600	308,000
Somerset	1,200	1,600	1,100	1,500	36.0	41.0	39,600	61,500
Warren	5,500	6,300	5,400	6,200	38.0	47.0	205,200	291,400
<b>District 50 (Central)</b>								
Burlington	21,000	24,000	20,500	23,500	30.0	41.0	615,000	963,500
Mercer	6,600	6,200	6,500	6,100	31.0	41.0	201,500	250,100
Monmouth	5,200	5,400	5,100	5,300	33.0	42.0	168,300	222,600
<b>District 80 (South)</b>								
Cumberland	10,500	13,000	10,300	12,800	34.0	41.0	350,200	524,800
Gloucester	8,300	10,500	8,100	10,300	37.0	42.0	299,700	432,600
Salem	18,100	24,200	17,800	23,900	38.0	42.0	676,400	1,003,800
Other Counties <sup>1/</sup>	7,300	6,700	7,000	6,400	33.1	41.8	231,500	267,700
<b>State</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>105,000</b>	<b>88,000</b>	<b>103,000</b>	<b>34.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>2,992,000</b>	<b>4,326,000</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

## March 2005 Farm Prices Received Index Up 3.5 Percent from Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March 2005, at 118, based on 1990-92=100, is 3.5 percent above the February 2005 Index. The Crop Index is up 6.6 percent while the Livestock Index is up 2.5 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, lettuce, and corn. Lower prices were received for strawberries, grapefruit, apples, and eggs. 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 strawberries, dairy, broilers, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, oranges, and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2.5 percent from March 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 122, is 3.4 percent above last month but down 0.8 percent from March 2004.

### Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 135 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from February 2005 but 2.3 percent above March 2004. Lower prices in March 2005 for complete feeds, feed supplements, nitrogen fertilizers, and herbicides were offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, diesel fuel, other machinery, LP gas, and gasoline.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Mar 2004	Feb 2005	Mar 2005
-- Dollars --			
<b>Field Crops</b>			
Barley, per bushel	2.77	2.37	2.48
Corn, per bushel	2.75	1.95	2.03
Hay, all, baled, per ton <sup>1/</sup>	81.80	84.70	89.10
Soybeans, per bushel	9.28	5.42	6.28
<b>Fruit, fresh</b>			
Apples, per lb <sup>2/</sup>	0.304	0.208	0.186
Strawberries, per cwt	69.10	115.00	87.00
<b>Vegetables, fresh</b>			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	20.20	29.70	25.70
Lettuce, per cwt	10.40	11.20	13.80
Tomatoes, per cwt	42.20	45.60	42.80
<b>Livestock and Livestock Products</b>			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	83.70	89.00	91.90
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	88.00	93.30	96.30
Cows, per cwt <sup>3/</sup>	46.50	52.40	53.60
Calves, per cwt	115.00	128.00	132.00
Broilers, live, per lb <sup>4/</sup>	0.470	0.430	0.440
Eggs, all, per dozen <sup>1/</sup>	1.100	0.551	0.527
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5/ 6/</sup>	15.40	15.50	15.60

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month price.

<sup>2/</sup> Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, and NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

<sup>3/</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>4/</sup> Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

<sup>5/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

<sup>6/</sup> March 2005 fat test percent: all milk 3.69, fluid milk 3.68, and mfg grade 3.87.



To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service at [www.nass.usda.gov/nj/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj/) or call 1-800-328-0179.