



FARM FACTS

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New Jersey Farm Real Estate Value Rises Six Percent from Previous Year

New Jersey farm real estate value, a measurement of the average value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$10,300 per acre as of January 1, 2005, up 5.6 percent from the previous year. The Garden State ranked fourth among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Rhode Island's real estate value per acre was the highest value per acre in the country, at \$11,200, followed closely by Connecticut at \$10,800. Massachusetts' real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$10,500 per acre. Delaware's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$8,400 per acre followed by Maryland's ranking of sixth, at \$7,900 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$10,500 per acre on January 1, 2005, up 6.1 percent from January 1, 2004. New Jersey ranked first in the nation among the states that publish cropland value per acre. Delaware ranked second in cropland value per acre, at \$8,000. Maryland, at \$7,600 per acre, ranked third nationally for cropland value per acre.

New Jersey pasture value per acre ranked first in the nation among the states that publish this value, averaging \$11,300, 6.6 percent above the previous year. Maryland, at \$7,300 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value per acre. Virginia's pasture value per acre ranked third, at \$3,500.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$47.50 per acre during the 2005 crop year, unchanged from the 2004 crop year. The average value of pasture rented for cash for the Northeast Region averaged \$24.00. States included in this region are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.



Farm Real Estate: 1/ Average Value per Acre, by Northeast Region and States within the Region, January 1, 2001-2005

Region and State	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Change 04-05
	-----Dollars-----					Percent
Northeast:	2,830	3,000	3,200	*3,550	3,400	13.2
Connecticut	7,700	8,500	9,500	10,200	10,800	5.9
Delaware	3,400	3,700	4,000	*6,000	8,400	40.0
Maine	1,500	1,600	1,750	1,850	1,950	5.4
Maryland	3,800	4,000	4,150	*5,700	7,900	38.6
Massachusetts	7,300	8,100	9,300	9,900	10,500	6.1
New Hampshire	2,550	2,800	3,100	3,250	3,450	6.2
New Jersey	8,100	8,600	9,100	9,750	10,300	5.6
New York	1,520	1,610	1,700	1,780	1,880	5.6
Pennsylvania	3,000	3,250	3,450	3,650	4,000	9.6
Rhode Island	7,700	8,300	9,300	10,200	11,200	9.8
Vermont	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,150	2,300	7.0

*Revised

1/ Includes the value of both land and buildings on farms.

2003-2004 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Salem, Warren, and Sussex, which produced 21.2, 18.2, and 17.6 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing other hay counties were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 51.3, 27.9, and 20.0 thousand tons, respectively.

2003-2004 Alfalfa Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	3,800	3,600	3.2	3.5	12,160	12,600
Somerset	1,400	1,300	3.9	4.0	5,460	5,200
Sussex	5,300	5,500	2.9	3.2	15,370	17,600
Warren	4,800	4,800	3.7	3.8	17,760	18,240
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	2,000	1,900	3.6	3.7	7,200	7,030
Monmouth	1,900	2,000	3.6	3.7	6,840	7,400
District 80 (South)						
Cumberland	1,600	1,600	3.9	3.9	6,240	6,240
Gloucester	1,900	2,000	4.0	4.5	7,600	9,000
Salem	5,200	5,300	3.8	4.0	19,760	21,200
Other Counties 1/	2,100	2,000	3.1	3.2	6,610	6,490
State	30,000	30,000	3.5	3.7	105,000	111,000

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

2003-2004 Other Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	27,100	27,000	1.9	1.9	51,490	51,300
Morris	3,200	3,300	1.5	1.8	4,800	5,940
Somerset	8,200	7,900	1.9	1.8	15,580	14,220
Sussex	16,400	16,400	1.8	1.7	29,520	27,880
Warren	9,800	10,000	1.7	2.0	16,660	20,000
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	4,900	5,500	1.5	2.0	7,350	11,000
Mercer	2,300	2,200	1.6	1.7	3,680	3,740
Middlesex	900	1,000	1.7	1.6	1,530	1,600
Monmouth	2,800	2,900	1.6	1.7	4,480	4,930
Ocean	500	600	1.4	1.4	700	840
District 80 (South)						
Atlantic	800	700	1.2	1.4	960	980
Camden	900	900	2.0	2.0	1,800	1,800
Cape May	900	900	1.8	1.6	1,620	1,440
Cumberland	2,300	2,200	2.0	2.5	4,600	5,500
Gloucester	2,300	2,400	2.0	2.5	4,600	6,000
Salem	6,500	5,900	1.9	2.3	12,350	13,570
Other Counties 1/	200	200	1.4	1.3	280	260
State	90,000	90,000	1.8	1.9	162,000	171,000

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

New Jersey 2005 Blueberry Crop

Seasonal rainfall has been timely and quality of berries looks excellent. This year's harvest is later than that of the past few years. The cool weather during May allowed this year's harvest to return to the traditional harvest cycle. Bloom was reported 15% light, 51% average, and 34% heavy. Set of fruit was reported 21% light, 58% average, and 21% heavy.

New Jersey Blueberries, 2003-2005, Acres, Yield, Production, & Value of Production

Year	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre 1/ (Lbs)	Production (1,000 Lbs)	
			Total	Utilized
2003	7,500	5,330	41,000	40,000
2004	7,500	5,200	39,000	39,000
2005	7,500	2/	40,000	2/

1/ Yield is derived from utilized production.

2/ Not available until January 2006.

New Jersey 2005 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

Apple production is forecast at 45 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from last year. Growing conditions are rated good. Apples are sizing well. Early varieties are being harvested in the southern portion of the state. Prospects for this year's crop are good.

Peach production is forecast at 32,500 tons, up 2,500 tons from July's forecast. Fruit quality and size are rated good to excellent. Growing conditions are generally good. Harvest of peaches was one week later than usual and will continue until the end of September.

Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Units	Final 2004	- Total Production -	
			Forecast July 1, 2005	Forecast August 1, 2005
NEW JERSEY				
Apples	Million Pounds	40.0	1/	45.0
Peaches	Tons	32,500	30,000	32,500
UNITED STATES				
Apples	Million Pounds	10,419.9	1/	9,837.1
Peaches	Tons	1,307,110	1,240,350	1,233,850

1/ First apple forecast is August 1.

New Jersey's Corn Crop Down 33 Percent

Corn production is forecast at 6.89 million bushels, down 33 percent from last year. Producers expect 113 bushels per acre for the 2005 crop. The state record yield per acre is 143 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year (1995-2004) state average yield is 101.9 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain, at 61,000 acres, is down 11,000 acres from 2004.

Soybean yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 42 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year average yield is 31.3 bushels. Production is expected to total 3.54 million bushels, down 18 percent from 2004. Soybean harvested area is expected to total 101,000 acres, 2,000 acres less than 2004.

Acreage, Yield, and Production of Corn and Soybeans, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2004	Forecast 2005	2004	Forecast 2005	2004	Forecast 2005	2004	Forecast 2004
NEW JERSEY								
	- - - - - Thousand - - - - -				- Bushels -		- Thousand Bushels -	
Corn for grain	86	75	72	61	143.0	113.0	10,296	6,893
Soybeans	105	103	103	101	42.0	35.0	4,326	3,535
UNITED STATES								
	- - - - - Thousand - - - - -				- Bushels -		- Million Bushels -	
Corn for grain	80,930	81,592	73,632	74,368	160.4	139.2	11,807.2	10,349.8
Soybeans	75,208	73,103	73,958	72,184	42.5	38.7	3,141.0	2,791.1

Notes: Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2005, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The next crop production forecast will be released September 12, 2005.

July Farm Prices Received Index Down 0.8 percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 119, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 0.8 percent from June. The Crop Index is down 2.5 percent while the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for lettuce, cattle, grapes, and broccoli. Higher prices were received for corn, asparagus, eggs, and milk. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of grapes, wheat, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupes, and asparagus.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 4.0 percent from July 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 121, decreased 0.8 percent from last month and declined 4.7 percent from July 2004.

Prices Paid Index is unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 140 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from June but 3.7 percent above July 2004. Lower prices in July for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, and hay & forages offset higher prices for diesel fuel, feed concentrates, gasoline, and complete feeds.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2004	June 2005	July 2005
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.54	2.57	2.27
Corn, per bushel	2.51	2.03	2.15
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	90.40	102.00	99.70
Soybeans, per bushel	8.46	6.58	6.84
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	.300	.162	.153
Strawberries, per cwt	59.60	64.80	61.70
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	21.80	26.40	30.40
Lettuce, per cwt	10.70	17.30	10.20
Tomatoes, per cwt	23.40	38.70	33.20
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	88.10	88.50	86.30
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	91.40	91.90	89.60
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	56.30	57.00	55.60
Calves, per cwt	130.00	138.00	133.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	.520	.440	.440
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	.582	.450	.530
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	16.10	14.50	14.80

^{1/} Mid-month price.

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

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

^{5/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{6/} July 2005 Fat test percent: all milk 3.53, fluid milk 3.53, and mfg grade 3.66.

To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the USDA, NASS, New Jersey Field Office at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.

