

2000 BLUEBERRY STATISTICS

Total value of the 2000 blueberry crop was \$36.1 million, a slight decrease from the record high of \$36.6 million reached in 1999. Utilized production, at 34.0 million pounds, decreased 13 percent from last year. The overall season average price was 106.0 cents per pound; the average fresh market price was 115.0 cents per pound, while the processing price was 85.0 cents per pound.

The area harvested, at 7,500 acres, was unchanged from last year. Average yield was 4,530 pounds per acre, compared with 5,200 pounds per acre a year earlier.

Atlantic and Burlington Counties accounted for 93% of area harvested and 98% of the State's utilized production. The top blueberry producing county in New Jersey was Atlantic County with 5,400 acres harvested and an average yield of 5,440 pounds per acre. Utilized production for Atlantic was 29.4 million pounds. Burlington County producers harvested 1,600 acres with an average yield of 2,380 pounds per acre and total production of 3.8 million pounds.

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