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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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Preliminary Census Results Give First Look at Changing Face of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announced that preliminary demographic data from the 2002 Census of Agriculture - the Nation's largest agricultural information-gathering project - are now available at the state and national levels. Final, complete data for Puerto Rico are now available.

"The new 2002 Census results show us the great diversity of people involved in New Jersey agriculture," said Becky Cross, New Jersey State Statistician. "African American, American Indian, Hispanic, and women operators are all significant contributors to agriculture, and their numbers have all increased since 1997."

The 2002 Census of Agriculture serves as the most comprehensive source of data describing U.S. agriculture. "This Census incorporates collection of new data and improved methodologies to enable us to present the most complete and accurate picture of U.S. agriculture available," said NASS Administrator Ron Bosecker.

Several new measures were included in the 2002 Census of Agriculture, including information about more than one operator per farm. "For the first time, the Census provides us with measures of the total number of people operating our farms and ranches, as well as the number of households sharing in farm income. This underscores the importance of agriculture to both our local communities and their economies. Women have long been significant, but largely unacknowledged, contributors to agriculture. So I am pleased that NASS is also presenting the first ever comprehensive measure of the number of women involved in day-to-day farming and ranching decisions," U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman said.

Demographic data contained in the report include sex of operator, residence on or off the farm, days worked off the farm, years present on farm, age group categories, race, and number of persons living in each household. For example, preliminary results for New Jersey show:

- ★ The average age of New Jersey agricultural producers in 2002 was 55.1 years old.
- ★ Thirty-three percent of the total number of New Jersey agricultural producers were women in 2002, and the number of women who were principle operators increased by 21 percent from 1997.
- ★ Principal New Jersey operators of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin increased by 25 percent from 1997 to 2002.
- ★ New Jersey African American operators increased by 46 percent, and American Indian principal operators increased by 25 percent from 1997 to 2002.
- ★ Eighty-six percent of New Jersey's agricultural operations are still run by individuals or families. Seventy percent of all farm operations produced less than \$10,000 in sales from agricultural products in 2002.

Final 2002 Census of Agriculture data at national, state, and county levels will be released on June 3, 2004. That report will provide first time facts about organic crop acreage and sales, production contracts, farm computer and Internet use, plus the broader, full range of traditional census data including land use and ownership; acres irrigated; crop acreage and quantities harvested; livestock and poultry inventories; value of products sold; value of production contracts; participation in Federal farm programs; and market value of land and buildings. The Census of Agriculture is currently conducted every 5 years; the first was conducted in conjunction with the 1840 population census.

All reports from the 2002 Census of Agriculture will be available free through the NASS website at www.usda.gov/nass/

For additional information regarding the Census, call the NASS Hotline at
1-800-727-9540.

January 1, 2004, Total Cattle and Calves Inventory Unchanged from Previous Year

- All cattle and calves in New Jersey as of January 1, 2004, totaled 46,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Two years ago 44,000 cattle and calves were on New Jersey farms, a state inventory record low. The highest inventory of cattle and calves was 264,000 head on hand January 1, 1880.
- All cows and heifers that have calved, at 22,000, were unchanged from January 1, 2003. Beef cows, at 10,000, were up 1,000 from January 1, 2003. Milk cows, at 12,000, were down 1,000 head from January 1, 2003. This is a new Garden State record low inventory for milk cows.
- Beef replacement and other heifers, at 3,500 and 2,500, respectively, were both up 500 head from January 1, 2003.
- Other class estimates on January 1, 2004, were unchanged from previous year, except for steers over 500 pounds. Steers over 500 pounds were at 3,000, down 1,000 head from the previous year.

All Cattle and Calves

	New Jersey		United States	
	January 1, 2003	January 1, 2004	January 1, 2003	January 1, 2004
<i>Number of Head (000)</i>				
All cattle and calves	46.0	46.0	96,100.0	94,882.0
Cows and heifers that have calved:				
Beef cows	9.0	10.0	32,983.3	32,860.2
Milk cows	13.0	12.0	9,141.7	8,990.5
Heifers:				
Beef cow replacement	3.0	3.5	5,623.5	5,517.2
Milk cow replacement	6.0	6.0	4,113.9	4,020.0
Other	2.0	2.5	9,890.5	9,804.1
Steers, bulls, and heifers:				
Steers, 500 pounds and over	4.0	3.0	16,554.1	16,280.1
Bulls, 500 pounds and over	1.0	1.0	2,247.9	2,205.6
Steers, heifers, & bulls, under 500 lbs	8.0	8.0	15,545.1	15,204.2

New Jersey 2003 Fruit Summary 2001, 2002, and Preliminary 2003

The five major fruit and berry crops grown in New Jersey are apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches and strawberries. During the 2003 growing season, localized frost damage was reported in some apple and peach orchards around the state. Spring rains delayed peach blooms and interrupted strawberry harvest. Frequent rains during summer months also delayed blueberry and peach harvest. Apple and cranberry production were above average with no major problems with disease or harvest activities.

Total production of the five fruit and berry crops during 2003 amounted to 205 million pounds, up 11 percent from 2002's production of 185 million pounds. Value of utilized production of these crops totaled \$96.2 million, a 4 percent increase from the 2002 total of \$92.2 million.

Despite some frost damage and later than usual development, peach fruit setting and sizing were good. Extremely wet weather during the summer however, adversely affected peach quality and some fruit began to rot before reaching the market. Prices were favorable throughout the season. Some peaches were not sold due to abundant stocks that exceeded demand at the end of season. Peach utilized production totaled 62 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from 2002. Season average price, at \$.46 per pound, was 1.8 cents above last year's price. Value of utilized production was \$28.5 million in 2003, 13 percent higher than in 2002. **(continued on next page)**

This year's apple crop was favorable. Both quantity and quality of the crop were good. Total apple production, at 45 million pounds, increased 10 million pounds from 2002. Compared with 2002, season average price, at 13.3 cents per pound, was 4.3 cents less than in 2002. Value of utilized production was \$6 million in 2003.

The blueberry crop's bloom set was average. Blueberry production totaled 41 million pounds, a decrease of 5 percent from last year's record high of 43 million pounds. The season average price, at \$1.14, is the highest price ever recorded in this state. The value of utilized production for the 2003 blueberry crop was \$45.7 million. Cranberry production was 480,000 barrels, up 12 percent from the 430,000 barrels produced in 2002. Fruit rot was reported to be higher than normal by the larger cranberry operations due to the continuous wet weather conditions. Season average price was \$29.60 per barrel, resulting in a value of production of \$14.2 million.

There were 11,000 hundredweight of strawberries produced in New Jersey in 2003, 31 percent less than in 2002. The season average price of \$165 per hundredweight is also the highest price ever recorded in the state. The price brought the value of production to \$1.82 million, compared to \$2.08 million in 2002.

New Jersey Fruit and Berry Production, Utilization, and Value, 2001-2003

Crop and Year	Production 1/		Utilized Production		Season Average Price Per Unit	Value Of Utilized Production
	Total	Utilized	Fresh 2/	Processed		
Apples	-- million lbs --				-- cents per lb --	-- \$1,000 --
2001	55.0	50.0	23.0	27.0	16.2	8,117
2002	35.0	32.0	20.0	12.0	17.6	5,640
2003	45.0	45.0	3/	3/	13.3	6,000
Blueberries	-- million lbs --				-- cents per lb --	-- \$1,000 --
2001	38	37	29	8	99.0	36,730
2002	43	42	37	5	111.0	46,790
2003	41	40	33	7	114.0	45,690
Cranberries	-- thousand barrels --				-- \$ per barrel 4/ --	-- \$1,000 --
2001	566	412	---	412	23.10	9,517
2002	430	430	---	430	29.00	12,470
2003	480	480	---	480	29.60	14,208
Peaches	-- million lbs --				-- cents per lb --	-- \$1,000 --
2001	75.0	70.0	70.0	5/	40.5	28,350
2002	62.0	57.0	57.0	5/	44.2	25,194
2003	70.0	62.0	62.0	5/	46.0	28,520
Strawberries	-- thousand cwt --				-- \$ per cwt --	-- \$1,000 --
2001	18	18	18	---	72.20	1,300
2002 6/	16	16	16	---	130.00	2,080
2003 6/	11	11	11	---	165.00	1,815

1/ Difference between total production and that having utilized value is economic abandonment and/or excess cullage of mature fruit. For cranberries, differences also include the quantity set aside under the Cranberry Marketing Order in 2001.

2/ Includes quantities used in farm household or given away.

3/ Not available until July 7, 2004.

4/ Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds excluding returns from non-cranberry products and before any deductions for capital stock and other retains.

5/ Included in fresh utilization.

6/ No longer in the Federal Estimating Program.

Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January 2004, at 111, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 percent below the December Index. The Livestock Products Index is down 3.4 percent from December 2003, while the All Crops Index is unchanged. Lower prices received for cattle, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset higher commodity prices for broilers, soybeans, corn, 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 cattle, soybeans, corn, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of cotton, grapes, tobacco, and cottonseed.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 percent from January 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 112, is 3 percent below last month but 14 percent above January 2003.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The January 2004, Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from December 2003, but 4 percent above January 2003. Lower prices in January 2004, for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, herbicides, and insecticides offset higher prices paid for complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, and LP gas.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2004
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.85	2.94	2.70
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	91.40	81.30	79.30
Soybeans, per bushel	5.51	7.17	7.82
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.258	.285	.301
Strawberries, per lb	1.090	1.870	1.830
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	29.00	29.90	28.60
Lettuce, per cwt	12.10	25.70	16.50
Tomatoes, per cwt	47.20	33.70	24.40
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	73.20	90.50	77.40
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	77.80	95.70	81.20
Cows, per cwt	36.90	49.40	45.80
Calves, per cwt	96.80	112.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.350	.380	.430
Eggs, all, per dozen	.610	.775	.874
Milk, all, per cwt ^{2/}	11.82	13.70	13.65

^{1/} Mid-month

^{2/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.



For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.