



New Jersey Honey Production

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in New Jersey during 2003 totaled 190,000 pounds, down 57 percent from 2002. The number of colonies, at 10,000, was down 1,000 from 2002. Honey stocks on December 15, 2003, amounted to 101,000 pounds, up 9,000 pounds from 2002.

The average price received for honey sold during 2003 was \$1.57 per pound, up 57 cents from 2002. The value of the 2003 honey crop was \$298,000, down 32 percent from the previous year.



United States Honey Production

Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to \$1.40 per pound, up 6 percent from \$1.33 in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

Honey: Number of Colonies and Production: Selected States and United States 1/

Selected States	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
1,000 Colonies			Pounds		1,000 pounds	
Maryland	3	2	46	42	138	84
New Jersey	11	10	40	19	440	190
New York	60	67	98	72	5,880	4,824
Pennsylvania	29	27	57	50	1,653	1,350
United States	2,574	2,590	66.7	69.9	171,718	181,096

Honey: Stocks and Values: Selected States and United States 1/

Selected States	Stocks, December 15 2/		Average Price Per Pound 3/		Value of Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
1,000 Pounds			Cents		1,000 dollars	
Maryland	21	21	196	191	270	160
New Jersey	92	101	100	157	440	298
New York	2,470	1,640	125	140	7,350	6,754
Pennsylvania	827	419	134	132	2,215	1,782
United States	39,393	40,737	132.7	140.4	228,338	255,791

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.

2/ Stocks held by producers.

3/ Prices weighted by sales.

2003 New Jersey Acreage, Production, Price, and Value

Barley: Barley planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged from 2002 at 4,000 and 3,000, respectively. Yield was 45 bushels per acre, a decrease of 29 bushels per acre below last year's. Production in 2003 decreased by 39 percent to 135,000 bushels. The prices received by growers increased by 35 cents from \$1.60 per bushel in 2002 to \$1.95 per bushel in 2003. The value of barley produced decreased by 26 percent from \$355,000 in 2002 to \$263,000 in 2003.

Corn: Corn planted in 2003 totaled 80,000 acres, 61,000 of which were harvested for grain. Yield increased 55 bushels to 113 bushels per acre from the previous year's yield of 58 bushels per acre. The increase in yield raised production by 2.83 million bushels to a level of 6.89 million bushels. Growers received \$2.75 per bushel for their grain, a decrease of 2 cents per bushel from 2002's price of \$2.77 per bushel. The total crop value for corn for grain increased by 69 percent from \$11.2 million in 2002 to \$19 million in 2003.

Hay: All hay harvested acres increased by 5,000 to 120,000 acres in 2003. Alfalfa hay acres also increased by 5,000 acres from 2002 to 30,000 acres in 2003. Acreage in other hay remained unchanged from last year at 90,000 acres. Yield per acre of alfalfa hay increased by 17 percent to 3.5 tons per acre, while yield per acre of other hay increased by 20 percent to 1.8 tons per acre. The overall hay yield was 2.23 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 105,000 tons and other hay production was 162,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 267,000 tons. The season average price for all hay increased \$11.00 per ton from \$110 in 2002 to \$121 per ton in 2003. Overall, total hay crop value increased by 41 percent in 2003 to \$32.6 million.

Potatoes: Potatoes planted acreage increased by 200 acres to 2,800 acres in 2003. Harvested acreage also increased 100 acres from 2,600 acres to 2,700 acres in 2003. Yield was 260 hundredweight per acre, a decrease of 15 hundredweight from 2002. Production was 702,000 hundredweight in 2003 compared with 715,000 hundredweight in 2002. The total crop value decreased by 32 percent from \$5.9 million in 2002 to \$4 million in 2003.

Soybeans: Soybean planted acreage decreased by 10,000 acres to 90,000 acres in 2003, while harvested acreage decreased by 9,000 to 88,000 acres in 2003. Soybean yield was up 11 bushels per acre from 2002's yield of 23 bushels per acre to 34 bushels per acre in 2003. Production increased to 3 million bushels in 2003 from 2.23 million bushels in 2002. The prices received by growers increased by \$1.40 from \$5.40 per bushel in 2002 to \$7.00 per bushel in 2003. The total crop value increased by 74 percent to \$20.9 million.

Sweet Potatoes: Sweet potato planted and harvested acreage decreased 100 acres each from 2002. Yield was 115 hundredweight per acre, a decrease of 10 hundredweight per acre over last year's. Production in 2003 decreased by 15 percent to 127,000 hundredweight. The prices per hundredweight increased by 25 percent from \$23.20 per hundredweight in 2002 to \$29.00 per hundredweight in 2003.

Wheat: The 31,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2003 were 7,000 acres less than in 2002. Harvested acreage was set at 26,000, a decrease of 6,000 acres below 2002's harvested acres. Yield at 42 bushels per acre was 16 bushels per acre less than the previous year's. Production at 1.09 million bushels was down 41 percent from 2002. The season average price of \$3.05 per bushel was 5 cents less than the price in 2002. The total crop value decreased by 42 percent to \$3.33 million.

Field Crops: 2003 New Jersey Acreage, Yield, Production, Price, and Value of Production

Crop	Unit	Acres		Yield per Acre	Production	Season Average Price	Value of Production
		Planted	Harvested				
		1,000	1,000	Units	1,000 Units	Dollars Per	\$1,000
Barley	bu	4	3	45	135	1.95	263
Corn for grain 1/	bu	80	61	113	6,893	2.75	18,956
Hay, All	ton		120	2.23	267	121.00	32,625
Alfalfa Hay	ton		30	3.5	105	141.00	14,805
Other Hay	ton		90	1.8	162	110.00	17,820
Potatoes	cwt	2.8	2.7	260	702	5.70	4,001
Soybeans	bu	90	88	34	2,992	7.00	20,944
Sweet Potatoes	cwt	1.1	1.1	115	127	29.00	3,683
Winter Wheat	bu	31	26	42	1,092	3.05	3,331

1/ Planted acres for corn includes acres planted for all purposes

Crop Values: Summary for Selected States and United States, 2003

State	Field and Misc Crops	Fruit and Nuts	Commercial Vegetables	Total Value of Principal Crops
\$1,000		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Delaware	125,926	1/	37,813	163,739
Maryland	371,293	10,036	42,887	424,216
New Jersey	83,803	94,418	109,717	287,938
Pennsylvania	1,483,466	98,541	67,948	1,649,955
United States	82,249,278	12,876,732	10,958,404	106,084,414

1/ This category not published separately in Delaware.

2002-2003 Wheat County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	4,700	3,700	4,200	3,000	53.0	43.0	222,600	129,000
Somerset	2,200	1,200	2,000	1,100	50.0	41.0	100,000	45,100
Warren	1,800	1,500	1,600	1,400	57.0	43.0	91,200	60,200
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	3,300	2,700	2,700	2,400	63.0	48.0	170,100	115,200
Mercer	1,300	1/	1,100	1/	52.0	1/	57,200	1/
Middlesex	1,300	1,000	1,200	900	61.0	45.0	73,200	40,500
Monmouth	2,100	1,500	1,700	1,300	54.0	47.0	91,800	61,100
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	7,300	6,400	6,100	4,600	60.0	41.0	366,000	188,600
Gloucester	3,800	4,000	3,200	3,300	53.0	40.0	169,600	132,000
Salem	9,100	7,800	7,300	6,300	64.0	40.0	467,200	252,000
Other Counties 2/	1,100	2,200	900	1,700	52.3	40.2	47,100	68,300
State	38,000	32,000	32,000	26,000	58.0	42.0	1,856,000	1,092,000

1/ Included in other counties.

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

2002-2003 Barley County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	500	600	400	500	77.0	42.0	30,800	21,000
Gloucester	800	800	700	700	75.0	48.0	52,500	33,600
Salem	1,500	1,300	1,200	1,000	73.0	46.0	87,600	46,000
Other Counties 1/	1,200	1,300	700	800	73.0	43.0	51,100	34,400
State	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	74.0	45.0	222,000	135,000

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

Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 19 thousand hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of January 11, 2004 through January 17, 2004, down 17 percent from a year ago. States included in the Northeast Region II are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Hours worked during the reference week averaged 37.2, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of 9.26 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, down 57 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.79 per hour, down 37 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$7.73 per hour compared with \$8.34 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, temperatures were below normal most of the week in most localities. There were trace amounts of rainfall across most of the state.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour, 15 cents more than the Northeast Region II producers paid. There were 667,000 hired workers on farms across the nation. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 38.1 compared to 37.2 in Northeast Region II.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States

Items	Northeast II 1/			United States		
	January 2003 2/	October 2003 2/	January 2004 2/	January 2003 2/	October 2003 2/	January 2004 2/
	<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>		
Hired Workers 3/	23	34	19	729	891	667
150 Days or More	19	26	16	614	626	554
149 Days or Less	4	8	3	115	265	113
	<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	37.2	38.5	37.2	37.7	40.2	38.1
	<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>		
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	\$9.83	\$9.59	\$9.26	\$9.34	\$9.05	\$9.41
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$9.16	\$8.79	\$8.79	\$8.30	\$8.42	\$8.39
Livestock	\$8.34	\$8.27	\$7.73	\$8.90	\$8.64	\$8.84

1/ Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

2/ Month refers to the week containing the 12th day of the month.

3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.

Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February 2004 at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 1.8 percent above the January 2004 Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 0.9 percent from January 2004 while the All Crops Index increased 1.8 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. 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 milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 percent from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 1.8 percent from last month, and is 19 percent above February 2003.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February 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 January 2004 but 1.6 percent above February 2003. Lower prices in February 2004 for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, herbicides, and insecticides offset higher prices for complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains, and LP gas.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Feb 2003	Jan 2004	Feb 2004
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.87	2.71	2.62
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	91.40	79.30	79.90
Soybeans, per bushel	5.55	7.34	7.99
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.246	.301	.294
Strawberries, per lb	.877	1.510	1.320
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	24.00	30.80	20.20
Lettuce, per cwt	11.80	15.40	13.30
Tomatoes, per cwt	31.70	34.50	26.70
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	73.90	80.90	77.80
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	78.20	85.40	81.60
Cows, per cwt	38.90	46.10	46.20
Calves, per cwt	97.20	110.00	110.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.340	.430	.470
Eggs, all, per dozen	.570	.874	.833
Milk, all, per cwt 2/	12.00	13.75	14.15

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.

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