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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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Volume: 04 Number: 07

Date: August 17, 2004

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

New Jersey farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$9,750 per acre as of January 1, 2004, up seven percent from the previous year. The Garden State ranked fourth among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Connecticut's and Rhode Island's real estate value per acre tied for the highest value per acre in the country, at \$10,200. Massachusetts' real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$9,900 per acre. Maryland's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$4,500 per acre followed by Delaware's ranking of sixth, at \$4,300 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$9,900 per acre on January 1, 2004, up six percent from January 1, 2003, and was the highest among all states. Arizona ranked second in cropland value per acre, at \$6,400. California, at \$6,200 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 \$10,600, up \$600 or six percent from the previous year. Maryland, at \$3,900 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value per acre. North Carolina's pasture value per acre ranked third, at \$3,200.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$47.50 per acre during the 2004 crop year, compared to \$47.00 the previous 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 Region and State, January 1, 2000-2004

Region and State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Change 03-04
<i>Dollars</i>						
Northeast:	2,660	2,830	3,000	3,200	3,400	6.3
Connecticut	7,050	7,700	8,500	9,500	10,200	7.4
Delaware	3,150	3,400	3,700	4,000	4,300	7.5
Maine	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,750	1,850	5.7
Maryland	3,600	3,800	4,000	4,150	4,500	8.4
Massachusetts	6,500	7,300	8,100	9,300	9,900	6.5
New Hampshire	2,400	2,550	2,800	3,100	3,250	4.8
New Jersey	7,600	8,100	8,600	9,100	9,750	7.1
New York	1,430	1,520	1,610	1,700	1,780	4.7
Pennsylvania	2,800	3,000	3,250	3,450	3,650	5.8
Rhode Island	7,300	7,700	8,300	9,300	10,200	9.7
Vermont	1,700	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,150	4.9

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

2001-2003 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Salem, Warren, and Sussex, which produced 19.8, 17.8, and 15.4 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing other hay counties were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 51.5, 29.5, and 16.7 thousand tons, respectively.

2001-2003 New Jersey Alfalfa Hay Estimates

County	Acres Harvested for Dry Hay			Yield Per Acre (Tons)			Production (Tons)		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
District 20 (North)									
Hunterdon	4,200	3,600	3,800	3.7	2.3	3.2	15,700	8,280	12,160
Morris	70	1,000	--	3.0	2.2	--	2,100	2,200	--
Somerset	1,600	1,300	1,400	3.6	2.8	3.9	5,800	3,640	5,460
Sussex	5,800	4,900	5,300	2.6	2.3	2.9	15,000	11,270	15,370
Warren	5,300	5,000	4,800	3.6	2.7	3.7	19,000	13,500	17,760
District 50 (Central)									
Burlington	2,500	2,000	2,000	3.2	2.7	3.6	7,900	5,400	7,200
Mercer	500	--	--	3.2	--	--	1,600	--	--
Monmouth	2,100	1,900	1,900	3.9	3.0	3.6	8,200	5,700	6,840
District 80 (South)									
Cumberland	1,400	1,600	1,600	2.9	2.3	3.9	4,000	3,680	6,240
Gloucester	1,000	1,900	1,900	3.9	2.4	4.0	3,900	4,560	7,600
Salem	4,500	5,500	5,200	3.9	3.0	3.8	17,600	16,500	19,760
Other Counties 1/ State	400 30,000	1,300 30,000	2,100 32,100	3.0 3.4	2.5 2.6	3.1 3.5	1,200 102,000	3,270 78,000	6,610 111,610

1/ The other counties could be from any of the districts.

2001-2003 New Jersey Other Hay Estimates

County	Acres Harvested for Dry Hay			Yield Per Acre (Tons)			Production (Tons)		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
District 20 (North)									
Hunterdon	23,800	29,000	27,100	1.8	1.7	1.9	44,000	49,300	51,490
Morris	3,200	3,200	3,200	1.4	1.5	1.5	4,500	4,800	4,800
Somerset	9,600	7,200	8,200	1.5	1.5	1.9	14,000	10,800	15,580
Sussex	16,200	15,900	16,400	1.4	1.6	1.8	23,000	25,440	29,520
Warren	11,600	9,600	9,800	1.9	1.5	1.7	22,000	14,400	16,660
District 50 (Central)									
Burlington	5,400	5,400	4,900	1.9	1.9	1.5	10,500	10,260	7,350
Mercer	2,600	2,000	2,300	1.7	1.6	1.6	4,500	3,200	3,680
Middlesex	1,200	900	900	2.0	1.5	1.7	2,400	1,350	1,530
Monmouth	3,100	3,000	2,800	1.9	1.4	1.6	5,900	4,200	4,480
Ocean	600	500	500	1.3	1.1	1.4	800	550	700
District 80 (South)									
Atlantic	900	900	800	1.2	1.1	1.2	1,100	990	960
Camden	400	900	900	1.5	1.3	2.0	600	1,170	1,800
Cape May	1,000	800	900	1.0	1.7	1.8	1,000	1,360	1,620
Cumberland	2,800	2,300	2,300	1.8	1.3	2.0	5,000	2,990	4,600
Gloucester	2,500	2,300	2,300	1.8	1.5	2.0	4,500	3,450	4,600
Salem	4,900	6,000	6,500	1.8	1.6	1.9	8,900	9,600	12,350
Other Counties 1/ State	200 90,000	100 90,000	200 90,000	1.5 1.7	1.4 1.6	1.4 1.8	300 153,000	140 144,000	280 162,280

1/ The other counties could be from any of the districts.

New Jersey 2004 Blueberry Forecast

Most of the blueberry crop was harvested before mid-July's heavy rains in central New Jersey. Bloom was reported at 22% light, 45% average, and 33% heavy. Set of fruit was reported at 27% light, 53% average, and 20% heavy. Forecasted production is estimated at 42 million pounds, 2 percent higher than last year's production of 41 million pounds.

New Jersey Blueberries, 2002-2004, Acres, Yield, Production, & Value of Production

Year	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre 1/ (Lbs)	Production (1,000 Lbs)	
			Total	Utilized
2002	7,400	5,680	43,000	42,000
2003	7,500	5,330	41,000	40,000
2004	7,000	2/	42,000	2/

1/ Yield is derived from utilized production.

2/ Not available until January 2005.

New Jersey 2004 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

Apple production is forecast at 40 million pounds, the same production as last year. Growing conditions are rated fair to good. Apples are sizing well. Early varieties are being harvested in the southern portion of the state. Prospects for a good crop look promising.

Peach production is forecast at 65 million pounds, down five million pounds from the July 2004 forecast. Producers began the peach harvest earlier than usual. Fruit quality and size are generally good. Frequent rains and scattered thunderstorms after mid-July not only interrupted the harvest schedule, but also caused some fruit to crack. Growing conditions vary across the state.

Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Final 2003	- Total Production -	
		Forecast July 1, 2004	Forecast August 1, 2004
----- Million Pounds -----			
NEW JERSEY			
Apples	40.0	1/	40.0
Peaches	70.0	70.0	65.0
----- Million Pounds -----			
UNITED STATES			
Apples	8,613.3	1/	9,365.9
Peaches	2,519.0	2,162.4	2,598.4

1/ First apple forecast is August 1.

New Jersey's Corn Crop up 25 Percent

Corn production is forecast at 8.64 million bushels, an increase of 25 percent from last year. Producers expect 120 bushels per acre for the 2004 crop. The state record yield per acre is 134 bushels, set in 2000. The 10-year (1993-2002) state average yield is 100 bushels per acre. Area intended for harvest as grain is 72,000 acres, up 11,000 from last year.

Soybean yield is forecast at 36 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 40 bushels, set in 2000. The 10-year average yield is 31 bushels. Production is expected to total 3.46 million bushels, up 16 percent from 2003.

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

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2003	Forecast 2004	2003	Forecast 2004	2003	Forecast 2004	2003	Forecast 2004
----- Thousand -----								
NEW JERSEY								
Corn for grain	80	88	61	72	113.0	120.0	6,893	8,640
Soybeans	90	98	88	96	34.0	36.0	2,992	3,456
----- Thousand -----								
UNITED STATES								
Corn for grain	78,736	80,968	71,139	73,377	142.2	148.9	10,113.9	10,923.1
Soybeans	73,404	74,809	72,321	73,655	33.4	39.1	2,417.6	2,876.6

Notes: Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2004, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The

next crop production forecast will be released September 10, 2004.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July 2004, at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 4.7 percent below the June 2004 Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 4.9 percent from June 2004, while the Livestock Index decreased 3.8 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, asparagus, sweet corn, and snap beans. Lower prices were received for dairy, corn, soybeans, and cattle. 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 grapes, wheat, tomatoes, and hay offset decreased marketings of dairy, cantaloup, asparagus, and oranges. The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 percent from July 2003.

The Food Commodities Index declined 3.8 percent from last month to 125, 19 percent above July 2003.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 134 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from June 2004, but 5.5 percent above July 2003. Lower prices in July 2004 for feed concentrates, complete feeds, feed grains, and hay & forages are offset by higher prices for feeder cattle, milk cows, nitrogen fertilizers, and diesel fuel.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2003	June 2004	July 2004
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.74	2.64	2.50
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	89.00	95.20	90.40
Soybeans, per bushel	5.82	9.05	8.21
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.208	.301	.295
Strawberries, per cwt	66.70	66.30	60.80
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	21.30	15.20	21.20
Lettuce, per cwt	11.90	13.30	10.20
Tomatoes, per cwt	37.60	21.90	23.10
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	75.80	89.50	87.50
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	78.90	93.50	91.10
Cows, per cwt	44.90	53.60	55.90
Calves, per cwt	102.00	125.00	128.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.360	.520	.520
Eggs, all, per dozen	.687	.672	.589
Milk, all, per cwt 2/ 3/	12.10	18.20	16.20

1/ Mid-month.

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

3/ July 2004 fat test percent: all milk 3.54, fluid milk 3.54, and mfg grade 3.64.



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.