Utilized production of commercial apples in Kentucky totaled 4.70 million pounds in 2005, down 33 percent from the 2004 crop. Prices averaged 34.6 cents per pound, down 2.2 cents from 2004. The value of utilized production totaled $1.63 million, down from the $2.57 million in 2004. Weather condition was the contributing factor to the lower production. Rainfall was adequate to surplus in May and then conditions turned dry and hot in June. Starting in mid-August some rainfall was received on a spotty basis.

U.S. utilized apple production for 2005 was estimated at 9.76 billion pounds, down 6 percent from the 2004 level. Utilized production for Washington decreased 6 percent from last year. New York’s utilized production decreased 20 percent, while Michigan’s utilized production increased 6 percent compared to the previous year. Washington’s crop experienced mild temperatures during February and March but cold temperatures and frosts in April caused some producers to experience production losses. In New York, a spring frost during bloom, extreme heat during early summer, and heavy rains and winds during mid October reduced the 2005 crop. Below normal humidity levels in Michigan kept disease pressure low. The apple crop was ahead of normal development throughout the growing season and fruit quality was very good to excellent.

Kentucky’s utilized peach production totaled 650 tons in 2005, down 13 percent from the 2004 crop. Prices averaged $1,000.00 per ton, down $290.00 from 2004. Value of all utilized 2005 production totaled $650,000 compared to $968,000 in 2004. Farmers generally had a smaller crop due to scattered freezing conditions at blossom time, heavy rain in the spring and then dry hot conditions in June and July.

U.S. utilized peach production in 2005 was estimated at 1.15 million tons, down 7 percent from the previous year and 5 percent below 2003. The California crop, accounting for 76 percent of the U.S. utilized peach production, was down 6 percent from 2004.