



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
New England Field Office



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It is amazing how conditions for many farmers in New England and across the nation have changed with in the past year. Reduced demand due to the economic slowdown has affected most agricultural commodities in New England, either in price or production or both, yet cost of most inputs have not decreased. In changing times, we need both historic and current agriculture data to make decisions.

The *New England Agricultural Statistics 2009* contains information on the crop, livestock, and other agricultural products for each of the six New England States. Also included are highlights from the latest Farm and Ranch Irrigation Survey and the USDA's first Organic Production Survey. The complete reports are available at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

Our thanks go out to the thousands of farm operators across the region who participated in the Census of Agriculture and all the other surveys that we conduct throughout the year. We understand the time commitment needed to complete these questionnaires and fully appreciate your effort. You **are** the heart and soul of our program, for without your cooperation, the rest of the story could not be accurately written.

We also appreciate the cooperation extended by the leaders of State agencies that support agriculture in each of the New England States. Their financial contributions allow us to provide data users with a printed copy of this annual report each year. Finally, I would like to recognize Alexander I. Slosman for his assistance in preparing this publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary R. Keough".

Gary R. Keough
Director