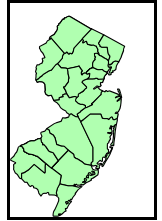


New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

*a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture*



Rm 205 Health and Agriculture Bldg.
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: (800)328-0179
Fax: (800)625-7581
nass-nj@nass.usda.gov

We are pleased to present the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics 2003 edition. This publication is a cooperative effort between the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and contains current statistics for New Jersey's \$856 million agricultural industry. Farmers will use the information found in this publication for their production planning and marketing decisions. The media, legislators, and educators need this data to develop sound policy and promote our products.

The 2002 growing season was a challenging year for agricultural producers. Extremely hot and dry weather during the summer growing season had a detrimental effect on some of the crops grown in the state. Production was down for all the fruits and berries that we estimate, with the exception of blueberries. On average, however, the prices received by farmers were significantly higher for every fruit and berry estimated. The yield per acre was down for corn, hay, and soybeans. Barley, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and wheat, however, were estimated with higher yields per acre than in 2001. On average, small grain and/or field crop producers received more money for the crops they sold, except for hay producers, who received, on average, the same amount of money as in 2001. Many of the vegetable crops had reduced yields per acre, but in every case where the yield was reduced the average price received for the crop was higher than in 2001. Hog, calf, and milk price per hundredweight, on average, was significantly lower in 2002 than in 2001. Prices were also slightly lower for eggs and turkeys. On average, price per hundredweight for cattle was significantly higher for the year. New Jersey lost 100 hog farms during the year.

When considering 2002 crop productions, New Jersey ranked in the top five nationally for a number of commodities. We ranked second nationally in blueberry production. Bell pepper production in New Jersey ranked third in the nation. New Jersey farmers ranked fourth in both cranberries and fresh market head lettuce production, and we ranked fifth in peach production.

The data in this publication was made possible only by the voluntary cooperation of the New Jersey farmers and agribusinesses who responded to our surveys. We believe that the best source of agricultural data is from producers and agribusinesses. We would like to extend thanks to all those individuals who make New Jersey agricultural statistics data available to everyone.

The New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture are dedicated to serving the agricultural community. Please contact us any time with your questions, comments, and requests for information.