



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
New England Field Office

53 Pleasant St. Room 2100 Concord, NH 03301



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Contact: Dave Mikelson
(603) 227-3121

USDA FORECASTS ANNUAL CRANBERRY PRODUCTION

Concord, NH - In August of each year, USDA publishes the official cranberry production forecast for the five major cranberry-producing States. In Massachusetts, the survey is conducted by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Last year about 29 percent of the total cranberries produced in the United States were grown in Massachusetts. Wisconsin accounted for 56 percent of the total production. Oregon, New Jersey and Washington accounted for the remaining production.

"The Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2007 crop by NASS," explained Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office. Approximately 400 Massachusetts growers will be asked for their help in this effort to forecast production. The survey is mailed near the end of July with a phone follow-up in early August. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is held confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Keough.

Representatives from the New England field office will contact Massachusetts' cranberry growers and ask them to provide information on their acreage and expected production. Forecasted production estimates for the 2007 Massachusetts' crop will be available in the **Cranberry Report** from New England Agricultural Statistics on August 21, 2007. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov. For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571.