



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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



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This New England annual summary is late compared to our plan to get it published in the February - March time frame each year. Much of the delay can be attributed to the increased work load associated with the 2002 Census of Agriculture, which will be published in early June.

The publication of the 2002 Census was delayed while the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), USDA decided what to do about non-response to the Census Report Form and the known incompleteness in the Census Mailing List which is used to get the questionnaires in the hands of our Nation's farmers. The final 2002 numbers will be published June 3, 2004, and will reflect a statistical adjustment for the non-response to the original mailing to farmers and a second adjustment for the measured incompleteness in the mailing list. This will include an estimate for those farmers who were in business in 2002, but never received a questionnaire to report their farming activities to the Census.

This project is still very new to NASS since it is our first attempt at conducting a Census of Agriculture on our own. The 1997 Census was completed using the same computer programs and processing facilities as the Bureau of Census. However, those contracts expired and NASS had to start from scratch to plan and conduct the 2002 Ag Census. The growing pains were huge, but the job is almost done.

We offer our special thanks to all farmers, who not only assisted in our annual program of data collection, but also completed their 2002 Census of Agriculture questionnaire. The success of this estimating program is totally dependent on the cooperation of farmers across this six-State region.

We also recognize the strong support received from each of the four New England Commissioners of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and the Chief, Rhode Island Division of Agriculture and Marketing. This statistical summary would not be published without their financial help for printing and mailing.

Sincerely,

Aubrey R. Davis
Director

Cover photograph of Columbia, New Hampshire
taken by John C. Porter, Boscawen, New Hampshire

The Pioneer Farm, owned by Ruby Wallace, has been a landmark in Columbia, New Hampshire for more than 200 years. Ruby's husband Lew's great-great grandfather established the family farm in 1785. Scenically located on Route 3, it is known as the location of the Wallace's fine small roadside stand and Ruby's Rooms. The barn, while still visibly attractive, needed fairly extensive renovation to remain a significant part of the farm. Within the last few years a 40 foot silo, an inside silo, and an equipment shed have been removed. Repairs have included foundation work, floor support and planking replacement, vertical structural re-alignment, new electrical wiring, and roofing work.