



New England Agricultural Statistics



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USDA Forecasts Annual Cranberry Production

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 28 percent of the total cranberries produced were grown in Massachusetts. Wisconsin accounted for nearly 55 percent of the total production. Oregon, New Jersey and Washington accounted for the remaining production.

USDA's Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2005 crop. This annual study is part of a National program to establish official USDA statistics for cranberry acreage and production. Over 400 Massachusetts cranberry growers will be asked for their help in this five-State effort to forecast 2005 production. The survey will be mailed in late July and non-respondents will be called in early August. As with all surveys conducted by NASS, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with others to establish State and National estimates.

The cooperation of growers is critical to ensure that the Massachusetts' crop is accurately represented in National production statistics. Preliminary cranberry prices for fresh and processed production were published in the January, 2005, Noncitrus Fruits & Nuts Preliminary Summary for the years 2002 through 2004 for all five cranberry-producing States.

The cranberries production forecast will be released in the Cranberries Report from Washington D.C. at 1:00 p.m. on August 16, 2005. All reports become available on the Internet (www.usda.gov/nass) within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics for the entire United States will be reprinted in the Cranberries Report from the Concord field office. The semi-annual report is available on the internet (www.nass.usda.gov/nh/) and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[New England Agricultural Statistics is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

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