



NASS

New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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USDA MEASURES FRUIT and VEGETABLE CROPS

At the request of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and funded by the State Departments of Agriculture in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, the New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is poised to continue with year three of a five-year study of fruit and vegetable prices and yields. State and County FSA offices will use the data to administer farm programs, which will more adequately reflect farming practices and commodity prices received in New England. This new data series will also be extremely valuable for growers to use in making production and marketing decisions, for Cooperative Extension to provide needed outreach and education, and for State Departments of Agriculture to assist growers.

When the harvest season draws to a close, growers will be asked for their help in this region wide effort to collect production data, as well as much needed information on retail and wholesale sales. Growers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont will be contacted throughout October and November to provide information on tree fruits, fresh market berries, melons, and a variety of fresh market vegetable crops. Connecticut growers will be contacted for apple, peach, pear, and sweet corn data only.

USDA's Fruit and Vegetable Survey is the only means of providing official estimates of prices and yields for New England tree fruit, vegetable and berry crops. Approximately 3,000 fruit and vegetable growers in New England will be asked for their help on this important project. Growers will be contacted by phone either in October after vegetable harvest is complete, or in November after fruit harvest. As with all our survey work, individual operator information is kept **strictly confidential** and is exempted from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with other reports to establish State and National estimates.

Price and yield data for most tree fruit, vegetable and berry crops grown in the New England States (excluding Connecticut) will be available in the ***New England Fruits and Vegetables, 2004 Crop*** issue, scheduled for publication in February, 2005. Fresh market sweet corn acreage, production and value for all producing States will be available in the ***Vegetable Annual Summary Report*** from Washington, D.C. in late January 2005. Apple, peach, pear, cranberry, and wild blueberry data for all producing States will be available in the ***Noncitrus Fruit and Nut Report*** from Washington, D.C., also in late January 2005. All reports from Washington, D.C. are available on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/ within minutes of the scheduled release time. Selected New England statistics are reprinted in our January issue of the ***Ag Review***. The monthly ***Ag Review*** and the ***New England Fruits and Vegetables 2004 Crop*** releases will be available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/. Complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service 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 publications are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

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