



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

22 Bridge St, Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



March 10, 2000 - For Immediate Release - Please Inform Others

USDA MEASURES 1999 APPLE CROP MARKETINGS

As of last fall, the 1999 apple crop available for utilization was expected to total 5.7 million bushels, 68 percent above the previous year's utilized output. Bloom came early to New England. Sunny and dry weather from May 10 to 14 provided favorable conditions for beekeepers to move hives into orchards for pollination. The resulting fruit set was above average. Dry conditions continued through June and July, making fruit drop a problem. An estimated 655 thousand bushels were not harvested across New England in 1999. Severest hit were Maine and Vermont. Fruit size was generally small due to the heavy set, with quality good to excellent. How did New England orchardists fare marketing the 1999 crop compared with previous years? The actual percentage marketed fresh, processed or left unsold is still unknown, and will ultimately determine the value of the 1999 apple crop.

Now that the bulk of the fruit has been sold, the end of season estimate can be updated with final reports from growers. The New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, is responsible for conducting this annual survey of apple producers within the region. Grower response to this survey will update the production forecast that was published in January, 2000, and establish the final published production, utilization and price figures used by the apple industry.

In early May, apple producers nationwide will be asked to provide utilization and price information concerning the 1999 crop. Here in New England, questionnaires will be mailed directly to approximately 900 apple producers. If necessary, interviewers will follow-up with telephone or personal contacts through the end of May. Response to the survey is voluntary, however cooperation from all growers is essential to provide an accurate picture of the apple industry in this region. **Individual reports are kept strictly confidential**, and used only with other reports for statistical purposes. NASS does not exchange mail lists or any other individual information with other agencies or individuals, as it is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

The national survey results are available in the *Non-Citrus Fruit and Nuts, Annual* report from Washington, DC on July 7 at 3:00 pm. All reports are available on the Internet within a few minutes of the scheduled release time. New England apple statistics are also re-printed in the July issue of the *Ag Review*. The monthly New England *Ag Review* is also available on the Internet monthly, but complimentary copies can be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and 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 through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Angie Coate or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.