



USDA,
National Agricultural Statistics Service,
New Jersey Field Office
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 1(800)328-0179
Fax: 1(800)625-7581
www.nass.usda.gov/nj/

New Jersey's FARM FACTS

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

Volume: 06

Number: 02

March 2, 2006

New Jersey Cattle Inventory Down 2,000 Head

- All cattle and calves in New Jersey as of January 1, 2006, totaled 42,000 head, down 2,000 head from January 1, 2005. The January 1, 2006 total cattle & calves inventory estimate is the lowest on record. The highest inventory of cattle and calves was 264,000 head on hand January 1, 1880.
- All cows and heifers that have calved, at 21,000, are 1,000 head lower than January 1, 2005. Beef cows, at 9,000, are 1,000 head lower than last year. Milk cows, at 12,000 head, the same as last year.
- Beef replacement and other heifers were estimated at 2,000 head. The beef replacement figure is 1,000 head lower while the other heifers are unchanged from January 1, 2005. Milk replacement totaled 6,000 head, no change from January 1, 2005.
- The estimates for steers and bulls over 500 pounds at 3,000 and 1,000 head respectively, both were the same as last year. Calves under 500 pounds at 7,000 head were also unchanged from January 1, 2005.

All Cattle and Calves

	New Jersey		United States	
	January 1, 2005	January 1, 2006	January 1, 2005	January 1, 2006
<i>Number of Head (000)</i>				
All cattle and calves	44.0	42.0	95,438.0	97,101.5
Cows and heifers that have calved:				
Beef cows	10.0	9.0	32,915.4	33,253.0
Milk cows	12.0	12.0	9,005.0	9,058.4
Heifers:				
Beef cow replacement	3.0	2.0	5,690.9	5,904.5
Milk cow replacement	6.0	6.0	4,118.3	4,278.0
Other	2.0	2.0	9,763.4	9,795.4
Steers, bulls, and calves:				
Steers, 500 pounds and over	3.0	3.0	16,475.8	16,923.1
Bulls, 500 pounds and over	1.0	1.0	2,219.3	2,262.8
Calves under 500 pounds	7.0	7.0	15,249.9	15,626.3

New Jersey Quarterly Milk Production: The October-December 2005 Quarterly Milk Production for New Jersey was 46 million pounds, down 2 percent from the October-December period last year.

The average number of milk cows during the October-December 2005 quarter was 12,000 head, unchanged from the October-December 2004 quarter.

United States Quarterly Milk Production: Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December 2005 quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the United States during the October-December 2005 quarter was 9.05 million head, up 31,000 head from the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Production: Preliminary October-December, 2004-2005

State	October-December Milk Cows 1/		October-December Milk Production 2/		Change From 2004
	2004	2005	2004	2005	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
New Jersey	12	12	47	46	-2.1
United States	9,019	9,050	41,983	43,605	3.9

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

2005 Fruit Summary

The five major fruit and berry crops grown in New Jersey are apples, blueberries, cranberries, peaches and strawberries. The winter kill affected the growers in the south west part of New Jersey. Drier conditions in early June reduced the threat from plant diseases. Sustained heat waves in late July and August benefited the berry and peach crops. Frequent rains in the late August and September improved the size of apples.

Total production of the five fruit and berry crops during 2005 amounted to 227 million pounds, up 16 percent from 2004's production of 196 million pounds. Value of utilized production of these crops totaled \$114.3 million, and a 29 percent increase from the 2004 total of \$88.5 million. All fruit crops have contributed to the increase in value.

In general, it was a favorable growing season for New Jersey peach growers. The blooms were rated average to good although a cold snap in early May caused some damage. June drops were insufficient due to the lack of rainfall. Some manual thinning was needed. High temperatures in late July and early August accelerated the maturity of peaches and the trees showed signs of stress from sustained heat waves. Harvesting continued to the end of September. As the season concluded, New Jersey peach growers experienced one of the best marketing seasons in recent years. The demand for peaches was strong and the prices were high throughout the entire season. Peach utilized production totaled 33,700 tons, up 10 percent from 2004. Season average price, at \$916.00 per ton (45.8 cents per pound), was \$156.00 higher than last year's price. Value of utilized production was \$30.9 million in 2005, 33 percent more than 2004.

It was a normal growing season for apple growers in New Jersey. Late season rainfall improved the apple sizing problem and the season ended with a good crop. Apple quality was generally good. Total apple production, at 45 million pounds, was 5 million pounds higher than 2004. The season average price, at 17.0 cents per pound, was 1.9 cents higher than in 2004. Value of utilized production was \$7.65 million in 2005 compared with \$5.74 million in 2004.

The blueberry crop's bloom and set of fruit was reported to be average to heavy. Blueberry production totaled 45 million pounds, an increase of 15 percent from last year. The season average price, at \$1.23 per pound, is the highest price ever recorded in the state. The value of utilized production for the 2005 blueberry crop was \$55.5 million, an increase of 22 percent from 2004.

Cranberry total production was 533,000 barrels, up 33 percent from the 402,000 barrels produced in 2004. The season average price was \$33.70 per barrel, an increase of 11 percent from last year. The value of production for the 2005 cranberry crop was \$18.0 million, up 50 percent from 2004. The cranberry crop's bloom, set of fruit, and fruit size was reported to be average to heavy.

There were 14,000 hundredweight of strawberries produced in New Jersey in 2005, 17 percent higher than in 2004. The season average price of \$170.00 per hundredweight is \$8.00 higher than a year ago. The higher production level and higher season average price brought the value of production to \$2.38 million, compared to \$1.94 million in 2004. Compared with the other four fruit crops, the importance of strawberries is gradually diminishing.

New Jersey Fruit and Berry Production, Utilization, and Value, 2004 and 2005

Crop And Year	Production 1/		Utilized Production		Season Average Price Per Unit	Value of Utilized Production
	Total	Utilized	Fresh 2/	Processed		
Apples	-- million lbs --				cents per lb	\$1,000
2004	40	38	28	10	15.1	5,740
2005	45	45	3/	3/	17.0	7,653
Blueberries	-- million lbs --				\$ per lb	\$1,000
2004	39	39	33	6	1.17	45,630
2005	45	45	33	12	1.23	55,470
Cranberries 4/	-- thousand barrels --				\$ per barrel 5/	\$1,000
2004	402	394	---	394	30.40	11,978
2005	533	533	---	533	33.70	17,962
Peaches	-- tons --				\$ per ton	\$1,000
2004	32,500	30,500	30,500	6/	760.00	23,180
2005	35,000	33,700	33,700	6/	916.00	30,869
Strawberries 7/	-- thousand cwt --				\$ per cwt	\$1,000
2004	12	12	12	---	162.00	1,944
2005	14	14	14	---	170.00	2,380

1/ Difference between total production and that having utilized value is economic abandonment and/or excess cullage of mature fruit. for cranberries, differences also include the quantity set aside under the Cranberry Marketing Order in 2001.

2/ Includes quantities used in farm household or given away.

3/ Not available until July 6, 2006.

4/ Small quantities of fresh cranberries are included in processed to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

5/ Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds less returns for processing non-cranberry products, capital stock dividends, capital stock retains, and other retains.

6/ Included in fresh utilization.

2005 Vegetable Growing Season

During the 2005 vegetable season, the mild winter, variable temperatures in spring, persistent dry summer, and favorable fall weather each had varying effects upon the vegetable crops this season. Early spring planting was delayed because of wet conditions. Temperatures were about normal in early spring, but then turned cooler for the second part of spring. The drier and cooler temperatures slowed the harvest of spring vegetables. The prolonged cool temperatures also had adverse impact on the planting of summer crops. Planting of sweet corn was 7-10 days later than usual. Fall planting was lower than usual because of higher fuel costs and sustained low produce prices for this season. Production of asparagus, collards, eggplant, kale, leaf and Romaine lettuce, spinach, winter squash, and sweet corn were higher, while cabbage, cucumbers, escarole & endive, head lettuce, bell peppers, pumpkins, snap beans, summer squash, and tomatoes had lower production. As the season concluded, total value of production of all principal fresh market vegetables and processing vegetables showed a 10 percent and 8 percent decrease, respectively.

New Jersey Vegetables Annual Summary, 2004 and 2005

Crop	Acres Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Season Average Price		Value of Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Vegetables for Fresh Market	-- acres --		-- cwt --		-- 1,000 cwt --		-- \$ per cwt --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Asparagus 1/	1,100	1,100	27	30	30	33	90.00	100.00	2,700	3,300
Cabbage	1,500	1,500	375	260	563	390	11.50	17.80	6,475	6,942
Collards1/	500	700	175	135	88	95	23.50	22.20	2,068	2,109
Cucumbers	3,100	3,200	220	150	682	480	22.70	20.20	15,481	9,696
Eggplant 1/	800	800	210	260	168	208	32.00	18.90	5,376	3,931
Escarole & Endive 1/	600	500	175	190	105	95	23.10	21.50	2,426	2,043
Kale 1/	400	400	170	225	68	86	21.30	22.00	1,448	1,892
Lettuce, Head	800	500	205	190	164	95	23.60	35.00	3,870	3,325
Lettuce, Other 1/	1,100	1,100	200	205	220	226	19.50	16.00	4,290	3,616
Peppers, Bell	3,500	3,200	265	260	928	832	25.00	24.70	23,200	20,550
Pumpkins 1/	1,800	1,600	80	88	144	141	24.00	16.50	3,456	2,327
Snap Beans	3,100	2,900	40	40	124	116	52.00	47.00	6,448	5,452
Spinach	1,900	1,900	90	105	171	200	22.20	30.90	3,796	6,180
Squash, Summer 1/	2,200	2,100	120	95	264	200	41.50	29.50	10,956	5,900
Squash, Winter 1/	900	900	70	88	63	80	17.60	25.30	1,110	2,024
Sweet Corn	7,500	7,100	70	80	525	568	20.80	21.50	10,920	12,212
Tomatoes	3,000	3,000	230	200	690	600	37.00	41.50	25,530	24,900
Total	33,800	32,500	148	137	4,997	4,445	25.90	26.20	129,550	116,399
Vegetables for Processing	-- acres --		--tons --		-- tons --		-- \$ per ton --		-- \$ 1,000 --	
Total 2/	9,100	8,250	7.25	7.41	65,970	61,150	126.10	125.50	8,317	7,673

1/ Not in the Federal Estimating Program, state estimate only.

2/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing individual operations. Processing vegetables include carrots, cucumbers, green peas, lima beans, snap beans, spinach, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Carrots, cucumbers, and lima beans are not in the Federal Estimating Program, and are state estimates only.

**January Farm Prices Received Index
Down 2.6 percent From Last Month**

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 112, based on 1990-92=100, is 2.6 percent below the December Index. The Crop Index is down 2.7 percent and the Livestock Index also fell by 2.5 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, oranges, corn and cotton. Lower prices were received for lettuce, turkeys, eggs and hogs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, tomatoes, dairy and cotton.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 0.9 percent from January 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 118, is 3.3 percent below last month but 1.7 percent above January 2005.

Prices Paid Index Up 1.4 Percent

The January Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 145 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1.4 percent from December and 5.8 percent above January 2005. Higher prices in January for gasoline, LP gas, complete feeds and feed supplements offset lower prices for feeder cattle, milk cows, feed concentrates and potash and phosphate materials.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Jan 2005	Dec 2005	Jan 2006
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.41	2.49	2.41
Corn, per bushel	2.12	1.92	1.96
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	87.80	92.00	91.20
Soybeans, per bushel	5.57	5.77	5.51
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per cwt ^{2/}	0.216	0.265	0.260
Strawberries	139.00	148.00	129.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	21.30	21.20	--
Lettuce, per cwt	11.50	16.60	11.40
Tomatoes, per cwt	15.40	96.80	100.00
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	89.40	93.60	94.40
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	94.40	99.90	101.00
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	50.50	47.20	46.50
Calves, per cwt	125.00	134.00	137.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	0.430	0.390	0.380
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	0.558	0.719	0.610
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	15.90	14.80	14.50

^{1/} Mid-month price.

^{2/} Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, and NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

^{5/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{6/} January 2006 fat test percent: all milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, and mfg grade 3.96.



To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Field Office at www.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.

