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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

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New Jersey's Corn Production Up Four Percent from the August 1, 2003 Forecast

Note: Yield forecasts in this report are based on conditions around September 1 and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time.

- **Corn** production is forecast at 7.37 million bushels, an increase of 82 percent from last year. Producers expect 110 bushels per acre for the 2003 crop. This is 52 bushels above the 2002 average yield, and 4 bushels higher than the August 1, 2003 forecast. The state record yield is 134 bushels per acre, set in 2000. The 10-year (1993-2002) state average yield is 98 bushels per acre. Area intended for harvest as grain is 67,000 acres, down 3,000 from last year.
- **Soybean** yield is forecast at 33 bushels per acre, up 10 bushels from the previous year. This yield is unchanged from the August 1, 2003 forecast. The state record yield is 40 bushels per acre, set in 2000. The 10-year average yield is 30 bushels per acre. Production is expected to total 3.23 million bushels, up 45 percent from 2002.
- **Summer potato** yield is forecast at 235 hundredweight per acre, down 40 hundredweight from last year. The state record yield is 285 hundredweight per acre, set in 2000. The 10-year average is 252 hundredweight. Production is set at 611 thousand hundredweight, which is 104 thousand hundredweight less than last year.

Acreage, Yield, and Production of Corn, Soybeans, and Summer Potatoes

Crop	Unit	Acres for Harvest			Yield per Acre			Production		
		Final 2002	Aug 1 2003 Forecast	Sept 1 2003 Forecast	Final 2002	Aug 1 2003 Forecast	Sept 1 2003 Forecast	Final 2002	Aug 1 2003 Forecast	Sept 1 2003 Forecast
NEW JERSEY		- Thousand Acres -			- Units -			- Thousand Units -		
Corn for grain	Bu.	70	67	67	58.0	106.0	110.0	4,060	7,102	7,370
Soybeans	Bu.	97	98	98	23.0	33.0	33.0	2,231	3,234	3,234
Summer Potatoes	Cwt.	2.6	1/	2.6	275.0	1/	235.0	715	1/	611
UNITED STATES		- Thousand Acres -			- Units -			- Thousand Units -		
Corn for grain	Bu.	69,313	71,915	71,815	130.0	139.9	138.5	9,007,659	10,064,452	9,944,418
Soybeans	Bu.	72,160	72,626	72,626	37.8	39.4	36.4	2,729,709	2,862,039	2,642,644
Summer Potatoes	Cwt.	59.1	1/	60.5	304.0	1/	320.0	17,985	1/	19,360

1/ First summer potato forecast is September 1.

Note: The next crop production forecast will be released October 10, 2003.

New Jersey Cranberries Up Nine Percent from 2002

New Jersey expects a crop of 470 thousand barrels, up 40 thousand barrels from 2002 but 96 thousand barrels below 2001. Growers reported bloom, fruit set, and fruit size to be mostly average. No significant weather damage was reported. Weather conditions have been favorable for cranberry production. A cold, wet spring prolonged bloom but warm summer temperatures have helped fruit set and sizing.

Cranberries: Production by State and United States, 2001-2002 and Forecasted 2003

State	Total Production (Barrels) ^{1/}		
	2001	2002	2003
MA	1,416,000	1,452,000	1,700,000
NJ	566,000	430,000	470,000
OR	365,000	432,000	440,000
WA	142,000	162,000	170,000
WI	2,840,000	3,208,000	3,050,000
US	5,329,000	5,684,000	5,830,000

^{1/} A barrel weighs 100 lbs.

Quarterly Milk Production

New Jersey Quarterly Milk Production: The April-June 2003 quarterly milk production for New Jersey was 57 million pounds, unchanged from the previous quarter, but 9 percent below the January-March period last year.

Milk cow numbers in New Jersey remained steady. The average number of milk cows during the April-June 2003 quarter was 13,000 head, the same as the January-March 2003 quarter and the April-June 2002 quarter.

United States Quarterly Milk Production: Milk production in the Nation during the April-June quarter totaled 43.9 billion pounds, down 0.3 percent from the April-June quarter last year.

The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.11 million head, 35,000 head less than the same period last year.

Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 45 thousand hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of July 6, 2003 through July 12, 2003, down 2 percent from a year ago. States included in the Northeast Region II are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Hours worked during the reference week averaged 40.5 compared to 42.5 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.93 per hour during the July 2003 reference week, up 58 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18 per hour, up 31 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.56 per hour compared with \$7.18 a year earlier.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States

Items	Northeast II ^{1/}			United States		
	July 2002	April 2003	July 2003	July 2002	April 2003	July 2003
	<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>		
Hired Workers ^{2/}	46	30	45	966	781	953
150 Days or More	33	23	33	683	619	678
149 Days or Less	13	7	12	283	162	275
	<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	42.5	39.3	40.5	39.7	40.1	40.0
	<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>		
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	\$8.35	\$9.68	\$8.93	\$8.60	\$9.16	\$8.88
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$7.87	\$8.75	\$8.18	\$7.91	\$8.40	\$8.18
Livestock	\$7.18	\$8.20	\$8.56	\$8.37	\$8.75	\$8.62

^{1/} Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

^{2/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

New Jersey Farm Real Estate Value Rises Six Percent from Previous Year

New Jersey farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$8,500 per acre as of January 1, 2003, up six percent from the previous year. The Garden State ranks first among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island's real estate value per acre tied for second ranking at \$7,700 per acre. Maryland's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$4,200 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$9,200 per acre on January 1, 2003, up 6 percent from January 1, 2002. New Jersey also ranks first among all states in average cropland value per acre. California's cropland value per acre ranked second at \$6,510. Arizona cropland value, excluding Native American Reservation land, ranked third at \$6,500 per acre.

New Jersey pasture value per acre ranked first in the nation, averaging \$10,100, up \$500 or five percent from the previous year. Maryland average pasture land value ranked second at \$3,600 per acre. North Carolina average pasture land value was ranked third at \$3,000 per acre.

Farm Real Estate: Average Value per Acre, January 1, 1999-2003, Top Ten States Ranked by 2003 Data

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Change 02-03
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New Jersey	7,000	7,100	7,400	8,000	8,500	6.3
Connecticut	6,300	6,600	6,900	7,300	7,700	5.5
Massachusetts	5,500	5,900	6,500	7,200	7,700	6.9
Rhode Island	6,500	6,600	6,900	*7,200	7,700	6.9
Maryland	3,300	3,600	3,800	4,000	4,200	5.0
Delaware	2,750	2,800	2,950	2,950	3,200	8.5
California	2,770	2,850	3,000	3,100	3,200	3.2
Pennsylvania	2,500	2,720	2,840	2,950	3,100	5.1
North Carolina	2,250	2,500	2,800	2,900	3,100	6.9
Florida	2,260	2,400	2,600	2,800	3,000	7.1

*Revised

Cropland: Average Value per Acre, January 1, 1999-2003, Top Ten States Ranked by 2003 Data

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Change 02-03
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New Jersey	7,800	7,900	8,100	8,700	9,200	5.7
California	5,700	5,960	6,320	*6,420	6,510	1.4
Arizona 1/	4,100	4,600	5,400	6,000	6,500	8.3
Maryland	3,200	3,500	3,700	*4,000	4,300	7.5
Florida	3,190	3,340	3,540	3,690	3,890	5.4
Pennsylvania	2,870	3,120	3,260	3,400	3,600	5.9
Delaware	2,700	2,750	2,900	*3,200	3,400	6.3
Utah 1/	2,610	2,740	2,960	3,140	3,380	7.6
North Carolina	2,130	2,400	2,700	2,800	2,950	5.4
Illinois	2,370	2,500	2,650	2,750	2,900	5.5

*Revised

1/ Excludes Native American Reservation Land.

Pasture: Average Value per Acre, January 1, 1999-2003, Top Ten States Ranked by 2003 Data

State	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Change 02-03
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Percent</i>
New Jersey	8,800	8,900	9,100	9,600	10,100	5.2
Maryland	3,400	3,400	3,450	3,500	3,600	2.9
North Carolina	2,270	2,400	2,600	*2,800	3,000	7.1
Georgia	1,950	2,150	2,400	*2,700	2,950	9.3
Tennessee	2,000	2,240	2,320	*2,400	2,550	6.3
Virginia	1,900	2,050	2,200	2,350	2,500	6.4
Pennsylvania	1,790	1,920	2,000	2,100	2,200	4.8
Florida	1,500	1,570	1,800	2,000	2,200	10.0
Ohio	1,480	1,600	1,750	1,900	2,000	5.3
Indiana	1,400	1,540	1,700	*1,800	1,900	5.6

*Revised

Prices Received by Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August 2003 is 108, based on 1990-92=100, up 3 points (2.9 percent) from the July 2003 Index. Since last month both the All Crops Index and the Livestock and Products Index show increases. Higher prices for wheat, dairy, cattle, and lettuce more than offset lower prices for grapes, cantaloup, soybeans, 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 tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy, and broilers. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8 points (8.0 percent) from August 2002. Higher prices for cattle, broilers, hogs, and tomatoes more than offset lower prices for corn, wheat, hay, and turkeys.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The Food Commodities Index also increased 5 points (4.8 percent) above last month to 109, and is 12 points (12.4 percent) above August of last year.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Aug 2002	July 2003	Aug 2003
Dollars			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.68	2.74	2.58
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	92.40	89.00	85.30
Soybeans, per bushel	5.53	5.83	5.56
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.245	.200	.258
Strawberries, per lb	.826	.666	.660
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	21.80	19.70	20.30
Lettuce, per cwt	14.60	11.90	16.10
Tomatoes, per cwt	25.80	37.70	50.90
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	64.40	75.80	78.50
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	67.30	78.80	81.70
Cows, per cwt	36.40	44.90	44.80
Calves, per cwt	94.90	103.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.290	.360	.370
Eggs, all, per dozen	.664	.726	.853
Milk, all, per cwt ^{2/}	10.97	11.88	12.38

^{1/} Mid-month

^{2/} Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings.

Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.



For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/nj or call 1-800-328-0179.

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