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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

New Jersey
Agricultural
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Volume: 03 Number: 11

Date: December 17, 2003

Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 34 thousand hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 12, 2003 through October 18, 2003, down 20 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 38.5 compared to 36.4 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.59 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.79 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.27 per hour compared with \$8.17 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, six days were suitable for field work. Temperatures were below normal part of the week in most localities,

and there were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 20% short, 60% adequate, and 20% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting vegetables and apples, irrigating fall vegetables, removing plastic mulch, planting cover crops, harvesting corn for grain and silage, harvesting soybeans, and baling hay. Corn silage harvest was nearly complete in some areas. Sweet potato harvest activities were winding down and near completion. Cabbage fields required spraying due to pest infestation.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour, 54 cents less than the Northeast Region II producers paid. There were 891 thousand hired workers on farms across the nation. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 40.2 compared to 38.5 in Northeast Region II.

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

Items	Northeast II ^{1/}			United States		
	October 2002	July 2003	October 2003	October 2002	July 2003	October 2003
	Thousand workers			Thousand workers		
Hired Workers ^{2/}	41	45	34	940	943	891
150 Days or More	34	33	26	685	680	626
149 Days or Less	7	12	8	255	263	265
	Per Week			Per Week		
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	36.4	40.5	38.5	40.4	39.8	40.2
	Per Hour			Per Hour		
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	\$9.29	\$8.93	\$9.59	\$8.95	\$8.88	\$9.05
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$8.61	\$8.18	\$8.79	\$8.34	\$8.17	\$8.42
Livestock	\$8.17	\$8.56	\$8.27	\$8.42	\$8.57	\$8.64

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

^{2/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

A Sincere Thanks to Our Respondents

We would like to thank New Jersey farmers for their cooperation with the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service. This report, and all of our reports, are made possible by the producers and agricultural businesses that respond to our surveys. Our job is to measure agriculture commodities produced in New Jersey and the nation. New Jersey's 2003 cash receipts totaled \$856 million. There is no doubt that New Jersey agriculture counts! We would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

How Do Agricultural Statistics Benefit Our Respondents?

Benefits to New Jersey producers

Promoters who sell or help to sell New Jersey products know what and how much is being produced.

Production reports attract buyers from other states and countries.

Agriculture is very important to New Jersey's economy - therefore, any information on condition or outlook for agriculture affects many decisions of local and state governments.

Production forecasts for fruits, vegetables, and crops remove elements of surprise, so utilization decisions can be made with greater confidence.

Statistics portray the importance of New Jersey's agriculture to the economy and quality of life. Particularly important recipients are buyers, processors, and suppliers.

Benefits to Agri-Businesses

Crop acreage provide seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers information on supplies needed to meet crop producers' demands.

Crop production forecasts alert railroads and truckers to the need for rail cars or trucks to move the crop.

Agricultural journalists and economist depend on agricultural statistics for their basic information.

Agricultural statistics provide a more stable business atmosphere.

Good facts reduce risks, allowing businesses to operate on smaller margins, with producers benefitting in the long run.

Statistics provide data for potential production demand, which will aid in setting up sales territories and in selecting plant sites.

A reliable outlook for crop and livestock production reflects a strong economy and enables businesses to have supplies to meet demand.



Where You Can Get More Information:

Visit our website at : <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj>

Call, write, or stop by our office:

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When Will New Jersey's 2003 Annual Estimates Be Available?

January 12, 2004: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2003 acreage and production.

January 12, 2004: Winter wheat seeding for the 2004 crop.

January 23, 2004: Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2003 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 29, 2004: Annual chicken and egg production for 2003.

January 29, 2004: Vegetable 2003 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 30, 2004: Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2004.

February 13, 2004: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2003 season average price and value of production.

Prices Received by Farmers

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November 2003 is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 3.5 percent above the October 2003 Index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. 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 all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20.6 percent from November 2002. The Food Commodities Index increased 4.3 percent above last month to 121, and 26 percent above November 2002. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November 2003 Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from October but 4 percent above November 2002. Lower prices in November for feeder cattle, hay and forages, gasoline, and feeder pigs are offset by higher prices for feed grains, feed concentrates, feed supplements, and nitrogen fertilizers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2002	Oct 2003	Nov 2003
Dollars			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.79	2.77	2.56
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	93.20	84.40	80.70
Soybeans, per bushel	5.46	6.61	7.37
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.268	.273	.274
Strawberries, per lb	1.080	1.000	1.650
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	15.50	18.50	25.90
Lettuce, per cwt	11.90	26.30	29.40
Tomatoes, per cwt	40.10	31.20	34.70
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	67.30	92.00	93.20
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	71.90	97.80	99.70
Cows, per cwt	33.00	44.90	46.70
Calves, per cwt	91.90	113.00	112.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.280	.370	.370
Eggs, all, per dozen	.707	.895	1.030
Milk, all, per cwt ^{2/}	11.33	14.29	14.75

^{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.nass.usda.gov/nj/ or call 1-800-328-0179.

NEW JERSEY
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