



# FARM FACTS

## "FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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Volume: 05 Number: 08

Date: August 23, 2005

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

New Jersey farm real estate value, a measurement of the average value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$10,300 per acre as of January 1, 2005, up 5.6 percent from the previous year. The Garden State ranked fourth among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Rhode Island's real estate value per acre was the highest value per acre in the country, at \$11,200, followed closely by Connecticut at \$10,800. Massachusetts' real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$10,500 per acre. Delaware's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$8,400 per acre followed by Maryland's ranking of sixth, at \$7,900 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$10,500 per acre on January 1, 2005, up 6.1 percent from January 1, 2004. New Jersey ranked first in the nation among the states that publish cropland value per acre. Delaware ranked second in cropland value per acre, at \$8,000. Maryland, at \$7,600 per acre, ranked third nationally for cropland value per acre.

New Jersey pasture value per acre ranked first in the nation among the states that publish this value, averaging \$11,300, 6.6 percent above the previous year. Maryland, at \$7,300 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value per acre. Virginia's pasture value per acre ranked third, at \$3,500.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$47.50 per acre during the 2005 crop year, unchanged from the 2004 crop year. The average value of pasture rented for cash for the Northeast Region averaged \$24.00. States included in this region are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.



#### Farm Real Estate: 1/ Average Value per Acre, by Northeast Region and States within the Region, January 1, 2001-2005

| Region and State  | 2001              | 2002         | 2003         | 2004          | 2005          | Change<br>04-05 |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                   | -----Dollars----- |              |              |               |               | Percent         |
| <b>Northeast:</b> | <b>2,830</b>      | <b>3,000</b> | <b>3,200</b> | <b>*3,550</b> | <b>3,400</b>  | <b>13.2</b>     |
| Connecticut       | 7,700             | 8,500        | 9,500        | 10,200        | 10,800        | 5.9             |
| Delaware          | 3,400             | 3,700        | 4,000        | *6,000        | 8,400         | 40.0            |
| Maine             | 1,500             | 1,600        | 1,750        | 1,850         | 1,950         | 5.4             |
| Maryland          | 3,800             | 4,000        | 4,150        | *5,700        | 7,900         | 38.6            |
| Massachusetts     | 7,300             | 8,100        | 9,300        | 9,900         | 10,500        | 6.1             |
| New Hampshire     | 2,550             | 2,800        | 3,100        | 3,250         | 3,450         | 6.2             |
| <b>New Jersey</b> | <b>8,100</b>      | <b>8,600</b> | <b>9,100</b> | <b>9,750</b>  | <b>10,300</b> | <b>5.6</b>      |
| New York          | 1,520             | 1,610        | 1,700        | 1,780         | 1,880         | 5.6             |
| Pennsylvania      | 3,000             | 3,250        | 3,450        | 3,650         | 4,000         | 9.6             |
| Rhode Island      | 7,700             | 8,300        | 9,300        | 10,200        | 11,200        | 9.8             |
| Vermont           | 1,800             | 1,900        | 2,050        | 2,150         | 2,300         | 7.0             |

\*Revised

1/ Includes the value of both land and buildings on farms.

## 2003-2004 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Salem, Warren, and Sussex, which produced 21.2, 18.2, and 17.6 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing other hay counties were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 51.3, 27.9, and 20.0 thousand tons, respectively.

### 2003-2004 Alfalfa Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

| County                       | Acres Harvested |               | Yield Per Acre (Tons) |            | Production (Tons) |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                              | 2003            | 2004          | 2003                  | 2004       | 2003              | 2004           |
| <b>District 20 (North)</b>   |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Hunterdon                    | 3,800           | 3,600         | 3.2                   | 3.5        | 12,160            | 12,600         |
| Somerset                     | 1,400           | 1,300         | 3.9                   | 4.0        | 5,460             | 5,200          |
| Sussex                       | 5,300           | 5,500         | 2.9                   | 3.2        | 15,370            | 17,600         |
| Warren                       | 4,800           | 4,800         | 3.7                   | 3.8        | 17,760            | 18,240         |
| <b>District 50 (Central)</b> |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Burlington                   | 2,000           | 1,900         | 3.6                   | 3.7        | 7,200             | 7,030          |
| Monmouth                     | 1,900           | 2,000         | 3.6                   | 3.7        | 6,840             | 7,400          |
| <b>District 80 (South)</b>   |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Cumberland                   | 1,600           | 1,600         | 3.9                   | 3.9        | 6,240             | 6,240          |
| Gloucester                   | 1,900           | 2,000         | 4.0                   | 4.5        | 7,600             | 9,000          |
| Salem                        | 5,200           | 5,300         | 3.8                   | 4.0        | 19,760            | 21,200         |
| Other Counties 1/            | 2,100           | 2,000         | 3.1                   | 3.2        | 6,610             | 6,490          |
| <b>State</b>                 | <b>30,000</b>   | <b>30,000</b> | <b>3.5</b>            | <b>3.7</b> | <b>105,000</b>    | <b>111,000</b> |

1/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

### 2003-2004 Other Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

| County                       | Acres Harvested |               | Yield Per Acre (Tons) |            | Production (Tons) |                |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                              | 2003            | 2004          | 2003                  | 2004       | 2003              | 2004           |
| <b>District 20 (North)</b>   |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Hunterdon                    | 27,100          | 27,000        | 1.9                   | 1.9        | 51,490            | 51,300         |
| Morris                       | 3,200           | 3,300         | 1.5                   | 1.8        | 4,800             | 5,940          |
| Somerset                     | 8,200           | 7,900         | 1.9                   | 1.8        | 15,580            | 14,220         |
| Sussex                       | 16,400          | 16,400        | 1.8                   | 1.7        | 29,520            | 27,880         |
| Warren                       | 9,800           | 10,000        | 1.7                   | 2.0        | 16,660            | 20,000         |
| <b>District 50 (Central)</b> |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Burlington                   | 4,900           | 5,500         | 1.5                   | 2.0        | 7,350             | 11,000         |
| Mercer                       | 2,300           | 2,200         | 1.6                   | 1.7        | 3,680             | 3,740          |
| Middlesex                    | 900             | 1,000         | 1.7                   | 1.6        | 1,530             | 1,600          |
| Monmouth                     | 2,800           | 2,900         | 1.6                   | 1.7        | 4,480             | 4,930          |
| Ocean                        | 500             | 600           | 1.4                   | 1.4        | 700               | 840            |
| <b>District 80 (South)</b>   |                 |               |                       |            |                   |                |
| Atlantic                     | 800             | 700           | 1.2                   | 1.4        | 960               | 980            |
| Camden                       | 900             | 900           | 2.0                   | 2.0        | 1,800             | 1,800          |
| Cape May                     | 900             | 900           | 1.8                   | 1.6        | 1,620             | 1,440          |
| Cumberland                   | 2,300           | 2,200         | 2.0                   | 2.5        | 4,600             | 5,500          |
| Gloucester                   | 2,300           | 2,400         | 2.0                   | 2.5        | 4,600             | 6,000          |
| Salem                        | 6,500           | 5,900         | 1.9                   | 2.3        | 12,350            | 13,570         |
| Other Counties 1/            | 200             | 200           | 1.4                   | 1.3        | 280               | 260            |
| <b>State</b>                 | <b>90,000</b>   | <b>90,000</b> | <b>1.8</b>            | <b>1.9</b> | <b>162,000</b>    | <b>171,000</b> |

1/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.

## New Jersey 2005 Blueberry Crop

Seasonal rainfall has been timely and quality of berries looks excellent. This year's harvest is later than that of the past few years. The cool weather during May allowed this year's harvest to return to the traditional harvest cycle. Bloom was reported 15% light, 51% average, and 34% heavy. Set of fruit was reported 21% light, 58% average, and 21% heavy.

## New Jersey Blueberries, 2003-2005, Acres, Yield, Production, & Value of Production

| Year        | Acres Harvested | Yield per Acre 1/ (Lbs) | Production (1,000 Lbs) |           |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
|             |                 |                         | Total                  | Utilized  |
| 2003        | 7,500           | 5,330                   | 41,000                 | 40,000    |
| 2004        | 7,500           | 5,200                   | 39,000                 | 39,000    |
| <b>2005</b> | <b>7,500</b>    | <b>2/</b>               | <b>40,000</b>          | <b>2/</b> |

1/ Yield is derived from utilized production.

2/ Not available until January 2006.

## New Jersey 2005 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

**Apple** production is forecast at 45 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from last year. Growing conditions are rated good. Apples are sizing well. Early varieties are being harvested in the southern portion of the state. Prospects for this year's crop are good.

**Peach** production is forecast at 32,500 tons, up 2,500 tons from July's forecast. Fruit quality and size are rated good to excellent. Growing conditions are generally good. Harvest of peaches was one week later than usual and will continue until the end of September.

## Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

|               |                | - Total Production - |                          |                            |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Crop          | Units          | Final<br>2004        | Forecast<br>July 1, 2005 | Forecast<br>August 1, 2005 |
| NEW JERSEY    |                |                      |                          |                            |
| Apples        | Million Pounds | 40.0                 | 1/                       | 45.0                       |
| Peaches       | Tons           | 32,500               | 30,000                   | 32,500                     |
| UNITED STATES |                |                      |                          |                            |
| Apples        | Million Pounds | 10,419.9             | 1/                       | 9,837.1                    |
| Peaches       | Tons           | 1,307,110            | 1,240,350                | 1,233,850                  |

1/ First apple forecast is August 1.

## New Jersey's Corn Crop Down 33 Percent

**Corn** production is forecast at 6.89 million bushels, down 33 percent from last year. Producers expect 113 bushels per acre for the 2005 crop. The state record yield per acre is 143 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year (1995-2004) state average yield is 101.9 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain, at 61,000 acres, is down 11,000 acres from 2004.

**Soybean** yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 42 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year average yield is 31.3 bushels. Production is expected to total 3.54 million bushels, down 18 percent from 2004. Soybean harvested area is expected to total 101,000 acres, 2,000 acres less than 2004.

## Acreage, Yield, and Production of Corn and Soybeans, August 1 Forecast

| Crop                 | Acres Planted      |               | Acres for Harvest |               | Yield per Acre |               | Production           |               |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
|                      | 2004               | Forecast 2005 | 2004              | Forecast 2005 | 2004           | Forecast 2005 | 2004                 | Forecast 2004 |
| <b>NEW JERSEY</b>    | - - - - - Thousand |               |                   |               | - Bushels -    |               | - Thousand Bushels - |               |
| Corn for grain       | 86                 | 75            | 72                | 61            | 143.0          | 113.0         | 10,296               | 6,893         |
| Soybeans             | 105                | 103           | 103               | 101           | 42.0           | 35.0          | 4,326                | 3,535         |
| <b>UNITED STATES</b> | - - - - - Thousand |               |                   |               | - Bushels -    |               | - Million Bushels -  |               |
| Corn for grain       | 80,930             | 81,592        | 73,632            | 74,368        | 160.4          | 139.2         | 11,807.2             | 10,349.8      |
| Soybeans             | 75,208             | 73,103        | 73,958            | 72,184        | 42.5           | 38.7          | 3,141.0              | 2,791.1       |

**Notes:** Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2005, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The next crop production forecast will be released September 12, 2005.

## July Farm Prices Received Index Down 0.8 percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 119, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 0.8 percent from June. The Crop Index is down 2.5 percent while the Livestock Index was unchanged. Producers received lower commodity prices for lettuce, cattle, grapes, and broccoli. Higher prices were received for corn, asparagus, eggs, and milk. The overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of grapes, wheat, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupes, and asparagus.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 4.0 percent from July 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 121, decreased 0.8 percent from last month and declined 4.7 percent from July 2004.

### Prices Paid Index is unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 140 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from June but 3.7 percent above July 2004. Lower prices in July for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, and hay & forages offset higher prices for diesel fuel, feed concentrates, gasoline, and complete feeds.

## Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

| Item                                    | Entire Month |           | Preliminary |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
|                                         | July 2004    | June 2005 | July 2005   |
| - - Dollars - -                         |              |           |             |
| <b>Field Crops</b>                      |              |           |             |
| Barley, per bushel                      | 2.54         | 2.57      | 2.27        |
| Corn, per bushel                        | 2.51         | 2.03      | 2.15        |
| Hay, all, baled, per ton <sup>1/</sup>  | 90.40        | 102.00    | 99.70       |
| Soybeans, per bushel                    | 8.46         | 6.58      | 6.84        |
| <b>Fruit, fresh</b>                     |              |           |             |
| Apples, per lb <sup>2/</sup>            | .300         | .162      | .153        |
| Strawberries, per cwt                   | 59.60        | 64.80     | 61.70       |
| <b>Vegetables, fresh</b>                |              |           |             |
| Corn, Sweet, per cwt                    | 21.80        | 26.40     | 30.40       |
| Lettuce, per cwt                        | 10.70        | 17.30     | 10.20       |
| Tomatoes, per cwt                       | 23.40        | 38.70     | 33.20       |
| <b>Livestock and Livestock Products</b> |              |           |             |
| Beef Cattle, per cwt                    | 88.10        | 88.50     | 86.30       |
| Steers and Heifers, per cwt             | 91.40        | 91.90     | 89.60       |
| Cows, per cwt <sup>3/</sup>             | 56.30        | 57.00     | 55.60       |
| Calves, per cwt                         | 130.00       | 138.00    | 133.00      |
| Broilers, live, per lb <sup>4/</sup>    | .520         | .440      | .440        |
| Eggs, all, per dozen <sup>1/</sup>      | .582         | .450      | .530        |
| Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5/ 6/</sup>     | 16.10        | 14.50     | 14.80       |

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month price.

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

<sup>3/</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

<sup>4/</sup> Equivalent liveweight returns to producers for most states. Includes growers and contractors.

<sup>5/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

<sup>6/</sup> July 2005 Fat test percent: all milk 3.53, fluid milk 3.53, and mfg grade 3.66.

To obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the USDA, NASS, New Jersey Field Office at [www.nass.usda.gov/nj/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nj/) or call 1-800-328-0179.

