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New Jersey's FARM FACTS

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

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Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 42,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 8, 2006, through October 14, 2006, up 8 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 38.0 compared to 39.6 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.65 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, down 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.17 per hour, down 4 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$7.91 per hour compared with \$8.62 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, 5.0 days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 90% adequate and 10% surplus. Outdoor activities during the week included picking apples, harvesting fall vegetables, and field crops.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.95 per hour, 34 cents higher than October 2005. There were 797,000 hired workers on farms across the nation, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 41.6 compared to 42.0 the previous year.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States ^{1/}

Items	Northeast II ^{2/}			United States ^{3/}		
	Oct. 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	Oct. 8-14, 2006	Oct. 9-15, 2005	July 9-15, 2006	Oct. 8-14, 2006
Thousand workers			Thousand workers			
Hired Workers	39	49	42	842	876	797
150 Days or More	32	30	31	621	630	592
149 Days or Less	7	19	11	221	246	205
Per Week			Per Week			
Average Hours Worked						
(All Hired Farm Workers)	39.6	39.8	38.0	42.0	41.0	41.6
Per Hour			Per Hour			
Average Wage Rate						
(All Hired Farm Workers)	\$10.00	\$9.90	\$9.65	\$9.61	\$9.72	\$9.95
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$9.21	\$9.26	\$9.17	\$8.90	\$8.93	\$9.25
Livestock	\$8.62	\$9.03	\$7.91	\$9.15	\$9.49	\$9.41

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

^{3/} Excludes Alaska

A Sincere Thanks to Our Respondents

We would like to thank New Jersey farmers for their cooperation with the USDA, NASS, New Jersey Field Office. This report, and all of our reports, is 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 2005 cash receipts totaled \$857 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 provides 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 benefiting 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>

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When Will New Jersey's 2006 Annual Estimates Be Available?

January 12, 2007: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2006 acreage and production.

January 12, 2007: Winter wheat seeding for the 2006 crop.

January 23, 2007: Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2006 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 26, 2007: Vegetable 2006 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

February 2, 2007: Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2007.

February 27, 2007: Annual chicken and egg production for 2006.

November Farm Prices Received Index Up 4.3 Percent From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 121, based on 1990-92 = 100, is 4.3 percent above the October Index. The Crop Index increased 8.7 percent from October, while the Livestock Index decreased 0.9 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs and milk. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, oranges, cattle 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 milk, cattle, cotton and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 8.0 percent from November 2005. The Food Commodities Index increased 3.4 percent from last month to 121. The index is up 1.7 percent from November 2005.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 146 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from October, but is 2.8 percent above November 2005. Higher prices in November for feed grains, feed supplements, feed concentrates and complete feeds offset lower prices for feeder cattle, mixed fertilizers, LP gas and herbicides.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2005	Oct 2006	Nov 2006
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.58	2.76	3.14
Corn, per bushel	1.77	2.54	3.12
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	91.70	107.00	106.00
Soybeans, per bushel	5.62	5.52	6.15
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	.294	.373	.341
Strawberries, per cwt	102.00	72.90	85.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	37.30	21.70	19.10
Lettuce, per cwt	9.81	11.80	13.30
Tomatoes, per cwt	36.50	52.30	31.10
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	90.80	88.50	84.40
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	97.10	94.00	90.00
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	45.90	45.90	43.70
Calves, per cwt	137.00	127.00	119.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	.420	.400	.400
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	.650	.567	.817
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	15.10	13.50	13.80

^{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/} November 2006 fat test percent: all milk 3.81, fluid milk 3.80, and mfg grade 4.06.



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

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