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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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New Jersey Prospective Plantings for 2004

NEW JERSEY'S CORN AND SOYBEAN ACREAGE BOTH UP 5,000 ACRES

As of March 1, 2004, New Jersey farmers intended to plant more acreage of corn and soybeans this year than last year and less acreage of winter wheat. All hay, barley, and sweet potato acreage remained unchanged from the previous year.

Barley planted acreage is expected to total 4,000, unchanged from a year ago.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 85,000, up 5,000 acres, or 6 percent above a year ago.

All hay acreage intended for harvest is expected to total 120,000, unchanged from a year ago.

Soybeans planted acreage is expected to total 95,000, up 5,000 acres, or 6 percent above a year ago.

Sweet potato acreage is expected to total 1,100 acres, unchanged from a year ago.

Winter wheat planted acreage is expected to total 28,000, down 3,000 acres, or 10 percent below a year ago.

Prospective Plantings Compared to 2003 Acreage: New Jersey and United States, March 1, 2004

	New Jersey			US		
	2003	2004 ^{1/}	% Change	2003	2004 ^{1/}	% Change
--- 1,000 acres ---				--- 1,000 acres ---		
Barley	4	4	NC	5,299	4,683	(12)
Corn	80	85	6	78,736	79,004	NC
Hay, All ^{2/}	120	120	NC	63,342	63,731	1
Soybeans	90	95	6	73,404	75,411	3
Sweet Potato	1.1	1.1	NC	95.6	98.3	3
Winter Wheat	31	28	(10)	44,945	43,372	(3)

^{1/} Intended planting for 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

^{2/} Intended area harvested for 2004 as indicated by reports from farmers.

NC = No change.

() = negative value.



A special **"Thank You"**
goes to New Jersey farmers
who have helped us by completing the
March Agricultural Survey.

New Jersey Farm Numbers Up, Land in Farms Down

The number of New Jersey farms in 2003 is estimated at 9,900 farms, unchanged from previous year. Garden State farms in 2001 and 2000 are estimated at 9,800 and 9,700, respectively. Total Garden State land in farms, at 820,000 acres, is unchanged from 2002 and down ten thousand acres from previous years. The average farm size is 83 acres compared to 85 acres in 2002.

United States Farms and Land in Farms down Slightly in 2003

The number of farms in the United States in 2003 is estimated at 2.13 million, down slightly from 2002. Land in farms is estimated at 939 million acres, down 1.6 million from previous year. The average farm size is 441 acres compared to 440 acres in 2002.

Number of Farms: Selected States and United States, 1998-2003

State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Maryland	12,800	12,600	12,400	12,300	12,200	12,100
New Jersey	9,600	9,600	9,700	9,800	9,900	9,900
New York	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,000	37,000
Pennsylvania	60,000	59,300	59,000	58,500	58,200	52,800
United States	2,192,330	2,187,280	2,166,780	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860

Land in Farms: Selected States and United States, 1998-2003

State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
Maryland	2,180	2,160	2,130	2,100	2,080	2,060
New Jersey	830	830	830	830	820	820
New York	7,750	7,710	7,670	7,660	7,660	7,650
Pennsylvania	7,670	7,670	7,690	7,710	7,700	7,700
United States	952,080	948,460	945,080	942,070	940,300	938,700

Average Farm Size: Selected States and United States, 1998-2003

State	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Maryland	170	171	172	171	170	170
New Jersey	86	86	86	85	83	83
New York	204	208	205	204	207	207
Pennsylvania	128	129	130	132	132	132
United States	434	434	436	438	440	441

Farm Definition History: The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability to the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.

2002-2003 Corn County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	7,400	6,400	5,500	4,800	61.0	103.0	335,500	494,400
Morris	1,200	1,000	1,000	800	61.0	88.0	61,000	70,400
Somerset	3,100	3,200	2,500	2,600	45.0	78.0	112,500	202,800
Sussex	5,200	4,700	3,000	2,400	52.0	85.0	156,000	204,000
Warren	20,500	18,400	16,500	14,300	65.0	116.0	1,072,500	1,658,800
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	10,100	8,300	8,200	6,400	73.0	105.0	598,600	672,000
Mercer	3,700	3,000	3,300	2,000	63.0	98.0	207,900	196,000
Middlesex	5,200	4,000	4,500	3,200	76.0	106.0	342,000	339,200
Monmouth	3,300	2,400	3,000	2,200	52.0	108.0	156,000	237,600
Ocean	700	500	500	400	52.0	96.0	26,000	38,400
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	4,900	5,000	3,500	3,900	39.0	122.0	136,500	475,800
Gloucester	4,100	3,700	2,900	2,400	25.0	126.0	72,500	302,400
Salem	19,700	18,900	15,000	15,200	51.0	129.0	765,000	1,960,800
Other Counties <u>1/</u>	900	500	600	400	30.0	101.0	18,000	40,400
State	90,000	80,000	70,000	61,000	58.0	113.0	4,060,000	6,893,000

1/ Other counties could have come from any of the districts.**2002-2003 Soybean County Estimates, New Jersey**

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	6,300	6,300	6,000	6,200	26.0	33.0	156,000	204,600
Somerset	1,500	1,200	1,400	1,100	17.0	36.0	23,800	39,600
Warren	5,500	5,500	5,400	5,400	34.0	38.0	183,600	205,200
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	22,600	21,000	22,100	20,500	27.0	30.0	596,700	615,000
Mercer	6,800	6,600	6,600	6,500	27.0	31.0	178,200	201,500
Monmouth	6,600	5,200	6,400	5,100	24.0	33.0	153,600	168,300
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	11,600	10,500	11,200	10,300	19.0	34.0	212,800	350,200
Gloucester	10,200	8,300	9,900	8,100	17.0	37.0	168,300	299,700
Salem	21,000	18,100	20,500	17,800	19.0	38.0	389,500	676,400
Other Counties <u>1/</u>	7,900	7,300	7,500	7,000	22.4	33.1	168,500	231,500
State	100,000	90,000	97,000	88,000	23.0	34.0	2,231,000	2,992,000

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

Agricultural Prices

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March 2004 at 122, based on 1990-92=100, is 5.2 percent above the February 2004 Index. This is the highest index level since records began in 1910. The Livestock Products Index increased 7.1 percent from February 2004 while the All Crops Index increased 3.3 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, soybeans, milk, and eggs. Lower prices were received for lettuce, strawberries, broccoli, and asparagus. 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 strawberries, asparagus, milk, and broilers offset decreased marketings of cattle, cotton, corn, and onions.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 23 percent from March 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 6 percent from last month to 123. The index stands 28 percent above March 2003.

Prices Paid Index Up Slightly

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 131 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from February and 2.3 percent above March 2003. Higher prices in March 2004 for feeder cattle, feed grains, diesel fuel, and gasoline account for most of the index increase.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Mar 2003	Feb 2004	Mar 2004
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.83	2.72	2.71
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	92.80	79.90	81.80
Soybeans, per bushel	5.59	8.28	9.56
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.226	.294	.307
Strawberries, per cwt	64.00	127.00	82.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	18.90	20.70	21.20
Lettuce, per cwt	9.64	19.80	11.00
Tomatoes, per cwt	53.30	36.30	46.60
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	72.60	78.50	84.00
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	76.70	82.30	88.60
Cows, per cwt	39.50	46.10	46.70
Calves, per cwt	96.70	111.00	114.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.330	.470	.470
Eggs, all, per dozen	.687	.833	.900
Milk, all, per cwt 2/	11.34	14.47	15.47

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.

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