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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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CATTLE

January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2002, totaled 96.7 million head, 1 percent below the 97.3 million on January 1, 2001 and 2 percent below the 98.2 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.2 million, were 1 percent below both the 42.6 million on January 1, 2001 and the 42.8 million two years ago.

- ★ Beef cows, at 33.1 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2001 and January 1, 2000.
- ★ Milk cows, at 9.11 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2001 and two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2002 and the change from January 1, 2001, are as follows:

- ★ All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, down slightly.
- ★ Beef replacement heifers, 5.56 million, down slightly.
- ★ Milk replacement heifers, 4.06 million, up slightly.
- ★ Other heifers, 10.1 million, down 1 percent.
- ★ Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, up 2 percent.
- ★ Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.24 million, down 1 percent.
- ★ Calves under 500 pounds, 15.8 million, down 3 percent.
- ★ Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.9 million, down 2 percent.

The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 28.8 million, up 1 percent.

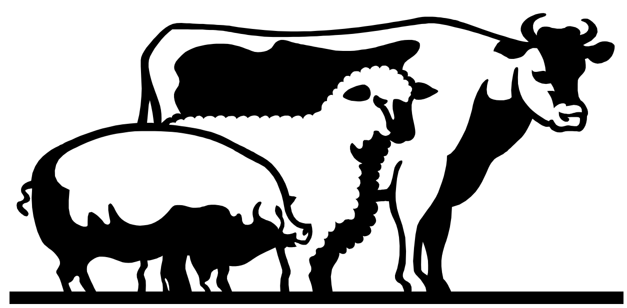
Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2001 calf crop was estimated at 38.3 million head, down 1 percent from both 2000 and 1999. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.1 million, down 1 percent from both 2000 and 1999.

Cattle Operations Down 2 Percent

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1.05 million during 2001, down 2 percent from 2000 and 4 percent below 1999. Beef cow operations in 2001 were down 2 percent from 2000 and 4 percent below 1999. Milk cow operations were 7 percent below last year and 12 percent below two years ago.

The three operation classes, cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and the 1-49 size group for beef cows.



SHEEP AND GOATS

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 4 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2002, totaled 6.69 million head, down 4 percent from 2001 and 5 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002, down 1 percent from 4.97 million head on January 1, 2001. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.98 million head, were 3 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2002, totaled 1.77 million head, down 11 percent from January 1, 2001.

Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-five percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 -84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 31 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2001 lamb crop of 4.50 million head was down 3 percent from 2000 and established a new record low. The 2001 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2001, compared with 109 in 2000.

The number of operations with sheep during 2001 totaled 65,120, down 1 percent from 2000 and 3 percent from 1999.

HONEY

United States Honey Production Down 16 Percent

Honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. Honey production in 2001 was the lowest since 1989, when 181 million pounds was produced with a yield per colony of only 51.2 pounds. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. Yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Up 12 Percent

Prices for the 2001 crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2001 were higher than the previous year for all marketing channels and all color classes except 'All Other Honey, Area Specialties' .

2000-2001 Barley County Estimates

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Harvested Acre		Production (Bushels)	
	2000	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland		600		500		50.0		25,000
Gloucester	1,100	1,000	900	900	80.0	55.6	72,000	50,000
Salem	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	78.0	56.2	109,000	73,000
Other Counties	2,300	1,900	1,700	1,300	77.0	52.3	131,000	68,000
State	***5,000***	***5,000***	***4,000***	***4,000***	***78.0***	***54.0***	***312,000***	***216,000***

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Included in other counties.

2000-2001 Wheat County Estimates

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested for Grain		Yield Per Harvested Acre		Production (Bushels)	
	2000	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/	2000 1/	2001 1/
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	4,400	4,200	4,000	3,700	57.0	42.7	226,000	158,000
Somerset	1,300	2,000	1,100	1,800	51.0	33.3	56,000	60,000
Warren	1,500	1,200	1,400	1,100	54.0	48.2	75,000	53,000
District 50 (Cent2100ral)								
Burlington	4,600	2,300	4,200	2,100	59.0	53.8	249,000	113,000
Mercer	1,400	900	1,300	800	50.0	33.8	65,000	27,000
Middlesex	1,400	1,000	1,200	900	59.0	36.7	71,000	33,000
Monmouth	1,900	1,800	1,700	1,400	55.0	35.7	93,000	50,000
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	7,700	6,400	6,400	5,600	61.0	46.6	390,000	261,000
Gloucester	6,400	3,000	5,500	2,400	52.0	41.3	287,000	99,000
Salem	8,100	7,600	7,400	6,700	59.0	50.9	440,000	341,000
Other Counties	1,300	600	800	500	54.0	40.0	43,000	20,000
State	***40,000***	***31,000***	***35,000***	***27,000***	***57.0***	***45.0***	***1,995,000***	***1,215,000***

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Included in other counties.

FARM LABOR

Hired Workers Up 7 Percent, Wage Rates Up Over 3 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 914,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of January 6-12, 2002, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 731,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 183,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.6 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 9.6 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of $8.96 per hour during the January 2002 survey week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of $8.25 per hour, up 49 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned $8.25 per hour compared with $8.07 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at $8.25 was up 38 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 37.3 hours a year ago.

The largest increases in number of hired farm workers over last year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. In the Corn Belt II region, unseasonably warm weather increased field activities. Cold and wet conditions in the Delta region resulted in additional livestock care and feeding. Other work activities included preparation of farm equipment for spring field activities. In contrast, wet and wintery conditions in southern localities and dry conditions over much of the northern Appalachian I region required extra care and feeding activities for livestock. Farm, nursery, and ranching activities were underway in the Southeast region despite varying weather conditions.

The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. While weather was generally favorable for fieldwork in these regions, the large decline in hired workers is attributed to less demand for field workers for this time of year.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in all regions. The largest increases occurred in Florida, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Corn Belt II, and Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah) regions. The higher wages in these regions are generally attributable to fewer seasonal workers on the payroll.

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            Crop                                          Values:  Summary by State
and United                                                States, 1999 1/
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        :                                                        :     Fruits
:                                                         :   Total Value
  State :                                                 Field and     :        and
    :                                                     Commercial    :
Principal
        :   Misc                                          Crops    :      Nuts
:   Vegetables                                            :    Crops
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-----------------                                         -------------------
        :                                                                       1,000
Dollars
        :
NJ      :                                                 59,986                77,206
        85,950                                                   223,142
US      :                                                 64,020,903
12,007,640         9,270,831         85,299,374
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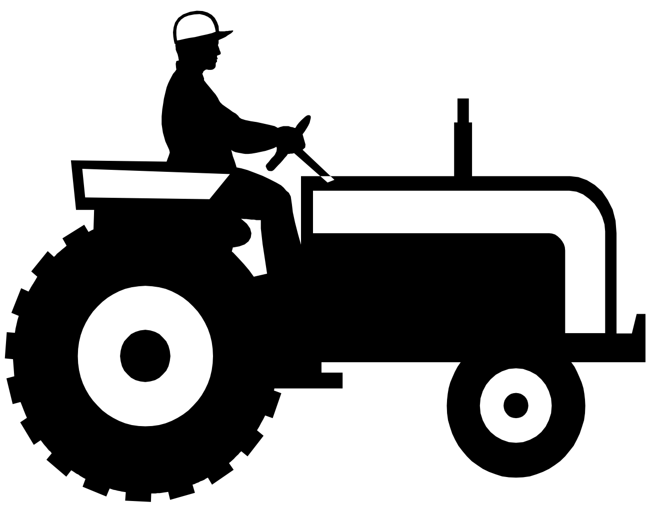

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Agricultural Prices

Farm Prices Received Index Up 4 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February was 99, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the January Index. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broccoli, and potatoes more than offset decreased prices for broilers, tomatoes, peanuts and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher marketings for milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat.

Compared with February 2001, the All Farm Products Index was down 1 point (1.0 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, eggs, and onions more than offset higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, and oranges.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 122 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from January but 2 points (1.6 percent) below February 2001. Lower prices in February for complete feeds, hay and forages, mixed fertilizers, and feed grains offset higher prices for potash and phosphate materials, feeder pigs, LP gas, and nitrogen fertilizers.

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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