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New Jersey's FARM FACTS

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

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New Jersey Farm Real Estate Value Unchanged

New Jersey farm real estate value, a measurement of the average value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$11,300 per acre as of January 1, 2008, unchanged from the previous year. The Garden State ranked fourth among all states in farm real estate value per acre. Massachusetts' real estate value per acre was the highest value per acre in the country, at \$12,200, followed closely by Rhode Island at \$12,000. Connecticut's real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$11,500 per acre. Delaware's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$9,900 per acre followed by Maryland's ranking of sixth, at \$9,100 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$11,700 per acre on January 1, 2008, down 1.7 percent from January 1, 2007. New Jersey ranked first among the states that publish cropland value per acre, with Arizona in second place, at \$11,500 per acre. California ranked third nationally for cropland at \$9,960 per acre, followed by Florida at \$9,410 per acre.

Pasture value per acre for New Jersey ranked first in the nation among the states that publish this value, averaging \$12,500, 3.3 percent above the previous year. Florida, at \$8,000 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value. Georgia's pasture value ranked third, at \$7,800 per acre.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$50.00 per acre during the 2008 crop year, up 4.0 percent from the 2007 crop year. The average value of pasture rented for cash for the Northeast Region averaged \$31.50. 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: Average Value per Acre, by Northeast Region and States within the Region, January 1, 2004-2008¹

Region and State	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change 07-08
	-----Dollars-----					Percent
Northeast:	3,550	4,110	4,550	5,000	5,080	1.6
Connecticut	10,200	10,800	11,400	11,700	11,500	-1.7
Delaware	6,000	8,400	10,200	10,400	9,900	-4.8
Maine	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,150	2,100	-2.3
Maryland	5,700	7,900	8,900	9,250	9,100	-1.6
Massachusetts	9,900	10,500	11,600	11,800	12,200	3.4
New Hampshire	3,250	3,450	3,700	4,000	3,900	-2.5
New Jersey	9,750	10,500	10,900	11,300	11,300	0.0
New York	1,780	1,920	2,050	2,220	2,400	8.1
Pennsylvania	3,650	4,220	4,790	5,670	5,800	2.3
Rhode Island	10,200	11,200	12,500	12,500	12,000	-4.0
Vermont	2,150	2,300	2,450	2,700	2,850	5.6

Source: NASS – Agriculture Land Values and Cash Rents, August 2008.

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

2006-2007 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Sussex, Salem, Warren, and Hunterdon which produced 11.2, 8.1, 6.9, and 6.7 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing counties of other hay types were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 42.6, 26.1, and 17.5 thousand tons, respectively.

2006-2007 Alfalfa Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	3,200	2,300	3.1	2.9	9,920	6,670
Somerset	1,100	²	2.3	²	2,530	²
Sussex	4,400	4,300	2.1	2.6	9,240	11,180
Warren	3,500	2,300	3.0	3.0	10,500	6,900
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	1,700	1,100	2.5	2.5	4,250	2,750
Monmouth	1,700	1,800	3.0	3.1	5,100	5,580
District 80 (South)						
Cumberland	1,100	900	2.2	2.7	2,420	2,430
Gloucester	2,000	1,500	2.2	2.3	4,400	3,450
Salem	4,800	3,500	2.4	2.3	11,520	8,050
Other Counties ¹	1,500	2,300	2.1	3.0	3,120	6,990
State	25,000	25,000	2.5	2.7	63,000	63,000

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

² Included in other counties.

2006-2007 Other Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	26,400	26,600	2.0	1.6	52,800	42,560
Morris	3,500	3,700	1.8	2.1	6,300	7,770
Somerset	7,700	²	1.8	²	13,860	²
Sussex	16,100	16,300	1.7	1.6	27,370	26,080
Warren	9,800	9,700	2.1	1.8	20,580	17,460
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	6,200	6,600	1.9	1.4	11,780	9,240
Mercer	2,300	2,900	2.0	1.4	4,600	4,060
Middlesex	1,100	1,200	1.9	1.8	2,090	2,160
Monmouth	2,800	3,300	1.8	1.7	5,040	5,610
Ocean	500	500	2.0	1.8	1,000	900
District 80 (South)						
Atlantic	900	1,200	1.4	1.2	1,260	1,440
Camden	700	800	1.7	1.0	1,190	800
Cape May	900	1,100	1.8	1.0	1,620	1,100
Cumberland	2,500	2,800	2.0	1.8	5,000	5,040
Gloucester	2,300	2,400	2.0	1.5	4,600	3,600
Salem	6,000	6,300	1.9	1.4	11,400	8,820
Other Counties ¹	300	9,600	1.7	1.6	510	15,360
State	90,000	95,000	1.9	1.6	171,000	152,000

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

² Included in other counties.

New Jersey Blueberry Crop

This year's blueberry harvest generally followed last year's timeframe. The quality of berries looks excellent. Bloom was reported 13% light, 65% average, and 22% heavy. Set of fruit was reported 18% light, 65% average, and 17% heavy. Production is forecast at 58 million pounds, up 7.4 percent from last year's record production.



New Jersey Blueberries, 2006-2008, Acres, Yield, & Production

Year	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre ¹ (Lbs)	Production (1,000 Lbs)	
			Total	Utilized
2008	7,700	²	58,000	²
2007	7,600	7,110	54,000	54,000
2006	7,600	6,840	52,000	52,000

¹Yield is derived from utilized production.

²Not available until January 2009.

New Jersey 2008 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

- **Apple** production is forecast at 40 million pounds, 2 million pounds less than last year. Growing conditions were favorable in the early stage, but hot temperatures and inadequate rainfall may affect fruit size. Early varieties are being harvested throughout the state. Prospects for this year's crop are good.
- **Peach** production is forecast at 34,000 tons, unchanged from July forecast. Many growers reported a large crop this season while others experienced late maturation due to heat stress in June. Overall, fruit quality and size are rated good to excellent.

Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Units	Final 2007	- Total Production -	
			Forecast July 1, 2008	Forecast August 1, 2008
NEW JERSEY				
Apples	Million Pounds	42.0	¹	40.0
Peaches	Tons	32,000	34,000	34,000
UNITED STATES				
Apples	Million Pounds	9,113.9	¹	9,165.2
Peaches	Tons	1,128,740	1,097,150	1,093,850

¹First apple forecast is August 1.

New Jersey's Corn Crop Up 11 Percent

- **Corn** production is forecast at 8.88 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year. Producers expect 120 bushels per acre for the 2008 crop. The state record yield per acre is 143 bushels, set in 2004. Area harvested for grain, at 74,000 acres is down 8,000 acres from 2007.
- **Soybean** yield is forecast at 32 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 42 bushels, set in 2004. Production is expected to total 2.72 million bushels, up 11 percent from 2007. Soybean harvested area is expected to total 85,000 acres, 6,000 acres more than 2007.

Acres, Yield, and Production of Corn and Soybeans, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2007	Forecast 2008	2007	Forecast 2008	2007	Forecast 2008	2007	Forecast 2008
NEW JERSEY								
----- Thousand ----- - Bushels - - Thousand Bushels -								
Corn for grain	95	85	82	74	125.0	120.0	10,250	8,880
Soybeans	81	87	79	85	31.0	32.0	2,449	2,720
UNITED STATES								
----- Thousand ----- - Bushels - - Million Bushels -								
Corn for grain	93,600	86,977	86,542	79,290	151.1	155	13,073.9	12,287.9
Soybeans	63,631	74,783	62,820	73,341	41.2	40.5	2,585.2	2,972.6

Notes: Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2008, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The next crop production forecast will be released September 12, 2008.

July Farm Prices Received Index Up 1.9 Percent From June

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 161, based on 1990-92=100, increased 1.9 percent from June. The Crop Index is up 1.6 percent, while the Livestock Index rose by 0.7 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, cattle, broilers and sweet corn. Lower prices were received for wheat, eggs, tomatoes and cucumbers. 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, tomatoes and hay offset decreased marketings of milk, cantaloupes, potatoes and apples.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 16 percent from July 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 157, increased 1.3 percent from last month and rose 12 percent from July 2007.

Prices Paid Index is Unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 191 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1.1 percent from June and 18 percent above July 2007. Higher prices in July for potash and phosphate materials, nitrogen fertilizers, mixed fertilizers and diesel fuel more than offset lower prices for feed concentrates, feeder pigs, trucks and other machinery.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2007	June 2008	July 2008
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	3.46	4.75	4.61
Corn, per bushel	3.32	5.48	5.61
Hay, all, baled, per ton ¹	131.00	161.00	164.00
Soybeans, per bushel	7.56	13.20	14.20
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ²	0.306	0.409	0.446
Strawberries, per cwt	53.00	61.90	62.70
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	22.20	19.20	28.40
Lettuce, per cwt	17.30	17.70	16.80
Tomatoes, per cwt	26.70	58.00	41.00
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	89.00	92.00	95.70
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	93.00	96.40	100.00
Cows, per cwt ³	51.50	54.30	56.40
Calves, per cwt	126.00	118.00	115.00
Broilers, live, per lb ⁴	0.470	0.480	0.500
Eggs, all, per dozen ¹	0.945	1.060	0.841
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5,6}	21.60	19.30	19.40

Source: NASS - Agricultural Prices, July 2007.

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 July 2008 Fat test percent: all milk 3.56, fluid milk 3.55, and mfg grad

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