



USDA,
National Agricultural Statistics Service,
New Jersey Field Office
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 1(800)328-0179
Fax: 1(800)625-7581
www.nass.usda.gov/nj/

New Jersey's FARM FACTS

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New Jersey Farm Real Estate Value Up Four Percent

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, 2007, up 3.7 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 \$12,500, followed closely by Massachusetts at \$11,800. Connecticut's real estate value per acre ranked third, at \$11,700 per acre. Delaware's real estate value per acre ranked fifth, at \$10,400 per acre followed by Maryland's ranking of sixth, at \$9,250 per acre.

Cropland value per acre for New Jersey averaged \$11,900 per acre on January 1, 2007, up 6.3 percent from January 1, 2006. New Jersey ranked first among the states that publish cropland value per acre, with Arizona in second place, at \$10,800 per acre. Delaware ranked third in cropland value per acre, at \$9,900. California, at \$9,780 per acre, ranked fourth nationally for cropland value per acre.

Pasture value per acre for New Jersey ranked first in the nation among the states that publish this value, averaging \$12,100, 3.4 percent above the previous year. Maryland, at \$8,500 per acre, ranked second nationally in pasture value per acre. Florida's pasture value per acre ranked third, at \$8,350.

Cash rent for New Jersey cropland averaged \$48.00 per acre during the 2007 crop year, up 1.0 percent from the 2006 crop year. The average value of pasture rented for cash for the Northeast Region averaged \$31.00. 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, 2003-2007

Region and State	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 06-07
	-----Dollars-----					Percent
Northeast:	3,200	3,550	4,110	*4,550	5,000	9.9
Connecticut	9,500	10,200	10,800	11,400	11,700	2.6
Delaware	4,000	6,000	8,400	10,200	10,400	2.0
Maine	1,750	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,150	4.9
Maryland	4,150	5,700	7,900	8,900	9,250	3.9
Massachusetts	9,300	9,900	10,500	11,600	11,800	1.7
New Hampshire	3,100	3,250	3,450	3,700	4,000	8.1
New Jersey	9,100	9,750	10,500	*10,900	11,300	3.7
New York	1,700	1,780	1,920	*2,050	2,220	8.3
Pennsylvania	3,450	3,650	4,220	*4,790	5,670	18.4
Rhode Island	9,300	10,200	11,200	12,500	12,500	0.0
Vermont	2,050	2,150	2,300	2,450	2,700	10.2

*Revised

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

Source: NASS – Agriculture Land Values and Cash Rents, August 2007.

2005-2006 New Jersey Hay Estimates

New Jersey's leading alfalfa producing counties were Salem, Warren, and Hunterdon which produced 11.5, 10.5, and 9.9 thousand tons, respectively. The top producing other hay counties were Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren, which produced 52.8, 27.4, and 20.6 thousand tons, respectively.

2005-2006 Alfalfa Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	3,200	3,200	2.5	3.1	8,000	9,920
Somerset	900	1,100	1.9	2.3	1,710	2,530
Sussex	4,800	4,400	2.0	2.1	9,600	9,240
Warren	3,600	3,500	3.2	3.0	11,520	10,500
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	1,600	1,700	3.0	2.5	4,800	4,250
Monmouth	1,700	1,700	2.1	3.0	3,570	5,100
District 80 (South)						
Cumberland	1,200	1,100	3.4	2.2	4,080	2,420
Gloucester	1,800	2,000	2.4	2.2	4,320	4,400
Salem	4,800	4,800	3.7	2.4	17,760	11,520
Other Counties 1/	1,400	1,500	1.9	2.1	2,640	3,120
State	25,000	25,000	2.7	2.5	68,000	63,000

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

2005-2006 Other Hay County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Tons)		Production (Tons)	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
District 20 (North)						
Hunterdon	26,400	26,400	1.6	2.0	42,240	52,800
Morris	3,400	3,500	1.8	1.8	6,120	6,300
Somerset	7,800	7,700	1.1	1.8	8,580	13,860
Sussex	16,300	16,100	1.5	1.7	24,450	27,370
Warren	9,900	9,800	1.7	2.1	16,830	20,580
District 50 (Central)						
Burlington	5,800	6,200	2.3	1.9	13,340	11,780
Mercer	2,400	2,300	1.9	2.0	4,560	4,600
Middlesex	1,300	1,100	1.7	1.9	2,210	2,090
Monmouth	2,700	2,800	1.5	1.8	4,050	5,040
Ocean	500	500	1.4	2.0	700	1,000
District 80 (South)						
Atlantic	900	900	1.2	1.4	1,080	1,260
Camden	800	700	1.5	1.7	1,200	1,190
Cape May	900	900	1.4	1.8	1,260	1,620
Cumberland	2,600	2,500	1.6	2.0	4,160	5,000
Gloucester	2,300	2,300	1.6	2.0	3,680	4,600
Salem	5,700	6,000	1.6	1.9	9,120	11,400
Other Counties 1/	300	300	1.4	1.7	420	510
State	90,000	90,000	1.6	1.9	144,000	171,000

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

New Jersey Blueberry Crop

This year's blueberry harvest generally followed last year's timeframe. Pollination was not an issue this year. The quality of berries looks good. Bloom was reported 7% light, 53% average, and 40% heavy. Set of fruit was reported 15% light, 68% average, and 17% heavy.

New Jersey Blueberries, 2005-2007, Acres, Yield, Production, & Value of Production

Year	Acres Harvested	Yield per Acre 1/ (Lbs)	Production (1,000 Lbs)	
			Total	Utilized
2007	7,600	2/	52,000	2/
2006	7,600	6,840	52,000	52,000
2005	7,500	6,000	45,000	45,000

1/ Yield is derived from utilized production.

2/ Not available until January 2008.

New Jersey 2007 Apple and Peach Crop Forecasts

- **Apple** production is forecast at 42 million pounds, 3 million pounds less than last year. Despite favorable growing in early stage, extremely dry condition negatively affected apple size. 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 32,000 tons, unchanged from July forecast. Many growers reported a large crop this season while others experienced significant fruit loss due to freezing temperatures in April. Recent conditions have been more favorable for peach crop. Fruit quality and size are rated good to excellent.

Apple and Peach Production, August 1 Forecast

Crop	Units	Final 2006	- Total Production -	
			Forecast July 1, 2007	Forecast August 1, 2007
NEW JERSEY				
Apples	Million Pounds	45.0	1/	42.0
Peaches	Tons	34,000	32,000	32,000
UNITED STATES				
Apples	Million Pounds	9,931.7	1/	9,284.7
Peaches	Tons	1,010,120	1,026,845	1,026,945

1/ First apple forecast is August 1.

New Jersey's Corn Crop Up 14 Percent, Soybeans Down 30 Percent

- **Corn** production is forecast at 9.41 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year. Producers expect 112 bushels per acre for the 2007 crop. The state record yield per acre is 143 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year (1997-2006) state average yield is 105.1 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain, at 84,000 acres, up 20,000 acres from 2006.
- **Soybean** yield is forecast at 27 bushels per acre, down 8 bushels from the previous year. The state record yield per acre is 42 bushels, set in 2004. The 10-year average yield is 31.7 bushels. Production is expected to total 2.11 million bushels, down 30 percent from 2006. Soybean harvested area is expected to total 78,000 acres, 8,000 acres less than last year.

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

Crop	Acres Planted		Acres for Harvest		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2006	Forecast 2007	2006	Forecast 2007	2006	Forecast 2007	2006	Forecast 2007
NEW JERSEY								
----- Thousand ----- - Bushels - - Thousand Bushels -								
Corn for grain	80	100	64	84	129.0	112.0	8,256	9,408
Soybeans	88	80	86	78	35.0	27.0	3,010	2,106
UNITED STATES								
----- Thousand ----- - Bushels - - Million Bushels -								
Corn for grain	78,327	92,888	70,648	85,418	149.1	152.8	10,534.9	13,053.6
Soybeans	75,522	64,081	74,602	63,285	42.7	41.5	3,188.2	2,625.3

Notes: Forecasts in this report are based on conditions around August 1, 2007, and do not reflect changes in conditions since that time. The next crop production forecast will be released September 12, 2007. Source: Nass – *Crop Production, August 2007*.

July Farm Prices Received Index Up 2.2 percent Over Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in July, at 142, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2.2 percent from June. The Crop Index is up 1.4 percent, while the Livestock Index rose by 2.2 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for milk, eggs, wheat and snap beans. Lower prices were received for corn, broilers, hogs and cantaloupes. 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 potatoes.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 21 percent from July 2006. The Food Commodities Index, at 144, increased 2.9 percent from last month and rose 21 percent from July 2006.

Prices Paid Index is unchanged

The July Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 158 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from June but increased 6.0 percent from July 2006. Lower prices in July for feed grains, feeder pigs, gasoline and LP gas offset higher prices for feeder cattle, milk cows, complete feeds and nitrogen fertilizers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	July 2006	June 2007	July 2007
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.71	3.30	3.37
Corn, per bushel	2.14	3.51	3.23
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	107.00	131.00	131.00
Soybeans, per bushel	5.61	7.51	7.92
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	0.423	0.296	0.293
Strawberries, per cwt	64.00	66.10	57.400
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	21.10	17.80	22.60
Lettuce, per cwt	12.200	17.80	16.70
Tomatoes, per cwt	25.10	31.50	29.30
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	85.80	89.10	90.30
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	90.00	93.30	94.30
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	46.40	50.10	51.40
Calves, per cwt	137.00	125.00	125.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	0.410	0.520	0.510
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	0.435	0.677	0.946
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	11.70	20.20	21.70

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 2007 Fat test percent: all milk 3.54, fluid milk 3.54, and mfg grade 3.73.

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.