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New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

FARM FACTS

"FACT FINDERS FOR AGRICULTURE"

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United States Prospective Plantings for 2002

Barley growers intend to seed 5.08 million acres for 2002, up 2 percent from the record low of 4.97 million acres seeded a year ago. Increases in 11 States were partially offset by declines in 8 States. The intended acreage in Montana is up 150,000 acres from last year's drought reduced crop. Acreage in Minnesota is rebounding 50,000 acres from last year when cool wet weather limited planting. Fewer acres are expected in California as well as the Pacific Northwest states where dry conditions and concerns over water availability exist in some areas.

Corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2002, up 4 percent from 2001, but down 1 percent from 2000. Expected acreage is up in many areas of the United States and in virtually all areas of the Corn Belt. Compared to last year when producers had problems getting their crops in due to persistent precipitation, conditions so far this year have been cooperative and have increased farmer's hopes of planting their corn crop on time. Farmers intend to plant fewer corn acres than last year in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado because of concerns about dry conditions.

Hay producers expect to harvest 63.7 million acres of hay in 2002, up less than 1 percent from 2001. Increases in 21 states are expected to offset declines in 18 States. Oregon, up 13 percent, has the largest increase where producers are responding to strong prices and an increase in cattle inventory. California expects to increase harvested acres by 6 percent in response to the strong dairy market. Record high acreages are expected in Florida, Idaho, Missouri, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. Producers in Montana intend to harvest 10 percent fewer acres than last year, when they harvested large acreages of CRP and grain hay. Growers in Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin expect to harvest record low acreages of hay.

Soybean producers intend to plant 73.0 million acres, down 2 percent from last year. Reduced soybean acreage was offset by an expected increase in corn plantings in most areas. Crop rotations, farm bill uncertainty, and price considerations were cited as primary reasons for the reduced soybean acreage. Producers in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas intend to shift from cotton to soybeans. Expected acreage in North Dakota is up 450,000 acres from last year replacing wheat acreage.

Sweet potato growers intend to plant 95,600 acres of sweet potatoes in 2002, down 2 percent from the last two years for comparable states. Two states expect higher acreage than last year, five states look for declines, and two are unchanged. Georgia sweet potato estimates are discontinued this year.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 59.0 million acres in 2002. This is down 1 percent from 2001 and the lowest level since 1972. Area planted to Durum wheat is intended to total 2.84 million acres, down 2 percent from 2001. The 2002 other spring wheat planted acreage is estimated at 15.1 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. Of the total, about 14.2 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Winter wheat planted area for the 2002 crop is 41.1 million acres, nearly identical to the previous year's acreage. This is the lowest acres seeded to winter wheat since 1971. Of the total, about 29.3 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres Soft Red Winter, and 3.4 million acres White Winter.

New Jersey Prospective Plantings for 2002

As of March 1, 2002, New Jersey farmers intended to plant less acreage of soybeans and sweet potatoes this year than last year. Wheat and corn acreages are expected to increase, according to Becky Cross, State Statistician for the New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service.

Barley planted acreage is expected to total 5,000, unchanged from a year ago.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 86,000, up 6,000 acres, or 8 percent above a year ago.

All hay acreage intended for harvest is expected to total 110,000. This total is down 10,000 acres from last year's total of 120,000.

Soybeans planted acreage is expected to decrease 5,000 acres to a total of 98,000. This total is 5 percent below a year ago.

Sweet potato acreage is expected to total 1,000 acres, down 200 acres, or 17 percent below last year.

All wheat planted acreage is expected to increase to 41,000, which is 10,000 above last year's acreage, or 32 percent.

Prospective Plantings: New Jersey and United States, March 1, 2001-2002

Crop	New Jersey			United States		
	2001	2002 ^{1/}	% Change	2001	2002 ^{1/}	% Change
	----- Thousand Acres -----			----- Thousand Acres -----		
Barley	5	5	NC	4,967	5,078	+2
Corn	80	86	+8	75,752	79,047	+4
Soybeans	103	98	-5	74,105	72,966	-2
Sweet potatoes	1.2	1.0	-17	97.9	95.6	-2
All Wheat	31	41	+32	59,617	59,004	-1
Hay ^{2/}	120	110	-8	63,511	63,743	NC

^{1/} Intended planting for 2002 as indicated by reports from farmers.

^{2/} Harvested intentions.

NC = No change.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture is Coming

The Census of Agriculture is a process by which we contact every farm operation in the nation so that they can provide information about their agricultural operation. This farm information is then aggregated to provide the only source of uniform, comprehensive data on agricultural production and operator characteristics for each county, state, and the Nation. All individual reports are kept completely confidential, and are even protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

There are many important uses of the Census of Agriculture Data:

- ★ Federal Government policy makers use the Census of Agriculture data in drafting legislation to help resolve agricultural problems.
- ★ New Jersey state and local governments use the data for planning rural development, agricultural research, or extension programs.
- ★ Farm organizations use census data to develop and evaluate programs and policies that affect farmers and ranchers.
- ★ Farm cooperatives, commodity and trade associations, and agribusinesses use the data to aid in locating new plants and service distribution centers, allocating research funds, forecasting markets, and making advertising and other marketing decisions.
- ★ Economists use the Census of Agriculture to benchmark data for current statistical series such as the Gross Domestic Product, Producer Price Index, and Farm Income Accounts.

The New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service will begin collecting Census of Agriculture data in December of this year. Your report (*if you are a farm operator*) is very important to all New Jersey farmers. We can show that New Jersey agriculture is important to New Jersey's economic well-being. It is extremely important to count all of our agriculture. Please help us by completing the form when you receive it, or contacting us if you do not receive a form.

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURE
Census of Agriculture: 1997, 1992, AND 1987

Item	All farms		
	1997	1992	1987
Farms..... farms	9,101	9,079	9,032
Land in Farms..... acres	832,600	847,595	894,426
Average size of farm acres	91	93	99
Market value of agriculture products sold \$1,000	697,380	532,988	496,003
Average per farm dollars	76,627	58,706	54,916
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops \$1,000	592,713	431,178	370,580
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000	104,666	101,810	125,423

2000-2001 Soybean County Estimates

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested for Beans		Yield Per Harvested Acre		Production (Bushels)	
	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	6,200	5,100	6,000	5,000	41	35	248,000	175,000
Somerset	1,800	1,600	1,700	1,500	38	29	64,000	44,000
Warren	2,800	4,800	2,800	4,800	47	46	131,000	220,000
District Summed	10,800	11,500	10,500	11,300	42	39	443,000	439,000
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	23,600	23,700	23,200	23,400	38	30	880,000	702,000
Mercer	8,000	6,300	7,900	6,200	36	33	285,000	202,000
Middlesex	7,900	8,300	7,600	8,100	38	31	285,000	250,000
Monmouth	8,200	7,200	8,100	7,000	40	33	327,000	232,000
District Summed	47,700	45,500	46,800	44,700	38	31	1,777,000	1,386,000
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	11,300	12,100	11,100	11,800	43	32	477,000	378,000
Gloucester	9,400	9,500	9,300	9,400	40	23	368,000	214,000
Salem	18,900	23,700	18,600	23,200	43	30	791,000	696,000
District Summed	39,600	45,300	39,000	44,400	42	29	1,636,000	1,288,000
Other Counties	1,900	700	1,700	600	38	30	64,000	18,000
State Total	100,000	103,000	98,000	101,000	40	31	3,920,000	3,131,000

1/ Preliminary.

2000-2001 Corn County Estimates

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested for Grain		Yield Per Harvested Acre		Production (Bushels)	
	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/	2000	2001 1/
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	10,700	7,300	9,400	6,600	125	130	1,173,000	860,000
Morris	1,200	1,000	1,000	900	122	100	122,000	90,000
Somerset	3,400	2,800	2,800	2,300	116	81	325,000	186,000
Sussex	6,400	4,900	4,500	3,300	121	91	545,000	301,000
Warren	20,900	18,700	17,300	15,400	132	132	2,281,000	2,040,000
District Summed	42,600	34,700	35,000	28,500	127	122	4,446,000	3,477,000
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	9,400	8,700	8,100	7,700	132	106	1,067,000	820,000
Mercer	4,100	3,500	3,700	3,200	136	95	504,000	304,000
Middlesex	3,200	4,000	2,800	3,600	142	112	397,000	404,000
Monmouth	5,000	3,300	4,600	3,000	133	112	613,000	337,000
Ocean	800	500	600	400	110	95	66,000	38,000
District Summed	22,500	20,000	19,800	17,900	134	106	2,647,000	1,903,000
District 80 (South)								
Atlantic	500	600	400	500	120	78	48,000	39,000
Cumberland	4,200	3,600	3,500	3,000	145	118	509,000	354,000
Gloucester	3,700	3,800	2,900	2,600	141	75	410,000	195,000
Salem	15,900	16,800	12,900	13,100	150	105	1,930,000	1,382,000
District Summed	24,300	24,800	19,700	19,200	147	103	2,897,000	1,970,000
Other Counties	600	500	500	400	120	105	60,000	42,000
State Total	90,000	80,000	75,000	66,000	134	112	10,050,000	7,392,000

1/ Preliminary.



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

Prices Received Index Up

The preliminary Prices Received by Farmers Index for All Farm Products in March was 106, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 7 points (7.1 percent) from the February index. A record price for lettuce, along with other increases for eggs, cattle, and tomatoes, more than offset decreased prices for broilers, milk, hogs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher marketings for strawberries, lettuce, milk, and tomatoes more than offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, corn, and cotton.

Compared with March 2001, the Prices Received Index was up 2 points (1.9 percent). Higher prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and apples more than offset lower prices for broilers, hogs, cattle, and tomatoes.

The Food Commodities Index increased 9.0 percent over last month and was 3.8 percent above March 2001.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The Prices Paid by Farmers Index for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) in March was 122 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from February, but 2 points (1.6 percent) below March 2001. Lower prices in March for feeder cattle, complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, and feeder pigs were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, hay and forages, and potash and phosphate materials.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	March 2001	February 2002	March 2002 ^{1/}
----- Dollars -----			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.07	2.21	2.26
Hay, all, baled, per ton	90.10	90.40	91.40
Soybeans, per bushel	4.39	4.21	4.39
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb	.146	.214	.210
Strawberries, per lb	.811	1.04	1.09
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	25.70	23.50	29.00
Lettuce, per cwt	15.00	44.10	86.50
Tomatoes, per cwt	56.50	26.60	36.90
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	76.00	69.90	71.60
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	80.50	73.60	75.30
Cows, per cwt	42.30	40.60	42.40
Calves, per cwt	112.00	105.00	104.00
Broilers, live, per lb	.400	.340	.320
Eggs All, per dozen	.691	.559	.685
Milk All, per cwt ^{2/}	13.90	13.10	12.70

^{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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