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Seasons Greetings

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

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Census Countdown Begins for New Jersey's Farmers and Ranchers

Farmers and ranchers in New Jersey will soon have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them.

"The Census remains the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation," said John Gibbons, Deputy Director of NASS, NJ Field Office. "It's a critical tool that gives farmers a voice to influence decisions that will shape the future of their community, industry and operation."

The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, expenditures and other topics. This information is used by all those who serve farmers and rural communities from federal, state and local governments to agribusinesses and trade associations. For example, legislators use the data when shaping farm policy and agribusinesses factor it into their planning efforts.

"Your answers to the Census impact farm programs and rural services that support your community," Gibbons said. "So do your part and be counted when you receive your form, because there's strength in numbers that only the Census can reveal."

In 2007, farmers reported a total of 10,327 farms, spanning across 733,450 acres. This shows a 4 percent increase in the number of New Jersey farms from the previous Census in 2002. Farmers produced near a billion dollars worth of agricultural products during 2007 in New Jersey. This telling information and thousands of other statistics are only available every five years as a direct result of farmer responses to the Census.

NASS will mail out Census forms in late December, to collect data for the 2012 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2013. Producers can fill out the Census online via a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov, or return their form by mail. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

**GROW
YOUR
FARM
FUTURE.**

**SHAPE YOUR FARM PROGRAMS.
BOOST YOUR RURAL SERVICES.**

Coming Soon
Your Census
of Agriculture

**Do your part to be counted.
There's strength in numbers.**

www.agcensus.usda.gov

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

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The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Taken every five years, the Census provides valuable information used at the local, state, and national level to plan for the future.

USDA will mail the 2012 Census of Agriculture in late December 2012. Your response to the Census of Agriculture is required and protected by law (Title 7, U.S. Code, and CIPSEA, Public Law 107-347).

Your response provides information needed for agricultural planning and decisionmaking. Farmers, ranchers, agri-businesses, lenders, agricultural organizations, policy-makers, and many others use the information to make decisions on facility locations, crop insurance rates, conservation programs, and marketing that can benefit you, your industry, and your community.

The Census is your voice, your future, and your responsibility. For more information about the Census of Agriculture, please:

Visit us online at:
www.agcensus.usda.gov

Call toll-free:
(888) 4AG-STAT
or **(888) 424-7828**

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Northeast II

Workers Down 20 Percent, Wages Up 9 Percent

Workers: There were 48,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 7, 2012, through October 13, 2012, down from 36,000 a year ago. States included in the Northeast Region II are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Hours worked during the reference week averaged 37.8 compared to 39.0 the previous year.

Wages: Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.13 per hour during the October 2012 reference week, up .97 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.48 per hour, up 1.44 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$11.83 per hour compared with \$10.43 a year earlier.

Hours Worked: The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

United States

Workers Down More than 4 Percent, Wage Rates Up 40 Cents

Workers: There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week.

Wages: Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.76 per hour during the October 2012 reference week, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.22 per hour, up 6 percent from last October, while livestock workers earned \$11.13 per hour compared with \$10.67 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.83 per hour, was up 16 cents from last year.

Hours Worked: The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the survey week, nearly the same as hours worked in October 2011.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States ¹

Items	Northeast II ²			United States ³		
	Oct. 9-15, 2011	July 8-14, 2012	Oct. 7-13, 2012	Oct. 9-15, 2011	July 8-14, 2012	Oct. 7-13, 2012
Thousand workers			Thousand workers			
Hired Workers	36	60	48	828	906	872
150 Days or More	26	40	38	590	626	610
149 Days or Less	10	20	10	238	280	262
Dollars Per Week			Dollars Per Week			
Average Hours Worked (All Hired Farm Workers) ¹	39.0	37.7	37.8	41.6	40.4	41.5
Dollars Per Hour			Dollars Per Hour			
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers) ¹	11.16	11.44	12.13	11.15	11.36	11.76
By Type of Workers						
Field	10.04	10.71	11.48	10.54	10.71	11.22
Livestock	10.43	12.21	11.83	10.67	10.89	10.83

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. ³ Excludes Alaska ⁴ Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

November Farm Prices Received Index Down 6 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 203 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 6 points (2.9 percent) from October. The Crop Index is down 7 points (3.0 percent) but the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.1 percent). Producers received lower prices for soybeans, corn, and apples and higher prices for broilers, eggs, and milk. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly movement of corn, milk, cattle, and cotton offset the decreased marketing of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflowers.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 19 points (10 percent) from November 2011. The Food Commodities Index, at 188, decreased 8 points (4.1 percent) from last month but increased 16 points (9.3 percent) from November 2011.

November Prices Paid Index Down 1 Point

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 217 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index is down 1 point (-0.5 percent) from October but 11 points (5.3 percent) above November 2011. Lower prices in November for concentrates, diesel, supplements, and gasoline offset higher prices for feeder pigs, mixed fertilizer, supplies, and complete feeds.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	NOV 2011	Oct 2012	Nov 2012
dollars			
Field Crops			
Corn, per Bushel	5.83	6.77	6.71
Hay, All, Baled, per Ton	174.00	193.00	193.00
Alfalfa	193.00	212.00	215.00
Other	124.00	146.00	144.00
Soybeans, per Bushel	11.70	14.20	13.80
Winter Wheat, per Bushel	6.44	8.33	8.40
Fruit, Fresh			
Apples, per Lb¹	0.344	0.535	0.479
Peaches, per Ton¹	(S)	(S)	(S)
Vegetables, Fresh²			
Corn, Sweet, per Cwt	26.60	25.10	27.70
Lettuce, per Cwt	30.50	17.70	19.90
Tomatoes, per Cwt	42.40	27.80	46.50
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, all, per Cwt	120.00	123.00	123.00
Steers and Heifers, per Cwt	126.00	127.00	129.00
Cows, per Cwt³	66.00	77.30	76.40
Calves, per Cwt	153.00	164.00	162.00
Broilers, live, per Lb⁴	0.450	0.510	0.570
Eggs, all, per Dozen⁵	1.020	1.030	1.190
Milk, all, per Cwt⁶	20.50	21.50	22.10
Fat Test, All Milk per %	3.82	3.79	3.84

Source: USDA-NASS: Agricultural Prices, November 2012

^{1/} Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, NY (apples only), and WA (apples, peaches, and pears). Prices as sold for other states.

^{2/} Beginning January 2006, point of first sale. FOB shipping point for prior years.

^{3/} Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

^{4/} Equivalent live weight price.

^{5/} Mid-Month Price.

^{6/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.



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



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