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New Jersey's FARM FACTS

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

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Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 39,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 9, 2005, through October 15, 2005, up 11 percent from a year ago. States included in the Northeast Region II are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Hours worked during the reference week averaged 39.6 compared to 41.2 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.00 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 41 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.21 per hour, up 37 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, 0.5 days were suitable for field work. Rainfall ranged from 1.75 inches to 10 inches during the week. Soil moisture was rated 5% adequate and 95% surplus. Outdoor activities during the week were picking apples, and harvesting fall vegetables, where conditions allowed.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour, 29 cents higher than October 2004. There were 840,000 hired workers on farms across the nation, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 42.0 compared to 40.5 the previous year.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States ^{1/}

Items	Northeast II ^{2/}			United States ^{3/}		
	Oct. 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	Oct. 9-15, 2005	Oct. 10-16, 2004	July 10-16, 2005	Oct. 9-15, 2005
	<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>		
Hired Workers	35	50	39	851	936	840
150 Days or More	28	40	32	606	662	620
149 Days or Less	7	10	7	245	274	220
	<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>		
Average Hours Worked (All Hired Farm Workers)	41.2	39.1	39.6	40.5	40.6	42.0
	<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>		
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	\$9.59	\$9.79	\$10.00	\$9.32	\$9.38	\$9.61
By Type of Workers						
Field	\$8.84	\$8.71	\$9.21	\$8.62	\$8.61	\$8.90
Livestock	\$8.90	\$9.37	\$8.62	\$8.91	\$9.26	\$9.14

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

^{3/} Excludes Alaska

A Sincere Thanks to Our Respondents

We would like to thank New Jersey farmers for their cooperation with the USDA, NASS, New Jersey Field Office. This report, and all of our reports, is made possible by the producers and agricultural businesses that respond to our surveys. Our job is to measure agriculture commodities produced in New Jersey and the nation. New Jersey's 2004 cash receipts totaled \$867 million. There is no doubt that New Jersey agriculture counts! We would like to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season.

How Do Agricultural Statistics Benefit Our Respondents?

Benefits to New Jersey producers

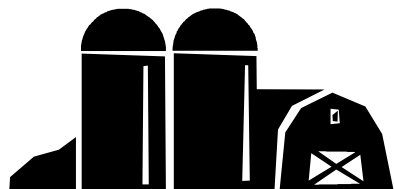
Promoters who sell or help to sell New Jersey products know what and how much is being produced.

Production reports attract buyers from other states and countries.

Agriculture is very important to New Jersey's economy - therefore, any information on condition or outlook for agriculture affects many decisions of local and state governments.

Production forecasts for fruits, vegetables, and crops remove elements of surprise, so utilization decisions can be made with greater confidence.

Statistics portray the importance of New Jersey's agriculture to the economy and quality of life. Particularly important recipients are buyers, processors, and suppliers.



Benefits to Agri-Businesses

Crop acreage provides seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers information on supplies needed to meet crop producers' demands.

Crop production forecasts alert railroads and truckers to the need for rail cars or trucks to move the crop.

Agricultural journalists and economist depend on agricultural statistics for their basic information.

Agricultural statistics provide a more stable business atmosphere.

Good facts reduce risks, allowing businesses to operate on smaller margins, with producers benefiting in the long run.

Statistics provide data for potential production demand, which will aid in setting up sales territories and in selecting plant sites.

A reliable outlook for crop and livestock production reflects a strong economy and enables businesses to have supplies to meet demand.



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Call, write, or stop by our office:

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lists
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When Will New Jersey's 2005 Annual Estimates Be Available?

January 12, 2006: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2005 acreage and production.

January 12, 2006: Winter wheat seeding for the 2005 crop.

January 24, 2006: Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2005 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 27, 2006: Vegetable 2005 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 27, 2006: Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2006.

February 27, 2006: Annual chicken and egg production for 2005.

November Farm Prices Received Index Up 2 Points From Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points above the October Index. The Crop Index increased 1 point (1.0 percent) from October, while the Livestock Index decreased 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for oranges, potatoes, cucumbers, eggs, and cattle. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, lettuce, dairy, hogs and broilers. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of dairy, cattle, cotton and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and sweet corn.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.7 percent) from November 2004. The Food Commodities Index increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month to 119. The index is down 3 points (2.5 percent) from November 2004.

Prices Paid Index Down 1 Point

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 143 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is decreased 1 point (0.7 percent) from October but is 8 points (5.9 percent) above November 2004. Lower prices in November for diesel fuel, gasoline, complete feeds, and hays and forages offset higher prices for feeder pigs, feed concentrates, nitrogen fertilizers and building materials.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2004	Oct 2005	Nov 2005
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.45	2.41	2.49
Corn, per bushel	2.05	1.82	1.79
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	88.70	97.70	91.70
Soybeans, per bushel	5.36	5.67	5.68
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	.245	.286	.282
Strawberries, per cwt	190.00	67.70	90.80
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	46.70	30.30	32.50
Lettuce, per cwt	14.90	12.40	9.59
Tomatoes, per cwt	89.00	37.50	29.60
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	85.40	91.10	91.60
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	90.20	96.60	97.40
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	48.70	46.60	45.80
Calves, per cwt	123.00	134.00	132.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	.390	.430	.420
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	.604	.513	.653
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	16.20	15.50	15.10

^{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/} November 2005 fat test percent: all milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, and mfg grade 4.00.



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

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New Jersey office of USDA's NASS



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New Jersey Statistics

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The Quick Stats database application provides the most up-to-date statistics for the U.S., as well as all states and counties, including all revisions. Press "more" to continue.

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