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New Jersey's **FARM FACTS** ***"Fact Finders for Agriculture"***

Volume: 07 Number: 12

Date: December 27, 2007

Dear Subscriber:

As we move closer to 2008, I would like to thank all the producers and businesses who responded to our many surveys in 2007. Your continued cooperation makes these reports possible. Thanks also to the county extension educators who faithfully provide crop and weather information weekly.

Charles Kuperus, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture, and his staff are recognized for their support and assistance with our statistics program throughout the year. In addition, we appreciate the continued support we receive from Dean Goodman and the staff at Rutgers School of Environmental & Biological Sciences.

The rapid changes occurring in agriculture today have increased the demand for more agricultural statistics. With your help we will continue to strive to fulfill our mission of **"providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to New Jersey agriculture."**

A special thank you goes to our enumerator staff who collect the survey information, and our office staff who prepare the publications. It is their dedication that provides New Jersey with high quality agricultural statistics.

Producers will soon have the opportunity to participate in the Census of Agriculture – a detailed study of agriculture conducted every five years. The mailed questionnaire will contain questions about land use, income, expenditures, and operator characteristics. The Census results are often quoted and serve as the "voice of agriculture" for producers, agri-businesses, producer associations, and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Troy M. Joshua
Director

Northeast II Region Farm Labor

There were 38,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 7, 2007, through October 13, 2007, down 10 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 41.8 compared to 38.0 the previous year.

Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.63 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 98 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.81 per hour, up 64 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.86 per hour compared with \$7.91 a year earlier.

In New Jersey, during the reference week, 7.0 days were suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 25% very short, 60% short, and 15% adequate. Outdoor activities during the week included picking apples, harvesting fall vegetables, and field crops.

At the U.S. level, farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.33 per hour, 37 cents higher than October 2006. There were 806,000 hired workers on farms across the nation, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average number of hours worked during the reference week was 42.1 compared to 41.9 the previous year.

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

Items	Northeast II ^{2/}			United States ^{3/}		
	Oct. 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	Oct. 7-13, 2007	Oct. 8-14, 2006	July 8-14, 2007	Oct. 7-13, 2007
	<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>		
Hired Workers	42	36	38	800	843	806
150 Days or More	31	26	30	595	596	590
149 Days or Less	11	10	8	205	247	216
	<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>		
Average Hours Worked (All Hired Farm Workers)	38.0	42.0	41.8	41.9	41.4	42.1
	<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>		
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	9.65	10.78	10.63	9.96	9.99	10.33
By Type of Workers						
Field	9.17	9.62	9.86	9.26	9.24	9.62
Livestock	7.91	10.04	9.81	9.42	9.73	9.98

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers. ^{2/} Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. ^{3/} Excludes Alaska

A Sincere Thank You to Our Survey 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 2006 cash receipts totaled \$924 million. There is no doubt that New Jersey agriculture counts! We would like to wish all of you a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

When Will New Jersey's 2007 Annual Estimates Be Available?

January 11, 2008: Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2007 acreage and production.

January 11, 2008: Winter wheat seeding for the 2008 crop.

January 23, 2008: Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2007 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

January 25, 2008: Vegetable 2007 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

February 1, 2008: Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2008.

February 28, 2008: Annual chicken and egg production for 2007.

How Do Agricultural Statistics Benefit Our Respondents?

Benefits to New Jersey producers

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

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 reports attract buyers from other states and countries.

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

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

Benefits to Agri-Businesses

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.

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

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

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

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.

*Happy
Holidays!*

November Farm Prices Received Index Up 1.4 Percent From October

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 143, based on 1990-92=100, is 1.4 percent above the October Index. The Crop Index increased 1.4 percent from October, while the Livestock Index increased 2.3 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, eggs and broilers. Lower prices were received for lettuce, broccoli, cattle and hogs. 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 milk, cattle, cotton and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20.0 percent from November 2006. The Food Commodities Index increased 1.4 percent from last month to 147. The index is up 23.0 percent from November 2006.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 161 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 0.6 percent from October and 8.8 percent above November 2006. Higher prices in November for complete feeds, diesel fuel and gasoline offset lower prices for feeder cattle, hay, forages, potash, and phosphate materials.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2006	Oct 2007	Nov 2007
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.92	4.50	4.69
Corn, per bushel	2.88	3.29	3.49
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	109.00	133.00	131.00
Soybeans, per bushel	6.08	8.36	9.48
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	.361	.361	.345
Strawberries, per cwt	96.10	80.00	118.00
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	20.00	19.50	19.30
Lettuce, per cwt	12.50	44.40	18.00
Tomatoes, per cwt	28.10	43.90	50.10
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	84.40	90.60	89.30
Steers and Heifers, per	90.00	96.40	95.40
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	43.60	46.60	43.60
Calves, per cwt	119.00	122.00	118.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	.400	.430	.450
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	.813	.935	1.260
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	13.90	21.40	21.60

^{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 2007 fat test percent: all milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.76, and mfg grade 4.08.



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