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# Seasons Greetings

Dear Subscriber,

*As we move closer to 2010, I would like to thank all the producers and businesses who responded to our many surveys in 2009. Your continued cooperation makes these reports possible. Thanks also to the county extension educators and staff from the USDA Farm Service Agency who faithfully provide crop and weather information weekly.*

*Douglas H. Fisher, 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 prepares the publications. It is their dedication that provides New Jersey with high quality agricultural statistics.*

*Sincerely,*

*Troy M. Joshua - Director*

# Thank You

## 2009 Farm Labor

### Northeast II

*Workers Up 12 Percent, Wages Up 6 Percent*

**Workers:** There were 37,000 hired workers on Northeast II Region farms and ranches the week of October 11, 2009, through October 17, 2009, up 12 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 41.0 compared to 36.8 the previous year.



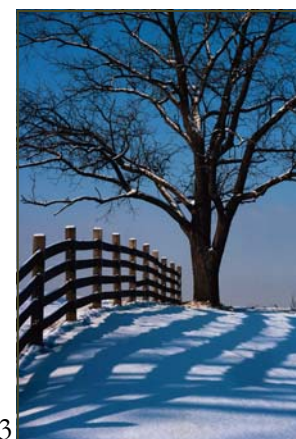
**Wages:** Farm operators in the Northeast Region II paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.88 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 63 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.28 per hour, up 61 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.50 per hour compared with \$9.24 a year earlier.

**Hours Worked:** The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 11 percent from a year ago.

### United States

*Workers Down 2 Percent, Wage Rates Up 2 Percent*

**Workers:** There were 1,092,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.



**Wages:** Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up 20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

**Hours Worked:** The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago.

### Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Northeast II Region and United States <sup>1</sup>

Items	Northeast II <sup>2</sup>			United States <sup>3</sup>		
	Oct. 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	Oct. 11-17, 2009	Oct. 12-18, 2008	July 12-18, 2009	Oct. 11-17, 2009
<i>Thousand workers</i>			<i>Thousand workers</i>			
Hired Workers	33	38	37	804	875	807
150 Days or More	21	27	28	577	609 <sup>4</sup>	585
149 Days or Less	12	11	9	227	266 <sup>4</sup>	222
<i>Per Week</i>			<i>Per Week</i>			
Average Hours Worked (All Hired Farm Workers)	36.8	39.1	41.0	41.4	39.7 <sup>4</sup>	39.0
<i>Per Hour</i>			<i>Per Hour</i>			
Average Wage Rate (All Hired Farm Workers)	10.25	10.20	10.88	10.70	10.66 <sup>4</sup>	10.91
<b>By Type of Workers</b>						
Field	9.67	9.83	10.28	10.05	10.04	10.25
Livestock	9.24	9.09	9.50	10.21	10.05 <sup>4</sup>	10.23

Source: USDA - NASS: Farm Labor, November 20, 2009

<sup>1</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers. <sup>2</sup> Includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. <sup>3</sup> Excludes Alaska <sup>4</sup> Revised

*A Sincere Thank You  
To All 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 agricultural commodities produced in New Jersey and the nation. New Jersey's 2008 cash receipts totaled \$1.12 billion. 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 2009 Annual Estimates Be Available?**

**January 12, 2010:** Barley, corn, hay, potatoes, soybean, sweet potatoes, and wheat 2009 acreage and production.

**January 12, 2010:** Winter wheat seeding for the 2010 crop.

**January 22, 2010:** Apples, blueberries, cranberries, and peaches 2009 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

**January 27, 2010:** Vegetable 2009 acreage, production, season average price, and value of production.

**January 29, 2010:** Cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2010.

**February 25, 2010:** Annual chicken and egg production for 2009.

**How Do Agricultural Statistics Benefit Our Respondents?**

**Benefits to New Jersey producers**

- Production reports attract buyers from other states and countries.
- Promoters who sell or help to sell New Jersey products know what and how much is being produced.
- Production forecasts for fruits, vegetables, and crops remove elements of surprise, so utilization decisions can be made with greater confidence.
- 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.
- Statistics portray the importance of New Jersey's agriculture to the economy. Particularly important recipients are buyers, processors, and suppliers.

**Benefits to Agri-Businesses**

- Agricultural journalists and economists depend on agricultural statistics for their basic information.
- Reliable outlooks for crop and livestock production contribute to the agricultural economy and enable businesses to have supplies to meet demand.
- Good facts reduce risks, allowing businesses to operate on smaller margins, with producers benefiting in the long run.
- Crop production forecasts alert railroads and truckers to the need for rail cars or trucks to move the crop.
- Crop acreage provides seed, chemical, and fertilizer dealers information on supplies needed to meet crop producers' demands.





### November Farm Prices Received Index Unchanged

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 134 percent, based on 1990-92=100, was unchanged from October.

The Crop Index is down 1 point (0.7 percent) but the Livestock Index increased 4 points (3.6 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, eggs, milk, and tomatoes and lower prices for apples, broccoli, strawberries, and grapes. 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 marketings of milk, cotton, cattle, and oranges offset decreased marketings of soybeans, potatoes, peanuts, and lettuce.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 8 points (5.6 percent) from November 2008. The Food Commodities Index, at 134, increased 1 point (0.8 percent) from last month but decreased 5 points (3.6 percent) from November 2008.

### November Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The November Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 176 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from October but 6 points (3.3 percent) below November 2008. Lower prices in November for nitrogen, complete feeds, other services, and potash & phosphate offset higher prices for diesel, supplements, LP gas, and feeder cattle.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

ITEM	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009
\$Dollars			
<b>Field Crops</b>			
Corn, per bushel	4.26	3.61	3.64
Hay, all, baled, per ton <sup>1</sup>	149.00	106.00	107.00
Alfalfa <sup>1</sup>	165.00	109.00	110.00
Other <sup>1</sup>	113.00	98.50	99.10
Soybeans, per bushel	9.39	9.44	9.48
Winter Wheat, per bushel	5.65	4.26	4.50
<b>Fruit, Fresh</b>			
Apples, per lb <sup>2</sup>	0.360	0.310	0.281
Peaches, per ton <sup>2</sup>	(7)	(7)	(7)
<b>Vegetables, Fresh</b>			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	30.80	25.10	22.20
Lettuce, per cwt	18.80	27.20	37.50
Tomatoes, per cwt	64.90	40.00	68.90
<b>Livestock and Livestock Products</b>			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	84.30	79.20	79.80
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	90.90	84.40	85.60
Cows, per cwt <sup>3</sup>	43.10	43.60	42.00
Calves, per cwt	105.00	104.00	105.00
Broilers, live, per lb <sup>4</sup>	0.460	0.400	0.410
Eggs, all, per dozen <sup>1</sup>	1.020	0.803	1.010
Milk, all, per cwt <sup>5,6</sup>	17.10	14.20	15.00

Source: USDA - NASS: Agricultural Prices, November 2009

- <sup>1</sup> Mid-Month Price
- <sup>2</sup> Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, MI, NY, and WA. Prices as sold for other states.
- <sup>3</sup> Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.
- <sup>4</sup> Equivalent live weight price.
- <sup>5</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
- <sup>6</sup> November 2009 Fat Test percent: All Milk 3.77, fluid milk 3.77, and mfg grade 4.15.
- <sup>7</sup> Insufficient sales to establish a price.



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



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