



USDA,
National Agricultural Statistics Service,
New Jersey Field Office
P.O. Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 1(800)328-0179
Fax: 1(800)625-7581
www.nass.usda.gov/nj/

New Jersey's FARM FACTS

"Fact Finders for Agriculture"

Volume: 06 Number: 04

April 13 2006

New Jersey March 1, 2006 Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, 2006, New Jersey farmers expect to plant less acreage of corn, soybeans, wheat, and sweet potatoes. All hay and barley acreage remained unchanged from the previous year.

Barley planted acreage is expected to total 3,000, unchanged from 2005 and 2004.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 75,000, down 5,000 acres from a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest number of planted corn acres on record in the state. The record book for planted acreage began in 1926 when New Jersey producers planted 191,000 acres of corn. Corn acreage is expected to be down due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

All hay acreage intended for harvest is expected to total 115,000, unchanged from a year ago but 5,000 acres less than 2004.

Soybeans planted acreage is expected to total 90,000, down 5,000 acres from last year and 15,000 acres from two years ago. If realized, this will be the lowest acreage planted since 1973 when 88,000 acres were planted.

Sweet potato acreage is expected to total 1,100 acres, down from 2005 and 2004.

Winter wheat seeding for 2006 season totaled 23,000, unchanged from December but down 5,000 acres from a year ago. If realized, this will be the lowest number of winter wheat acreage sown.

Prospective Plantings Compared to 2005 Acreage: New Jersey and United States, March 1, 2006

	New Jersey			US		
	2005	2006 ^{1/}	% Change	2005	2006 ^{1/}	% Change
	--- 1,000 acres ---			--- 1,000 acres ---		
Barley	3	3	NC	3,875	3,667	-5
Corn	80	75	-6	81,759	78,019	-5
Hay, All ^{2/}	115	115	NC	61,649	61,478	<-1
Soybeans	95	90	-5	72,142	76,895	+7
Sweet Potato	1.2	1.1	-8	90.4	94.2	+4
Winter Wheat	28	23	-18	40,433	41,404	+2

^{1/} Intended plantings in 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

^{2/} Intended area harvested for 2006 as indicated by reports from farmers.

NC = No change.



New Jersey Farm Numbers and Land in Farms Down from 2004

The number of New Jersey farms in 2005 is estimated at 9,800 farms, down 100 farms from the previous year. Total Garden State land in farms, at 790,000 acres, is down 30,000 acres from 2004. The average farm size is 81 acres, compared to 83 acres the previous year.

United States Farms and Land in Farms Down Slightly in 2005

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.1 million, down 0.6 percent from 2004. Land in farms is estimated at 933 million acres, down 2.9 million from the previous year. The average farm size is 444 acres compared to 443 acres in 2004.

Number of Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Maryland	12,400	12,300	12,200	12,100	12,100	12,100
New Jersey	9,700	9,800	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,800
New York	37,500	37,500	37,000	37,000	36,000	35,600
Pennsylvania	59,000	58,500	58,200	58,200	58,200	58,200
United States	2,166,780	2,148,630	2,135,360	2,126,860	2,112,970	2,100,990

Land in Farms: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres
Maryland	2,130	2,100	2,080	2,060	2,050	2,040
New Jersey	830	830	820	820	820	790
New York	7,670	7,660	7,660	7,650	7,600	7,550
Pennsylvania	7,690	7,710	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,700
United States	945,080	942,070	940,300	938,650	936,295	933,400

Average Farm Size: Selected States and United States, 2000-2005

State	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
Maryland	172	171	170	170	169	169
New Jersey	86	85	83	83	83	81
New York	205	204	207	207	211	212
Pennsylvania	130	132	132	132	132	132
United States	436	438	440	441	443	444

Farm Definition History: The definition of a farm has remained the same since 1974. Activities included as agriculture, however, have undergone modification in recent years. Beginning in 1995, operations having 5 or more horses or ponies and no other agricultural sales were counted as horse farms. An operation with 1 or more horses with agricultural sales of at least \$1,000, qualified as a farm. Two industries, maple syrup and short rotation woody crop farms, were added beginning in 1997 as a result of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). These changes were made to achieve comparability with the Census of Agriculture farm definition. All the changes in the farm definition beginning in 1995 were carried back to 1993 and included in the 1993-1998 estimates. These changes bring comparability to the Census of Agriculture data and the annually published NASS estimates. Because of these changes in the farm definition, the official estimates show a level difference in the number of farms between 1992 and 1993 in some states. To further align the counting of farms with the Census of Agriculture, places with 100 acres or more of pasture only in 2002 were included in farm and land in farm numbers. The handling of Indian reservation land was changed in 2002 to provide some accounting for individual farms.



2004-2005 Corn County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	7,500	6,500	6,600	5,400	140.0	133.0	924,000	718,200
Morris	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	128.0	98.0	140,800	107,800
Somerset	3,300	3,300	3,100	2,200	125.0	85.0	387,500	187,000
Sussex	5,100	4,800	2,800	2,700	126.0	121.0	352,800	326,700
Warren	19,900	19,100	15,900	12,100	144.0	125.0	2,289,600	1,512,500
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	8,500	7,000	7,800	6,400	136.0	113.0	1,060,800	723,200
Mercer	3,600	3,400	3,400	3,100	135.0	123.0	459,000	381,300
Middlesex	3,900	3,300	3,700	3,100	150.0	120.0	555,000	372,000
Monmouth	2,300	2,000	2,200	1,600	124.0	107.0	272,800	171,200
Ocean	600	500	400	300	127.0	89.0	50,800	26,700
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	5,500	5,300	4,900	4,300	154.0	124.0	754,600	533,200
Gloucester	4,100	3,700	3,300	2,700	145.0	121.0	478,500	326,700
Salem	19,700	19,300	16,200	16,500	155.0	130.0	2,511,000	2,145,000
Other Counties ^{1/}	700	600	600	500	98.0	65.0	58,800	32,500
State	86,000	80,000	72,000	62,000	143.0	122.0	10,296,000	7,564,000

^{1/} Other counties could have come from any of the districts.



2004-2005 Soybean County Estimates, New Jersey

County	Acres Planted For All Purposes		Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre (Bushels)		Production (Bushels)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
District 20 (North)								
Hunterdon	7,100	5,500	7,000	5,200	44.0	34.0	308,000	176,800
Somerset	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,400	41.0	20.0	61,500	28,000
Warren	6,300	6,100	6,200	5,900	47.0	40.0	291,400	236,000
District 50 (Central)								
Burlington	24,000	21,800	23,500	20,700	41.0	31.0	963,500	641,700
Mercer	6,200	5,200	6,100	5,000	41.0	27.0	250,100	135,000
Monmouth	5,400	4,800	5,300	4,600	42.0	25.0	222,600	115,000
District 80 (South)								
Cumberland	13,000	10,700	12,800	10,200	41.0	20.0	524,800	204,000
Gloucester	10,500	9,100	10,300	8,900	42.0	25.0	432,600	222,500
Salem	24,200	23,800	23,900	23,300	42.0	28.0	1,003,800	652,400
Other Counties ^{1/}	6,700	6,500	6,400	5,800	41.8	23.6	267,700	136,600
State	105,000	95,000	103,000	91,000	42.0	28.0	4,326,000	2,548,000

^{1/} Other counties could have come from any of the districts.



March 2006 Farm Prices Received Index Down 0.9 Percent from Last Month

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March 2006, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 0.9 percent below the February 2006 Index. The Crop Index is up 2.6 percent while the Livestock Index is down 2.6 percent. Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes and strawberries. 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 asparagus, strawberries, milk and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton and corn.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 5.0 percent from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, is 0.9 percent below last month and down 5.7 percent from March 2005.

Prices Paid Index Down 0.7 Percent from Last Month

The March Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 144 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was down 0.7 percent from February but 3.6 percent above March 2005. Lower prices in March 2006 for feeder cattle, LP gas, nitrogen fertilizers and feed concentrates were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, herbicides and hay and forages.

Average Prices Received by Farmers: United States

Item	Entire Month		Preliminary
	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006
-- Dollars --			
Field Crops			
Barley, per bushel	2.49	2.57	2.55
Corn, per bushel	2.02	2.02	2.01
Hay, all, baled, per ton ^{1/}	92.60	95.00	97.10
Soybeans, per bushel	5.95	5.67	5.55
Fruit, fresh			
Apples, per lb ^{2/}	0.184	0.259	0.256
Strawberries, per cwt	60.90	104.00	71.40
Vegetables, fresh			
Corn, Sweet, per cwt	26.10	35.00	35.60
Lettuce, per cwt	27.90	12.10	16.10
Tomatoes, per cwt	40.70	57.60	37.80
Livestock and Livestock Products			
Beef Cattle, per cwt	91.00	92.40	89.20
Steers and Heifers, per cwt	95.20	97.80	94.10
Cows, per cwt ^{3/}	55.00	49.70	49.90
Calves, per cwt	136.00	142.00	138.00
Broilers, live, per lb ^{4/}	0.440	0.380	0.370
Eggs, all, per dozen ^{1/}	.526	0.495	0.664
Milk, all, per cwt ^{5/ 6/}	15.60	13.50	12.80

^{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/} March 2006 fat test percent: all milk 3.72, fluid milk 3.72 and mfg grade 4.00.



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

