



FAST FACTS

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Following are facts about New Jersey's farms, farmers and farm organizations, supplied by the New Jersey Farm Bureau, an independent member organization dedicated to representing and assisting New Jersey farmers in sustaining viability and profitability. Unless stated otherwise, figures cited herein are the latest available from the 2002 Agriculture Census prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Statistics Service.

New Jersey Farm Bureau headquarters

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Key Contacts

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New Jersey Farm Bureau organization & mission

The New Jersey Farm Bureau is an independent member organization of more than 19,000 farmers and farm-related entities within the Garden State. Established in 1919 to promulgate the interests of farmers eroded by years of depression and war, it is the only organization solely dedicated to representing the grass-roots interests and directives of its members by educating all levels of government and the public on the agricultural community's policies and positions. It seeks out initiatives, activities and ventures to enhance the profitability of producer members and ensure the viability of agriculture in New Jersey.

The bureau is presided over by an elected farmer president, who serves two-year terms. It is directed by an elected board of 25 farmers (one from every county) representing all regions of New Jersey.

Activities & Services

The Farm Bureau monitors state and federal legislative activity and works with elected officials at all levels to promote initiatives that are favorable to New Jersey's agricultural community.

FB also arranges educational workshops on topical issues affecting farmers, provides members with a "weekly update" newsletter on current legislation, farm-related regulations, rural living and general news of interest to its members.

Members receive such benefits as discounts on insurance, health care and various products.

On the Farm Bureau Website

www.njfb.org contains health-insurance information, a produce directory, newsletters, a meeting calendar for county, Farm Bureau and State Board of Agriculture, descriptions of top farm policy issues, a Farm Bureau Policy Book with discussion of its mission and priorities, national and state legislative information, list of Farm Bureau officers, women's committees and links to member sites, NJ Dept of Agriculture, Rutgers University, Jersey Fresh, credit bureaus, NJ Council of Farmers and Communities and other useful organization

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Farm Bureau's Top 10 Current Issues & Priorities	<p>Issues and priorities are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. 2004 issues are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Right to Farm 2. Municipal Down-zoning 3. Farm Viability 4. Agriculture retention/farmland preservation 5. Property rights, wildlife management, smart growth in agriculture 6. Communication with the public 7. Water quality regulation/watershed planning issues 8. Labor supply and management 9. Land values study 10. Land use regulation
State issues of importance to agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right to Farm Municipal down-zoning Farmland preservation funding Wildlife Management Farmland Assessment Farm Viability Cook College of Agriculture Funding
Federal Issues of importance to Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taxes (Estate taxes; Capital Gains tax) Labor/Immigration issues Country-of-Origin-Labeling Pesticide Regulations Water Quality Legislation International Trade Issues Renewable Energy (Ethanol, Biodiesel)
Total NJ population	8,414,350
Total NJ acreage	4.75-million acres (7,504.8 square miles)
NJ acreage devoted to agriculture	805,682 acres (17% NJ acreage is in agricultural land)
Number of farms in NJ	9,924 farms; 54 farms are devoted to organic production (USDA update 8/04)
Average acreage per farm	81 acres
Prevalent farm size	10-49 acres
Prevalent type of farm operation	8,578, 86.4% are family or individually owned
Estimated total market value of NJ farms	\$7,358,731,000
Average per-farm market value	\$741,808 (averaging the smallest farms of 1-9 acres with the largest of 2,000 or more acres)
Average per-acre market value	\$9,245 (the second highest per-acre value in the country—Connecticut is first)
Farms in Farm Preservation Program	As of January, 2005: 1,223 farms covering 133,179 acres permanently preserved

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2003 Cash receipts from agricultural commodities

\$845,886,000 (figures released August 2004)
figures include crops and livestock

Top New Jersey Crops According to cash receipts

1. greenhouse/nursery	\$367,898,000	
2. equine	\$117,000,000	
2. blueberries	\$45,690,000	2 nd highest output in the nation
3. tomatoes	\$27,962,000	
4. peppers	\$25,578,000	3 rd highest output in the nation
5. peaches	\$24,180,000	4 th highest output in the nation
6. cranberries	\$15,120,000	3 rd highest output in the nation

Top Five NJ counties ranked by agricultural sales

1. Cumberland, 13.5% of state's total receipts
2. Burlington, 12.6% of state's total receipts
3. Monmouth, 9.7% of state's total receipts
4. Salem, 9.7% of state's total receipts
5. Gloucester, 9.6% of state's total receipts

New Jersey State farm-related organizations

New Jersey Department of Agriculture. www.state.nj.us/agriculture
NJDA "Jersey Fresh" www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov
New Jersey Agricultural Society www.state.nj.us/agriculture/agsociety
New Jersey Agricultural Extension Station,
Rutgers Cooperative Extension www.rce.rutgers.edu
New Jersey 4-H www.nj4h.rutgers.edu

County Farm Organizations

Every New Jersey county has a County Board of Agriculture.

Agricultural Schools,

Universities: Cook College at Rutgers University
Secondary/Vocational schools: 35 New Jersey schools have agricultural education, the largest are Northern Burlington Regional HS, Allentown HS, Penns Grove HS, Phillipsburg HS

Farm-related public events

20 agricultural and 4-H fairs throughout summer months, in counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, Warren. See www.njagfairs.com

Harvest festivals celebrating New Jersey produce, including wines, blueberries, cranberries, peaches, pumpkins. See "Jersey Fresh" website, www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov

Community Farmers markets

69 community farmers' markets throughout the state. See Jersey Fresh website, www.jerseyfresh.nj.gov

Educational/historic farms open to visitors

Moses D. Heath Farm Exhibit, Middletown (732-671-0566)
Howell Living History Farm, Titusville, 609-737-3299. www.howellfarm.org
DeWolf's-U-Pick Farms, New Egypt 609-758-8514 www.dewolfs-u-pick.com
Emery's Blueberry Farms, New Egypt, 609-758-8514, www.netpie.com
Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, Morristown, 973-326-7645, www.morrispark.net
Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, 732-946-3758, www.monmouthcountyparks.com
Moses D. Heath Farm Exhibit, Middletown, 732-671-0566,
NJ Museum of Agriculture, North Brunswick, 732-249-.2077, www.agriculturemuseum.org
Atlantic Farms, Wall Township, 732-528-8680,
Whitesbog Village, Browns Mills, 609-893-4646, www.whitesbog.org
Lee Turkey Farm, Eastampton, 609-448-0629, www.leeturkeyfarms.com



NJFB Officers

President Richard Nieuwenhuis	First Vice President Thomas Everett
Second Vice President Tom Byrne	Treasurer Steven Jany
Secretary Debbie Costello	Executive Director Peter J. Furey

NJFB Board of Directors & Alternates

COUNTY	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE
Atlantic	August Wuillermin	David O. Wuillermin
Bergen	James Abma	Darryl Secor
Burlington	Fred Wainwright	Roger Kumple
Camden	VACANT	VACANT
Cape May	W. Scott Mauger	Allen D. Carter, Jr.
Cumberland	Donald Blew	Chris Ruske
Essex	Glen VanOlden	
Gloucester	Al Dolinski	Steve Smith
Hunterdon	Irvin Hockenbury	John Y. Rinehart
Mercer	Scott Ellis	William Perrine
Middlesex	Jim Giamarese	Jim Etsch

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Monmouth	Martin Bullock	Tom Freiburger
Morris	Daniel Farrand	Kurt Alstede
Ocean	Jeff Adams	James Harry
Passaic	Todd Kuehm	Carl Quazza
Salem	Rob Ferber	Rich Melchert
Somerset	Ryck Suydam	William Randolph
Sussex	Carla Kostelnik	Jane Brodhecker
Union	John Dreyer	Robert Amberg
Warren	Robert Frey	Sam Race
Women's Comittee	Beth Pool	Joy Ricker

New Jersey Farm Bureau Staff

Sharon Besack	Ben Casella
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