

# Agricultural Review

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**A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, internet, telephone, or personal interviews.**

**In This Issue:** **Tobacco:** Acreage, Yield, and Production  
**Milk:** Monthly Production and Monthly Price  
**Farm Labor:** Hired Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates  
**Production Expenses:** Regional Average and US Total

**Fruit:** Apples, Pears, Wild Blueberries, and Cranberries  
**Livestock:** Cattle, Chickens and Eggs, and Turkeys  
**Cash Rents:** Cropland and Pasture  
**Land Value:** Farmland and Buildings, Cropland, and Pasture

## TOBACCO

The August 1, 2008 tobacco forecast placed broadleaf production at 4.3 million pounds in Connecticut and Massachusetts, down 20 percent compared to last year. Although June and July saw warmer temperatures, wet weather continued causing shorter plants with uneven growth in Connecticut. Devastating hail, high winds, and heavy rain in Massachusetts caused significant damage as harvest was just ready to begin. Several growers in the state experienced total losses and were harrowing up fields, while others were trying to salvage what was

still marketable. Broadleaf yields were expected to average 1,606 pounds per acre in the two states according to early assessments. As of August 1, producers intend to harvest 1.66 million pounds of shade tobacco in Connecticut and Massachusetts, 4 percent below a year earlier due to fewer acres planted and lower yields. Shade producers expect 2008 yields to average close to 2007 at 1,394 pounds per acre. As of late-July, crop specialists rated the condition of both tobacco crops as good to fair.

### TOBACCO: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2007 – 2008

Crop and State	Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1
	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds	
<b>Tobacco</b>						
<b>Broadleaf (Type 51):</b>						
Connecticut	1,900	1,900	1,830	1,650	3,477	3,135
Massachusetts	1,100	800	1,750	1,500	1,925	1,200
<b>CT and MA Total</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>4,335</b>
<b>Shade (Type 61):</b>						
Connecticut	1,000	1,000	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450
Massachusetts	220	190	1,300	1,100	286	209
<b>CT and MA Total</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>1,736</b>	<b>1,659</b>
<b>UNITED STATES (All Cigar Types)</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>5,890</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>11,278</b>	<b>10,694</b>

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m. August 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service USDA.

## TREE FRUIT

**APPLES:** New England's 2008 apple crop is expected to total 4.1 million bushels (42-pound units), two percent below the 2007 total. Growing conditions for the 2008 apple crop have been less than favorable throughout most of New England. Cool, wet conditions in April led to poor pollination and increased instances of scab. According to crop weather reporters, full bloom was complete in early to mid-May, slightly ahead of normal. However, May's cool, windy weather brought the season back to normal. June and July provided warmer weather, but much of New England was plagued by prolonged thunderstorms, leading to severe hail damage in four of the six

New England states. New Hampshire and Vermont were the only two states to show an increase in harvested production over last year. New England fruit set was reported moderate and fruit size was medium. The crop was rated in good to fair condition as of August 10, 2008.

**PEARS:** Connecticut's 2008 production is expected to total 900 tons, a 10 percent decrease from last year's crop. Fruit drop was reported as light, fruit set was light to moderate, and fruit size was medium. The crop was rated in good to fair condition as of August 10, 2008.

APPLES: Total Production, 2006 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1	2008 as Percent of 2007
	Million Pounds			1,000 Bushels <sup>2</sup>			Percent
Connecticut	17.5	23.0	20.0	417	548	476	87
Maine	23.5	40.0	37.0	560	952	881	93
Massachusetts	32.0	38.5	38.0	762	917	905	99
New Hampshire	28.5	34.5	35.5	679	821	845	103
Rhode Island	2.0	2.6	2.4	48	62	57	92
Vermont	36.0	38.0	40.5	857	905	964	107
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	139.5	176.6	173.4	3,321	4,205	4,129	98
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	9,871.7	9,113.9	9,165.2	235,041	216,998	218,219	101

<sup>1</sup> Apple production from commercial orchards with 100 or more trees.

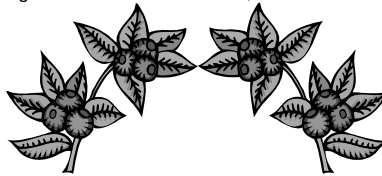
<sup>2</sup> Bushels are calculated using a 42-lb. bushel equivalent.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., August 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## PEARS: Total Production, 2006 – 2008

State	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of August 1	2008 as Percent of 2007
	Tons			Percent
Connecticut	1,000	1,000	900	90
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	842,035	872,950	821,750	94

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., August 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



## WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2008 wild blueberry (lowbush) crop is expected to total 75.0 million pounds, based on data reported by growers in mid-July. If realized, this forecast places expected production three percent below last year's output of 77.3 million pounds, and 11 percent above the five year average of 67.7 million pounds.

Maine's wild blueberry growers reported minimal winter damage due to the large amount of snow coverage this winter. A few growers reported finding traces of mummyberry and red leaf diseases in their fields and insect damage has been

minimal. Weather conditions for the most part were good for pollination although some growers reported fog and cool conditions at the end of May. The majority of growers who completed the survey indicated this year's bloom was slightly above average with an average set. Dry conditions in early July hindered the crop's full potential, with lack of rain the main concern of growers. Berry size was rated as small to medium. Rain arrived later in the month which helped to increase berry size. The 2008 harvest was getting underway by the end of July.

## MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1999 – 2008

Year	Total Production	All Price Per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1999	66,102	0.513	33,889	300	1.100	330	65,802	0.510	33,559
2000	110,990	0.403	44,732	420	1.200	504	110,570	0.400	44,228
2001	75,200	0.305	22,945	350	1.400	490	74,850	0.300	22,455
2002	62,400	0.286	17,860	400	1.250	500	62,000	0.280	17,360
2003	80,400	0.334	26,880	400	1.200	480	80,000	0.330	26,400
2004	46,000	0.456	20,970	300	1.350	405	45,700	0.450	20,565
2005	60,150	0.656	39,430	350	1.600	560	59,800	0.650	38,870
2006	74,600	0.805	60,040	400	1.700	680	74,200	0.800	59,360
2007	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008 <sup>1</sup>	75,000								

<sup>1</sup> Current production forecast is based on growers' assessments as of mid-July.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2007 Summary*, 3:00 pm July 8, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## CRANBERRIES

The **Massachusetts** cranberry forecast is 1.90 million barrels, up 25 percent from 2007 and slightly above 2006. This is the highest production level since 1999. Fewer bogs experienced winter kill. While growers were apprehensive that the extended hot weather in early summer would reduce production, rains in late July and early August dispelled much of those concerns. Growers increased bog renovations this year, thereby tempering the production increase.

The **United States** forecast for the 2008 cranberry crop is 6.89 million barrels, up five percent from 2007 and slightly below 2006. If realized, this will be the second largest production on record. Production is expected to be up in Massachusetts and Wisconsin but down in New Jersey, Oregon and Washington.

## CRANBERRIES: Total Production, 2006 – 2007 and Forecasted 2008

State	2006	2007	2008 Forecast <sup>1</sup>
		Barrels <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>1,896,000</b>	<b>1,522,000</b>	1,900,000
New Jersey	485,000	531,000	500,000
Oregon	465,000	495,000	490,000
Washington	114,000	176,000	145,000
Wisconsin	3,940,000	3,830,000	3,850,000
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>6,900,000</b>	<b>6,554,000</b>	<b>6,885,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Current year production is forecast as of August 1<sup>st</sup> assuming normal conditions for the remainder of the growing season.

<sup>2</sup> Standard weight used for one barrel of cranberries is 100 pounds.

SOURCE: *Cranberries*, 1:00 p.m., August 19, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MILK

Milk production in Vermont totaled 222 million pounds in July 2008, an increase of three percent from July 2007. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms, unchanged from the previous month, but an increase of 1,000 head from the same month of the previous year. Milk Production per cow averaged 1,585 pounds, an increase of 30 pounds per cow from July 2007.

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from July 2007. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,742 pounds for July, unchanged from July 2007. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 143,000 head more than July 2007, and 5,000 head more than June 2008.

## MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, July 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow			Production		
	July 2007	Jun 2008	July 2008	July 2007	Jun 2008	July 2008	July 2007	Jun 2008	July 2008
		1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds	
Vermont	139	140	140	1,555	1,565	1,585	216	219	222
New York	626	626	626	1,650	1,680	1,690	1,033	1,052	1,058
Pennsylvania	550	546	546	1,610	1,630	1,630	886	890	890
<b>UNITED STATES<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>8,322</b>	<b>8,460</b>	<b>8,465</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1,735</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>14,678</b>	<b>14,750</b>

<sup>1</sup> Average number for month, includes dry cows.

<sup>2</sup> UNITED STATES includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., August 18, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: 2003 – 2008 Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold <sup>1</sup>

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
							Price per Cwt						
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004	14.00	14.40	16.20	17.80	20.10	19.80	17.60	15.50	16.30	16.60	17.00	17.20	16.90
2005	16.90	16.00	16.60	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50	16.10	15.50	16.00
2006	15.30	14.60	13.80	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.90	13.60	14.50	14.70	14.80	13.70
2007	15.70	15.90	16.80	17.70	19.20	21.20	23.20	23.50	23.80	23.30	23.80	23.30	20.60
2008 <sup>2</sup>	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.50						

<sup>1</sup> Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

<sup>2</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., July 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's **National Agricultural Statistics Service**. This office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov).

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## MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, June 2008 with Comparisons

Product	June 2007 <sup>1</sup>	May 2008 <sup>1</sup>	June 2008	June 2008 as a percent of:	
				June 2007	May 2008
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,637	1,692	1,689	103	100
American type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	5,371	7,229	5,771	107	80
Mozzarella Cheese	3,407	4,053	3,599	106	89
Other Italian Cheese <sup>3</sup>	580	249	230	40	92
Cottage Cheese <sup>4</sup>	592	679	474	80	70
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	6,529	7,066	6,841	105	97
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,298	1,628	666	51	41
Milk Sherbet, Hard	141	262	143	101	55

<sup>1</sup> Revised.<sup>2</sup> American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.<sup>3</sup> Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.<sup>4</sup> Creamed and low fat.SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., August 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDACATTLE AND CALVES: Number by Class and Calf Crop, United States, July 1, 2006 – 2008<sup>1</sup>

Class	2006	2007	2008	2008 as a Percent of 2007
	1,000 Head			Percent
Cattle and Calves	105,200	104,800	104,300	100
Cows And Heifers That Have Calved	42,600	42,500	42,400	100
Beef Cows	33,450	33,350	33,150	99
Milk Cows	9,150	9,150	9,250	101
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	16,600	16,600	16,500	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,000	4,700	4,600	98
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,800	3,900	3,900	100
Other Heifers	7,800	8,000	8,000	100
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	15,000	14,900	14,700	99
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,100	2,100	2,100	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	28,900	28,700	28,600	100
Calf Crop	37,519	37,361	37,250	100
Cattle on Feed	12,500	12,300	11,700	95

<sup>1</sup> New England July Cattle and Calf data is combined into the US total and is not released by individual New England states.SOURCE: *Cattle*, 3:00 p.m., July 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## LAYERS AND EGG PRODUCTION

July 2008 inventories for Connecticut and Maine totaled 6.6 million layers, up one percent from their combined total in July 2007. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, accounting for a total of 84 million eggs from all layers in July 2008. Connecticut contributed 66 million eggs during the month of July, making it the second largest egg producer in the six-state region.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.60 billion during July 2008, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.49 billion table eggs, and 1.12 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.05 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during July 2008 averaged 336 million, down 1 percent from last year. July egg production per 100 layers was 2,262 eggs, up 1 percent from July 2007.

## MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, July 2007 – 2008

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Egg Production from All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	July 2007	July 2008	July 2007	July 2008	July 2007	July 2008	July 2007	July 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,646	2,632	2,702	2,691	2,443	2,453	66	66
Maine	3,742	3,801	3,807	3,873	2,285	2,169	87	84
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>275,353</b>	<b>272,470</b>	<b>340,035</b>	<b>336,101</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>2,262</b>	<b>7,599</b>	<b>7,601</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., August 22, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## TURKEYS

Massachusetts and Vermont turkey growers expect to raise 109,000 birds in 2008, an increase of 3,000 birds from the total number raised in 2007. The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the **United States** during 2008 is 271 million, down

fractionally from the previous year. Seven states (Minnesota, North Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, Missouri, Indiana and California) are expected to account for 71 percent of the turkeys produced in 2008.

TURKEYS: Number Raised, 2006 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	All Turkeys			2008 as Percent of 2007
	2006	2007	2008 <sup>2</sup>	
		1,000 Birds		Percent
Massachusetts	62	55	58	105
Vermont	55	51	51	100
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	262,460	271,685	271,084	100

<sup>1</sup> Excludes young turkeys lost.

<sup>2</sup> Current year forecast as of August 2008.

SOURCE: *Turkeys Raised*, 3:00 p.m., August 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



## FARM LABOR

During the survey week of July 6-12, 2008, there were 37,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast, a five percent decrease from one year ago when there were 39,000 hired workers. There were 828,000 hired workers on the nation's farms during the survey week in July 2008, down two percent from July 2007.

Across the United States, hired workers were paid an average of \$10.34 per hour during the survey week and worked an average of 40.5 hours. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the Northeast region consist of the six New England states and New York.

Quarterly Farm Labor: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week  
Northeast I and United States, July 2008 with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>

Region	Hired Workers on Farms			Hours Worked During the Week		
	July 8 –14, 2007	April 6 – 12, 2008	July 6 –12, 2008	July 8 –14, 2007	April 6 – 12, 2008	July 6 –12, 2008
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
NORTHEAST I <sup>2</sup>	39	36	37	41.6	43.2	38.0
<b>UNITED STATES</b> <sup>3</sup>	843	700	828	41.4	40.8 <sup>4</sup>	40.5

<sup>1</sup> Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers. Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

<sup>2</sup> Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>3</sup> United States excludes Alaska.

<sup>4</sup> Revised.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., August 15, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Quarterly Farm Labor: Wage Rates for Hired Workers,  
Northeast I and United States, July 2008 with Comparisons <sup>1</sup>

Northeast I <sup>2</sup>	July 8 –14, 2007	April 6 – 12, 2008	July 6 –12, 2008	United States <sup>3</sup>	July 8 –14, 2007	April 6 – 12, 2008	July 6 –12, 2008
	Dollars Per Hour			Dollars Per Hour			
<b>All Hired Workers</b> <sup>4</sup>	10.00	11.00	10.50	<b>All Hired Workers</b> <sup>4</sup>	9.99	10.57 <sup>5</sup>	10.34
Field	9.58	10.19	9.68	Field	9.24	9.65	9.66
Livestock	9.37	9.97	9.89	Livestock	9.73	10.24 <sup>5</sup>	9.98
Field and Livestock	9.51	10.10	9.75	Field and Livestock	9.37	9.48 <sup>5</sup>	9.74

<sup>1</sup> Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2</sup> Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

<sup>3</sup> United States excludes Alaska.

<sup>4</sup> Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

<sup>5</sup> Revised.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., August 15, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**CROPLAND RENTED FOR CASH: Average Cash Rent Per Acre, 2004 – 2008**

Region <sup>1</sup>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Dollars per Acre				
Northeast	44.50	46.00	47.00	48.00	51.00
Lake States	76.20	78.00	80.00	85.00	98.00
Corn Belt	114.00	117.00	119.00	126.00	140.00
Northern Plains	50.00	53.00	53.50	58.00	64.00
Appalachian	55.00	58.00	56.00	58.00	58.00
Southeast	44.50	48.00	48.00	50.00	57.00
Delta States	68.50	70.50	69.50	72.50	88.00
Southern Plains	30.50	30.50	29.00	29.50	34.00
Mountain	62.50	62.00	65.00	78.00	86.00
Pacific	180.00	185.00	192.00	210.00	230.00
<b>UNITED STATES <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>76.50</b>	<b>78.00</b>	<b>79.50</b>	<b>85.00</b>	<b>96.00</b>

<sup>1</sup> Regions:**Northeast:** CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT**Lake States:** MI, MN, and WI**Corn Belt:** IL, IN, IA, MO, and OH**Northern Plains:** KS, NE, ND, and SD**Appalachian:** KY, NC, TN, VA, and WV**Southeast:** AL, FL, GA, and SC**Delta States:** AR, LA, and MS**Southern Plains:** OK and TX**Mountain:** AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY**Pacific:** CA, OR, and WA<sup>2</sup> Excludes Alaska and HawaiiSOURCE: *Land Values and Cash Rents – 2008 Summary*, 3:00 p.m., August 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**PASTURE RENTED FOR CASH: Average Cash Rent Per Acre, 2004 – 2008**

Region <sup>1</sup>	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Dollars per Acre				
Northeast	24.00	24.00	26.00	31.00	31.50
Lake States	24.50	26.90	28.00	30.00	33.00
Corn Belt	29.00	30.50	31.00	31.50	36.00
Northern Plains	11.80	12.00	12.50	14.00	14.00
Appalachian	19.10	21.00	22.00	22.30	23.00
Southeast	19.10	19.00	20.00	22.30	22.00
Delta States	16.60	17.00	17.50	19.50	28.00
Southern Plains	8.10	8.40	8.20	8.80	9.10
Mountain	3.60	3.80	4.00	6.20	6.50
Pacific	13.50	13.50	14.50	17.30	18.00
<b>UNITED STATES <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>10.30</b>	<b>10.80</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>13.00</b>

<sup>1</sup> Regions:**Northeast:** CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT**Lake States:** MI, MN, and WI**Corn Belt:** IL, IN, IA, MO, and OH**Northern Plains:** KS, NE, ND, and SD**Appalachian:** KY, NC, TN, VA, and WV**Southeast:** AL, FL, GA, and SC**Delta States:** AR, LA, and MS**Southern Plains:** OK and TX**Mountain:** AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY**Pacific:** CA, OR, and WA<sup>2</sup> Excludes Alaska and HawaiiSOURCE: *Land Values and Cash Rents – 2008 Summary*, 3:00 p.m., August 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES**

**United States** farm production expenditures totaled \$235 billion in 2006, up 5.4 percent from the revised 2005 total of \$223 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were Livestock and Poultry Purchases, up 17 percent; Taxes, up 13 percent; Interest, up 10 percent; Feed, up 8.9 percent; and Fuels, up 7.9 percent. The rise in production expenditures was spread more evenly across line-item expenditures this year than in previous years.

Trucks and Autos, Tractors and Self-propelled Machinery, and Other Farm Machinery were down 15 percent, 14 percent, and 7.3 percent, respectively. The drop in Capital Expenditures is likely due to up-to-date on-farm machinery inventories on farms and localized areas of drought.

The difference in Total Expenditures for Crop and Livestock farms has narrowed over the past few years. In 2006, they are almost equal, with crop farms at \$117.9 billion and livestock farms at \$117.1 billion. The average expenditure for a Crop farm was

\$128,944 compared with \$100,150 per Livestock farm. The largest expenditures for Crop farms were Farm Services at \$17.2 billion and Labor at \$17.0 billion, accounting for 29 percent of their total expenses. The largest expenditures for Livestock farms were Feed, at \$29.2 billion, and Livestock and Poultry Purchases, at \$23.3 billion. These two expenditures accounted for 45 percent of their total expenses.

Total Fuels Expense, at \$10.9 billion dollars, was up 7.9 percent in 2006. Diesel, the largest sub-component, was \$6.53 billion (60 percent) of the Fuels Expense. Gas was \$2.34 billion (21 percent). LP Gas was \$1.26 billion (12 percent). Other Fuels was \$780 million (7.2 percent).

The Atlantic farm production region (New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia) contributed \$30.2 billion to the total 2006 U.S. Farm Production Expenditures

**ANNUAL FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES: Farms Reporting, Average per Farm and Total  
Atlantic <sup>1</sup> and United States, <sup>2</sup> 2006 – 2007**

Expenditure	Farms Reporting <sup>3</sup>		Average per Farm <sup>4</sup>		Total Expenditures	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
<b>ATLANTIC</b>	Percent		Dollars		Million Dollars	
<b>Total Farm Production Expenditures <sup>5</sup></b>	100.0	100.0	72,375	76,535	30,850	32,340
Livestock, Poultry and Related Expenses <sup>6</sup>	28.0	23.4	6,428	5,798	2,740	2,450
Feed	65.5	67.2	12,364	15,146	5,270	6,400
Farm Services <sup>7</sup>	94.9	95.3	9,079	9,585	3,870	4,050
Rent <sup>8</sup>	24.8	20.8	2,229	2,343	950	990
Agricultural Chemicals <sup>9</sup>	36.2	37.7	1,947	2,201	830	930
Fertilizer, Lime and Soil Conditioners <sup>9</sup>	54.7	53.5	3,284	3,550	1,400	1,500
Interest	31.4	32.8	2,956	3,384	1,260	1,430
Taxes (Real Estate and Property)	100.0	100.0	3,191	3,503	1,360	1,480
Labor	29.3	29.3	8,493	8,212	3,620	3,470
Fuels	87.5	86.8	3,425	3,739	1,460	1,580
Farm Supplies and Repairs <sup>10</sup>	83.9	86.3	4,716	5,064	2,010	2,140
Farm Improvements and Construction <sup>11</sup>	62.2	58.3	6,076	6,106	2,590	2,580
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	17.4	18.1	2,393	2,367	1,020	1,000
Other Farm Machinery	20.1	21.7	1,361	1,349	580	570
Seeds and Plants <sup>12</sup>	40.0	40.0	2,909	2,911	1,240	1,230
Trucks and Autos	16.8	14.7	1,478	1,160	630	490
Miscellaneous Capital Expenses <sup>13 14</sup>	2.8	7.5	47	118	20	50
<b>UNITED STATES</b>						
<b>Total Farm Production Expenditures <sup>5</sup></b>	100.0	100.0	114,186	125,648	237,810	260,010
Livestock, Poultry and Related Expenses <sup>6</sup>	28.4	25.0	12,532	12,903	26,100	26,700
Feed	62.2	60.7	15,077	18,412	31,400	38,100
Farm Services <sup>7</sup>	94.6	93.5	15,365	16,575	32,000	34,300
Rent <sup>8</sup>	30.7	29.4	8,787	8,988	18,300	18,600
Agricultural Chemicals <sup>9</sup>	47.4	46.7	4,321	4,832	9,000	10,000
Fertilizer, Lime and Soil Conditioners <sup>9</sup>	55.8	52.4	6,386	8,070	13,300	16,700
Interest	40.5	38.3	5,138	5,557	10,700	11,500
Taxes (Real Estate and Property)	99.8	99.7	4,321	4,736	9,000	9,800
Labor	31.5	32.1	11,764	12,564	24,500	26,000
Fuels	83.8	80.7	5,330	6,137	11,100	12,700
Farm Supplies and Repairs <sup>10</sup>	82.8	79.9	6,434	6,910	13,400	14,300
Farm Improvements and Construction <sup>11</sup>	57.1	53.8	6,098	6,330	12,700	13,100
Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery	19.9	22.4	3,505	3,914	7,300	8,100
Other Farm Machinery	23.9	23.8	1,873	1,933	3,900	4,000
Seeds and Plants <sup>12</sup>	43.4	40.1	5,282	5,751	11,000	11,900
Trucks and Autos	20.8	21.9	1,873	1,933	3,900	4,000
Miscellaneous Capital Expenses <sup>13 14</sup>	11.0	14.9	101	101	210	210

<sup>1</sup> Consists of Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont and West Virginia.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

<sup>3</sup> Number of farms reporting item divided by total number of farms.

<sup>4</sup> Total expenditures divided by total number of farms. Items may not sum to total due to rounding.

<sup>5</sup> Includes landlord and contractor share of farm production expenses. May not add due to rounding.

<sup>6</sup> Includes purchases and leasing of livestock and poultry. Edit procedures have been upgraded over the last years to better identify cattle farm records where not all livestock are owned. These "custom feeding" operations are now correctly recorded as production contracts, resulting in increased livestock purchases for contractors.

<sup>7</sup> Includes all crop custom work, veterinary custom services, transportation costs, marketing charges, insurance, leasing of machinery and equipment, general, and miscellaneous business expenses and utilities.

<sup>8</sup> Includes public and private grazing fees.

<sup>9</sup> Includes material and application costs.

<sup>10</sup> Includes bedding and litter, marketing containers, power farm shop equipment, miscellaneous non-capital equipment and supplies, repairs and maintenance of livestock and poultry equipment and capital equipment for livestock and poultry

<sup>11</sup> Includes all expenditures related to new construction or repairs of building, fences, operator dwelling (if dwelling is owned by operation), and any improvements to physical structures of land.

<sup>12</sup> Excludes bedding plants, nursery stock, and seed purchased for resale. Includes seed treatment.

<sup>13</sup> A zero in this line-item denotes less than 5 million dollars. Average value derived from expenditure rounding to zero will also be zero.

<sup>14</sup> Miscellaneous Capital Expense is shown in the tables for the first time. To properly summarize Miscellaneous Expenses and Miscellaneous Capital Expenses, Miscellaneous Expenses were combined with General Business Expenses which is summarized as a part of Farm Services. 2005 estimates were adjusted to reflect this change.

SOURCE: *Farm Production Expenditures – 2007 Summary*, 3:00 p.m., August 7, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUE

Farm real estate values, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$4,854 per acre on January 1, 2008 in New England. Although the region's average value increased one percent from a year ago, four of the six states showed lower values in 2008 than in 2007. Increased values in Massachusetts and Vermont offset declines in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Real estate values ranged from a high of \$12,200 per acre in the highly populated state of Massachusetts to \$2,100 per acre in the more rural state of Maine. New England's cropland values rose two percent above a year earlier to \$7,410 per acre.

Pasture land averaged \$6,490 per acre in a regional comparison which included Delaware, an increase of two percent from the 2007.

United States farm real estate values averaged \$2,350 per acre on January 1, 2008, up 8.8 percent from 2007. The \$2,350 per acre is a record high and \$190 more than a year earlier. Both cropland and pasture values for 2008 are record highs. Cropland values rose by 10 percent to \$2,970 per acre, up from the previous high of \$2,690 in 2007. Pasture value rose by 6 percent to \$1,230 per acre.

## FARM REAL ESTATE: Average Value per Acre, January 1, 2006 – 2008

State	Average Value per Acre of Farmland and Buildings as of January 1			Average Value per Acre of Cropland as of January 1			Average Value per Acre of Pasture as of January 1		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	Dollars per Acre								
Connecticut	11,400	11,700	11,500	*	*	*	*	*	*
Maine	2,050	2,150	2,100	*	*	*	*	*	*
Massachusetts	11,600	11,800	12,200	*	*	*	*	*	*
New Hampshire	3,700	4,000	3,900	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rhode Island	12,500	12,500	12,000	*	*	*	*	*	*
Vermont	2,450	2,700	2,850	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	4,606	4,815	4,854	7,070	7,260	7,410	4,960 <sup>2</sup>	6,380 <sup>2</sup>	6,490 <sup>2</sup>
<b>UNITED STATES</b> <sup>1</sup>	1,900	2,160	2,350	2,390	2,690	2,970	1,000	1,160	1,230

<sup>1</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

<sup>2</sup> Pasture value includes New England States and Delaware combined.

\* Data for individual states not available.

SOURCE: *Land Values and Cash Rents – 2008 Summary*, 3:00 p.m., August 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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