



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
New England Field Office



August 24, 2007

TO: New England Grower Associations, Farm Editors, Broadcasters, and Others  
SUBJECT: Upcoming USDA Surveys

USDA will be conducting nationwide studies of the agricultural community during the next few months. Details of these surveys are enclosed, and a schedule follows:

Survey Name	Sample Size (approx)	Data Collection Period	Publication Date
End-of-season Fruit and Vegetable Survey	2,500	Oct. 2 – Nov. 30, 2007	March, 2008

We depend on the voluntary cooperation of farmers, and other agricultural producers. Although some may feel that their operation is too small to be included in this survey, operations of all sizes (both full and part-time) are included to get an accurate picture of New England agriculture.

**Please help us let New England agricultural operators know about the importance of this upcoming survey in your meetings, publications, or broadcasts.** A good response will ensure that New England is fully and properly represented in the official USDA statistics of American agriculture. I have enclosed a press release that you are invited to use. For further information, contact Travis Averill or give me a call at 1-800-642-9571.

Gary R. Keough  
Director

Enclosure

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# News Release

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**August 24, 2007 - For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Travis Averill (800)642-9571**

## USDA MEASURES FRUIT and VEGETABLE CROPS

[Concord, New Hampshire] The New England Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is poised to continue the study of fresh market fruit and vegetable prices and yields. Throughout October and November, over 2,500 fruit and vegetable growers in New England will be contacted by phone for their assistance in this region wide effort. "The information from this survey probably directly impacts New England fruit and vegetable growers more than any other survey we do," said Gary Keough, director of the New England Field Office of NASS. "USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) relies on the average yields and prices to administer farm programs. The results are extremely valuable for growers to assist in making marketing decisions, for Cooperative Extension to provide needed outreach and education, and for State Departments of Agriculture to aid growers."

NASS will ask growers in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont to provide yield and price information on tree fruits, berries, melons, and over 25 different fresh market vegetables. Connecticut growers will be contacted for apple, peach, pear, and sweet corn data only. As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified. National fruit and vegetable statistics for the 2007 crop will be available in January 2008 on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) within minutes of the scheduled release time. Exact publication dates and times will be available in October 2007. The ***New England Fruits and Vegetables 2007 Crop*** publication will be available in March 2008 on the Internet at [www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh) with yield and price estimates for 35 commodities.