2016 SEASON VEGETABLE HIGHLIGHTS

Many significant changes were made to the vegetable estimating program beginning in 2016. Based on these changes, vegetables now estimate both fresh and processing utilization. Estimates for 2014 and 2015 were not adjusted to meet new program definitions. Also, cantaloupe estimates for Florida were added for 2016. Since 2012, estimates are based on a calendar year basis.

Value

The 2016 value of production for the published major berries, spring potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled \$1.72 billion, up 14 percent from the comparable 2015 value of \$1.50 billion. The ranking from the highest to lowest value of the berry, spring potato, vegetables, and watermelon crops are: (1) strawberries, (2) tomatoes, (3) bell peppers, (4) sweet corn, (5) watermelons, (6) cucumbers, (7) snap beans, (8) spring potatoes, (9) blueberries, (10) cabbage, (11) squash, and (12) cantaloupe. The crops that increased in percentage and value were cucumbers (+144%), strawberries (+55%), cabbage (+46%), snap beans (+42%), watermelons (+40%), squash (+9%), and sweet corn (+3%). Crops that decreased in value and percentage included bell peppers (-5%), tomatoes (-16%), spring potatoes (-20%), and blueberries (-35%).

Acreage

The harvested acreage for 2016 for the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 198,600 acres, down four percent from the 205,900 comparable acres harvested the previous year. Crops with increased acreage and percentages included cucumbers (105%), bell peppers (6%), and watermelons (6%). Crops with less acreage and percentage decreased included snap beans (-1%), squash (-2%), strawberries (-2%), cabbage (-4%), sweet corn (-7%), tomatoes (-13%), blueberries (-15%), and spring potatoes (-23%).

Production

Production in 2016 of the published major berries, potatoes, vegetable crops, and watermelons totaled 40.2 million hundredweight, down from the 41.8 comparable million hundredweight the prior calendar year. Crops with increased percentage and production were cucumbers (+128%), watermelons (+30%), snap beans (+21%), and squash (+11%). Commodities with percentage decreases and less production were cabbage (-1%), sweet corn (-3%), strawberries (-10%), bell peppers (-13%), spring potatoes (-21%), tomatoes (-23%) and blueberries (-42%).

Weather for the 2016 growing season

In **January** 2016, Bradford County strawberries were harvested the first week of the month. Potato fields were planted in Flagler and Putnam counties. Cabbage and leafy greens were planted and harvested. South Florida vegetable growers planted spring crops and harvested a wide variety of vegetables including a variety of specialty items. High winds associated with heavy rainfall battered crops and caused lodging and damage to some vegetable fields in south Florida. Light volumes of vegetables came to market.

In **February**, squash and zucchini fields in Miami-Dade County bloomed in early February. Several days of heavy rains caused widespread flooding with many areas reporting flooding not seen since Hurricane Wilma and possibly even more. Heavy rains and cool weather in January impacted vegetable crops with yields and quality severely impacted resulting in little product market movement in south Florida. Potato planting activities continued in most areas as cabbage and leafy greens harvested were active in Flagler and Putnam counties. Some Dixie melon fields were planted in Dixie County. South Florida vegetable fields suffered from heavy rainfall the latter portion of the month which reduced volumes significantly in many instances along with increased disease pressure. Cool season vegetables were harvested in north Florida.

In **March**, spring potato planting finished in the Hastings area during the first week. Drier conditions reduced disease pressure in many areas. Watermelon planting activities continued in north Florida. Warm and dry conditions the third week favored vegetable crop growth in south Florida as market volume remained light. Wet weather conditions caused disease pressure on strawberries and small grains in the Florida Panhandle. Wind damage caused romaine planting losses in Palm Beach County.

In **April**, wet conditions presented challenges to strawberry disease prevention efforts in Okaloosa County. Potatoes in Flagler and Putnam counties generally appeared to be in good condition. Blueberry harvest was late in Charlotte County. Some growers reported significant amounts of maturing fruit blown off during storms the first week of April. Green beans and watermelon planting occurred in Dixie County and were complete in Walton County fields. Favorable weather conditions for harvest prevailed the third week although wet conditions in Okaloosa County presented some disease pressures in strawberry fields. Vegetable volume and quality increased during the third week as a variety of south Florida vegetables were delivered to market. Leafy greens and cabbage were harvested in north Florida. Blueberry, peach, and watermelon harvest was underway in Charlotte and Glades counties.

In **May**, spring potato harvest began in the Hastings area. Drier weather in Okaloosa County helped producers get a handle on strawberry diseases. Vegetable harvest activities were winding down in south Florida the first full week of May. Potato harvest in north Florida continued, but heat caused some decay issues. Growers cleaned up and fallowed fields in many central and south Florida locations. Early melon harvest started in north Florida the final full week of May. Peach and blueberry harvesting was nearly complete in south Florida. Some Martin County vegetable fields were replanted because of previous weeks flooding the final week.

In **June**, blueberries and cantaloupes were harvested in Dixie County. Watermelon harvest activities were occurring in north Florida. Summer rain patterns began in many areas resulting in excellent crops. Melons and beans were harvested in Dixie County with cucumbers, squash, and peppers harvested in Bradford County. Strawberries and potato harvest was close to completion during the second week of June in north Florida. Subtropical fruit was delivered to market in south Florida. Watermelon harvest finished in Levy and Dixie counties the final week. Squash and tomatoes were harvested in Jackson County.

In **July**, rainfall and high heat limited vegetable growth in Broward County where insect pressure was reported. South Florida counties pumped water off fallow fields in order to begin fall crop land preparation. Lychee harvest began in Palm Beach County. Hot and dry weather required additional irrigation in many areas the second week of July. Late melons and vegetables were harvested in Jackson County as melon harvest finished in Levy County. Ground preparation for fall crops continued in south Florida despite high temperatures and widespread rain the third week of July. Mango season was complete in Miami-Dade County at the end of the July.

In **August**, land preparation the first week set favorable conditions for south Florida vegetable plantings during the second week. Tomatoes were planted in Manatee County. South Florida subtropical fruits and vegetables were delivered to market. Some cold weather crops like broccoli, cabbage, and collards were planted in Bradford County the final week. Flagler County cabbage plantings were delayed due to wet soil.

In **September**, land preparation, laying plastic, and planting activities continued where conditions permitted. Disease issues in early plantings were spotted due to wet weather conditions. Sweet corn was planted in Orange County. Cabbage and leafy greens were planted in north Florida. Green beans were planted in Dixie County fields the final week. Green bean fields were harvested in Miami-Dade County.

In **October**, several counties along the Atlantic Coast, as well as in the southern and central portions reported flooding and damages to various fruit and vegetable crops. Wet conditions delayed leafy greens and cabbage plantings in north Florida due to Hurricane Matthew. Strawberries were planted in central Florida fields. Optimal growing and harvesting conditions prevailed during the third week in south Florida. Sweet corn harvest activities occurred in central Florida. Subtropical fruit and vegetables were delivered to market in south Florida.

In **November**, strawberry fields were planted in Hillsborough and Polk counties. Leafy greens and cabbage were planted in north Florida fields. Irrigation helped reduce crop stress from drought conditions experienced in many areas the final week. Cabbage and leafy greens planting activities continued in north Florida.

In **December**, Orange County pickling cucumbers, sweet corn, and cabbage fields were harvested. North Florida leafy greens, cabbage, and broccoli fields were planted and harvested in north Florida. Foggy mornings in several southern counties present some vegetable diseases pressures. Many crops were harvested for holiday market including avocado, bitter melon, boniato, eggplant, herbs, green beans, kale, malanga, peppers, squash, tomato, zucchini, and sweet corn. Spring watermelon fields were planted during the end of December.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Planted Acreage is the total acreage which has been planted for harvest during the crop year. Acreage lost and replanted to the same crop in time for harvest in the same quarter is counted only once. Acreage harvested and planted again to the same crop is counted twice.

Harvested Acreage is the acreage partially or completely harvested. Acreage lost before or at maturity through natural or economic causes is not included in the acreage for harvest.

Yield is the average production per harvested acre of merchantable quality harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Production is the quantity actually harvested and sold or utilized for human consumption.

Unit Value for fresh market sales is the equivalent price received, f.o.b. shipping point basis and encompasses all grades and sizes marketed or utilized. Included are packing charges, selling charges, precooling, top ice, or other costs which contribute to the value of the product at shipping point. The value per unit for quantities sold to processors is the average value paid for usable quantities, on a "delivered to plant door" basis. This value includes transportation and other normal costs incident to delivery at plant door.

Total Value is the equivalent value of production sold or utilized based on the unit value. Cullage and other quantities not sold or utilized because of natural or economic factors are excluded.

Other Counties include harvested acreage for all counties for which either published data would result in the disclosure of individual operations or acreage totals for specific commodities of minor importance in the State.

Production And Price Unit - The official USDA vegetable crop estimates are published on a weight basis. For this bulletin, the official estimates for most vegetable crops have been converted to hundredweight. If changes in container weights are necessary, all data pertaining to the production of the commodity in question are revised to maintain comparability between years. The table below gives the net weight used per container and the number of containers per hundredweight for Florida produce.

Florida Produce

[Most common unit, estimated net weight, and units per hundredweight, 2016 crop season]

Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt	Commodity	Unit	Estimated net weight	Number of units per cwt
		(pounds)				(pounds)	
Snap Beans	Bushel	30	3.333	Lettuce, Iceberg	Carton	50	2.000
Blueberries	Flat	11	9.090	Lettuce, Romaine	Carton	40	2.500
Cabbage	Crate	50	2.000	Lettuce, Leaf	Carton	25	4.000
Carrots	Sack	48	2.083	Okra	Bushel	30	3.333
Cauliflower	Carton	25	4.000	Parsley	Crate	21	4.762
Celery	Crate	60	1.667	Bell Pepper	Bushel	28	3.571
Chinese Cabbage	Crate	50	2.000	Potatoes	Sack	100	1.000
Sweet Corn	Crate	42	2.381	Radishes	Carton	15	6.667
Cucumbers	Bushel	55	1.818	Squash	Bushel	42	2.381
Eggplant	Bushel	33	3.030	Strawberries	Flat	12	8.333
Escarole	Crate	25	4.000	Sweet Potatoes	Crate	50	2.000
Lettuce, Bibb	Carton	10	10.000	Tomatoes	Carton	25	4.000
Lettuce, Boston	Carton	20	5.000	Watermelons	Cwt	100	1.000

CONFIDENTIALITY OF COLLECTED DATA

All information collected from individual agricultural producers is held strictly confidential. Data provided by individual producers or other agricultural firms are used only to compile and publish statistics at the county, State, and national levels. Statistics at the county and State level are not published if they will potentially disclose information about an individual or operation. In addition, all names and addresses obtained by this office are held confidential.



Vegetables, Watermelons, Potatoes, and Berries Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value – Florida: 2015 and 2016

[2015 data is fresh market only. The 2016 data includes fresh market and processing]

_	Planted	acreage	Harvestee	d acreage	Yield per acre		
Crop	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(cwt)	
Vegetables							
Beans, snap	29,500	28,200	27,500	27,300	45	55	
Cabbage	8,900	8,500	8,200	7,900	330	340	
Corn, sweet	41,500	37,600	36,900	34,500	140	145	
Cucumbers	11,000	24,300	10,600	21,700	160	178	
Peppers, bell	12,400	13,500	12,200	12,900	360	295	
Squash	6,000	6,000	5,900	5,800	100	115	
Tomatoes	33,000	30,000	32,200	28,000	295	260	
Total	142,300	148,100	133,500	138,100	(X)	(X)	
Blueberries	(X)	(X)	5,500	4,700	45	31	
Cantaloupe ¹	(NA)	2,400	(NA)	2,300	(NA)	270	
Potatoes, spring	30,000	25,000	29,600	22,900	230	235	
Potatoes, sweet	5,600	(D)	5,400	(D)	205	(D)	
Strawberries	11,000	10,800	10,900	10,700	225	205	
Watermelons	21,500	22,500	21,000	22,200	280	345	
Total, all crops	210,400	208,800	205,900	200,900	(X)	(X)	
	Production		Value	per cwt	Total	value	
Crop	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(dollars per cwt)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
Vegetables							
Beans, snap	1,238	1,502	61.60	72.00	76,261	108,196	
Cabbage	2,706	2,686	12.50	18.40	33,825	49,422	
Corn, sweet	5,166	5,003	30.00	32.00	154,980	160,096	
Cucumbers	1,696	3,863	28.20	30.30	47,827	116,866	
Peppers, bell	4,392	3,806	50.20	55.10	220,478	209,711	
Squash	600	667	45.80	45.10	27,480	30,082	
Tomatoes	9,499	7,280	47.70	52.50	453,102	382,200	
Total	25,297	24,807	(X)	(X)	1,013,953	1,056,573	
Blueberries	253	147	332.00	368.00	82,267	53,656	
Cantaloupe ¹	(NA)	621	(NA)	19.10	(NA)	11,861	
Potatoes, spring	6,808	5,382	15.90	16.10	108,247	86,650	
Potatoes, sweet	1,107	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Strawberries	2,442	2,194	119.00	205.00	290,598	449,770	
	· ·						
watermeions	5,880	7,659	15.00	16.10	88,200	123,310	

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. NA Not available. X Not applicable. ¹ Estimates began in 2016.

Snap Beans Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage		Viold por ooro	Production	Drice per out	Value of production	
year	Planted	Harvested	field per acre	FIGUELION	Flice per cwi	value of production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014	29,200	26,600	50	1,330	58.20	77,406	
2015	29,500	27,500	45	1,238	61.60	76,261	
2016	28,200	27,300	55	1,502	72.00	108,196	

Cabbage Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage		Vield per eere	Production	Price per out	Value of production	
year	Planted	Harvested	Tield per acre	FIGURE	Flice per cwi	value of production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014	9,500	8,800	340	2,992	16.70	49,966	
2015	8,900	8,200	330	2,706	12.50	33,825	
2016	8,500	7,900	340	2,686	18.40	49,422	

Sweet Corn Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage		Vield per eere	Production	Brigg por out	Value of production	
year	Planted	Harvested	field per acre	FIGUICIION	Flice per cwi	value of production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014	40,500	34,000	135	4,590	28.20	129,438	
2015	41,500	36,900	140	5,166	30.00	154,980	
2016	37,600	34,500	145	5,003	32.00	160,096	

Cucumbers Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage		Vield nen eene	Draduation	Drice ner out	Value of production
year	Planted	Harvested	rield per acre	Production	Price per cwi	value of production
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2014	9,800	9,400	260	2,444	26.70	65,255
2015	11,000	10,600	160	1,696	28.20	47,827
2016	24,300	21,700	178	3,863	30.30	116,866

Florida Bell Peppers: Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage		World new serve	Production	Drice per out	Value of production	
year	Planted	Harvested	rield per acre	Production	Price per cwi	value of production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)	
2014	12,400	11,900	260	3,094	53.10	164,291	
2015	12,400	12,200	360	4,392	50.20	220,478	
2016	13,500	12,900	295	3,806	55.10	209,711	

Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

[Includes processing]

Crop	Area		Vield per acro	Production	Value per out	Value of production
year	Planted	Harvested	field per acre	FIGULEION	value per cwi	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Spring						
2014	30,500	29,300	240	7,032	18.70	131,498
2015	30,000	29,600	230	6,808	15.90	108,247
2016	25,000	22,900	235	5,382	16.10	86,650

Sweet Potatoes Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016 [Estimates began in 2009]

Crop	Area		Vield per eero	Broduction	Drice per out	Value of production	
year	Planted	Harvested	field per acre	FIGULLION	Flice per cwi	value of production	
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014	6.0	5.9	200	1,180		(D)	
2015	5.6	5.4	205	1,107	(D)	(D)	
2016	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

Squash Acreage, Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop year	Acreage		Vield new eere	Draduation	Brico por out	
	Planted	Harvested	field per acre	Production	Flice per cwi	value of production
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
2014 ¹	7,000	6,800	120	800	50.80	40,640
2015 ¹	6,000	5,900	100	600	45.80	27,480
2016 ²	6,000	5,800	115	667	45.10	30,082

¹ Fresh market only. ² Includes fresh market and processing.

Strawberries Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value – Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acreage			Decidentian	Driverser		
year	Planted	Harvested	Yield per acre	Production	Price per cwt	value or production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014	11,000	10,900	190	2,071	148.00	306,508	
2015	11,000	10,900	225	2,442	119.00	290,598	
2016	10,800	10,700	205	2,194	205.00	449,770	

Tomatoes Acreage, Fresh Market Production, and Value - Florida: 2014-2016

[Includes round and plum or pear-shaped varieties, and U-Pic]

Crop	Acreage		Vield new eero	Production	Diamant		
year	Planted	Harvested	Yield per acre	FIGULLION	Price per cwt	value of production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(\$1,000 dollars)	
2014	35,000	33,000	280	9,240	47.30	437,052	
2015	33,000	32,200	295	9,499	47.70	453,102	
2016	30,000	28,000	260	7,280	52.50	382,200	

Watermelons Acreage, Production, and Value - Florida: 2014-2016

Crop	Acre	eage	Vield new eero	Production	Dries ner out	Value of	
year	Planted Harvested		rield per acre	FIODUCION	Price per cwt	production	
	(acres)	(acres)	(cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	
2014 ¹	21,000	19,700	245	4,827	16.60	80,128	
2015 ¹	21,500	21,000	280	5,880	15.00	88,200	
2016 ²	22,500	22,200	345	7,659	16.10	123,310	

¹ Fresh market only.

² Includes fresh market and processing.

Vegetables

Many significant changes were made to the vegetable estimating program beginning in 2016. Based on these changes, all States in the estimating program for a given vegetable crop now estimate both fresh and processing utilization, except for lettuce. For lettuce (head, leaf, and romaine) crops, only fresh utilization is estimated.

Estimates for 2014 and 2015 were not adjusted to meet new program definitions. This report was designed so that only data that are comparable across years are included together in any given table. Beginning in 2016, Total Production and Utilized Production are estimated for each crop. In 2014 and 2015 estimates were made for Production. These Production estimates represent the portion of the crop that was harvested and sold. This most closely represents Utilized Production so those estimates are now published as such to provide maximum comparability.

For selected crops (Lima Beans, Snap Beans, Carrots, Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Green Peas, and Spinach), 2014 and 2015 U.S. processing estimates represent all 50 States. For 2016, U.S. processing estimates represent only the sum of the estimating States listed in the table.

Harvested Not Sold estimates were added to the estimating program beginning in 2016. By definition, this represents the difference between Total Production (the amount of the crop harvested from the field) and Utilized Production (the amount of the crop that was sold).

Acreage and Yield estimates for fresh and processing utilizations were discontinued beginning in 2016. The Canning and Freezing sub-breakouts for processing utilized production (selected crops), estimates for Fordhooks and Baby Lima varieties of Lima Beans, Pickle stock estimates, and processed vegetable area and production estimates by type of procurement (open market and contract) were discontinued beginning in 2016.

Vegetable Highlights

In 2016, the Nation's production for the 26 estimated vegetable and melon crops totaled 780 million cwt. Total utilized production for 2016 vegetable crops totaled 775 million cwt. Area harvested for vegetable crops was 2.57 million acres. The three largest crops, in terms of both utilized and total production, were tomatoes, sweet corn, and onions, which combined accounted for 56 percent of the total production.

The value of utilized production for 2016 vegetable crops was 13.4 billion dollars. In 2016, tomatoes, head lettuce, and onions claimed the highest values, accounting for 32 percent of the total value when combined.

For the 26 selected vegetables and melons estimated in 2016, California continued to be the leading State in terms of area harvested, utilized production, and value of production.

	Area ha	rvested	Utilized Pro	oduction	Value of utilized production					
Rank	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total	State	Percent of total				
1	California	39.7	California	60.5	California	55.4				
2	Wisconsin	(D)	Washington	5.5	Arizona	9.8				
3	Washington	6.8	Arizona	4.6	Florida	8.9				
4	Florida	6.3	Florida	4.3	Washington	3.4				
5	Minnesota	6.1	Wisconsin	(D)	Georgia	3.3				

Leading Vegetable States in 2016

D Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

CROP	Usual Planting Dates ¹				Usual Harvesting Dates								
0.101							Begin		Most Act	tive		End	
	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Snap Beans ²													
Blueberries								!					
Cabbage								1	:				
Carrots									!	!			
Cantaloupes													
Celery								1	1				
Sweet Corn							_	 !	!				
Cucumbers					_				!	!			
Eggplant								!	!	!	 		
Escarole/Endive						!		!	!	!			
Lettuce/Romaine								!	!				
Peppers								!	,	i 			
Potatoes													
Radishes						!		!					
Squash ³						1	1	1	1	1			
Strawberries								i 	! !				
Tomatoes								!	!	i	i 		
Watermelon			055	0.07	NGY	DEC				455			
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL

Planting and Harvesting Seasons of Selected Vegetables, Berries, and Melons – Florida

¹ Usual date direct seeded or transplanted.

² Includes pole beans.
³ A small acreage of summer squash is marketed locally during July and August.