

The 2007 growing season started later than normal due to colder temperatures in early spring. Rainfall was plentiful and periodically excessive during the early growing season. Some of the New Jersey corn and soybean fields were so muddy that both planting and harvesting were delayed or prevented. The wet and cool weather conditions during April 2007 delayed hay cutting in most fields. Variable temperatures, along with a lack of surface moisture during May, delayed crop and pasture development. Warmer temperatures and adequate rainfall in June spurred crop development. Milder temperatures by mid-July improved field conditions, enabling planting and harvesting of field crops. Temperatures were much above normal the beginning of August, falling to below normal by the end of the month. August's dry weather necessitated irrigation in many localities. During September and the early part of October above normal temperatures, along with a lack of rainfall, required irrigation in many localities. Temperatures averaged much above normal the month of October in most localities. Heavy rainfall during the last week of October produced wet field conditions which hindered field crop harvesting and the planting of small grain crops.

Corn: Corn planted for all purposes in 2007 totaled 95,000 acres and 82,000 were harvested for grain. Yield decreased 5 bushels to 124 bushels per acre from the previous year's yield of 129 bushels. The increase in acreage raised production by 1.9 million bushels to 10.2 million bushels. Growers received a market year average of \$4.65 per bushel for their grain, an increase of \$1.28 per bushel from 2006's price of \$3.37 per bushel. The total crop value, for corn for grain increased by 70 percent from \$27.8 million in 2006 to \$47.3 million in 2007.

Soybeans: Soybean planted and harvested acreages decreased by 6,000 acres to 82,000 acres planted and 80,000 acres harvested in 2007. The soybean yield was down 4 bushels per acre from 2006's yield of 35 bushels per acre to 31 bushels in 2007. Production decreased to 2.48 million bushels in 2007, from 3.01 million bushels in 2006. The average price received by growers increased by \$3.85 from \$6.25 per bushel in 2006 to \$10.10 per bushel in 2007. The total crop value increased by 33 percent to \$25.0 million.

Winter wheat: The 31,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2007 was 6,000 acres more than in 2006. Harvested acreage was at 28,000, an increase of 6,000 acres, too. The yield at 51 bushels per acre was 9 bushels per acre less than the previous year's. Production at 1.43 million bushels was up 8 percent from 2006. The season average price of \$5.25 per bushel was \$1.45 more than the price in 2006. The total crop value increased by 49 percent to \$7.50 million.

Barley: Barley planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged from 2006 at 3,000 and 2,000 acres, respectively. The yield was 68 bushels per acre, an increase of 11 bushels per acre over last year. Production in 2007 increased by 19 percent to 136,000 bushels. The average price received by growers was up by \$0.65 per bushel in 2007 to \$2.70. The value of barley produced increased by 57 percent from \$234,000 in 2006 to \$367,000 in 2007.

Hay: All hay harvested acres was unchanged in 2007 at 115,000 acres. Alfalfa hay acres decreased by 5,000 acres to 20,000 acres in 2007. Acreage in other hay rose by 5,000 acres from 2006 to 95,000 acres. The alfalfa hay yield increased by 8 percent to 2.7 tons per acre. The yield for other hay decreased by 16 percent to 1.6 tons per acre. The overall hay yield was 1.79 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 54,000 tons and other hay production was 152,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 206,000 tons. The season average price for all hay increased \$25.00 per ton from \$133 in 2006 to \$158.00 per ton in 2007. Overall, total hay crop value increased by 6 percent in 2007 to \$32.6 million.

Potatoes: Potatoes planted and harvested acreage totals decreased by 100 acres to 2,400 acres in 2007. The yield was 265 hundredweight per acre, an increase of 25 hundredweight from 2006. Production was 636,000 hundredweight in 2007 compared with 600,000 hundredweight in 2006. The total crop value decreased, by 12 percent from \$5.22 million in 2006 to \$4.60 million in 2007.

Sweet Potatoes: Sweet potato planted and harvested acreage was unchanged, at 1,200 acres, from the previous year. The yield was 100 hundredweight per acre, a decrease of 35 hundredweight from last year's. Production in 2007 decreased by 25 percent to 120,000 hundredweight. The average price per hundredweight decreased by \$0.30 to \$27.40 in 2007,