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**Agriculture Counts!** by Charles E. Butler Jr, Acting Regional Director, USDA-NASS, Northeastern Regional Field Office

*Editor's Note: This is a monthly column from the Northeastern Regional Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS-NERFO). The website is [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov); for the reports mentioned below, click on the "Publications" tab.*

### **NASS TO KICK OFF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION SURVEY**

We will conduct the National Agricultural Classification Survey (NACS) starting Jan. 24. The survey, an important step in determining who should receive a 2027 Census of Agriculture questionnaire, will ask approximately 250,000 recipients to report if they conduct agricultural activity.

The NACS ensures that everyone who produces and sells, or normally would sell, \$1000 or more of agricultural products in a calendar year are represented in these vital data. The results of the survey will ensure that every U.S. producer, no matter how large or small their operation, has a voice and is counted in the highly anticipated and influential agricultural census data. For more information about the NACS, visit [www.nass.usda.gov/go/nacs](http://www.nass.usda.gov/go/nacs).

### **USDA CONDUCTING HEMP SURVEY**

Over 1,000 Northeastern state producers will receive the *Hemp Production and Disposition Inquiry*. Like the 2022 questionnaire, this year's survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States in 2023.

NASS estimated the total value of hemp production at \$238 million in 2022. Planted area for industrial hemp grown in the open for all utilizations in the United States totaled 28,314 acres. Area harvested for all utilizations totaled 18,251 acres. These and other statistics can be found in the 2022 National Hemp Report.

As defined in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill), the term "hemp" means the plant species *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant such as the seeds, all derivatives, and extracts with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions.

NASS will publish the survey data April 17, 2024, on the NASS website at [nass.usda.gov](http://nass.usda.gov) and in the NASS Quick Stats database at [quickstats.nass.usda.gov](http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov). For more information about the 2023 Hemp Production and Disposition Inquiry, visit the hemp survey web page at [nass.usda.gov/go/hemp](http://nass.usda.gov/go/hemp).

### **NORTHEASTERN REGION'S HOG INVENTORY**

Northeastern Regional inventory of hogs and pigs on December 1, 2023 was 1.57 million, up 7% from the previous year's inventory.

Annual breeding inventory for the Northeastern Region was estimated at 172 thousand head on December 1, 2023, up 17% from 2022. There were 209 thousand sows farrowed during 2023, down 3% from the previous year. Average pigs per litter was 11.4. The 2023 annual pig crop totaled 2.38 million head, down 2% from a year ago.

Market hog inventory for the Northeastern Region on December 1, 2023 was 1.40 million head, up 6% from the December 2022 inventory.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2023 was 75.0 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2022, but down slightly from September 1, 2023. Breeding inventory, at 6.00 million head, was down 3% from last year, and down 3% from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 69.0 million head, was up slightly from last year, but down slightly from last quarter.

### **2023 GRAIN STOCKS PUBLISHED**

This quarterly report shows the amount of grain stored both on and off farms for many grains including corn, soybeans, oats, barley, wheat, dry beans and more.

Nationally, corn stored in all positions on December 1, 2023 totaled 12.2 billion bushels, up 13% from the previous year.

#### *Pennsylvania*

Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on December 1, 2023 was 101 million bushels, up 31% from last year's level of 77.0 million bushels. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 90.0 million bushels compared to the 65.0 million bushels in December 2022. Off-farm stocks were 11.1 million bushels. Oats stored in all positions were 1.86 million bushels, 412 thousand bushels were off farm and 1.45 million bushels on farm.

The complete Grain Stocks report and all other NASS reports are available online at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

## **2023 NORTHEASTERN REGION FIELD CROP SUMMARY**

### ***Delaware***

Corn for grain production is estimated at 32.5 million bushels, up 23% from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in Delaware is estimated at 189.0 bushels per acre, 19.0 bushels above the 2022 average yield of 170.0 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 172 thousand acres, up 10% from 2022.

Corn silage production is estimated at 50 thousand tons, down 12% from 2022. Silage yield is estimated at a record high 25.0 tons per acre, up 6.0 tons from 2022. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 2 thousand acres, down 33% from 2022.

Barley production is estimated at 1.14 million bushels, down 18% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 95.0 bushels per acre, up 8.0 bushels from 2022. Harvested area, at 12 thousand acres, is down 25% from 2022.

Soybean production is estimated at 6.81 million bushels, up slightly from 2022. Yield is estimated at 46.0 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from 2022. Harvested area, at 148 thousand acres, is down 6% from 2022.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 6.35 million bushels, up 55% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 92.0 bushels per acre, up 16.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 69 thousand acres, is 28% above the previous year.

All dry hay production is estimated at 34 thousand tons, up 21% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.83 tons per acre, up 0.28 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 12 thousand acres, is up 9% from the previous year.

Alfalfa dry hay production is estimated at 13 thousand tons, more than double the tons from 2022. Yield is estimated at 3.20 tons per acre, up 12% from the previous year. Harvested area, at 4 thousand acres, is doubled from the previous year.

### ***Maryland***

Corn for grain production is estimated at 72.6 million bushels, up 22% from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in Maryland is estimated at 165.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the 2022 average yield per acre. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 440 thousand acres, up 22% from 2022.

Corn silage production is estimated at 510 thousand tons, down 33% from 2022. Silage yield is estimated at 17.0 tons per acre, down 2.0 tons from 2022. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 30 thousand acres, down 25% from a year ago.

Barley production is estimated at 1.25 million bushels, down 5% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 96.0 bushels per acre, up 14.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 13 thousand acres, is 19% below the previous year.

Soybean production is estimated at 21.6 million bushels, down 1% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 4 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 460 thousand acres, is down 10% from the previous year.

Winter wheat production is estimated at 16.6 million bushels, up 25% from the previous year. Yield is estimated at a record high 85.0 bushels per acre, up 7.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 195 thousand acres, is 15% above the previous year.

All dry hay production is estimated at 519 thousand tons, up 27% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.53 tons per acre, up 0.63 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 205 thousand acres, is down 5% from the previous year.

Alfalfa dry hay production is estimated at 135 thousand tons, down 18% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 3.00 tons per acre, down 1.10 tons from the previous year. Harvested area, at 45 thousand acres, is up 13% from the previous year.

### ***New Jersey***

Corn for grain production is estimated at 10.9 million bushels, up 65% from last year. The average yield in New Jersey is estimated at a record high 168.0 bushels per acre, 54.0 bushels above the 2022 yield. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 65 thousand acres.

Corn silage production is estimated at 108 thousand tons, up 13% from 2022. Silage yield is estimated at 18.0 tons per acre, 2 tons above the previous year. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 6 thousand acres, unchanged from a year ago.

Soybean production is estimated at 4.21 million bushels, up 39% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 43.0 bushels per acre, up 54% from the previous year. Harvested area, at 98 thousand acres, is down 10 thousand acres from the previous year.

Wheat production is estimated at 2.62 million bushels, up 70% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 82.0 bushels per acre, up 12.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area for grain is 32 thousand acres, 45% above last year.

Other hay production is estimated at 153 thousand tons, down 16% from last year. Yield is estimated at 1.80 tons per acre, down 0.10 ton per acre from the previous year. Harvested area is 85 thousand acres, down 11 thousand acres from 2022.

Alfalfa production is estimated at a record low 31.0 thousand tons, down 11% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.60 tons per acre, down 0.10 ton per acre from last year. Harvested area is 12 thousand acres, down 1 thousand acres from the previous year.

### ***New York***

Corn for grain production is estimated at 95.4 million bushels, up 19% from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in New York is estimated at 159.0 bushels per acre, 17.0 bushels above the 2022 average yield of 142.0 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 600 thousand acres, up 6% from last year.

Corn silage production is estimated at 8.60 million tons, up 19% from 2022. Silage yield is estimated at a record high 20.0 tons per acre, 3 tons above the previous year. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 430 thousand acres, up 1% from the previous year.

Barley production is estimated at 325 thousand bushels, up 33% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 65.0 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 5 thousand acres, is up 25% from the previous year.

Oat production is estimated at 2.64 million bushels, down 2% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 60 bushels per acre, up 5.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 44 thousand acres, is down 10% from the previous year.

Soybean production is estimated at a record high 17.3 million bushels, up 19% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 51.0 bushels per acre, up 6.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at a record high 340 thousand acres, is up 5% from the previous year.

Wheat production is estimated at 9.72 million bushels, up 35% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 81.0 bushels per acre, up 9.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 120 thousand acres, is 20% above the previous year.

All dry hay production is estimated at a record low 1.70 million tons, down 28% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.52 tons per acre, down 0.49 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.12 million acres, is 5% below the previous year.

Alfalfa hay production is estimated at 460 thousand tons, down 29% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.30 tons per acre, down 0.30 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 200 thousand acres, is down 20% from the previous year.

Maple syrup production is estimated at 750 thousand gallons, down 11% from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 2.50 million, down 14% from the 2022 total. Yield per tap is estimated to be 0.300 gallon per tap, up 3% from the previous season's yield.

### ***Pennsylvania***

Corn for grain production is estimated at 107 million bushels, up 18% from the 2022 estimate. The average yield in Pennsylvania is estimated at 157.0 bushels per acre, 17.0 bushels above the 2022 average yield of 140.0 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 680 thousand acres, up 5% from 2022.

Silage production is estimated at 6.90 million tons, up 13% from 2022. Silage yield is estimated at 20.0 tons per acre, 2.0 tons above the previous year. Area harvested for silage is estimated at 345 thousand acres, up 1% from the previous year.

Soybean production is estimated at 26.3 million bushels, up 4% from last year. Yield is estimated 47.0 bushels per acre, up 4.0 bushels from 2022. Area harvested at 560 thousand acres, is down 5% from the previous year.

Wheat production is estimated at 17.5 million bushels, up 14% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 76.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 230 thousand acres, is up 10% from last year.

Oat production is estimated at 2.87 million bushels, down 20% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 61.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 47 thousand acres, is down 23% from last year.

Barley production is estimated at 2.27 million bushels, up 30% from 2022. Yield is estimated at a record high 81 bushels per acre, up 14.0 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 28 thousand acres, is up 8% from the previous year.

All hay production is estimated at 3.23 million tons, down 11% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.69 tons per acre, down 0.07 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1.20 million acres, is 8% below the previous year.

Alfalfa production is estimated at 810 thousand tons, down 27% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 3.00 tons per acre, down 0.60 ton per acre from last year. Harvested area, at 270 thousand acres, is down 13% from last year.

Tobacco production is estimated at 7.83 million pounds, down 11% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2,494 pounds per acre, down 88 pounds per acre from the previous year. Harvested area, at 3,140 acres, is 8% below the previous year.

Maple syrup is estimated at 178,000 gallons, down 11% from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 675,000 taps, down 27% from the 2022 total. Yield per tap is estimated to be 0.263 gallon, up 20% from the previous season's yield.

### ***New England***

#### **OAT**

Maine oat production is estimated at 1.30 million bushels, down 38% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 62.0 bushels per acre, down 22 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 21 thousand acres, is down 16% from last year.

#### **ALL DRY HAY**

Connecticut hay production is estimated at 93 thousand tons, up 1% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.75 tons, down 0.02 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 53 thousand acres is up 2% from the previous year.

Maine hay production is estimated at 234 thousand tons, down 14% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.83 tons per acre, down 0.19 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 128 thousand acres, is down 4% from the previous year.

Massachusetts hay production is estimated at 96 thousand tons, down 4% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.78 tons per acre, up 0.11 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 54 thousand acres, is down 10% from the previous year.

New Hampshire hay production is estimated at 71 thousand tons, up 3% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.73 tons per acre, up 0.09 ton per acre from the previous year. Harvested area, at 41 thousand acres, is down 2% from the previous year.

Rhode Island hay production is estimated at 13 thousand tons, down 7% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.17 tons per acre, up 0.17 ton per acre from the previous year. Harvested area, at 6 thousand acres, is down 14% from the previous year.

Vermont hay production is estimated at a record low 285 thousand tons, down 22% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.73 tons per acre, down 0.49 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 165 thousand acres, remains unchanged from the previous year.

#### **ALFALFA**

Connecticut alfalfa hay production is estimated at 11 thousand tons, down 27% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.10 tons per acre, unchanged from the previous year. Harvested area, at 5 thousand acres, is down 29% from the previous year.

Maine alfalfa production is estimated at 18 thousand tons, down 14% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.30 tons per acre, the same as last year. Harvested area, at 8 thousand acres, is down 11% from the previous year.

Massachusetts alfalfa production is estimated at 6 thousand tons, down 33% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.50 tons per acre, down 0.30 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 4 thousand acres, is down 20% from the previous year.

New Hampshire alfalfa production is estimated at 10 thousand tons, unchanged from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.00 tons per acre, the same as the previous year. Harvested area, at 5 thousand acres, remains the same as the previous year.

Rhode Island alfalfa production is estimated at 2 thousand tons, unchanged from 2022. Yield is estimated at 2.00 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 1 thousand acres, is unchanged from the previous year.

Vermont alfalfa production is estimated at 45 thousand tons, down 12% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 3.00 tons per acre, down 0.40 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 15 thousand acres, is unchanged from the previous year.

#### **OTHER HAY**

Maine other hay production is estimated at 216 thousand tons, down 14% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 1.80 tons per acre, down 0.20 ton from the previous year. Harvested area, at 120 thousand acres, is down 5 thousand acres from last year.

#### **POTATO**

Maine potato production is estimated at 17.9 million cwt, down 3% from 2022. Yield is estimated at 340 cwt per acre, down 15 cwt from the previous year. Harvested area, at 52.6 thousand acres, is up 1% from the previous year.

#### **MAPLE SYRUP**

Maine maple syrup production is estimated at 470 thousand gallons, down 31% from 2022. Yield per tap is estimated at 0.250 gallon, down 0.099 from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 1.88 million, down 4% from 2022.

New Hampshire maple syrup production is estimated at 139 thousand gallons, down 19% from 2022. Yield per tap is estimated at 0.302 gallon, down 0.006 from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 460 thousand, down 18% from 2022.

Vermont maple syrup production is estimated at 2.05 million gallons, down 37% from 2022. Yield per tap is estimated at 0.322 gallon, down 0.062 from the previous year. The number of taps is estimated at 6.35 million, down 25% from 2022.

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*To Growers: I would like to thank you for your contribution to U.S. agriculture and support of our programs. I hope you will continue to support NASS by returning your survey form as soon as possible or answering our questions over the telephone or if someone comes to visit.*

*Be assured, as with all NASS surveys, the information respondents provide is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no*

individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS website at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

