

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The acreage, production, and value statistics in this publication are the official State and USDA estimates prepared by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Florida Field Office in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). These estimates are effective as May 2009 and can be revised later in the year or in the following year, if and when additional data become available. Any revisions made to these estimates, as well as estimates made after May 2009, are included in reports posted to the website shown below and available from the NASS Florida Field Office.

Most of the data used to develop these estimates were provided voluntarily by growers, shippers, and processors and we sincerely appreciate their public spirited cooperation. The Florida Tomato Committee, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, floriculture and nursery producers, sales agencies, and transportation firms have provided valuable assistance and data throughout the season. The FDACS Bureau of State Farmers Markets and the County Agricultural Agents of the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service were also very helpful in supplying area and county estimates.

The individuals and organizations who make up the Florida agricultural industry need reliable and accurate estimates of production to make informed and knowledgeable decisions. Increasing unpredictability of commodity prices and competition from global markets make accurate and unbiased estimates even more important. Farmers, agribusinesses, producers groups, educators, researchers, legislators and the media all need these estimates to develop sound policies and to promote Florida agricultural products.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff of statisticians, support personnel, and field and telephone enumerators. They are the ones who have worked hard to collect, review, and summarize these important data and publish the results.

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FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL FACTS

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE OVERVIEW	A-01
FLORIDA CASH RECEIPTS 2007	A-02
Florida Cash Receipts by Years	A-03
U.S. Cash Receipts by Leading States.....	A-04
Florida’s Leading Cash Receipts by Commodity.....	A-05
FARMS AND LAND IN FARMS.....	A-06
FLORIDA FARM WORKERS	A-07
FLORIDA FARM INCOME AND EXPENSES	A-08

FLORIDA FARM COMMODITIES

CITRUS

2007-08 Season Citrus Highlights.....	B-01
Citrus Production by Counties.....	B-03
Citrus Acreage by Counties.....	B-05
Citrus Trees by Counties	B-07
Citrus Trees, Acreage, Yield, Production, Utilization, Season Average On-Tree Price and Value	
Oranges	B-09
Grapefruit.....	B-10
Tangerines and Temples	B-11
Tangelos, K-Early Citrus Fruit, Limes, and Lemons.....	B-12
Fruit Harvesting Season and Avocados.....	B-13

FIELD CROPS

2008 Field Crop Highlights	C-01
Acreage, Yield, Production and Value 1999-2008.....	C-03
Acreage, Yield and Production, by County	
Pecans	C-06
Corn	C-07
Peanuts	C-08
Soybeans, Tobacco, Type 14	C-09
Cotton, Sugarcane, Wheat	C-10
Usual Planting and Harvesting Dates, Crops and Principal Producing Areas.....	C-11
District Map.....	C-12

LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS

Livestock Highlights	D-01
Beef and Milk Cows that have Calved, and Beef and Milk Replacement Heifers.....	D-02
Milk Cow Inventory by County, 1999-2008	D-02
Milk Cows, Monthly Milk Production and Annual Production	D-04
Milk Production, Utilization, Milkfat and Cash Receipts	D-05
Monthly and Annual Average Milk Price for Milk Sold to Plants.....	D-05
Milk Cow Price per Head, by Quarter.....	D-06
Manufactured Dairy Products Production	D-06

Cattle and Calves	
Inventory of Cattle and Calves, by County, 2000 - 2009	D-07
Inventory of Beef Cows by County, 2000 - 2009.....	D-11
Marketings , Cash Receipts and Gross Income, 1998 – 2007.....	D-14
Cattle and Calves on Farms, 2000 - 2009	D-15
Cattle and Calves Inventory January 1, Annual Calf Crop, and Disposition.....	D-15
Cattle Prices	
Monthly Average Price Received by Farmers, by Class, 1999 – 2008	D-16
Slaughter Cows and Bulls Price by Class, Grade, and Month, 2008.....	D-17
Stocker Steers and Heifers: Average Monthly Price, by Class, 2008.....	D-18
Florida Livestock Auctions.....	D-18
Cattle and Calves Sold through Florida Auction Markets, by Area, 1998 – 2008	D-19
Poultry	
Annual Value of Production, 1998 - 2007.....	D-20
Layers, Egg Produced, and Value of Production	D-20
Broilers Produced, Pounds Produced, Price per Pound and Value of Production, 1998 - 2007.....	D-20
Layers on Farms, Rate of Lay, and Egg Production, by Month and Year, 1999 - 2008.....	D-21
Average Monthly Price Received by Producers for Broiler and Eggs, 1998 – 2007.....	D-23
Egg-type and Broiler-type Chicks Hatched in Florida by Commercial Hatcheries, 1999 – 2008.....	D-25
Hogs	
Hogs on Farms and Inventory Value, 1998 - 2007.....	D-26
Hog Inventory, Pig Crop, and Disposition, 1998 - 2007	D-26
Florida Commercial Hog Slaughter; Head, Average Live Weight, and Total Live Weight.....	D-26
Hog Inventory, Annual Marketings, Cash Receipts and Gross Income	D-27
Hog Monthly and Annual Average Price, 1998 – 2007.....	D-27
VEGETABLES, MELONS AND BERRIES	
2007-2008 Season Vegetable Highlights	E-01
Definitions and Explanations	E-02
Confidentiality of Collected Data and Release Distribution Policy	E-02
Principal Vegetables by Producing Areas	E-03
Summary of Acreage, Production, and Value by Crops, 2006-07 and 2007-08 Crop Years	E-04
Summary of Harvested Acreage and Value, 1998-99 through 2007-08	E-05
Fruit and Vegetable Acreage, Production and Value	
Snap Beans.....	E-06
Cabbage	E-07
Sweet Corn.....	E-08
Cucumbers	E-09
Bell Peppers	E-10
Potatoes.....	E-11
Squash.....	E-13
Strawberries	E-14
Tomatoes.....	E-15
Watermelons	E-16
Vegetable Planting and Harvesting Dates	E-17
OTHER AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES	
Foliage and Floriculture	F-01
Bees and Honey Colonies, Production and Value.....	F-02
Aquaculture	F-03
FLORIDA AGRICULTURE AND OTHER INFORMATION	F-04