

NEW YORK VEGETABLES REBOUND IN 2010

Stephen Reiners

Associate Professor, Horticulture, Cornell University

After a cold, rainy summer in 2009 reduced yields, 2010 turned out to be a more profitable year for New York Vegetable growers. The fresh market side saw planted acres stay around 88,000 and the value of 14 crops for which statistics are kept increased to almost \$450 million, from a low of \$386 million in 2009 (Table 1). The value increase was due, unfortunately, to higher per acre yields as average prices declined compared to 2009. Cabbage edged out sweet corn to be the highest valued crop in NY, worth almost \$75 million. For fresh market crops, sweet corn continues to be grown on the most acres at 23,500.

Table 1. Value and planted acreage of New York fresh market vegetables, 2008 -2010. (NYS Ag Statistics)

	2010		2009		2008	
CROP	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES
Cabbage	74.5	10,600	55.8	9,600	79.1	10,100
Sweet Corn	71.1	23,500	58.3	23,100	73.9	23,600
Potatoes	69.1	16,200	61.9	17,100	92.3	18,000
Onions	54.2	10,700	67.6	10,600	58.9	10,600
Snap Beans	39.2	6,900	23.6	7,100	40.5	6,700
Squash	36.8	4,700	23.0	4,700	32.5	4,200
Pumpkins	35.1	7,100	21.8	6,600	38.4	6,300
Tomatoes	28.5	2,900	32.7	2,700	43.1	3,000
Cucumbers	18.5	3,000	16.0	3,400	16.1	3,800
Peppers, Bell	9.9	1,200	12.3	1,100	13.9	1,100
Eggplant	4.0	400	6.0	450	6.2	500
Cauliflower	3.4	490	2.4	430	1.8	410
Endive/Escarole	2.0	300	4.2	300	2.8	250
Spinach	1.0	350	0.9	340	1.3	360
TOTALS	447.3	88,340	386.5	87,520	500.8	88,920

Average yields for vegetables increased for most of the major crops with the exception of onions and peppers, which saw declines of 22% and 30%, respectively (Table 2). Yields of the vine crops – pumpkins, squash and cucumbers significantly increased, as did snap beans. Unfortunately, the average price for all those crops was down compared to 2009. Of the 14 crops listed in Table 2, only six saw higher prices.

Table 2. Average yield and marketing year average price for fresh market vegetables in 2008 - 2010. (NYS Ag Statistics)

CROP	Avg. Yield (cwt/Acre)				Avg. Price (\$/cwt)			
	2008	2009	2010	% Change (09-10)	2008	2009	2010	% Change (09-10)
Potatoes*	320	300	320	6.7	16.2	12.5	13.5	8
Sweet Corn	125	100	120	20.0	25.8	27.1	26.0	-4.1
Cabbage	590	380	430	13.2	15	18.3	18.7	2.2
Onions	410	415	325	-21.7	16.8	13.2	19.7	49.2
Tomatoes	190	140	140	0.0	84	93.5	72.7	-22.2
Snap Beans	73	40	70	75.0	84.1	88	83.6	-5.0
Squash	200	120	195	62.5	42.8	42.6	41.0	-3.8
Pumpkins	180	125	215	72.0	36.2	29	24.0	-17.2
Cucumbers	130	120	170	41.7	34.5	41.8	38.8	-7.2
Peppers	260	250	175	-30.0	53.6	49.3	51.3	4.1
Eggplant	240	280	250	-10.7	54.8	52.7	43.3	-17.8
Endive/Escarole	210	240	110	-54.2	55.7	60.5	62.0	2.5
Cauliflower	85	130	145	11.5	52.4	45.5	51.0	12.1
Spinach	70	70	75	7.1	60	46.3	42.3	-8.6

Although many potatoes are grown for chipping/processing, we will count potatoes as a fresh crop

On the processing side (Table 3), planted acres increased while value remained the same. Unfortunately, we can only get individual statistics for processing snap beans. Without the terrible virus problems seen in beans in 2009, yields jumped from 2.9 to 3.9 Tons/A in 2010.

Table 3. Value and acreage of New York processed vegetables, 2008 - 2010. (NYS Ag Statistics).

CROP	2010		2009		2008	
	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES	VALUE (Million \$)	PLANTED ACRES
Snap Beans	21.6	25,600	14.8	20,000	21.5	21,500
Peas	na	na	na	na	na	na
Sweet Corn	na	na	na	na	na	na
Beets	na	na	na	na	na	na
Kraut Cabbage	na	na	na	na	na	na
TOTAL, Processing	47.6	58,600	47.6	51,500	61.7	60,600
TOTAL, Dry beans	7.8	15,000	6.6	16,000	18.1	17,000
TOTAL, Fresh	447.3	88,340	386.5	87,520	500.8	88,920
TOTAL, All	502.7	161,940	440.7	155,020	580.6	166,520

na - Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations

In addition to the crops listed above, there are another dozen “minor crops” grown in NY for which no statistics are kept. These include carrots (both fresh market and processing), lettuce,

melons, radishes, broccoli, asparagus, Chinese cabbage, garlic, and herbs. These crops would likely add another 6,000 acres and \$30 million to the industry totals.

How does the NY vegetable industry farm gate value of \$500 million stack up against other crops in New York? In 2010, field crops farm gate value stood at more than twice that of vegetables at \$1,230 million. Farm gate value of apples and other tree fruit, grapes, and berries is significantly less at \$332 million. Floriculture statistics are harder to come by and likely under reported. In 2009, total commercial sales were close to \$200 million, not including nursery sales or turf. Dairy products lead the way, worth over \$1.7 billion.