

RHODE ISLAND

FRUIT & VEGETABLE STATE PROFILE

STATE FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

- Fruits, Tree Nuts & Berries – Farms: 175; Acres: 928; Value: \$4,483,000
- Vegetables, Potatoes & Melons – Farms: 203; Acres: 2,380; Value: \$8,111,000

PRODUCE BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

- 14 produce shippers, wholesalers and businesses
- 28 farmers markets selling fresh fruits and vegetables
- 7,152 FTE produce industry employment impact from producer to retailer

NEED FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION

- Prevalence of adult obesity: 24.3%; National Rank: 42
- Prevalence of childhood obesity: 14.4%; National Rank: 28
- Prevalence of diabetes: 7.4%; Increase 1995-2010: 37.0%

OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTER HEALTH

- 24,587 children participating in school breakfast
- 78,531 children participating in school lunch
- 25,525 participants in the Women, Infants and Children Program
- 138,966 participants in SNAP Program (Formerly Known as Food Stamp Program)

IMPACT OF FEDERAL FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAMS

- Farm Bill Specialty Crop Block Grants provided \$531,243 from 2008-2010 used to fund 25 projects to increase competitiveness and profitability of Rhode Island producers
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program provides Rhode Island \$1,840,549 to fund fruit and vegetable snacks in 96 elementary schools this year
- WIC provides Rhode Island participants an estimated \$2.5 million annually in fruit and vegetable vouchers

Sources

USDA 2007 Agriculture Census; USDA, FNS; USDA, AMS; Blue Book Services; Produce Marketing Association Economic Reach and Impact of the Fresh Produce and Floral Industry; F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future 2011