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**HOW MANY PEACHES IN A POUND?
New Jersey Growers Hit a Near Record
Salem County Grower/Shipper Wins 2009 Governors Cup at New Jersey Peach Festival**

Sewell/Gloucester County Fair, NJ (July 29, 2009) – Just one, if you weigh the biggest peach judged at this year's Gloucester County Fair and Peach Festival. Moods Orchards, Mullica Hill, captured top place for the "biggest peach," weighing in at .97 pounds. Normally, a pound consists of three to four peaches. The largest peach so far grown in New Jersey, several years ago, weighed in at nearly 1 ½ pounds.

Seventy-four peach entries, in different categories, vied for the Governor's Cup top award on July 23rd. Gala Orchards of Elmer, NJ, won with a box of Redhaven, an old favorite variety, with yellow flesh, in the 2 ¾" and up category. Technically, only the entries in the commercial^[1] class are eligible for the cup because they represent random selections collected from packing houses and storages by Agricultural Agent Jerome L. Frecon, Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Cooperative Extension.

"New Jersey peach growers stay abreast of new hybrids and constantly innovate to harvest better and more beautiful peaches," says Santo Maccherone, Peach Promotion Council president. "As a result, our peaches are about the best in the country. Now, we may have a near-record in size as well. (New Jersey ranks fourth in peach production, growing peaches and nectarines on 7,200 acres in 90 orchards). It's rewarding to see how much the public appreciates the product."

The Peach Festival included many other peach educational displays and events, including the crowning of this year's New Jersey Peach Queen, Michelle Beebe, and the popular peach bakeoff on Saturday July 25. Many of these peach recipes are available on the NJ Peach Promotion Council web site www.jerseypeaches.com. Approximately 30,000 people attended the event this year, which kicks off the major start of the peach season.

The New Jersey Peach Festival is the official peach festival of the state of New Jersey. It is an annual educational and promotional exhibition of the New Jersey Peach Promotion Council and the New Jersey Peach Festival, Inc. Gloucester County, home of the festival, is the largest peach growing county in New Jersey.

^[1] Peaches as they are packed in commercial packing houses for shipment to food retailers

More information can be found on "the festival" at <http://glouester.njaes.rutgers.edu> and www.jerseypeaches.com

The grower winners in each category and class

CLASS - SPECIALTY

Category - White Fleshed Peaches

1st place - Circle M Farms, Circle M Label, Mullica Hill, N.J. This box was also selected the best of this class.

2nd place - JerZee Orchard, JerZee label, Richwood, NJ

3rd place - Haynicz Bros Orchardside Farms, Haynicz Bros label, Monroeville, N.J.

Category - Nectarines or fuzz less peaches, white or yellow fleshed

1st place - Nichols Orchard, Nichols Orchard label, Franklinville, N.J.

2nd place - JerZee Orchard, JerZee label, Richwood, NJ

3rd place - Circle M Farms, Circle M Label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

Category - Largest peach

1st place - Moods Orchards, Mullica Hill, N.J. Weight is .97 pounds

2nd place - Mt. Pleasant Orchards, Richwood, N.J. Weight is .95 pounds

3rd place - Zee Orchards, Richwood, N.J. Weight is .86 pounds

CLASS - SELECT = PEACHES THAT ARE HAND SELECTED BY THE GROWER SHIPPER FOR THE COMPETITION

Category - Peaches that are between 2¹/₄ to 2 inches in diameter

1st place - Holtzhauser Farms, Holtzhauser Farms label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

2nd place - JerZee Orchard, JerZee label, Richwood, NJ

3rd place - Zee Orchards, JerZee label Richwood, N.J.

Category - Peaches that are between 2¹/₂ to 2³/₄ inches in diameter

1st place - Mt Pleasant Orchards, Mt Pleasant label, Richwood, N.J. This box is also best of class.

2nd place - Zee Orchards, JerZee label Richwood, N.J.

3rd place - Holtzhauser Farms, Holtzhauser Farms label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

Category - Peaches that are between 2³/₄ inches and up in diameter

1st place - Holtzhauser Farms, Holtzhauser Farms label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

2nd place - Mt Pleasant Orchards, Mt Pleasant label, Richwood, N.J.

3rd place - Zee Orchards, JerZee label, Richwood, N.J.

CLASS - COMMERCIAL = PEACHES THAT ARE PULLED OF THE PACKING HOUSE LINE TO SYMBOLIZE PEACHES AS THEY WOULD BE SOLD TO SUPERMARKETS AND SPECIALTY STORES. THESE PEACHES ARE NOT HAND SELECTED.

Category - Peaches that are between 2¹/₄ to 2¹/₂ inches in diameter

1st place - Holtzhauser Farms, Holtzhauser Farms label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

2nd place - Zee Orchards, JerZee label, Richwood, N.J.

3rd place - Wm Schober Orchards, Wm Schober Ochards label, Monroeville, N.J.

Category - Peaches that are between 2¹/₂ to 2³/₄ inches in diameter

1st place - Fralinger Farms, Cohansey Valley label, Bridgeton, N.J.

2nd place - Zee Orchards Jersey Fruit label, Richwood, N.J.

3rd place - Nichols Orchard, Nichols Orchard label, Franklinville, N.J.

Category - Peaches that are between 2³/₄ inches and up in diameter

1st place - Gala Orchards, Just Picked Label, Elmer, N.J. This box was the best box in this class and also the best box in the show and the winner of the Governors Cup

2nd place - Circle M Farms, Circle M Label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

3rd place - Heilig Orchards, Jersey Fruit label, Mullica Hill, N.J.

The best of each class also receive a \$50 gift certificate and dinner for two at a local restaurant in Gloucester and Salem County. The winner of the Best of the Show also receives a smaller cup and the Governor's Cup with his name on it for one year to display and show.

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