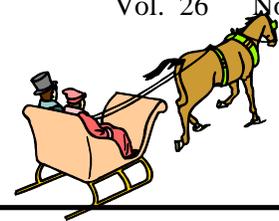




Season's Greetings

from

Colorado Field Office



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FALL POTATO STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2006

The 13 major potato States held 252 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2006, down 1 percent from last year and 6 percent below December 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 66 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks have been added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 4.0 million cwt. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon, potato stocks. Potato disappearance, at 130 million cwt, is up 8 percent from last year. Season to date shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt, is up 10 percent from last year. Processors in the 9 major States have used 72.3 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 8 percent from last year but 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Disappearance of 130 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 8 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt, is up 10 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 72.3 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing increased 14 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 29 percent above the same date in 2005, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 8 percent from last year but 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Western States held 171 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 4 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 1 percent from last year, Washington's potato

sheds held 7 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 16 percent from last season. Colorado and Montana's December potato stocks were unchanged from 2005. California's potato stocks are up 13 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 63.4 million cwt of potato stocks on December 1, up 6 percent from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks increased 7 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 24 percent more than the previous year, and Michigan and Nebraska's stocks are both 4 percent above 2005. Minnesota's potato stocks declined 11 percent from the same date in 2005.

(Continued on Page 4)

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks December 1, 2005-2006

State	Crop of 2005			Crop of 2006		
	Prod.	Stocks Dec. 1, 2005	% of Prod.	Prod.	Stocks Dec. 1, 2006	% of Prod.
	1,000 Cwt		%	1,000 Cwt		%
CA	3,306	1,600	48	3,783	1,800	48
CO	22,910	17,200	75	22,686	17,200	76
ID.....	118,288	85,000	72	121,820	84,000	69
ME.....	15,455	12,500	81	18,270	14,700	80
MI.....	13,910	7,900	57	14,190	8,200	58
MN	17,630	13,500	77	20,400	12,000	59
MT.....	3,445	3,400	99	3,413	3,400	100
NE	8,245	5,600	68	8,589	5,800	68
NY	5,226	2,900	55	5,700	2,800	49
ND.....	20,500	14,000	68	25,480	17,300	68
OR	22,023	19,000	86	18,533	16,000	86
WA	95,480	52,500	55	89,900	49,000	55
WI.....	27,880	18,700	67	29,370	20,100	68
13 ST.						
TOTAL	374,298	253,800	68	382,134	252,300	66
Klamath Basin 1/					4,000	

1/ Estimates began in 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. Or.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS/2006

Production in Colorado, at 1.24 million cwt, is down 6 percent from 2005. Area harvested at 65,000 acres was 19 percent lower than the 80,000 acres harvested last year. The average yield of 1,900 pounds per acre is 250 pounds above 2005.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 23.8 million cwt for 2006, virtually unchanged from the October forecast but 11 percent below the revised 2005 production. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.53 million acres, 2 percent below the last forecast but virtually unchanged from the previous year's revised acreage. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,558 pounds per acre, an increase of 35 pounds from the October forecast but 188 pounds below the revised 2005 yield. Production is below a year ago in 13 of the 18 producing States. Production is down from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, great northern, small white, pinto, light red kidney, dark red kidney, small red, cranberry, and small chickpeas.

Production increased from last year for navy, pink, black, blackeye, and large chickpeas.

Production in North Dakota is forecast at 7.62 million cwt, 11 percent below 2005. Nebraska growers produced 2.64 million cwt of dry beans, 32 percent less than last year. The average yield, at 2,150 pounds per acre, is down 100 pounds from the previous year. Production in Minnesota is forecast at 2.23 million cwt, 8 percent below last year. The average yield, at 1,650 pounds per acre, is down 150 pounds from 2005. Lower yields were attributed to dry, hot weather during the summer. Some growers had mold problems caused by wet conditions near harvest. Kansas decreased 24 percent, Wyoming declined 23 percent, and South Dakota is down 19 percent. New York is 15 percent lower, California 11 percent, Colorado is 6 percent below the revised 2005 production, and Montana decreased 2 percent. Production in New Mexico is 38 percent above last year, Texas increased 12 percent, Oregon is up 8 percent, and Idaho growers produced 2 percent more than last year. Production in Washington is unchanged from 2005.

Dry Edible Beans: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004-2006 ^{1/}

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre ^{2/}		Production ^{2/}		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Pounds		1,000 Cwt.		
California.....	66.0	67.0	65.0	65.0	2,130	1,900	1,152	1,385	1,235
Colorado.....	90.0	70.0	80.0	65.0	1,650	1,900	1,039	1,320	1,235
Idaho.....	100.0	105.0	98.0	103.0	1,900	1,850	1,638	1,862	1,906
Kansas	13.0	11.0	12.5	10.0	2,200	2,100	153	275	210
Michigan	235.0	225.0	230.0	215.0	1,700	1,800	3,145	3,910	3,870
Minnesota.....	145.0	145.0	135.0	135.0	1,800	1,650	1,150	2,430	2,228
Montana.....	18.0	19.5	14.1	18.9	2,000	1,460	285	282	275
Nebraska.....	175.0	140.0	172.0	123.0	2,250	2,150	2,376	3,870	2,644
New Mexico.....	6.3	7.6	6.3	7.6	2,200	2,530	156	139	192
New York.....	25.0	19.0	23.0	18.0	1,230	1,330	247	282	239
North Dakota.....	620.0	670.0	565.0	635.0	1,520	1,200	4,750	8,588	7,620
Oregon	9.0	10.0	8.8	9.8	2,000	1,940	116	176	190
South Dakota.....	17.5	21.5	17.4	18.9	1,730	1,300	164	301	245
Texas	17.0	20.0	15.3	18.0	1,520	1,450	140	233	261
Utah.....	4.5	3.0	4.5	0.5	500	350	14	23	2
Washington	49.0	60.0	48.0	55.0	1,650	1,440	609	792	792
Wisconsin.....	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.5	2,250	1,910	113	128	105
Wyoming.....	34.0	29.0	33.0	27.0	2,350	2,200	541	776	594
United States.....	1,630.0	1,628.2	1,533.6	1,530.2	1,746	1,558	17,788	26,772	23,843

^{1/} Excludes beans grown for garden seed. ^{2/} Clean Basis.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION/2006 Crop

Production of fall potatoes for 2006 is forecast at 392 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last month and 2 percent above last year. Area harvested, at 976,400 acres, is virtually unchanged from November but increased 3 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 401 cwt per acre, up 1 cwt from last month but 2 cwt below the record high set last year.

Western States production is forecast at 265 million cwt, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 607,600 acres, increased 1 percent from last year but the average yield of 436 cwt per acre is down 13 cwt from 2005. Idaho's potato production, forecast at 122 million cwt, is 3 percent above last year. Yield is expected to be 371 cwt per acre, 5 cwt above last year. If realized, this would be the second highest yield on record, 3 cwt below the record high set in 2004. Extremely hot weather in late July caused some concern, but crop progress was advanced enough that yields were not substantially affected. Production in Washington is forecast at 89.9 million cwt, 6 percent below last year. If realized, this will be the lowest production since 1997. Colorado's production is expected to decreased 1 percent from 2005 and yields are down 15 cwt per acre.

Unusually wet and cool growing conditions along with early hail hampered development, lowering yields and tuber sizes. Oregon's production, at 18.5 million cwt, is 16 percent below last year. Yield is expected to be 530 cwt per acre, 64 cwt below the record high yield set in 2005. In California, production is forecast to be up 14 percent. Good growing conditions resulted in larger tuber size and higher yields. In Montana, production is expected to be down 1 percent but the crop quality is reported to be good. Nevada growers expect a 26 percent increase in production. Growing conditions were good and irrigation water supplies adequate. New Mexico's production is expected to be up 19 percent from last year. This increase is due mainly to more harvested acres. Central States production is forecast at 99.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November forecast and 11 percent above last year. Harvested area, estimated at 277,400 acres, is 7 percent above a year ago and the average yield of 357 cwt per acre is 13 cwt above a year ago.

Fall potato growers in the San Luis Valley produced 22.69 million cwt of potatoes this year, down 1 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was 380 cwt per acre, 15 cwt below last year's yield. The harvested area of 59,700 acres this year was 1,700 acres more than in 2005.

Fall Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004-2006

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield/Acre		Production		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres		1,000 Acres		Cwt		1,000 Cwt		
California.....	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	435	485	3,648	3,306	3,783
Colorado	58.2	59.9	58.0	59.7	395	380	23,791	22,910	22,686
ID.....	325.0	330.0	323.0	328.0	366	371	131,970	118,288	121,820
10 SW Co.....	21.0	20.0	21.0	20.0	470	470	12,250	9,870	9,400
Other Co.....	304.0	310.0	302.0	308.0	359	365	119,720	108,418	112,420
Indiana.....	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	1,120	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Maine.....	57.5	58.5	56.2	58.0	275	315	19,065	15,455	18,270
Massachusetts.....	2.5	3.1	2.4	3.1	260	260	800	624	806
Michigan.....	43.0	43.5	42.8	43.0	325	330	13,650	13,910	14,190
Minnesota.....	46.0	51.0	43.0	48.0	410	425	18,920	17,630	20,400
Montana.....	10.7	10.6	10.6	10.5	325	325	3,551	3,445	3,413
Nebraska.....	19.5	19.5	19.4	19.3	425	445	9,288	8,245	8,589
Nevada.....	5.5	6.6	5.5	6.6	425	445	2,881	2,338	2,937
New Mexico 2/.....	4.7	5.0	4.2	5.0	420	420	1,720	1,764	2,100
New York.....	20.5	20.6	20.1	19.0	260	300	5,184	5,226	5,700
North Dakota.....	92.0	100.0	82.0	98.0	250	260	26,765	20,500	25,480
Ohio.....	3.7	3.3	3.6	3.1	240	320	1,080	864	992
OR.....	37.3	35.0	37.1	35.0	594	530	19,775	22,023	18,533
Malheur.....	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.5	450	435	2,444	1,710	1,523
Other Co.....	33.5	31.5	33.3	31.5	610	540	17,331	20,313	17,010
Pennsylvania.....	11.5	11.0	11.0	10.8	250	260	2,640	2,750	2,808
Rhode Island.....	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210	250	145	105	125
Washington.....	154.0	156.0	154.0	155.0	620	580	93,810	95,480	89,900
Wisconsin.....	68.0	66.0	68.0	66.0	410	445	30,450	27,880	29,370
United States	967.7	987.9	949.0	976.4	403	401	410,253	382,743	391,902

1/ Estimates discontinued in 2005. 2/ Summer potatoes combined with fall potatoes in 2006

(Continued from page 1)

Fall potato stocks in Colorado's San Luis Valley totaled 17.2 million cwt as of December 1, 2006 equal to stocks in storage one year earlier. The latest stocks represent 76 percent of the 22.69 million cwt produced in 2006. The December 2005 stocks represented 75 percent of the 2005 crop of 22.91 million cwt. The December 1, 2006 stocks by type in Colorado were 3 percent reds, 13 percent whites and 84 percent russet.

Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 70 percent of the production for the 2001-2005 period. The remaining 30 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years. If these relationships for total sales and table stock sales exist for the 2006 crop, about 19.5 million cwt of the 22.69 million cwt produced will be sold of which 15.9 million cwt will be sold as table stock.

MILK PRODUCTION/NOVEMBER 2006

Colorado dairy herds produced 207 million pounds of milk during the November 2006 period, 8 percent above the 191 million pounds produced during the same period in 2005. The average number of milk cows on hand during the month was 112,000, up 7,000 head from the same month last year. Production per cow averaged 1,850 pounds for November, 2 percent above the 1,820 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 13.3 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from November 2005. October production, unrevised at 13.7 billion pounds, was up 2.1 percent from October 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,616 pounds for November, 24 pounds above November 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.25 million head, 81,000 head more than November 2005, and 3,000 head more than October 2006.

Milk Cows and Milk Production

23 Major States

Colorado and U. S. Milk Production, November, 2005-06

Item	Unit	2005	2006
Colorado:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	105	112
Production per cow <u>2</u> /	Pounds	1,820	1,850
Production <u>2</u> /.....	Mil. lbs.	191	207
United States:			
Milk Cows <u>1</u> /.....	1,000 head	8,167	8,248
Production per cow <u>2</u> /	Pounds	1,592	1,616
Production <u>2</u> /.....	Mil. lbs.	13,002	13,328

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Dec. 21 - Cold Storage
- Dec. 22 - Cattle on Feed
- Dec. 22 - Chickens and Eggs
- Dec. 22 - Livestock Slaughter
- Dec. 27 - Hogs and Pigs
- Dec. 28 - Agricultural Prices
- Jan. 5 - Turkeys Raised
- Jan. 12 - Crop Production - Annual
- Jan. 12 - Grain Stocks
- Jan. 12 - Turkey Hatchery
- Jan. 12 - Winter Wheat and Rye Seedings
- Jan. 17 - Potato Stocks
- Jan. 18 - Milk Production
- Jan. 26 - Cattle on Feed

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