

2006 SPRING PRODUCTION

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FLORIDA: The spring crop potato production is expected to total 6,962,000 cwt, up 435,000 cwt or 7 percent from the 6,527,000 cwt produced during the spring of last year. Producers in the Hastings area are expected to dig three-fourths of this production, or 5,222,000 cwt, up 462,000 cwt or 10 percent from last year. The rest of the production, 1,740,000 cwt, will be harvested by growers in other areas. Acreage to be harvested is set at 23,700 acres, up 500 acres from the 23,200 acres dug in 2005. Yield is expected to average 294 cwt per acre compared with 281 cwt per acre averaged in the spring of 2005. The Hastings area yield is expected to average 295 cwt per acre, up 15 cwt per acre from 2005. Dry weather during January, February and March kept planting on schedule around Hastings and in the northern Peninsula. In late March, Hastings growers continued to make double crop plantings following cabbage harvests. Digging was gaining momentum in the Hastings area by mid-April as harvesting in the other spring areas continued. Mostly dry weather during April let growers maintain proper moisture in fields with some very good quality spuds available.

UNITED STATES: Spring production in 2006 is forecast at 20.6 million cwt, up 3 percent from the April forecast and 10 percent above last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 69,700 acres, up 3 percent from the April estimate and 4 percent above last year. The average yield is forecast at 296 cwt per acre, 2 cwt above last month and up 15 cwt from a year ago. North Carolina's potato crop, forecasted at 3.40 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the April 1 forecast and 19 percent above last year. Crop condition is fair to good with adequate top soil moisture. California spring production is forecast at 6.26 million cwt, 9 percent above last month's forecast and up 2 percent from a year ago. Weather conditions have been wet and cool resulting in a slower developing crop. Growers are anticipating a late harvest because of the weather. Production in Texas is forecast at 2.86 million cwt, down 7 percent from the April forecast but 39 percent above 2005. Producers in Texas have had good growing condition with mild weather and they have been able to irrigate as needed. Arizona growers expect production to be 1.17 million cwt, up 6 percent from the April forecast but down 1 percent from 2005. Harvest began mid-April and the size of the potatoes have been large.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2005	Indicated 2006	2004	2005	Indicated 2006
	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Spring									
Arizona	4.3	3.9	4.3	3.9	275	300	1,767	1,183	1,170
California	15.1	14.9	15.1	14.9	405	420	8,313	6,116	6,258
Florida	23.6	24.1	23.2	23.7	281	294	7,678	6,527	6,962
Hastings	17.3	18.0	17.0	17.7	280	295	5,760	4,760	5,222
Other	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.0	285	290	1,918	1,767	1,740
North Carolina	15.5	17.5	15.0	17.0	190	200	2,700	2,850	3,400
Texas	9.5	10.7	9.1	10.2	225	280	2,205	2,048	2,856
Total	68.0	71.1	66.7	69.7	281	296	22,663	18,724	20,646

MAY POTATO STOCKS DOWN 17 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 13 major potato States held 73.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 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 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt from the start of harvest to May 1, is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 23.2 million cwt, is down 21 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 150 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Comparisons by region will not be made in this narrative to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Comparisons for individual States are as follows. Idaho's potato stocks are down 22 percent from last year, while Maine's sheds held 8 percent less than last year, and Colorado's stocks dropped 28 percent from last season. Stocks in Wisconsin decreased 3 percent from 2005. North Dakota's potato stocks dropped 61 percent from last year, while Minnesota's stocks are 47 percent below last year, and California's potato sheds held 20 percent less than in 2005. Montana, Nebraska, and New York's potato stocks combined decreased 18 percent from last year. Michigan potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2005. Washington and Oregon are the only States where potato stocks have increased from the same date in 2005, with stocks up 10 percent and 28 percent, respectively.



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POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2003-2005^{1/}

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire season
					1,000 cwt				
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000	58,090	65,800	84,600
	2005	22,590	28,960	35,570	42,800	50,220	57,120		
Maine ^{2/}	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004	1,540	1,970	2,600	3,135	3,700	4,340	4,910	6,590
	2005	1,290	1,805	2,405	3,015	3,740	4,400		
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2003	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004	32,305	38,130	43,570	50,730	57,140	63,855	71,355	78,680
	2005	30,310	35,895	40,545	48,290	55,320	61,855		
Other States ^{3/}	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,490	15,000	17,965	20,910	24,150	27,480	30,945	41,175
	2005 ^{4/}	11,820	15,030	17,980	21,230	24,080	26,990		
Total	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004	70,695	85,940	100,955	119,385	135,990	153,765	173,010	211,045
	2005 ^{4/}	66,010	81,690	96,500	115,335	133,360	150,365		
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	14,525	18,540	21,875	25,970	30,020	33,685	38,505	47,805
	2005 ^{4/}	12,180	15,920	19,515	23,210	27,205	30,825		

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI.

^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{4/} April revised.

^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1996 through 2005

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
					1,000 Cwt			
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005 ^{2/}	372,581	251,800	218,900	187,600	153,700	113,900	72,950	

^{1/} Data not available prior to 1998.

^{2/} 13 major States for the 2005 crop.