



FIELD CROPS

Potato Acreage, Production and Stocks

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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2006 PRODUCTION

FLORIDA: Dry weather during the first week of November 2005 around Immokalee helped to drain fields saturated by Hurricane Wilma's rains. Mostly mild weather during the rest of November and all of December helped planting to stay on schedule in southern areas and aided crop development. Around mid-December and during the last half of January, the crop received no significant damage from temperatures in the 30s. Although temperatures remained cool during February, growth and development remained unaffected. Dry weather during January, February, and March kept planting on schedule around Hastings and in the northern Peninsula. Digging got underway in early to mid-February around Lake Okeechobee, Immokalee, and Lakeland with the dry conditions keeping harvest on schedule. In the Hastings area, most producers started planting around mid-January. In late March, Hastings potato growers continued to make double crop plantings following the harvest of cabbage. Digging gained 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 producers controlling the water table by seep systems. Growers marketed some very good quality spuds during the spring. For the year, producers harvested 7,816,000 hundredweight, down 103,000 hundredweight or one percent from the 7,919,000 hundredweight dug during 2005.

2006 SPRING PRODUCTION

UNITED STATES: Production for 2006 is estimated at 19.8 million cwt, down 4 percent from the May forecast but 6 percent above 2005. Harvested area totaled 67,500 acres, 3 percent below the previous forecast but up 1 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 293 cwt per acre decreased 3 cwt from the May forecast but increased 12 cwt from 2005. Spring potato production in Texas increased 39 percent from 2005 and 14 percent in North Carolina. Favorable growing conditions in Texas resulted in higher yields than last year. In North Carolina, growing conditions prior to harvest were the best in recent years, increasing yields from the previous year, but substantial rain just before harvest drowned out many acres. The spring potato production in Arizona, California, and Florida all declined 1 percent from 2005. The decreases in Arizona and Florida are due to fewer acres being harvested. California growers realized a lower yield than last year due to wet spring conditions.

2007 WINTER PRODUCTION

UNITED STATES: Based on conditions existing January 1, California production for 2007 is forecast at 2.88 million cwt. California production is expected to be down 8 percent from last year and 18 percent from 2005. Harvested area in California is forecast at 11,500 acres, down 4 percent from 2006, while the average yield is expected to be 250 cwt per acre, 10 cwt below last year. Growers reported an average crop, with yields below last year but similar to 2005. Concerns were raised over a killing frost that occurred after Thanksgiving, but it appeared to have little effect on the crop.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2006	Indicated 2007	2005	2006	Indicated 2007
	2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	12.0	11.5	12.0	11.5	260	250	3,500	3,120	2,875
Florida ^{1/}	5.7		5.5		250		1,392	1,375	
Total	17.7	11.5	17.5	11.5	257	250	4,892	4,495	2,875
Spring ^{2/}									
Arizona			3.9		300		1,183	1,170	
California	15.3		15.3		395		6,116	6,044	
Florida ^{1/}	23.1		22.6		285		6,527	6,441	
Hastings	17.0		16.6		285		4,760	4,731	
Other	6.1		6.0		285		1,767	1,710	
North Carolina	17.7		15.5		210		2,850	3,255	
Texas	10.7		10.2		280		2,048	2,856	
Total	70.7		67.5		293		18,724	19,766	

^{1/} Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007

^{2/} 2006 Revised.

POTATO STOCKS, VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR

The 13 major potato States held 220 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2007, virtually unchanged from last year but 7 percent below January 1, 2005, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 58 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 3.40 million cwt on January 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 162 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is up 6 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 16.1 million cwt, is up 7 percent from the previous year. Processors have used 88.5 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 3 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 12 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 26 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.5 million cwt of the total processing, up 5 percent from last year but 11 percent below the same date in 2005.

Western States held 151 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, down 4 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 1 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 9 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 16 percent from last season. Colorado potato sheds held 1 percent more stocks than last year, Montana's stocks are up 3 percent from 2006, and California's potato stocks increased 15 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 54.1 million cwt of potato stocks on January 1, up 10 percent from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks increased 10 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 30 percent more, Michigan stocks are up 6 percent, and potato stocks in Nebraska are 2 percent above last season. Minnesota's potato stocks declined 4 percent from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 14.9 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, up 11 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 16 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 4 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2004-2006^{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
		<i>1,000 cwt</i>							
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000	58,090	65,800	84,600
	2005	22,840	29,300	35,970	43,300	50,820	57,830	65,030	77,360
	2006	26,130	32,810						
Maine ^{2/}	2004	1,540	1,970	2,600	3,135	3,700	4,340	4,910	6,590
	2005	1,365	1,880	2,485	3,090	3,800	4,450	5,130	6,825
	2006	1,755	2,360						
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	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	61,885	69,360	78,550
	2006	30,980	37,060						
Other States ^{3/}	2004	12,490	15,000	17,965	20,910	24,150	27,480	30,945	41,175
	2005	11,055	14,070	17,005	19,895	22,520	25,270	27,740	35,535
	2006	13,465	16,265						
Total	2004	70,695	85,940	100,955	119,385	135,990	153,765	173,010	211,045
	2005	65,570	81,145	96,005	114,575	132,460	149,405	167,260	198,270
	2006	72,330	88,895						
Dehydrated ^{4/}	2004	14,525	18,540	21,875	25,970	30,020	33,685	38,505	47,810
	2005	11,920	15,655	19,225	22,765	26,605	30,065	34,130	41,625
	2006	12,860	16,490						

^{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 and WI.

^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

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

^{4/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2006 and 2007^{1/}

State	Crop of 2005			Crop of 2006			
	Production	Stocks Jan 1, 2006	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2006	Stocks Jan 1, 2007	January as percent of production
	<i>1,000 cwt</i>			<i>1,000 cwt</i>			<i>Percent</i>
California	3,306	1,300	39	3,783	1,800	1,500	40
Colorado	22,910	15,000	65	22,686	17,200	15,200	67
Idaho	118,288	75,500	64	121,820	84,000	74,500	61
Maine ^{2/}	15,455	11,200	72	18,270	14,600	13,000	71
Michigan	13,910	6,200	45	14,190	8,200	6,600	47
Minnesota	17,630	11,100	63	20,400	12,000	10,700	52
Montana	3,445	3,300	96	3,518	3,400	3,400	97
Nebraska	8,245	4,700	57	8,633	5,800	4,800	56
New York	5,226	2,200	42	5,700	2,800	1,900	33
North Dakota	20,500	11,500	56	25,480	17,300	15,000	59
Oregon	22,023	16,500	75	18,533	16,000	13,900	75
Washington	95,480	46,500	49	89,900	49,000	42,500	47
Wisconsin	27,880	15,500	56	29,370	20,100	17,000	58
Total 13 States ^{2/}	374,298	220,500	59	382,283	252,200	220,000	58
Klamath Basin ^{3/}					4,000	3,400	

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2006 totaled 25.6 million cwt.

^{2/} December 1, 2006, stocks revised.

^{3/} Estimates began in December 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.