



FIELD CROPS

Potato Acreage, Production and Stocks

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1222 Woodward St. · Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

May 16, 2007

2007 SPRING PRODUCTION

FLORIDA: The spring crop potato production is forecast at 7.73 million cwt, down 2 percent from the April 1 forecast but 20 percent above the combined winter/spring 2006 production of 6.44 million cwt. Potato growers in the Hastings area are expected to dig about 59 percent of the total production, or 4.54 million cwt, down 195,000 cwt or 4 percent from last year. The remainder potato production at 3.19 million cwt will be harvested by growers in other areas. Yield is expected to average 284 cwt per acre, virtually unchanged from last year's winter/spring combined yield at 285 cwt per acre. The Hastings area combined yield, at 280 cwt per acre, is down 5 cwt or 2 percent from the 2006 combined yield of 285 cwt per acre. Florida's winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes in 2007. Mostly dry weather during April allowed growers to maintain proper soil moisture levels for harvest, resulting in very good quality potatoes.

UNITED STATES: Spring production in 2007 is forecast at 20.7 million cwt, down 1 percent from the April forecast but 5 percent above last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 70,400 acres, up 1 percent from April and 4 percent above last year. The average yield is forecast at 294 cwt per acre, 4 cwt below last month but up 1 cwt from a year ago. North Carolina's potato crop is forecast at 2.76 million cwt, down 5 percent from the April 1 forecast and 15 percent below last year. Below average temperatures during April lowered yield expectations but growers are still optimistic about the quality of the potatoes. California spring production is forecast at 6.12 million cwt, unchanged from last month's forecast but 1 percent above last year. Cold weather earlier in the year put the crop behind schedule and some growers will not begin harvest until June. Production in Texas is forecast at 2.94 million cwt, up 3 percent from both the April 1 forecast and the 2006 production. Growing conditions have been good with high levels of moisture available. Arizona growers expect production to total 1.12 million cwt, up 7 percent from the April forecast but down 4 percent from 2006. An increase in acreage from the April forecast more than offset a decrease in yield.

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		
Spring									
Arizona	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	300	280	1,183	1,170	1,120
California	15.3	15.5	15.3	15.5	395	395	6,116	6,044	6,123
Florida ^{1/}	23.1	27.8	22.6	27.2	285	284	6,527	6,441	7,726
Hastings	17.0	16.5	16.6	16.2	285	280	4,760	4,731	4,536
Other	6.1	11.3	6.0	11.0	285	290	1,767	1,710	3,190
North Carolina	17.7	16.0	15.5	14.5	210	190	2,850	3,255	2,755
Texas	10.7	9.7	10.2	9.2	280	320	2,048	2,856	2,944
Total	70.7	73.0	67.5	70.4	293	294	18,724	19,766	20,668

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

MAY POTATO STOCKS DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 13 major potato States held 73.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2007, down 4 percent from last year and 17 percent below May 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 19 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 totaled 600,000 cwt on May 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 309 million cwt from the start of harvest to May 1, is up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 23.7 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 162 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 8 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 8 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 8 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 34.6 million cwt of the total processing, up 15 percent from last year and 3 percent above the same date in 2005.

Idaho's potato stocks are down 11 percent from last year, while sheds in Washington held 20 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks dropped 4 percent from last season. Stocks in Wisconsin decreased 10 percent from 2006. Maine's potato stocks increased 26 percent from last year, North Dakota's sheds held 50 percent more, and stocks in Minnesota are up 52 percent. Potato sheds in Nebraska held 17 percent more than last season, while potato stocks in Michigan increased 80 percent, and California's stocks are up 13 percent from last year. Montana and New York's potato sheds combined held 30 percent more than on the same date in 2006. Colorado's potato stocks are unchanged from last year. Comparisons by region are not made in this narrative to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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	40,100	47,730	55,380	62,470		
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
	^{3/} 2006	1,755	2,360	2,910	3,465	4,190	4,820		
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	42,190	49,930	56,690	63,220		
Other States ^{4/}	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	16,905	20,450	23,820	27,815	31,165		
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
	^{3/} 2006	72,330	89,135	105,650	124,945	144,075	161,675		
Dehydrated ^{5/}	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	17,130	21,270	25,550	30,180	34,625		

^{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/} April revised.

^{4/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{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, 1997 through 2006

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>						
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/}	374,298	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006 ^{2/}	382,283	252,200	220,000	187,800	153,200	113,600	73,200	

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

^{2/} Thirteen major States.