



FIELD CROPS

Potato Acreage, Production and Stocks

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2008 SPRING PRODUCTION

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes for the 2007-08 crop.

WEATHER: Mostly mild weather during December 2007 and January 2008 helped planting to stay on schedule and aided crop development. Dry weather throughout the months of January to March kept planting on schedule around Hastings and in the northern Peninsula. Potato digging is expected to begin by mid to late April in the Hastings area and it is underway in the other spring potato areas.

SPRING: Producers planted 28,500 acres, up 700 acres from the 27,800 winter and spring acres planted in 2007. Acreage for harvest was set at 27,900 acres, up 700 acres from the combined winter and spring acres harvested a year ago. Yield is expected to average 290 cwt per acre, up 3 cwt from the previous year. The combined winter and spring production is anticipated to total 8,091,000 cwt, up four percent or 284,000 cwt from the 2007 combined production. Growers in the Hastings area planted 17,300 acres and hope to dig 17,000 acres compared with 16,500 acres planted and 16,200 acres dug in 2007. The Hastings area yield is expected to average 290 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt or 2 percent from the 285 per acre averaged in 2007. The Hastings production is set at 4,930,000 cwt or 7 percent more than the 4,617,000 cwt dug last year. The combined winter and spring production from other areas is expected to total 3,161,000 cwt, down 29,000 cwt or 1 percent from the 3,190,000 cwt dug a year ago.

UNITED STATES

WINTER POTATOES: Production for 2008 is estimated at 2.64 million cwt, 4 percent below the January forecast but 7 percent above last year. Area harvested in California was 11,000 acres, unchanged from January but down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 240 cwt per acre is down 10 cwt from January but 25 cwt above 2007. Demand for winter potatoes remained strong as harvest wound down.

SPRING: Spring production for 2008 is forecast at 19.9 million cwt, down 4 percent from 2007 but 1 percent above 2006. Area for harvest is forecast at 67,200 acres, down 5 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 297 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above 2007. California spring production is forecast at 5.52 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year. Growers reported favorable growing conditions and expect to begin harvest by late April. Although yields have increased, harvested acres are expected to be 14 percent below last year. North Carolina's potato crop is forecast at 2.80 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year. Crop condition was rated at 65 percent good to excellent with 82 percent of the crop planted as of March 30. Production in Texas is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, down 16 percent from 2007. Acreage was down due to labor shortages and increases in operating costs. Arizona growers expect production to total 1.05 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year.

SUMMER POTATOES, 2007 REVISIONS: The final estimate of 2007 summer potato crop production is 17.0 million cwt, up 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2007 Summary but down 6 percent from the 2006 crop. Harvested area covered 51,300 acres, up 2 percent from the 2007 preliminary estimate but down 5 percent from 2006. The average yield of 332 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from the 2007 preliminary estimate and 5 cwt below the 2006 crop.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2007	Indicated 2008	2006	2007	Indicated 2008
	2007	Indicated 2008	2007	Indicated 2008					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	3,120	2,473	2,640
Florida ^{1/}							1,375		
Total	11.5	11.0	11.5	11.0	215	240	4,495	2,473	2,640
Spring									
Arizona	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.5	280	300	1,170	1,120	1,050
California	15.5	13.3	15.5	13.3	395	415	6,044	6,123	5,520
Florida	27.8	28.5	27.2	27.9	287	290	6,441	7,807	8,091
Hastings	16.5	17.3	16.2	17.0	285	290	4,731	4,617	4,930
Other	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9	290	290	1,710	3,190	3,161
North Carolina	16.0	15.0	14.5	14.0	186	200	3,255	2,700	2,800
Texas	9.7	8.9	9.2	8.5	320	290	2,856	2,944	2,465
Total	73.0	69.2	70.4	67.2	294	297	19,766	20,694	19,926

^{1/} Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007-08

APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 13 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2008, up 8 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above April 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.15 million cwt on April 1, 2008, down 18 percent from last year. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to April 1 was at 270 million cwt, 1 percent above last year and up 4 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 7 percent from 2006.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 9 percent from 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Maine's total processing was 5 percent below 2007. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was 3 percent higher than last season. Dehydrating usage accounted for 29.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

Western States held 99.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 14 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 10 percent from last year; Washington's potato stocks were 40 percent above last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 14 percent from April 1, 2007. California's potato stocks decreased 25 percent from 2007, while Colorado's and Montana's stocks were both down 17 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 24.4 million cwt of all potato stocks on April 1, down 5 percent from a year ago but 20 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 5 percent from last year; North Dakota's stocks were 24 percent below 2007; and potato stocks in Nebraska were down 13 percent from the previous season. Minnesota's stocks increased 5 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato stocks were 61 percent higher than a year ago.

Eastern States stored 6.50 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, down 21 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent below April 1, 2006. Maine's potato stocks were 19 percent lower than last year and New York's potato stocks decreased 40 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2005-2007^{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	2005	22,840	29,300	35,970	43,300	50,820	57,830	65,030	77,360
	2006	27,090	34,070	41,350	48,940	56,650	63,680	71,220	85,630
	2007	26,230	33,260	40,220	48,570	55,480			
Maine ^{2/}	2005	1,365	1,880	2,485	3,090	3,800	4,450	5,130	6,825
	2006	1,755	2,360	2,910	3,465	4,185	4,810	5,470	7,560
	2007	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,985			
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	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	63,170	70,410	77,355
	2007	28,995	34,675	39,700	47,390	58,185			
Other States ^{3/}	2005	11,055	14,070	17,005	19,895	22,520	25,270	27,740	35,535
	2006	14,270	17,695	21,290	24,545	28,040	31,370	34,830	43,315
	2007	15,470	17,560	20,890	23,955	26,605			
Total	2005	65,570	81,145	96,005	114,575	132,460	149,405	167,260	198,270
	2006	74,095	91,185	107,740	126,880	145,565	163,030	181,930	213,860
	2007	71,965	87,665	103,625	123,355	144,255			
Dehydrated ^{4/}	2005	11,920	15,655	19,225	22,765	26,605	30,065	34,130	41,625
	2006	14,590	19,250	23,635	27,885	32,210	36,480	40,915	49,370
	2007	12,660	16,680	20,965	25,185	29,300			

^{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, 13 Major States, 1998 through 2007

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>								
1998 ^{1/}	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999 ^{1/}	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000 ^{1/}	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001 ^{1/}	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 ^{1/}	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003 ^{1/}	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 ^{1/}	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005	374,298	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006	382,272	259,300	226,100	192,600	159,700	121,000	79,050	44,460
2007	400,085	270,100	237,500	206,200	171,800	130,100		

^{1/} 15 major States.