



Press Release

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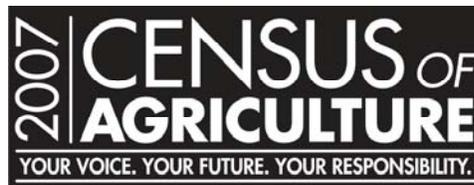
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Idaho's 2006 Potato Crop Valued at \$761 Million

The final value of Idaho's 2006 potato crop was \$761 million, \$86.4 million above 2005's value of \$674 million, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The market year average price received by growers of \$5.90 per cwt was above the 2005 level of \$5.70 per cwt. Idaho's growers sold 120 million cwt from their 2006 crop, up from the 109 million cwt sold from the 2005 crop. Growers used 1.19 million cwt on the farm for seed, feed and household consumption. The remaining 8.20 million cwt was lost to shrinkage, decay and dumping. Fresh market sales accounted for 31.2 million cwt of the 2006 crop, up 3 percent from the 2005 crop, while processing accounted for 78.5 million cwt, 14 percent more than the 2005 crop and the largest processing total since the 2000 crop. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used a total of 85.6 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes compared to 77.4 million cwt used in 2005. Of the total processed, 78.5 million cwt were Idaho potatoes. Processing in Idaho and Malheur County accounted for 60.9 percent of Idaho's production compared to 58.5 percent of the 2005 crop. Idaho's 2006 potato production of 129 million cwt accounted for 32 percent of the entire U.S. Fall production of 399 million cwt. The Pacific Northwest; Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, collectively, totaled 237 million cwt or 59 percent of the U.S. Fall production.

For the United States, the value of all potatoes sold from the 2006 crop is estimated at \$2.98 billion, up 8 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$7.33 per cwt, is up \$0.27 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2006 potato crop totaled 407 million cwt, up 4 percent from 2005. Processors used 280 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2006 crop, up 14 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 101 million cwt, 16 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 23.7 million cwt are up 6 percent from 2005. Sales for livestock feed, at 1.66 million cwt, are down 17 percent from a year earlier. Shrinkage and loss are estimated at 29.9 million cwt for 2006, up 5 percent from 2005. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.24 million cwt, 3 percent above the previous season. Growers kept 3.50 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 3 percent from a year earlier.



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