



Released: December 19, 2006

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

The USDA NASS, Minnesota Field Office provides potato acreage, production, and stocks by two potato areas in Minnesota as requested by the potato industry. Area 1 includes fourteen Minnesota counties primarily located in the Red River Valley. Area 2 includes all remaining counties in Minnesota.

2006 Fall Potato Production: Minnesota's fall potato production is estimated at 20.4 million hundredweight, up 16 percent from last year's crop. Planted acreage at 51,000 was 5,000 acres above the 2005 level. Harvested acreage of 48,000 was up 5,000 acres from 2005. Minnesota's yield is forecast at 425 hundredweight per acre, 5 hundredweight below the 2004 record of 430 hundredweight per acre, and up 15 hundredweight from last year's yield of 410 hundredweight per acre. Area 1 yield averaged 300 hundredweight per acre and the Area 2 yield averaged 469 hundredweight per acre.

December 1, 2006 Stocks: Minnesota's fall potatoes in storage totaled 12 million hundredweight, down 11 percent from the December 1, 2005 level. The breakdown of stocks by type indicates 12 percent red, 6 percent white, and 82 percent russet. Stocks in Area 1 totaled 3 million hundredweight, down 9 percent from 2005. Potato stocks by type in Area 1 break out as 40 percent red, 7 percent white, and 53 percent russet. Stocks in Area 2 totaled 9 million hundredweight, down 12 percent from 2005. Potato stocks by type in Area 2 break out as 2 percent red, 6 percent white and 92 percent russet.

The 13 major potato states held 252 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2006, down 1 percent from last year and 6 percent below December 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 66 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks have been added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 4.0 million cwt. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon, potato stocks. Disappearance of 130 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 8 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt, is up 10 percent from the previous year. Processors have used 72.3 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing increased 14 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 29 percent above the same date in 2005, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 8 percent from last year but 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

| Type | Region 1/ | 2005 Crop | | | | 2006 Crop | | | |
|--------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | | Planted Acres | Harvested Acres | Yield Cwt. | Production (000) Cwt. | Planted Acres | Harvested Acres | Yield Cwt. | Production (000) Cwt. |
| Red | Minnesota | 12,000 | 10,100 | 246 | 2,480 | 10,700 | 9,700 | 235 | 2,280 |
| White | | 4,600 | 4,100 | 287 | 1,175 | 4,600 | 4,100 | 375 | 1,537 |
| Russet | | 29,400 | 28,800 | 485 | 13,975 | 35,700 | 34,200 | 485 | 16,583 |
| Total | | 46,000 | 43,000 | 410 | 17,630 | 51,000 | 48,000 | 425 | 20,400 |
| Red | MN Area 1 | 7,400 | 5,900 | 150 | 885 | 7,200 | 6,500 | 200 | 1,300 |
| White | | 2,200 | 1,800 | 141 | 253 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 180 | 270 |
| Russet | | 5,400 | 5,300 | 440 | 2,332 | 5,100 | 4,500 | 484 | 2,180 |
| Total | | 15,000 | 13,000 | 267 | 3,470 | 14,000 | 12,500 | 300 | 3,750 |
| Red | MN Area 2 | 4,600 | 4,200 | 380 | 1,595 | 3,500 | 3,200 | 306 | 980 |
| White | | 2,400 | 2,300 | 401 | 922 | 2,900 | 2,600 | 487 | 1,267 |
| Russet | | 24,000 | 23,500 | 495 | 11,643 | 30,600 | 29,700 | 485 | 14,403 |
| Total | | 31,000 | 30,000 | 472 | 14,160 | 37,000 | 35,500 | 469 | 16,650 |

1/ Minnesota Area 1 includes the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Mahanomen, Norman, Clearwater, Clay, Becker, and Wilkin counties. Minnesota Area 2 includes all remaining counties in the State.

(over)

FALL POTATO: STOCKS

| Type | Region 1/ | Dec. 1, 2005 | | Dec. 1, 2006 | |
|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Stocks 2005 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks | Stocks 2006 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks |
| Red | Minnesota | 945 | 7 | 1,440 | 12 |
| White | | 810 | 6 | 720 | 6 |
| Russet | | 11,745 | 87 | 9,840 | 82 |
| Total | | 13,500 | 100 | 12,000 | 100 |
| Red | MN Area 1 | 790 | 24 | 1,200 | 40 |
| White | | 200 | 6 | 210 | 7 |
| Russet | | 2,310 | 70 | 1,590 | 53 |
| Total | | 3,300 | 100 | 3,000 | 100 |
| Red | MN Area 2 | 155 | 2 | 240 | 2 |
| White | | 610 | 6 | 510 | 6 |
| Russet | | 9,435 | 92 | 8,250 | 92 |
| Total | | 10,200 | 100 | 9,000 | 100 |

1/ Minnesota Area 1 includes the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Mahnomon, Norman, Clearwater, Clay, Becker, and Wilkin counties. Minnesota Area 2 includes all remaining counties in the State.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, December 1, 2005-2006¹

| | Crop of 2005 | | | Crop of 2006 | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | Production | Stocks Dec. 1, 2005 | % of Production | Production | Stocks Dec. 1, 2006 | % of Production |
| | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| CA | 3,306 | 1,600 | 48 | 3,783 | 1,800 | 48 |
| CO | 22,910 | 17,200 | 75 | 22,686 | 17,200 | 76 |
| ID | 118,288 | 85,000 | 72 | 121,820 | 84,000 | 69 |
| ME | 15,455 | 12,500 | 81 | 18,270 | 14,700 | 80 |
| MI | 13,910 | 7,900 | 57 | 14,190 | 8,200 | 58 |
| MN | 17,630 | 13,500 | 77 | 20,400 | 12,000 | 59 |
| MT | 3,445 | 3,400 | 99 | 3,413 | 3,400 | 100 |
| NE | 8,245 | 5,600 | 68 | 8,589 | 5,800 | 68 |
| NY | 5,226 | 2,900 | 55 | 5,700 | 2,800 | 49 |
| ND | 20,500 | 14,000 | 68 | 25,480 | 17,300 | 68 |
| OR | 22,023 | 19,000 | 86 | 18,533 | 16,000 | 86 |
| WA | 95,480 | 52,500 | 55 | 89,900 | 49,000 | 55 |
| WI | 27,880 | 18,700 | 67 | 29,370 | 20,100 | 68 |
| 13 States | 374,298 | 253,800 | 68 | 382,134 | 252,300 | 66 |
| Klamath Basin ² | | | | | 4,000 | |

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 Estimates began in 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.