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Monthly Milk: Cows, Production, and Price

FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS

New England farmers intend to keep the region's 2011 acreage planted to corn at the 2010 level, but harvest more dry hay than a year earlier. Based on intentions as of March 1, 2011, farmers expect to plant 180,000 acres to field corn, with increased acreage in Connecticut and Massachusetts offset by acreage reductions in Vermont. Farm operators in New England intend to harvest 538,000 acres of dry hay in 2011, up 1 percentage point from 2010. Oat growers in Maine plan to seed 33,000 acres in 2011, an increase of 2,000 acres from a year earlier, and the most acreage planted to oats in the State since 2004. Maine's barley producers intend to seed 15,000 acres in 2011, a reduction of 1,000 acres from 2010. Growers in Connecticut and Massachusetts intend to harvest 2,710 acres of tobacco in 2011, compared with 3,500 acres in 2010 and 2,290 acres in 2009. Reductions in both broadleaf and shade acreage is expected. Early March intentions placed 2011 shade tobacco acreage for harvest in the two States at 660 acres, a decrease of 90 acres from the previous year. The March 1 forecast placed broadleaf acreage at 2,050 acres, off 700 acres from a year earlier.

United States field crop acreage intentions for 2011: Corn growers intend to plant 92.2 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2011, up 5 percent from last year and 7 percent higher than 2009. If realized, this will be the second highest planted acreage in the U.S. since 1944, behind only the 93.5 million acres planted in 2007. Planted acreage is expected to be up in most States

compared to last year due to higher prices and grower expectations of better net returns with corn versus other commodities. Soybean planted area for 2011 is estimated at 76.6 million acres, down 1 percent from last year. If realized, the U.S. planted area will be the third largest on record. Area seeded to oats for the 2011 crop year is expected to total 2.84 million acres, down 10 percent from the 3.14 million acres planted last year. If realized, this will be the lowest U.S. total on record. Planted acreage is expected to decrease or remain unchanged in all but three of the 31 estimating States, with 20 of the States expecting record lows. Producers intend to seed 2.95 million acres of barley for the 2011 crop year, up 3 percent from the 2.87 million acres seeded in 2010. If realized, this will be the second lowest seeded acreage on record. Producers expect to harvest 59.0 million acres of all hay in 2011, down 1 percent from 2010. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest harvested acreage on record. Harvested area is expected to decrease from last year throughout most of the western two-thirds of the Nation, primarily due to lower livestock inventories, an increase in acreage being planted to other crops with higher prices, and drought conditions in the Southern Great Plains. All cigar type tobacco intentions, at 4,410 acres, are 21 percent below last year. Every cigar type variety is showing a decrease in expected acreage from last year: cigar filler is down 19 percent, cigar binder is down 25 percent, and cigar wrapper is down 12 percent.

FIELD CORN AND DRY HAY: Acreage, 2010 – 2011

State	Corn Planted			All Dry Hay Harvested		
	2010	2011 ¹	2011 as a Percent of 2010	2010	2011 ¹	2011 as a Percent of 2010
	1,000 Acres			1,000 Acres		
	Percent			Percent		
Connecticut	26	27	105	59	55	93
Maine	28	28	100	137	140	102
Massachusetts	17	18	106	77	80	104
New Hampshire	15	15	100	56	55	98
Rhode Island	2	2	100	8	8	100
Vermont	92	90	98	195	200	103
NEW ENGLAND	180	180	100	532	538	101
UNITED STATES	88,192	92,178	105	59,862	58,973	99

¹ Intended planting or harvesting area in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers.
SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, March 31, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

OATS AND BARLEY: Area Planted, 2009 – 2011

State	Oats				Barley			
	2009	2010	2011 ¹	2011 as a Percent of 2010	2009	2010	2011 ¹	2011 as a Percent of 2010
	1,000 Acres				1,000 Acres			
	Percent				Percent			
Maine	32	31	33	106	16	16	15	94
UNITED STATES	3,404	3,138	2,839	90	3,567	2,872	2,952	103

¹ Intended plantings in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers.
SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, March 31, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TOBACCO: Area Harvested by Type, 2009 – 2011

State and Type	Area Harvested			2011 as a Percent of 2010
	2009	2010	2011 ¹	
	Acres			Percent
Broadleaf (Type 51)				
Connecticut	1,100	1,900	1,600	84
Massachusetts	300	850	450	53
CT and MA Total	1,400	2,750	2,050	75
Shade (Type 61)				
Connecticut	800	650	(D)	(X)
Massachusetts	90	100	(D)	(X)
CT and MA Total	890	750	660	88
UNITED STATES (All Cigar Types)	4,290	5,600	4,410	79

(D) Not reported to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

(X) Not available.

¹ Intended harvesting area in 2011 as indicated by reports from farmers.SOURCE: *Prospective Plantings*, March 31, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES

Maine potato stocks on hand March 1, 2011 totaled 7.9 million cwt, 1 percent above 2010's March 1 holdings. Disappearance to March 1 in the State totaled 7.99 million cwt, compared with 7.46 million cwt a year earlier. Storage accounted for 50 percent of Maine's total production, below the previous 5-year average of 51 percent.

The 13 major potato States held 143 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2011, down 15 percent from a year ago.

Potatoes in storage accounted for 41 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, three percentage points below March 1, 2010. Potato disappearance, at 208 million cwt, was 3 percent below March 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.6 million cwt, was down 12 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 110 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 16.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 17 percent from last year.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, March 1, 2010 – 2011¹

State	Crop of 2009			Crop of 2010			
	Production	Stocks March 1, 2010	March Stocks as a Percent of Production	Production	Stocks February 1, 2011	Stocks March 1, 2011	March Stocks as a Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent	
California	3,960	1,100	28	2,280	1,200	900	39
Colorado	22,080	10,500	48	21,528	11,400	9,600	45
Idaho	132,500	67,500	51	114,440	64,000	54,500	48
Maine	15,263	7,800	51	15,892	9,300	7,900	50
Michigan	15,660	3,500	22	15,660	5,900	4,100	26
Minnesota	20,700	8,300	40	17,010	8,400	7,300	43
Montana	3,298	3,100	94	3,673	3,400	3,300	90
Nebraska	8,756	3,300	38	7,719	3,400	3,000	39
New York	4,950	900	18	5,120	1,200	800	16
North Dakota	19,125	7,000	37	22,000	10,300	8,100	37
Oregon	21,460	10,700	50	20,058	12,700	10,100	50
Washington	87,230	34,900	40	81,740	33,800	25,700	31
Wisconsin	28,980	11,100	38	24,293	10,700	8,100	33
UNITED STATES	383,962	169,700	44	351,413	175,700	143,400	41
Klamath Basin ²	(NA)	2,200	(NA)	(NA)	2,500	1,800	(NA)

(NA) Not Available.

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2010 totaled 23.7 million cwt.² Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County, OR. Included in the 13 State total.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, March 14, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.POTATOES: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2007 – 2010¹

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1
	Million Cwt						
2007	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3
2008	12.7	14.9	16.8	18.7	20.6	22.3	23.8
2009	14.3	16.5	18.8	21.1	24.4	26.5	28.5
2010	12.7	14.7	16.6	18.6			

¹ Fall Storage States include California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, March 14, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average, 2006 – 2010 Crop Years ¹

Crop Year	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Market Year Average
Dollars per Cwt												
2006	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.35	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.65	7.80
2007	6.20	6.40	7.25	7.55	7.60	8.00	8.55	8.65	9.15	8.75	8.55	7.90
2008	7.80	8.65	10.20	9.95	9.95	10.40	11.20	10.60	9.70	9.15	(D)	9.75
2009	(D)	8.80	9.75	9.75	9.65	10.00	10.60	10.90	10.70	10.20	(D)	10.10
2010 ²	8.20	7.95	8.95	9.45	9.90	10.30	10.80					

(D) Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

¹ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses including fresh market, processing, seed, and livestock feed.

² Most recent monthly price is a preliminary price reflecting prices received for the entire month.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, March 30, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

BEE AND HONEY

Honey production from Maine and Vermont producers with five or more colonies totaled 506,000 pounds in 2010, a decrease of 7 percent from 2009. Yields from the 10,000 colonies producing honey in Maine and Vermont averaged 51 pounds in 2010,

compared with 50 pounds a year earlier. Total value of production for the two States totaled \$1.09 million, up 2 percent from the previous year. Nationwide, the value of 2010 honey production totaled \$282 million, a 31 percent increase from the previous year.

BEE AND HONEY: Colonies, Yield, Production, Value, and Stocks 2009 – 2010 ¹

State	Honey Producing Colonies		Yield per Colony		Production		Stocks as of December 15 ²		Average Price per Pound ³		Value of Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	1,000		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Cents		1,000 Dollars			
Maine	6	6	50.0	41.0	300	246	51	39	195.0	211.0	585	519
Vermont	5	4	49.0	65.0	245	260	69	73	201.0	221.0	492	575
Other States ⁴	26	26	52.0	46.0	1,348	1,190	194	219	237.0	256.0	3,195	3,046
UNITED STATES	2,498	2,684	58.6	65.5	146,416	175,904	37,516	45,307	147.3	160.3	215,671	281,974

¹ For producers with five or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ CT, DE, MD, MA, NV, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

SOURCE: *Honey*, February 25, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, February 2010 – 2011

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹		Egg Production from All Layers ¹	
	February 2010	February 2011	February 2010	February 2011	February 2010	February 2011	February 2010	February 2011
	1,000 Birds		Number		Million Eggs			
Connecticut	2,473	2,171	2,545	2,239	2,083	2,099	53	47
Maine	3,546	3,396	3,601	3,451	2,194	2,202	79	76
UNITED STATES	277,922	277,539	340,486	339,287	2,037	2,065	6,935	7,005

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, March 22, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Vermont during February 2011 totaled 198 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from February 2010. There were an estimated 135,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during February, unchanged from January. Milk production per cow averaged 1,465 pounds during the month.

Milk production in the 23 major milk-producing States during February 2011 totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 2 percent from February of the previous year. The number of milk cows on farms totaled 8.4 million head and milk production per cow averaged 1,666 pounds during February 2011.

MILK PRODUCTION: Number of Cows and Production, February 2011 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ¹			Milk per Cow ²			Milk Production ²		
	February 2010	January 2011	February 2011	February 2010	January 2011	February 2011	February 2010	January 2011	February 2011
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	134	135	135	1,440	1,605	1,465	193	217	198
New York	610	610	610	1,560	1,775	1,620	952	1,083	988
Pennsylvania	541	543	543	1,520	1,640	1,510	822	891	820
UNITED STATES ³	8,323	8,404	8,404	1,642	1,810	1,666	13,670	15,213	14,001

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ UNITED STATES includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, March 18, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold, 2006 – 2011 ¹

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average ²
Dollars per Cwt													
2006	15.30	14.60	13.80	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.90	13.60	14.50	14.70	14.80	13.70
2007	15.70	15.90	16.80	17.70	19.20	21.20	23.20	23.50	23.80	23.30	23.80	23.30	20.60
2008	22.10	20.50	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.70	18.70	18.40	16.40	19.50
2009	15.10	12.60	12.40	12.80	12.80	12.50	12.30	12.80	13.70	15.10	16.20	17.50	13.80
2010	17.50	17.30	16.30	15.80	16.30	17.10	17.60	18.00	19.10	20.00	19.60	18.20	
2011 ³	18.20	20.10	21.50										

¹ Prices include equality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

² Annual average milk price received by farmers in 2010 will be published in *Milk Production, Disposition, and Income, 2010 Summary*, April 27, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

³ Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, March 30, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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