

# Maine Potatoes 2011 Crop Acreage, Yield, Size, and Grade



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics



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United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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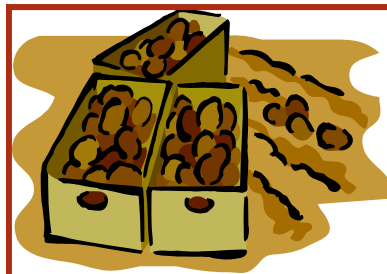
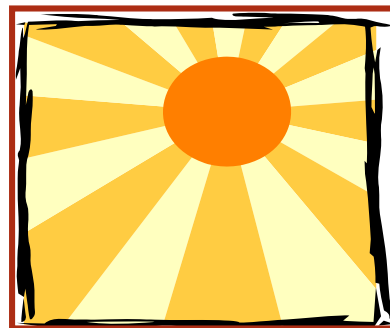
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*A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine growers who have helped us by participating in the Potato Objective Yield Survey. The study estimates yield, size and grade from randomly selected hills that are dug just before harvest.*



This report is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture as a service to growers and others in the industry. It is published annually and is available on the Internet in mid-January.

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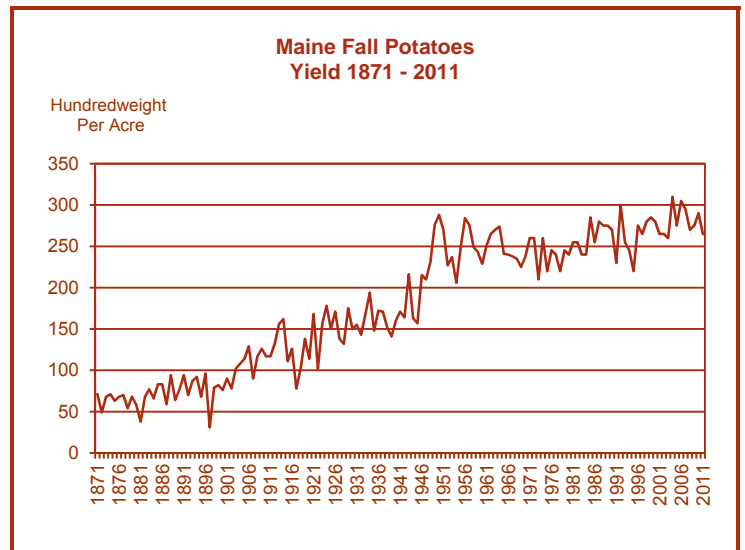
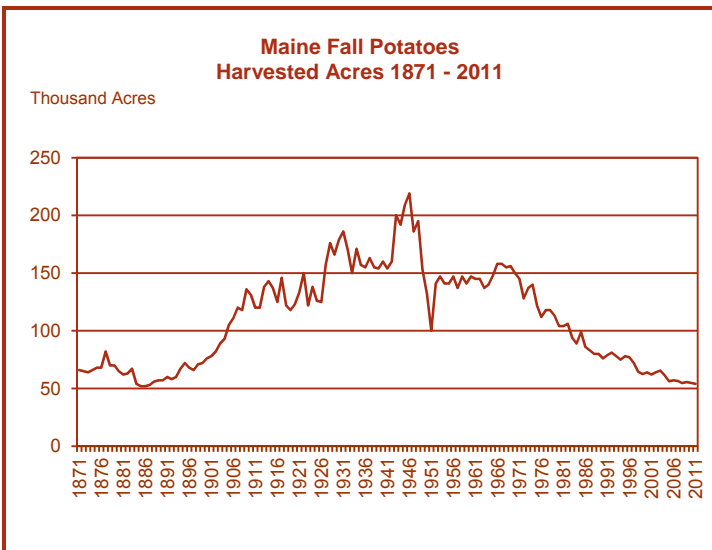
## Maine Potatoes Acreage, Yield, Size, and Grade, 2011 Crop

**FORWARD:**

We are pleased to present the Maine Acreage, Yield, Size, and Grade Report for the 2011 potato crop. Data contained in this report are based on the results of the Potato Objective Yield Survey, a project conducted annually since 1968. The National Potato Objective Yield Survey encompasses seven of the major fall potato producing states (Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin) that grew 83 percent of the United States fall potato crop in 2011.

The 2011 Potato Objective Yield Survey in Maine consisted of 210 “samples” chosen by systematic random sampling. Each sample consisted of two independently located units. Within each unit, hill counts were made along a 20-foot length of the row, width of the row was measured, and three hills were harvested. Thus, tubers were harvested from six hills of potatoes for each sample. These potatoes were graded, sized, and weighed using strict laboratory procedures. After harvest, enumerators returned to one-fourth of the sample fields to obtain an objective indication of harvest loss. Tubers were collected from two units, each unit covering a three foot by six foot area, and sent to the lab for weighing.

The success of this project must be credited to the cooperation of many potato growers across the State of Maine. We sincerely appreciate their time and efforts in supplying crop information, and granting permission for field entry and sample diggings. The 2011 Maine Potato Objective Yield Survey was under the leadership of Statistician Dianne Johnson. Data collection was supervised by NASDA field supervisors Marcia Gartley and Julie Kosch. NASDA field enumerators included Keith Boulter, Christopher Cashman, Brittany Hickey, Keith Watson, Audrey Zimmerman, Shannon Lion, Pauline Machie, and Jessica Strout. Lab supervision was under the direction of Deane Ames. Robin Helrich was responsible for setting the estimates of acreage, yield, production, prices, and stocks. We would also like to recognize Lynne Arsenault and Deirdre Davis, for their assistance in preparing this publication.



**Table 1: MAINE POTATOES: Acres, Yield and Production, 2006 – 2011**

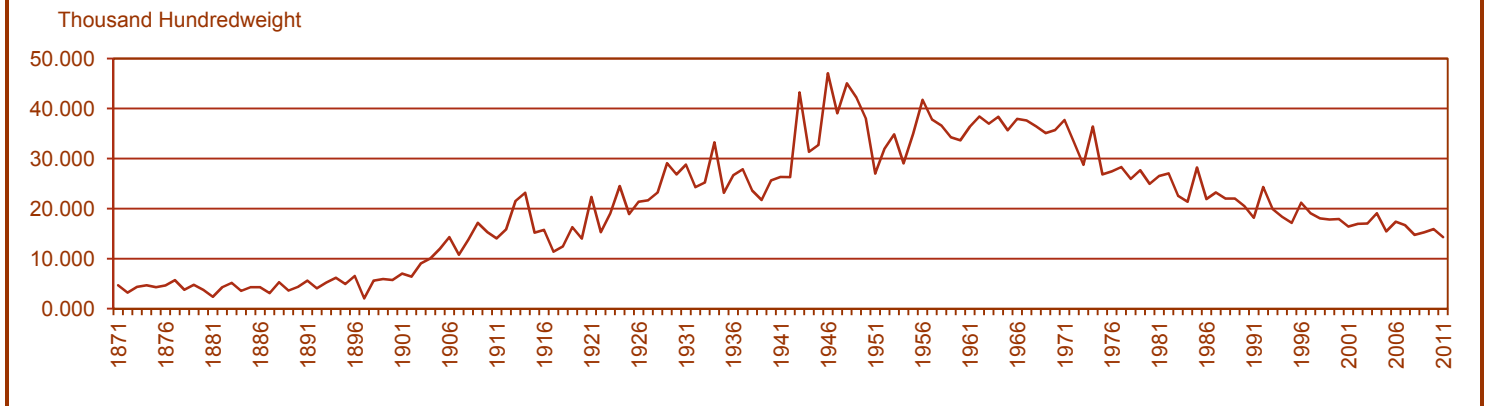
Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production
	Planted	Harvested		
	Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt
2006	58,500	57,000	305	17,385
2007	57,100	56,500	295	16,668
2008	56,000	54,700	270	14,769
2009	56,000	55,500	275	15,263
2010	55,000	54,800	290	15,892
2011	57,000	54,000	265	14,310

SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual*, January 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**Table 2: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety and Type, 2006 – 2011**

Variety and Type	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Percent					
<b>By Variety:</b>						
Russet Burbank	42.5	39.1	42.6	41.5	38.0	43.1
Frito-Lay	17.1	18.9	13.8	11.1	15.6	12.5
Snowden	2.1	3.8	*	1.4	5.8	5.5
R Norkotah	2.1	2.6	4.2	5.1	3.5	4.9
Shepody	5.2	4.6	4.6	3.9	5.2	4.1
Superior	4.5	5.0	3.5	4.9	3.8	4.1
Norland	2.4	2.6	4.0	3.6	1.6	3.9
Reba	2.1	1.5	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.7
Goldrush	1.0	2.8	3.7	2.7	1.9	2.6
Yukon Gold	3.0	3.3	3.7	4.3	2.8	2.2
Innovator	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2.0	2.0
Blazer R	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	*	1.9
Atlantic	1.5	2.0	1.4	3.0	2.8	1.3
Monona	1.9	1.9	*	2.1	*	1.1
Ontario	2.9	2.0	2.6	1.5	*	1.1
Katahdin	3.1	2.8	2.4	2.7	1.6	1.1
Andover	1.0	*	*	*	*	*
Keuka Gold	*	*	*	*	1.3	*
Marcy	*	*	*	*	1.3	*
Norwis	2.3	1.8	3.6	1.2	1.2	*
Kennebec	*	*	*	*	1.0	*
Red La Soda	*	*	1.0	*	*	(NA)
Other Varieties	5.3	5.3	6.7	9.0	8.5	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>By Type:</b>						
Russets	46.0	45.0	52.0	51.0	51.0	
Whites (Long and Round)	51.0	46.0	35.0	35.0	40.0	
Yellows	(NA)	5.0	8.0	8.0	5.0	
Reds	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

\* Included with other varieties.

(NA) Not available.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, December 9, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**Maine Fall Potatoes  
Production 1871 – 2011**

**Table 3A: MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Round Whites		Long Whites <sup>2</sup>		All Whites	
	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre
	Number					
2006	8.0	12,604	6.0	13,149	7.7	12,689
2007	7.1	13,290	7.5	11,943	7.2	13,098
2008	6.7	12,796	5.0	11,784	6.5	12,655
2009	7.7	14,061	—	—	7.6	13,807
2010	7.4	13,595	—	—	7.3	13,597
2011	6.9	12,801	—	—	6.7	13,015

<sup>1</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over.

<sup>2</sup> Unavailable after 2008; too few reports to allow publication.

**Table 3B: MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Reds <sup>2</sup>		All Whites		Yellows <sup>2</sup>		Russets		All Varieties	
	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre
	Number									
2006	—	14,532	7.7	12,689	—	—	10.9	10,208	9.1	11,613
2007	8.1	12,874	7.2	13,098	6.6	13,418	11.0	9,629	8.9	11,519
2008	7.2	13,785	6.5	12,655	9.0	13,228	10.2	9,603	8.6	11,210
2009	7.6	14,873	7.6	13,807	6.1	15,617	10.7	9,638	9.1	11,810
2010	6.9	16,275	7.3	13,597	9.2	13,327	9.6	9,964	8.4	12,054
2011	7.2	13,687	6.7	13,015	6.8	14,268	8.7	9,809	7.9	11,303

<sup>1</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over.

<sup>2</sup> Unavailable prior to 2007.

**Table 4A: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Groups  
Reds and Yellows, 2007 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Reds					Yellows				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 <sup>2</sup>
	Percent									
1 ½" – under 1 ⅞"	6	1	3	0	6	1	1	*	6	—
1 ⅞" – under 2"	7	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	5	—
2" – under 2 ¼"	16	16	23	18	11	8	10	13	21	—
2 ¼" – under 2 ½"	28	27	25	34	25	13	15	14	23	—
2 ½" – under 3 ½"	43	54	46	46	53	65	69	70	43	—
3 ½" – under 4"	*	*	1	0	1	10	2	1	1	—
4" and over	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	*	1	—
	Number									
Number of Samples	6	6	6	5	10	11	9	9	7	3

\* Less than 1 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for harvest loss.

<sup>2</sup> Unavailable in 2011; too few reports to allow publication.

**Table 4B: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Groups  
Round Whites, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Round Whites					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Percent					
1 ½" – under 1 ⅞"	*	1	*	4	4	1
1 ⅞" – under 2"	2	1	4	5	6	2
2" – under 2 ¼"	11	10	12	13	13	10
2 ¼" – under 2 ½"	18	21	20	20	20	17
2 ½" – under 3 ½"	64	61	60	54	53	63
3 ½" – under 4"	4	5	3	3	3	7
4" and over	1	1	*	1	1	*
	Number					
Number of Samples	59	54	43	36	47	41

\* Less than 1 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for harvest loss.

**Table 4C: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Size Groups Russets, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Russets	Russets					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Percent					
1 ½" – under 1 ⅞"	6	7	6	7	6	3
1 ⅞" – under 2"	7	6	7	7	7	5
2" and over:						
4 oz – under 6 oz <sup>2</sup>	35	33	35	41	33	35
6 oz – under 8 oz	19	20	20	20	20	22
8 oz – under 10 oz	12	14	12	11	14	16
10 oz and over:						
10 oz – under 12 oz	8	8	7	5	8	8
12 oz – under 14 oz	4	5	5	4	4	4
14 oz and over	9	7	8	5	8	7
	Number					
Number of Samples	64	68	69	61	52	72

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for harvest loss.<sup>2</sup> Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.**Table 5A: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Grade, by Type, Reds and Yellows, 2007 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Grade	Reds					Yellows				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 <sup>2</sup>
	Percent									
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) <sup>3</sup>	80	87	82	90	75	82	82	82	79	—
No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ Inch Minimum) <sup>4</sup>	17	9	9	4	12	12	10	10	13	—
Cull <sup>5</sup>	3	4	9	6	13	6	8	8	8	—

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.<sup>2</sup> Unavailable in 2011; too few reports to allow publication.<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.<sup>4</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.<sup>5</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.**Table 5B: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Grade, by Type, Round Whites and Russets, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Grade	Round Whites						Russets					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Percent											
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) <sup>2</sup>	78	89	76	73	70	81	63	70	66	72	69	67
No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 ½ Inch Minimum) <sup>3</sup>	10	9	12	16	15	5	21	18	20	19	21	14
Cull <sup>4</sup>	12	2	12	11	15	14	16	12	14	9	10	19

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.<sup>2</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.<sup>4</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.**Table 6A: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Size Group, Round Whites, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Cwt per Acre					
1 ½" – under 1 ⅞"	7	4	6	7	5	6
1 ⅞" – under 2"	3	3	2	2	3	5
2" – under 2 ¼"	5	2	4	6	6	6
2 ¼" – under 2 ½"	3	1	3	3	6	6
2 ½" – under 3 ½"	4	3	7	5	5	7
3 ½" – under 4"	0	0	1	*	2	0
4" and over	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>

\* Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.

<sup>1</sup> Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2, and Culls.

**Table 6B: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Weight Within Size Groups, Russets, 2006 – 2011 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Cwt per Acre					
1 ½" – under 1 ¾"	6	5	10	11	15	15
1 ¾" – under 2"	3	2	2	3	4	4
2" and over:						
4 oz – under 6 oz <sup>2</sup>	9	2	5	5	12	7
6 oz – under 8 oz	3	2	1	1	4	2
8 oz – under 10 oz	*	2	2	1	2	*
10 oz and over	2	*	0	2	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2, and Culls.

<sup>2</sup> Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.

\* Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.

**Table 7: MAINE POTATOES: Planting Progress, 2006 – 2011**

Week Ending	Percent of Acres Planted Weekly						Accumulated Percent of Acres					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
	Percent											
Before May 1	2	0	0	2	10	0	2	0	0	2	10	0
May 8	15	5	1	5	30	2	17	5	1	7	40	2
May 15	40	25	16	33	30	8	57	30	17	40	70	10
May 22	5	20	39	45	20	30	62	50	56	85	90	40
May 29	25	30	30	14	5	20	87	80	86	99	95	60
June 5	10	15	13	1	5	30	97	95	99	100	100	90
After June 5	3	5	1	0	0	10	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Table 8: MAINE POTATOES: Production and Stocks by Month, 2005 – 2010 Crop Years <sup>1</sup>**

Crop Year	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors							
		Year	Following Year						
		December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1	
		1,000 cwt							
2005	15,455	12,500	11,200	9,700	8,400	6,500	4,300	2,500	
2006	17,385	14,000	12,500	10,900	9,600	7,600	5,300	3,000	
2007	16,668	12,900	11,400	9,700	8,000	6,400	4,300	2,500	
2008	14,769	11,300	10,000	8,500	7,100	5,600	3,700	2,200	
2009	15,263	12,000	10,800	9,300	7,800	6,000	3,900	2,200	
2010	15,892	12,300	10,900	9,300	7,900	5,900	3,900	2,300	

<sup>1</sup> This data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price Survey also conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics. SOURCE: *Potatoes*, September 29, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**Table 9: MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average, 2005 – 2010 Crop Years <sup>1 2</sup>**

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt												
2005	(D)	5.85	6.30	7.85	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.50	8.10	8.25
2006	(D)	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	(D)	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	(D)	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)	(D)	8.80	9.75	9.75	9.90	9.95	10.50	10.90	10.90	10.20	(D)	10.10
2010	(D)	(D)	8.00	9.40	9.45	9.90	10.30	11.40	11.00	10.70	10.30	(D)	10.00

(D) Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

<sup>1</sup> This data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price Survey also conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed.

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, September 29, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**Table 10: FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2010 – 2011**<sup>1</sup>

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
California	6.5	8.6	6.5	8.6	435	480	2,828	4,128
Colorado	55.5	54.0	55.2	53.9	390	395	21,528	21,291
Idaho	295.0	320.0	294.0	319.0	384	398	112,970	127,070
<b>Maine</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>15,892</b>	<b>14,310</b>
Massachusetts	3.9	3.5	3.8	2.7	285	275	1,083	743
Michigan	44.0	45.0	43.5	44.0	360	345	15,660	15,180
Minnesota	45.0	49.0	42.0	47.0	405	355	17,010	16,685
Montana	11.5	11.7	11.3	11.5	325	330	3,673	3,795
Nebraska	19.0	20.0	18.6	19.5	415	400	7,719	7,800
Nevada	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New Mexico	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
New York	16.2	16.5	16.0	16.2	320	250	5,120	4,050
North Dakota	84.0	84.0	80.0	77.0	275	245	22,000	18,865
Ohio	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.7	290	250	609	425
Oregon	35.5	40.0	35.5	39.9	565	585	20,058	23,342
Pennsylvania	9.5	9.2	9.0	7.8	245	230	2,205	1,794
Rhode Island	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	275	250	165	150
Washington	135.0	160.0	134.0	160.0	660	615	88,440	98,400
Wisconsin	62.5	63.0	61.5	62.5	395	400	24,293	25,000
Other States <sup>2</sup>	13.4	13.3	13.4	13.3	392	439	5,252	5,845
<b>United States Fall Crop</b>	<b>894.3</b>	<b>957.4</b>	<b>881.8</b>	<b>939.2</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>366,505</b>	<b>388,873</b>

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Data in this table are not derived solely from the Potato Objective Yield Survey; data are derived from other end of year surveys conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics.<sup>2</sup> Includes data withheld above.SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual*, January 12, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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