



# News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Pennsylvania 2006 Potato Production

HARRISBURG, PA, Sept 21, 2007 - - Pennsylvania's acreage of fall potatoes harvested in 2006 totaled 10,500 acres, down 5 percent from the previous year's harvested acreage of 11,000. Yield per acre averaged 260 cwt, up 10 cwt from 2005. Production of fall potatoes for 2006 totaled 2,730,000 cwt, down 1 percent from 2005 production of 2,750,000 cwt, according to the Pennsylvania office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The value of production was 28.4 million dollars, down 10 percent from the 31.4 million dollars posted in 2005.

Potato sales totaled 2,565,000 cwt, 94 percent of the 2006 crop. In 2005, 2,490,000 cwt, or 91 percent of the total production, was also sold. The average price received in 2006 was \$10.40 per cwt, down from \$11.40 in 2005, a decrease of 9 percent. Of the total production, 5,000 cwt were used on the farms where produced and 160,000 cwt went to shrinkage and other losses. Farm use accounted for 10,000 cwt in 2005 and shrinkage and other losses were 250,000 cwt.

**Nationally**, acreage of all potatoes harvested in 2006 totaled 1.12 million, up 3 percent from the record low set a year ago. The average yield of 393 cwt per acre is a record high, up 3 cwt from 2005 and 2 cwt above the previous record high set in 2003. Production is at 441 million cwt in 2006, up 4 percent from 2005.

Fall potatoes were finalized at 399 million cwt for 2006, up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. Area harvested in 2006 was estimated at 983,000 acres, also up 4 percent. The average yield, at 406 cwt per acre, is a record high, 3 cwt above the previous record high set in 2005.

Value of all potato sold in 2006 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. Sales accounted for 92 percent of 2006 production. Non sales accounted for 34.6 million cwt, 4 percent above the previous year. Over the past five years, 92 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 8 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

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.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 67.0 million cwt in 2006, up 31 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 154 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 4 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 54.6 million cwt, 29 percent above 2005. Canning use, at 3.00 million cwt, dropped 2 percent. Starch, flour and other products are made from 1.10 million cwt of potatoes, 31 percent below the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss is 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 ago.

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