



IDAHO POTATOES

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IDAHO PRODUCTION UP 7 PERCENT

Idaho's 2004 potato production is expected to total 132 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year's 123 million cwt. Planted acres of 355,000 and harvested acres of 353,000, are up 5,000 acres from previously set estimates but down 5,000 acres from 2003. A statewide record yield of 374 cwt (field-run basis) is up 30 cwt from a year ago and 5 cwt above the previous record yield set in 2000. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 490 cwt, is up 25 cwt from 2003. Total production in this area is estimated at 12.3 million cwt from 25,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at a record 365 cwt, compared to 335 cwt a year ago and 5 cwt above the previous record set in 2000. Area production from 328,000 harvested acres is expected to total 120 million cwt, 7 percent above last year's 112 million cwt.

Planting of Idaho's 2004 crop was completed with few delays under favorable weather conditions. The crop developed rapidly under mild spring conditions. With adequate irrigation water, the crop continued to progress well during the summer with tubers showing good size and quality. Harvest was completed on schedule with few delays or problems.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 408 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. Area harvested, at 1.02 million acres, is virtually unchanged from the July estimate but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 398 cwt per acre, 22 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 6 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Western States production is forecast at 281 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage harvested, at 642,200 acres, decreased 3 percent from last year, but the average yield of 437 cwt per acre is up 23 cwt from 2003. Record high yields in Idaho increased production 7 percent from the previous year. Favorable growing conditions during the season contributed to the good size and quality of the tubers. Production in Washington went up 1 percent from last year. Colorado's production decreased 2 percent as more acres were abandoned due to higher disease rates and water management issues. Oregon growers expect to harvest 19.8 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year. This decrease is due to a 13 percent decrease in harvested acres but yields are forecasted at 41 cwt above last season.

Central States production is forecast at 99.9 million cwt, down 9 percent from last year for comparable States. Harvested area, estimated at 287,600 acres, is down 12 percent, while average yields, at 347 cwt per acre, are up 12 cwt from a year ago. Indiana is the only State in the Central Region with increased production and that by 21 percent. The other 7 States, when compared with last season, decreased production ranging from 2 percent in Ohio to 17 percent in Minnesota. A record high average yield of 430 cwt per acre in Minnesota does not make up for the 26 percent decrease in harvested acres. Michigan production decreased 13 percent.

Eastern States production is forecast at 27.4 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 94,700 acres, 8 percent below last year, while the average yield, at 289 cwt per acre, is up 19 cwt from last season. Heavy rains late in the season drowned out areas in low lying fields in Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania, resulting in quality problems and higher rates of abandonment.

Don Gerhardt
Director

Doug Wong
Statistician

FALL POTATOES - PRODUCTION FORECAST NOVEMBER 1, 2004

States	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>		<u>Cwt</u>			<u>1,000 Cwt</u>	
WINTER ^{1/}	14.3	18.5	282	260	4,206	4,027	4,818
SPRING ^{1/}	84.7	71.7	288	266	22,452	24,433	19,077
SUMMER ^{1/}	58.7	55.1	320	336	17,932	18,766	18,487
FALL							
California	8.3	7.6	425	510	4,316	3,528	3,876
Colorado	65.7	64.3	360	360	27,885	23,652	23,148
IDAHO, ALL	358.0	353.0	344	374	133,385	123,180	131,970
- 10 SW Counties	25.0	25.0	465	490	12,285	11,625	12,250
- Other Areas	333.0	328.0	335	365	121,100	111,555	119,720
Indiana	3.7	3.2	250	350	728	925	1,120
Maine	65.5	61.5	260	310	16,960	17,030	19,065
Massachusetts	2.7	2.5	265	310	816	716	775
Michigan	45.5	42.0	330	310	13,878	15,015	13,020
Minnesota	58.0	43.0	385	430	18,810	22,330	18,490
Montana	10.6	10.6	315	330	3,224	3,339	3,498
Nebraska	23.2	21.8	420	410	8,611	9,744	8,938
Nevada	8.0	6.7	415	430	2,660	3,320	2,881
New Mexico	4.0	4.0	400	400	1,600	1,600	1,600
New York	21.7	19.2	300	250	5,500	6,510	4,800
North Dakota	112.0	100.0	245	265	23,460	27,440	26,500
Ohio	4.3	3.6	255	300	902	1,097	1,080
Oregon, ALL	42.6	37.0	493	534	24,936	20,991	19,775
- Malheur, Co.	5.8	5.2	415	470	3,200	2,407	2,444
- Other Areas	36.8	31.8	505	545	21,736	18,584	17,331
Pennsylvania	12.5	11.0	270	235	2,128	3,375	2,585
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	285	290	118	171	145
South Dakota ^{2/}	1.0		340		330	340	
Utah ^{2/}	1.0		335		244	335	
Washington	162.0	159.0	575	590	92,340	93,150	93,810
Wisconsin	80.0	74.0	410	415	30,750	32,800	30,710
TOTAL FALL	1,090.9	1,024.5	376	398	413,581	410,588	407,786
UNITED STATES	1,248.6	1,169.8	367	385	458,171	457,814	450,168

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. 2/ Estimates discontinued in 2004.

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