



NEWS RELEASE

**Potato Summary
September 23, 2004**

FINAL 2003 POTATO SUMMARY

North Dakota

Final production estimates for the 2003 potato crop totaled 27.4 million hundredweight (cwt), up 17 percent from the 2002 crop of 23.5 million cwt, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acres for 2003 totaled 117,000, down 1,000 acres from 2002. Harvested acres totaled 112,000, up 10,000 acres from the previous year. Yield for all potatoes averaged 245 cwt in 2003, up from 230 cwt in 2002 and 240 cwt in 2001. Irrigated potato yields averaged 363 cwt, up from 300 cwt in 2002.

The value of potatoes sold from the 2003 crop totaled \$150 million, up 2 percent from the 2002 crop. The marketing year average price was \$5.45 per cwt, compared to \$6.25 for the 2002 crop and \$6.00 for the 2001 crop.

Sales from the 2003 crop totaled 23.4 million cwt, up 15 percent from the 2002 crop and 6 percent from the 2001 crop. The increase in sales was due to higher production and decreased usage for food, feed and seed. Sales accounted for 85 percent of production, down from 87 percent of the 2002 crop. Sales as a percent of production during the last 10 years have ranged from 89 percent for the 1998 crop to 80 percent for the 1996 crop. Low sales from the 1996 crop were due mainly to the 1997 spring flooding of potato storage bins and low prices.

United States

Total 2003 potato production is estimated at 458 million cwt, less than 1 percent below the estimate made in the Annual Crop Summary in January and down fractionally from the 2002 crop. Harvested area, at 1.25 million acres, decreased 1 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 367 cwt per acre is up 5 cwt from 2002 and 9 cwt above the average yield from the 2001 crop.

Value of all potatoes sold in 2003 is estimated at \$2.46 billion, down 13 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$5.89 per cwt, went down \$0.78 from a year earlier.

Sales from the 2003 potato crop totaled 417 million cwt, down 1 percent from 2002. Sales accounted for 91 percent of 2003 production. Non sales accounted for 40.8 million cwt, 12 percent above the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Fall potato production is finalized at 411 million cwt for 2003, down 1 percent from the 2002 crop. Area harvested in 2003 is estimated at 1.09 million acres, down 1 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 376 cwt per acre, is up 2 cwt from a year earlier. Final production of fall potatoes is virtually unchanged from the Annual Crop Summary in January.

For More Information Contact:

Potato Production, Disposition & Income

Disposition Items	Crop Year		
	2001	2002	2003
North Dakota			
Production	---- (1,000 Cwt) ----		
Total	26,400	23,460	27,440
Farm Disposition			
Seed, Feed, etc. ^{1/}	320	450	390
Shrinkage and Loss	3,960	2,650	3,700
Sold	22,120	20,360	23,350
Value	---- (1,000 Dollars) ----		
Price/Cwt (Dollars)	6.00	6.25	5.45
Production	158,400	146,625	149,548
Sales	132,720	127,250	127,258
United States			
Production	---- (1,000 Cwt) ----		
Total	437,673	458,171	457,814
Farm Disposition			
Seed, Feed, etc. ^{1/}	5,386	5,622	5,541
Shrinkage and Loss	31,227	30,905	35,296
Sold	401,060	421,644	416,977
Value	---- (1,000 Dollars) ----		
Price/Cwt (Dollars)	6.99	6.67	5.89
Production	3,055,876	3,045,310	2,685,822
Sales	2,802,978	2,811,995	2,457,640

1/ Seed, feed and household use on farms where grown.

Potato Disposition, United States

Disposition Items	Crop Year		
	2001	2002	2003
	---- (1,000 Cwt) ----		
Sales	401,060	421,644	416,977
Table Stock	122,552	131,889	135,368
Processing	250,475	262,706	257,243
Chips & Shoestrings	54,080	51,640	52,754
Dehydration	40,759	51,357	48,418
Frozen French Fries	126,711	124,875	126,515
Other Frozen Products	23,598	28,951	23,870
Canned Products	2,590	2,744	3,003
Other Canned Products ^{1/}	1,722	2,089	1,804
Starch, Flour & Other	1,015	1,050	879
Other Sales	28,033	27,049	24,366
Livestock Feed	3,496	3,044	2,005
Seed	24,537	24,005	22,361
Non-Sales	36,613	36,527	40,837
Seed	4,088	4,144	3,999
Household & Feed	1,298	1,478	1,542
Shrinkage & Loss	31,227	30,905	35,296
Total Production	437,673	458,171	457,814

1/ Hash, stews and soups.

