New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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United States Department of Agriculture

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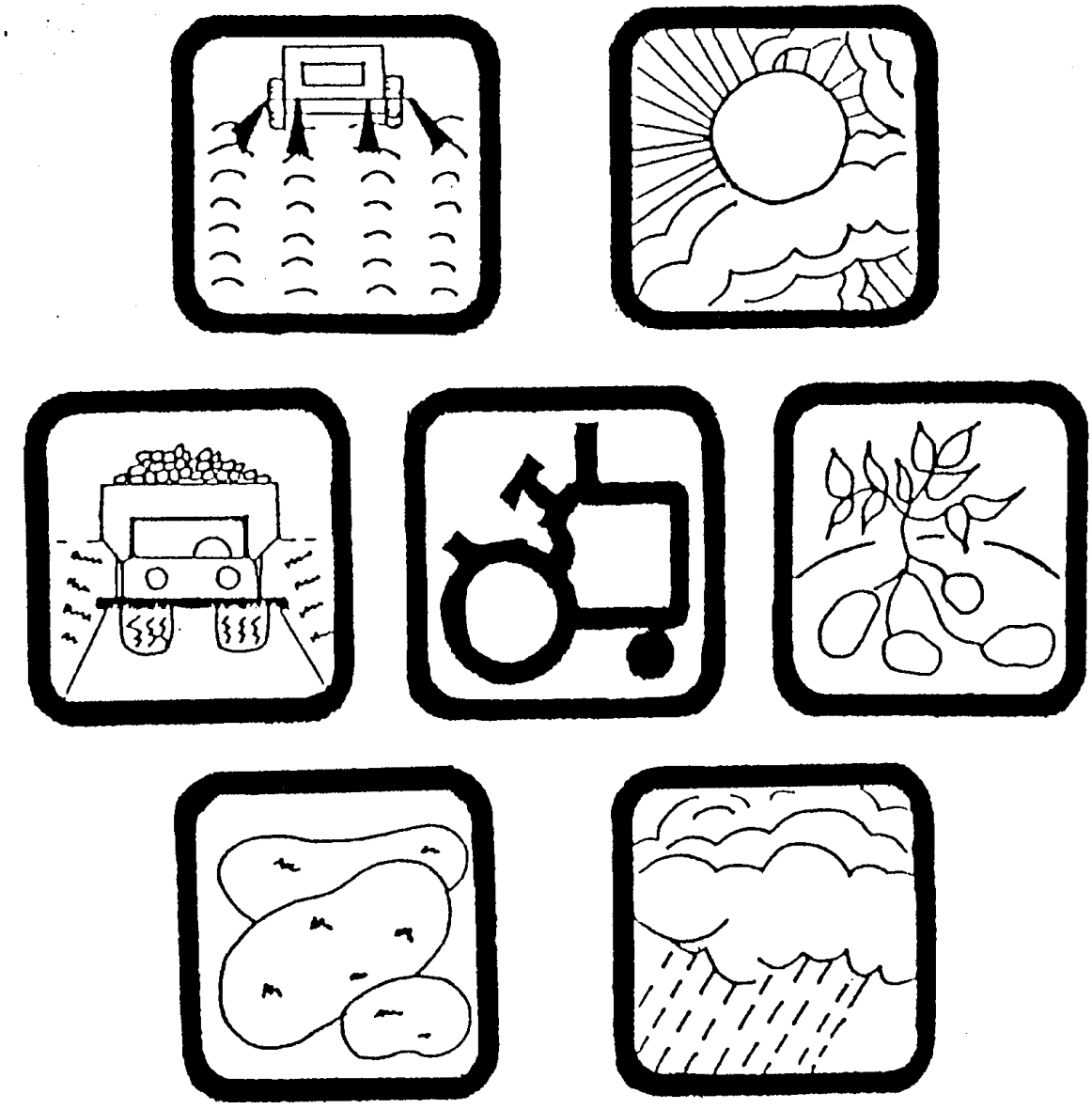
Maine Potatoes
Acreage, Yield, Size and Grade, 2003 Crop

January 15, 2004

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine growers who have helped us by participating in the Potato Objective Yield Survey program. 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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This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. ***All National reports and State newsletters are available on the Internet at: http://www.usda.gov/nass/. National Reports can be ordered by calling 1-800-999-6779.*** How can you get these reports electronically?

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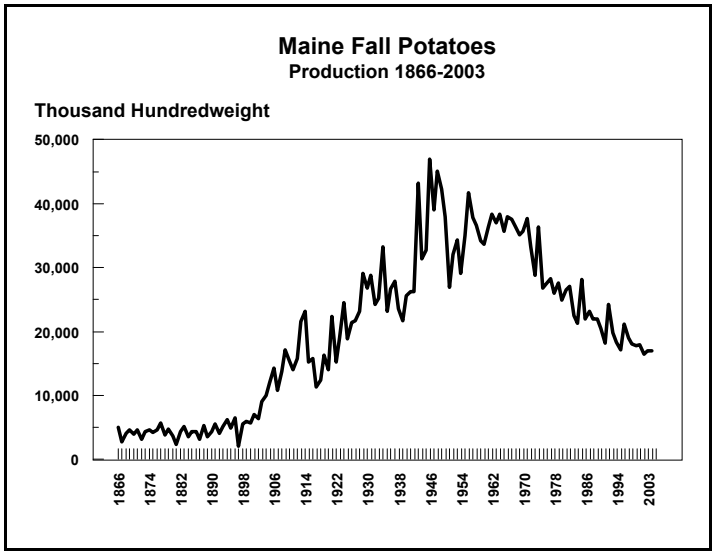


2003 Maine Potatoes

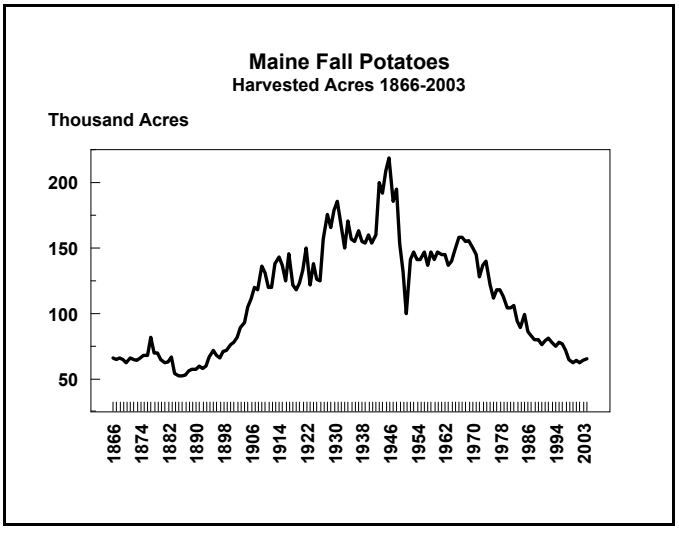
Acreage, Yield, Size and Grade, 2003 Crop

FOREWORD:

We are pleased to present the Maine Acreage, Yield, Size and Grade Report for the 2003 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 program encompasses seven of the major fall potato producing States (Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin) that grew 82 percent of the United States fall potato crop in 2003.

The 2003 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 3 hills were harvested. Thus, tubers were harvested from 6 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 3 foot by 6 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 2003 Maine Potato Objective Yield survey was under the immediate supervision of Sherry Deane. Data collection was supervised by NASDA field supervisors Ola Hedstrom, Kay Reynolds, and Sarah Newick. NASDA field enumerators included Keith Boulier, Basil Ferguson, Deborah Belanger, and Margaret Wolverton. Lab supervision was under the direction of John Bourgoine. Robin Helrich was responsible for setting the estimates of acreage, yield, production, prices, and stocks. We would also like to recognize Judy Price and Lynne Arsenault for their assistance in preparing this publication.



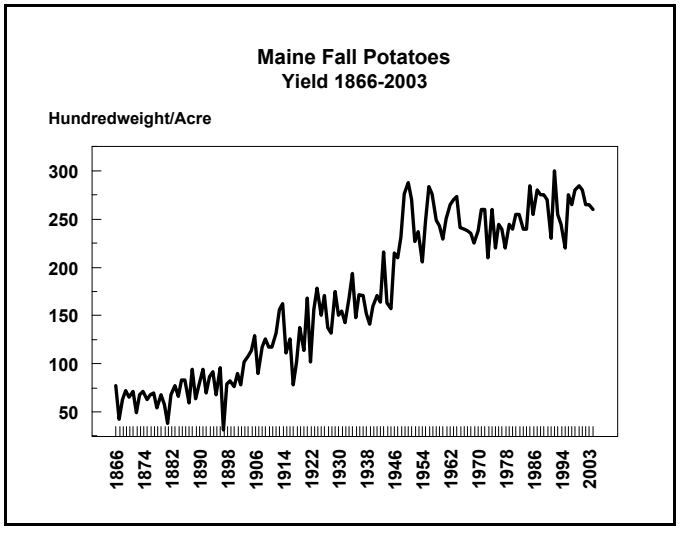


Table 1: MAINE POTATOES: Acres, Yield and Production, 1999 - 2003

Year	Acres		Yield per Acre	Production
	Planted	Harvested		
	Acres	Acres	Cwt	1,000 Cwt
1999	65,000	62,500	285	17,813
2000	64,000	64,000	280	17,920
2001	62,000	62,000	265	16,430
2002	64,000	64,000	265	16,960
2003[1/]	66,000	65,500	260	17,030

[1/] SOURCE: ***Crop Production - Annual***, 8:30 a.m., January 12, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 2: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1999 - 2003

Variety and Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
By Variety:	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Russet Burbank	26.1	33.7	29.1	36.4	33.2
Frito-Lay, All	9.5	11.1	12.6	10.9	11.9
Shepody	15.0	11.1	11.4	9.2	9.7
Ontario	17.5	9.2	7.3	9.7	8.3
Superior	7.8	5.7	8.9	7.2	6.1
Russet Norkotah	1.0	4.0	3.5	4.7	4.4
Atlantic	4.7	2.8	3.6	3.4	3.5
Katahdin	3.3	1.7	3.9	1.6	2.5
Norwis	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.4
Snowden	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.2
Yukon Gold	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.0
Norland	1/	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.9
Reba (NY 87) 13	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.7
Goldrush	1/	1/	1.7	1.1	1.6
Chieftain	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.4
Kennebec	1/	2.3	1/	1/	1/
Other Varieties	6.0	7.9	8.1	7.4	7.2
Total Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
By Type:					
Reds	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
White (Long and Round)	68.0	57.0	60.0	53.0	56.0
Russet Varieties	28.0	39.0	35.0	43.0	40.0
Total Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

[1/] *Included with other varieties.*

Table 3: MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers [1/] per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 1999 - 2003

Year	Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets		All Varieties [2/]	
	Tubers [1/] per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers [1/] per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers [1/] per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers [1/] per Hill	Hills per Acre
1999	6.8	13,425	5.8	12,767	9.4	9,112	7.4	12,168
2000	7.5	13,255	6.6	12,351	10.3	9,717	8.4	11,871
2001	6.2	13,509	6.4	12,722	9.4	9,304	7.5	11,862
2002	7.4	13,803	5.6	12,230	10.7	9,596	8.5	11,948
2003	7.8	13,521	6.8	12,021	10.5	9,731	8.9	11,729

[1/] *Tubers 1½ inches and over.*
[2/] *Includes Red varieties.*

Table 4A: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield [1/] by Weight within Size Groups Round Whites, 1999 - 2003

Size	Round Whites				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 1/2" - under 1 7/8"	2	3	2	4	3
1 7/8" - under 2"	3	4	3	4	4
2" - under 2 1/4"	10	11	9	14	14
2 1/4" - under 2 1/2"	16	17	13	22	20
2 1/2" - under 3 1/2"	62	58	62	50	55
3 1/2" - under 4"	6	5	9	4	3
4" and over	1	2	2	2	1

[1/] *Adjusted for harvest loss.*

Table 4B: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield [1/] by Weight within Size Groups Long Whites and Russets, 1999 - 2003

Size	Long Whites *(Shepody)*					Russets				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 1/2" - under 1 7/8"	3	2	3	8	6	3	6	4	6	10
1 7/8" - under 2"	3	5	8	8	5	4	5	6	6	8
2" and over:										
4 oz - under 6 oz [2/]	24	27	36	38	30	24	32	31	36	33
6 oz - under 8 oz	20	18	19	22	25	19	23	18	20	21
8 oz - under 10 oz	15	20	17	9	19	16	12	16	12	11
10 oz and over	35	28	17			34	22	25		
10 oz - under 12 oz [3/]				7	4				8	8
12 oz - under 14 oz [3/]				2	8				5	5
14 oz and over [3/]				6	3				7	4

[1/] *Adjusted for harvest loss.*
[2/] *Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.*
[3/] *Unavailable prior to 2002.*

Table 5: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade [1/], by Type, 1999 - 2003

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent					Percent					Percent				
United States No. 1 [2/]	79	77	83	83	77	64	62	61	73	62	67	68	75	77	61
United States No. 2 [3/]	11	12	10	11	11	18	20	20	19	19	16	18	15	16	22
Culls [4/]	10	11	7	6	12	18	18	19	8	19	17	14	10	7	17

[1/] *Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.*
[2/] *Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.*
[3/] *Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.*
[4/] *Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service.*
SOURCE: ***Potato Stocks****, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.*

Table 6A: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss [1/] by Size, Round Whites, 1999 - 2003

Size	Round Whites				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Cwt per Acre				
1 1/2" - under 1 7/8"	3	4	4	4	4
1 7/8" - under 2"	1	2	2	3	2
2" - under 2 1/4"	3	3	1	3	2
2 1/4" - under 2 1/2"	2	1	2	2	3
2 1/2" - under 3 1/2"	4	2	3	4	4
3 1/2" - under 4"	1	0	0	0	0
4" and over	0	0	0	0	0
Total [1/]	**14**	**12**	**12**	**16**	**15**

[1/] *Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2, and Culls.*

Table 6B: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss [1/] by Size, Long Whites and Russets, 1999 - 2003

Size	Long Whites					Russets				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Cwt per Acre					Cwt per Acre				
1 1/2" - under 1 7/8"	4	6				4	4	9	5	5
1 7/8" - under 2"	2	3				2	3	2	3	2
2" and over:										
4 oz - under 6 oz [2/]	6	7				4	5	5	6	7
6 oz - under 8 oz	1	3				1	1	3	1	1
8 oz - under 10 oz	1	2				1	4/	1	4/	3
10 oz and over	2	3				4	1	0	0	4
Total [3/]	**16**	**24**	**14**	**16**	**15**	**16**	**14**	**20**	**15**	**22**

[1/] *Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2, and Culls.*
[2/] *Includes potatoes 2 inches or greater weighing less than 4 ounces.*
[3/] *Long white totals by size unavailable for 2001, 2002, and 2003.*
[4/] *Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.*

Table 7: MAINE POTATOES: Planting Progress, 1999 - 2003

Week Ending	Percent of Acres Planted Weekly					Accumulated Percent of Acres				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
before May 2	11	–	1	--	--	11	–	1	--	--
May 9	32	10	10	22	4	43	10	11	22	4
May 16	35	16	36	23	6	78	26	47	45	10
May 23	17	35	35	22	40	95	61	82	67	50
May 30	3	20	12	24	36	98	81	94	91	86
June 6	1	16	2	8	12	99	97	96	99	98
after June 6	1	3	4	1	2	100	100	100	100	100

Table 8 [1/]: MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors by Month, 1998 - 2002 Crop Years

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	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt
1998	18,060	14,100	12,500	10,500	8,450	6,000	3,800	1,900
1999	17,813	14,500	13,000	11,300	9,400	7,200	4,400	2,300
2000	17,920	14,100	12,500	10,900	8,700	6,600	4,000	1,900
2001	16,430	12,200	10,800	8,900	7,100	5,300	3,300	1,800
2002	16,960	12,600	11,200	9,500	8,000	6,300	3,900	2,100

[1/] Data in this table is not derived from the Potato Objective Yield Survey; this data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price survey also conducted by the New England Agricultural Statistics Service.

SOURCE: ***Potato Stocks***, 3:00 p.m., mid-month December - June, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.
Potatoes, 3:00 p.m., September 18, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 9:[1/] MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1999 - 2002 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received [2/] by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt	Dollars Per Cwt
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.05

[1/] Data in this table is not derived from the Potato Objective Yield Survey; this data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price survey also conducted by the New England Agricultural Statistics Service.

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

SOURCE: ***Agricultural Prices***, 3:00 p.m., late-month September - June, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 10:[1/] FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield and Production, 2002 - 2003

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Cwt	Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt
California	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	520	410	4,264	3,444
Colorado	71.6	66.3	71.5	65.7	390	360	27,885	23,652
Idaho	375.0	360.0	373.0	358.0	358	344	133,385	123,180
Maine	**64.0**	**66.0**	**64.0**	**65.5**	**265**	**260**	**16,960**	**17,030**
Massachusetts	**3.3**	**3.0**	**3.2**	**2.8**	**255**	**275**	**816**	**770**
Michigan	46.5	46.0	45.5	45.5	305	330	13,878	15,015
Minnesota	61.0	60.0	55.0	58.0	340	385	18,700	22,330
Montana	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.6	310	315	3,224	3,339
Nebraska	22.0	23.5	21.8	23.2	395	425	8,611	9,860
New York	22.5	22.2	22.0	21.7	250	300	5,500	6,510
North Dakota	118.0	117.0	102.0	112.0	230	245	23,460	27,440
Ohio	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.3	215	300	903	1,290
Oregon	50.0	42.8	49.8	42.6	501	493	24,936	20,991
Pennsylvania	15.0	14.5	14.0	13.5	185	290	2,590	3,915
Rhode Island	**0.5**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**235**	**300**	**118**	**150**
Washington	165.0	163.0	165.0	162.0	560	575	92,400	93,150
Wisconsin	85.0	81.0	83.0	80.0	375	410	31,125	32,800
All Other Fall States	16.4	18.1	16.3	17.7	341	368	5,562	6,520
United States Fall Crop	1,138.8	1,107.6	1,109.4	1,092.0	373	377	414,317	411,386

[1/] *Data in this table is not derived exclusively from the Potato Objective Yield Survey; this is also the result of other surveys conducted by the New England Agricultural Statistics Service.*

SOURCE: ***Crop Production - Annual***, 8:30 a.m., January 12, 2004, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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