



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St, Third Floor
PO Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302

Aubrey R. Davis, Director
www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639
Fax: 603-225-1434
nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



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A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, telephone, or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys.

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POTATOES: Maine's 2003 potato production was estimated at 17 million cwt (hundredweight), fractionally above the 2002 output. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 65,500 acres, an increase of 1,500 acres from the previous year. Cool, wet weather conditions prevailed during May and June. Potatoes were only 50 percent planted by the end of May, compared with 70 percent normally planted by that time, and emergence was slow due to cool soil temperatures. Dry conditions followed in July, keeping disease outbreaks in check, however, insect activity was high. Two weeks of heavy rains in early August left standing water in the rows and resulted in acreage left unharvested and diminished tuber quality at some locations. Harvest ranged from one to two weeks behind schedule through mid-September. Most of the crop was dug by October 20, on schedule with normal. Potato yields averaged 260 cwt per acre in 2003, compared with 265 cwt per acre averaged in the previous year.

Results from the 2003 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,729 hills per acre, down from the 11,948 hills per acre in 2002. On average, growers harvested 8.9 tubers per hill in 2003, compared with the 8.5 tubers per hill average in 2002. Tuber quality was off from a year ago, with the percentage of tubers grading out as US #1 (potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, AMS) below 2002 across all types. Further results from the 2003 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 15, 2004 in the Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled poor planting and harvesting conditions during the 2003 growing

season. Massachusetts growers left 200 acres unharvested in 2003, and Rhode Island growers had to abandon 100 acres. Potato yields in 2003 were above average in the two southern New England States, averaging 275 cwt per acre in Massachusetts and 300 cwt per acre in Rhode Island, however, quality was off due to excessive moisture at harvest.

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2003 totaled 13.5 million cwt, 7 percent above 2002's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1 in the State totaled 3.5 million cwt, below the 4.4 million cwt moved in 2002 due to declines in table, chip, and processing usage from a year earlier. Storage accounted for 79 percent of Maine's total production, compared with the previous five-year average of 77 percent. Of the stocks on hand December 1 in Maine, 48 percent were russets, 46 percent were round white varieties, four percent were red varieties, and two percent were long whites.

The 15 major potato States held 267 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2003, up one percent from last year and three percent above 2001. Potatoes in storage account for 66 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up one percentage point from last year. Disappearance of 137 million cwt of potatoes was down four percent from last year, but seven percent above 2001 movement. Shrink and loss, at 14.7 million cwt so far this season, was down five percent from last year, but unchanged from the same date in 2001. Processors in the nine major States used 70.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down eight percent from a year ago, but 8 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 14.3 million cwt of the total processing, down nine percent from last year.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in Vermont 207 million pounds for November 2003, down two percent from November 2002. There were an estimated 146,000 milk cows during November 2003, a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous month. Milk production per cow averaged 1,415 pounds, per cow, an increase of 35 pounds per cow from November 2002.

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.

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OR lists for other States.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2002 - 2003 ^{1/}

| 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 |
| 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 |
| Rhode Island | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 235 | 300 | 118 | 150 |
| United States Fall Crop | 1,138.8 | 1,107.8 | 1,109.4 | 1,091.8 | 373 | 377 | 414,317 | 411,649 |

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Production and December 1 Stocks ^{1/}, 15 Major States, 2002 - 2003

| State | 2002 Crop | | | 2003 Crop | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Production | Stocks December 1, 2002 | Stocks as Percentage of Production | Production | Stocks December 1, 2003 | Stocks as Percentage of Production |
| | 1,000 Cwt | 1,000 Cwt | Percent | 1,000 Cwt | 1,000 Cwt | Percent |
| California | 4,264 | 3,300 | 77 | 3,444 | 2,700 | 78 |
| Colorado | 27,885 | 20,500 | 74 | 23,652 | 17,800 | 75 |
| Idaho | 133,385 | 92,000 | 69 | 123,180 | 86,000 | 70 |
| Maine | 16,960 | 12,600 | 74 | 17,030 | 13,500 | 79 |
| Michigan | 13,878 | 7,900 | 57 | 15,015 | 8,400 | 56 |
| Minnesota | 18,700 | 12,000 | 64 | 22,330 | 14,000 | 63 |
| Montana | 3,224 | 3,100 | 96 | 3,392 | 3,200 | 94 |
| Nebraska | 8,611 | 5,500 | 64 | 9,660 | 6,700 | 69 |
| New York | 5,500 | 2,400 | 44 | 6,510 | 3,000 | 46 |
| North Dakota | 23,460 | 16,000 | 68 | 26,880 | 19,400 | 72 |
| Ohio | 903 | 85 | 9 | 1,290 | 260 | 20 |
| Oregon | 24,936 | 17,500 | 70 | 20,991 | 18,000 | 86 |
| Pennsylvania | 2,590 | 1,400 | 54 | 3,915 | 2,200 | 56 |
| Washington | 92,400 | 50,000 | 54 | 93,150 | 51,000 | 55 |
| Wisconsin | 31,125 | 20,300 | 65 | 34,020 | 21,000 | 62 |
| 15 STATES | 407,821 | 264,585 | 65 | 404,459 | 267,160 | 66 |

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2002-2003 ^{1/}

| State | Crop Year | Reds | | Whites ^{2/} | | Russets | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Number of Samples | Average Number Hills per Acre | Number of Samples | Average Number Hills per Acre | Number of Samples | Average Number Hills per Acre |
| ID | 2002 | | | 14 | 13,553 | 276 | 12,454 |
| | 2003 | 4 | 14,819 | 9 | 12,621 | 268 | 12,480 |
| ME | 2002 | 5 | 13,946 | 91 | 13,440 | 62 | 9,596 |
| | 2003 | 4 | 13,060 | 84 | 13,235 | 66 | 9,731 |
| MN | 2002 | 38 | 11,761 | 17 | 11,273 | 77 | 12,366 |
| | 2003 | 47 | 13,364 | 13 | 11,642 | 81 | 11,458 |
| ND | 2002 | 15 | 9,906 | 63 | 10,197 | 54 | 11,253 |
| | 2003 | 23 | 10,653 | 50 | 10,055 | 64 | 11,106 |
| OR | 2002 | 5 | 15,193 | 32 | 13,903 | 45 | 13,603 |
| | 2003 | | | 32 | 13,267 | 75 | 13,928 |
| WA | 2002 | 7 | 15,440 | 17 | 14,951 | 99 | 14,692 |
| | 2003 | 10 | 15,489 | 29 | 14,570 | 133 | 14,931 |
| WI | 2002 | 10 | 15,822 | 37 | 15,208 | 74 | 12,671 |
| | 2003 | 9 | 15,404 | 49 | 14,218 | 63 | 12,091 |

^{1/} Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.^{2/} Includes long white and round white varieties.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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 | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | 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.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1998 - 2003 Crop Years

| Crop Year | Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average | | | | | | | | | | | Market Year Average |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | | |
| | 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 | 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 | 6.30 | 5.85 | 5.65 | 6.60 | 6.90 | 7.10 | 7.10 | 7.50 | 8.00 | 8.25 | 7.05 | |
| 2003 ^{2/} | 6.15 | 5.15 | 5.40 | 6.25 | | | | | | | | |

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 28, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2003 with Comparisons

| State | Milk Cows ^{1/} | | | Production per Cow | | | Production | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Nov 2002 | Oct 2003 | Nov 2003 | Nov 2002 | Oct 2003 | Nov 2003 | Nov 2002 | Oct 2003 | Nov 2003 |
| | 1,000 Head | 1,000 Head | 1,000 Head | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds | Million Pounds |
| Vermont | 153 | 147 | 146 | 1,380 | 1,450 | 1,415 | 211 | 213 | 207 |
| New York | 678 | 665 | 658 | 1,410 | 1,455 | 1,405 | 956 | 968 | 924 |
| Pennsylvania | 591 | 562 | 560 | 1,460 | 1,455 | 1,420 | 863 | 818 | 795 |
| United States ^{2/} | 7,792 | 7,720 | 7,710 | 1,496 | 1,552 | 1,509 | 11,657 | 11,978 | 11,637 |

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows.

^{2/} United States includes only 20 major States: AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., December 17, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1998 - 2003

| Year | Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold to Plants | | | | | | | | | | | | Annual Average |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | |
| | 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 | Dollars per Cwt | Dollars per Cwt |
| 1998 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 14.90 | 14.60 | 15.10 | 14.80 | 15.90 | 17.30 | 17.90 | 17.70 | 18.00 | 16.00 |
| 1999 | 18.20 | 16.60 | 16.50 | 13.90 | 13.90 | 14.10 | 14.50 | 14.90 | 16.20 | 16.30 | 16.30 | 13.90 | 15.40 |
| 2000 | 13.40 | 13.40 | 13.50 | 13.40 | 13.50 | 13.80 | 13.50 | 13.80 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 14.30 | 14.60 | 13.80 |
| 2001 | 13.70 | 14.30 | 15.00 | 15.40 | 16.20 | 16.80 | 17.00 | 17.30 | 17.90 | 16.40 | 15.80 | 14.10 | 15.80 |
| 2002 | 14.20 | 13.80 | 13.30 | 13.10 | 12.70 | 12.10 | 11.60 | 11.70 | 12.00 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.40 | 12.70 |
| 2003 ^{2/} | 12.30 | 11.90 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 11.50 | 12.00 | 13.20 | 14.90 | 15.60 | 15.60 | | |

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., November 28, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2003 with Comparisons

| PRODUCT | October 2002 | September 2003 | October 2003 | October 2003 as Percent of: | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | October 2002 | September 2003 |
| | 1,000 Pounds | 1,000 Pounds | 1,000 Pounds | Percent | Percent |
| Butter | 3,612 | 2,466 | 3,479 | 96 | 141 |
| American Type Cheese ^{1/} | -- | 4,885 | 6,469 | -- | 132 |
| Mozzarella Cheese | -- | 6,135 | 5,253 | -- | 86 |
| Other Italian Cheese ^{2/} | -- | 1,274 | 1,238 | -- | 97 |
| Cottage Cheese ^{3/} | 550 | 680 | 632 | 115 | 93 |
| | 1,000 Gallons | 1,000 Gallons | 1,000 Gallons | Percent | Percent |
| Ice Cream, Hard | 8,638 | 7,266 | 8,328 | 96 | 115 |
| Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard | 832 | 470 | 591 | 71 | 126 |
| Milk Sherbet, Hard | 172 | 257 | 190 | 110 | 74 |

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddars, Colby, washed curd, stirred curd, Monterey and Jack.

^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

^{3/} Creamed and low fat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., December 4, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2002 - 2003

| State | Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above | | All Layers ^{1/} | | Eggs per 100 for All Layers ^{1/} | | Egg Production from All Layers ^{1/} | |
|---------------|---|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|--|---------------|
| | November 2002 | November 2003 | November 2002 | November 2003 | November 2002 | November 2003 | November 2002 | November 2003 |
| | 1,000 Birds | 1,000 Birds | 1,000 Birds | 1,000 Birds | Number | Number | Million Eggs | Million Eggs |
| Connecticut | 3,010 | 2,833 | 3,062 | 2,897 | 2,253 | 2,313 | 69 | 67 |
| Maine | 4,169 | 4,109 | 4,220 | 4,160 | 1,777 | 2,260 | 75 | 94 |
| United States | 274,979 | 273,007 | 337,808 | 336,052 | 2,139 | 2,165 | 7,226 | 7,275 |

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens and Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., December 22, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

AUBREY R. DAVIS, Director

Judy Price, Editorial Assistant

JOE SAMSON, Deputy Director

STATISTICIANS: Robin Helrich, Dianne Johnson, Everett Olbert, Angela Considine, Sherry Deane, Dave Mikelson, Emily McAllister

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