



# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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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.

<b>IN</b>	Labor
<b>THIS</b>	Milk: Monthly Production and Price
<b>ISSUE</b>	Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Disposition, and Stocks

**POTATOES:** Maine's 2003 potato production was estimated at 17 million cwt (hundredweight), fractionally above the 2002 output. The November 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, compared with 265 cwt per acre averaged in the previous year.

Results from the 2003 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine and comprised 33.2 percent of the total acres planted. All russet varieties comprised 40 percent of all potato acreage planted in Maine in 2003, compared with 43 percent planted a year earlier. The number two variety planted was Frito-Lay, followed by Shepody and Ontario varieties.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also battled poor planting and harvesting conditions during the 2003 growing season. Massachusetts growers harvested

2,800 acres with yields averaging 275 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 270 cwt per acre.

**MILK PRODUCTION:** Milk production in **Vermont** totaled 213 million pounds for October 2003, down two percent from October 2002. There were an estimated 147,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October 2003, unchanged from September, however a decrease of 6,000 cows from October 2002. Milk production per cow during October 2003 averaged 1,450 pounds, an increase of 25 pounds from October 2002.

**LABOR:** There were 40,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 20 percent from a year earlier when there were 50,000 hired workers. Nationally, there were 891,000 workers hired by farm operators during the same time period, compared to 940,000 hired workers during 2002. In the Northeast, hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$10.12 during the survey week, up 76 cents from October 2002. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$9.05 per hour, compared to \$8.95 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 39.7 hours in the Northeast compared to 40.2 hours nationwide during the survey week. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast region** consist of the six New England States and New York.

Although only quarterly statistics were available for the Northeast region, annual averages for wage rates were available for the six New England States. In 2003, the **New England** agricultural wage rates increased from \$9.95 in 2002 to \$10.40 in 2003 for all hired workers.

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?

\* For free National e-mail reports, send a message to: [usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu](mailto:usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu) and in the body, type: lists

\* For free State newsletters, such as this, send a message to: [listserv@newsbox.usda.gov](mailto:listserv@newsbox.usda.gov) and in the body, type: subscribe new-eng-all-reports

OR lists for other States.

## 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
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	0.5	0.5	0.5	235	270	118	135
United States Fall Crop	1,138.8	1,109.7	1,109.4	1,094.8	373	378	414,317	413,549
United States All Seasons	1,304.6	1,274.0	1,270.3	1,252.5	362	367	459,802	459,241

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1998 - 2003 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received <sup>1/</sup> by Farmers for 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	6.30	5.85	5.65	6.60	6.90	7.10	7.10	7.50	8.00	8.25	7.05
2003 <sup>2/</sup>	6.15	5.15	5.35								

<sup>1/</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.<sup>2/</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

## MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1998 - 2002

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	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
<b>TOTAL VARIETIES</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>By Type:</b>					
Reds	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
White (Long & Round)	68.0	57.0	60.0	53.0	56.0
Russet Varieties	28.0	39.0	35.0	43.0	40.0
<b>TOTAL VARIETIES</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Included with other varieties.Source: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2002 - 2003

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1/</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1/</sup>		Egg Production from All Layers <sup>1/</sup>	
	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003	October 2002	October 2003
	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	1,000 Birds	Number	Number	Million Eggs	Million Eggs
Connecticut	3,016	2,805	3,072	2,869	2,279	2,266	70	65
Maine	4,276	4,139	4,328	4,184	2,033	2,414	88	101
United States	274,856	270,346	338,159	333,251	2,192	2,218	7,412	7,392

<sup>1/</sup> 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., November 21, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows <sup>1/</sup>			Production per Cow			Production		
	Oct 2002	Sep 2003	Oct 2003	Oct 2002	Sep 2003	Oct 2003	Oct 2002	Sep 2003	Oct 2003
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds
Vermont	153	147	147	1,425	1,430	1,450	218	210	213
New York	676	673	665	1,485	1,420	1,455	1,004	956	968
Pennsylvania	591	566	562	1,495	1,415	1,455	884	801	818
United States <sup>2/</sup>	7,789	7,744	7,719	1,539	1,503	1,550	11,991	11,643	11,965

<sup>1/</sup> Average number for the month, including dry cows.

<sup>2/</sup> 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., November 17, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1998 - 2003**

Year	Prices Received <sup>1/</sup> 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 <sup>2/</sup>	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	12.00	13.20	14.90	15.30			

<sup>1/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

<sup>2/</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week Northeast and United States, October 2003 with Comparisons <sup>1/</sup>**

Region	Hired Workers on Farms <sup>2/</sup>			Hours Worked During the Week		
	October 6 - 12 2002	July 6 - 12 2003	October 12 - 18 2003	October 6 - 12 2002	July 6 - 12 2003	October 12 - 18 2003
	1,000 Workers	1,000 Workers	1,000 Workers	Hours per Week	Hours per Week	Hours per Week
NORTHEAST <sup>3/</sup>	50	53	40	41.2	40.2	39.7
United States <sup>4/</sup>	940	943	891	40.4	39.8	40.2

<sup>1/</sup> Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

<sup>3/</sup> Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

<sup>4/</sup> United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 21, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Wage Rates for Hired Workers, Northeast and United States, October 2003 with Comparisons <sup>1/</sup>**

Northeast <sup>2/</sup>	October 6 - 12 2002	July 6 - 12 2003	October 12 - 18 2003	United States <sup>3/</sup>	October 6 - 12 2002	July 6 - 12 2003	October 12 - 18 2003
	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour		Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour	Dollars per Hour
All Hired Workers <sup>4/</sup>	9.36	9.54	10.12	All Hired Workers <sup>4/</sup>	8.95	8.88	9.05
Field	9.16	8.77	9.62	Field	8.34	8.17	8.42
Livestock	7.70	8.10	8.64	Livestock	8.42	8.57	8.64
Field and Livestock	8.76	8.54	9.33	Field and Livestock	8.36	8.26	8.47

<sup>1/</sup> Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

<sup>3/</sup> United States excludes Alaska.

<sup>4/</sup> Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 21, 2003, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

