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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, Internet, telephone, or personal interviews.

In This Issue: **Fall Potatoes:** Acreage, Prices, and Acres Planted
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FALL POTATOES

2008 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 14.4 million cwt (hundredweight), 14 percent below 2007 output due to reductions in both acreage and yield. Maine farmers planted 56,000 acres, 1,100 fewer acres than the previous year. The November 1 forecast placed 2008 acres harvested at 54,500 acres, with 1,500 acres abandoned due to losses from wet conditions and disease.

Cool, wet soil conditions forced growers to hold off planting until mid-May this year. Warmer, drier conditions followed and the crop was all planted by early June, slightly ahead of schedule. Wet weather the last two weeks of June promoted excellent crop growth, but continued into July, forcing farmers to a 5-day spray schedule to prevent disease. In mid-July, late blight was discovered, but confined to a few locations. Dry conditions finally arrived in late August and continued into September, providing excellent harvest conditions. Harvest had passed the halfway mark by the end of the month when wet weather returned, slowing potatoes moving into storage. Farmers had the crop all dug by late October, on schedule with last year and normal. Yields averaged 265 cwt per acre in 2008, compared with 295 cwt per acre in 2007 and the previous 5-year average of 290 cwt per acre. Updated acres harvested and yield estimates will be available December 15, 2008 in the Potato Stocks Release, when end of season reports are tabulated.

Results from the 2008 Potato Objective Yield Survey confirmed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 42.6 percent of the total acres planted. Frito-Lay varieties comprised 13.8 percent of the total acreage, followed by Shepodys with 4.6 percent and Russet Norkotas at 4.2 percent. Total russet acreage increased from 44.8 percent in 2007 to 53.0 percent in 2008. The percentage of white varieties planted totaled 40.0 percent, compared with 46.2 percent a year earlier. Acreage planted to red varieties averaged 4.0 percent compared with 3.6 percent in 2007. Yellow varieties comprised 3.0 percent of the total planted acreage. Yukon Golds and Norwis are the leading yellow varieties planted in Maine.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** began seeding the 2008 crop the last week in April and finished up the last week in May, on schedule with last year and ahead of the previous 5-year average. Emergence was close to complete by mid-June, and the crop was responding well to the mix of sun and showers. Hot, humid weather accompanied by severe thunderstorms dominated the last two weeks in June, and growers were active spraying for disease as the crop moved out of full bloom. Wet conditions persisted throughout most of July and August. Massachusetts growers planted 2,800 acres and harvested 2,700 acres and yields averaged 260 cwt per acre. **Rhode Island** potato farmers enjoyed drier weather conditions in August, and yields were expected to average 285 cwt per acre from the 500 acres harvested.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006 – 2008¹

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres						Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Maine	58.5	57.1	56.0	58.0	57.0	54.5	310	295	265	17,980	16,815	14,443
Massachusetts	3.1	2.7	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	240	310	260	744	837	702
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	260	300	285	130	180	143
United States Fall Crop	993.7	1,010.8	928.4	983.0	996.8	918.2	406	409	407	398,921	407,517	373,496
United States All Seasons	1,140.1	1,148.8	1,057.1	1,121.9	1,129.7	1,043.1	393	396	394	441,348	446,807	410,545

¹ 2007 crop revised.

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Prices Received, 2004 – 2008 Crop Years Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average¹

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	6.50
2005	*	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25
2006	*	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.40	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.80
2007	*	6.20	6.40	7.25	7.55	7.60	8.00	8.55	8.65	9.15	8.75	7.90
2008	*	7.20	7.95									

¹ Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, 2007 – 2008 ¹

Crop Year	Reds		Whites		Yellows		Russets	
	Number of Samples	Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Hills per Acre
2007	6	12,874	63	13,098	11	13,418	68	9,629
2008	8	13,785	50	12,655	9	13,228	69	9,603

¹ Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.
SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Size categories by Type, 2007 – 2008 ^{1 2}

Category	Round Whites		Yellows	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Percent			
1 1/2 - 1 7/8 inches	0.9	0.5	1.5	*
1 7/8 - 2 inches	1.3	4.1	2.5	*
2 - 2 1/4 inches	10.5	11.9	8.4	*
2 1/4 - 2 1/2 inches	20.8	19.7	12.5	*
2 1/2 - 3 1/2 inches	60.7	59.6	65.5	*
3 1/2 - 4 inches	4.9	3.0	9.6	*
4 inches and over	0.9	1.2	*	*

¹ Gross yield basis.

² Percent of net yield.

* Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Grading Categories by Type, 2007 – 2008 ^{1 2}

Category	Round Whites	Yellows	Long Potatoes (Russet & Shepody)
	Percent		
No. 1, 2 inch minimum			
2007	89.1	82.0	68.8
2008	76.3	82.2	65.5
No. 2 or Processing Usable, 1 1/2 Inch Minimum			
2007	8.7	12.2	18.6
2008	11.9	10.2	20.0
Cull			
2007	2.2	5.8	12.6
2008	11.7	7.6	14.5

¹ Gross yield basis.

² Percent of net yield.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Type 2007 – 2008 ¹

Crop Year	Reds	Whites	Yellows	Russets	All Types
	Hundred Weight per Acre				
2007	*	18	*	16	17
2008	*	23	10	20	20

¹ Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

* Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION

Connecticut and Maine layer inventories in October 2008 totaled 6.4 million birds, down 376,000 birds from the combined total in October 2007. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, laying 83 million eggs in October 2008. Connecticut layers produced 63 million eggs.

The United States layer inventory during October 2008 totaled 335 million, down 8.1 million birds from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.6 billion eggs during October 2008, a decrease of 1.5 percent from October 2007.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2007 – 2008

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	
	October 2007	October 2008	October 2007	October 2008	October 2007	October 2008	October 2007	October 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,849	2,712	2,904	2,766	2,342	2,278	68	63
Maine	3,797	3,563	3,876	3,638	2,141	2,281	83	83
UNITED STATES	278,222	273,101	342,637	334,560	2,255	2,276	7,726	7,613

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., November 21, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in **Vermont** during October 2008 totaled 207 million pounds, a decrease of 1.9 percent from October 2007. Milk production per cow averaged 1,490 pounds, a decrease of 20 pounds per cow (1.3 percent) from October 2007.

There were an estimated 139,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October, unchanged from the previous month and a decrease of 1,000 head from October 2007.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow ²			Production		
	October 2007	September 2008	October 2008	October 2007	September 2008	October 2008	October 2007	September 2008	October 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	139	139	1,510	1,470	1,490	211	204	207
New York	626	626	625	1,630	1,590	1,620	1,020	995	1,013
Pennsylvania	551	548	549	1,610	1,530	1,570	887	838	862
UNITED STATES ³	8,355	8,459	8,460	1,697	1,651	1,700	14,176	13,963	14,382

¹ Average number for month, includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ United States includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 17, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2003 – 2008 ¹

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
2004	14.00	14.40	16.20	17.80	20.10	19.80	17.60	15.50	16.30	16.60	17.00	17.20	16.90
2005	16.90	16.00	16.60	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50	16.10	15.50	16.00
2006	15.30	14.60	13.80	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.90	13.60	14.50	14.70	14.80	13.70
2007	15.70	15.90	16.80	17.70	19.20	21.20	23.20	23.50	23.80	23.30	23.80	23.30	20.60
2008 ²	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.70	18.50			

¹ Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

² Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2008 with Comparisons

Product	September 2007 ¹	August 2008 ¹	September 2008	September 2008 as percent of:	
				September 2007	August 2008
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,228	633	1,617	132	255
American Type Cheese ²	5,849	6,599	5,571	95	84
Mozzarella Cheese	3,249	3,826	3,012	93	79
Other Italian Cheese ³	604	319	370	61	116
Cottage Cheese ⁴	509	532	520	102	98
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	6,806	8,187	6,948	102	85
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	931	659	522	56	79
Milk Sherbet, Hard	120	151	161	134	107

¹ Revised.

² American Type Cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.

³ Includes all Italian Cheese except Mozzarella.

⁴ Creamed and Low Fat.

SOURCE OF NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., November 4, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Send in your Photos!

The New England field office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is looking for photos of your farming operation for the Annual Statistics Bulletin and/or monthly Ag Review publication which are available in print and on the web. If you have photos of your farm, livestock, field crops, fruits, vegetables, etc., please email them to Kathy Schmitt at kathy_schmitt@nass.usda.gov. Be sure to include your name, farm name and location. By submitting photos, you are granting permission for the New England field office of NASS to use them in their publications. Feel free to contact Kathy at (603) 227-3138 with any questions.

FARM LABOR

There were 42,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast 1 region during the week of October 12 – 18, 2008. This represents an 24 percent increase from a year earlier when there were 34,000 hired workers. Nationally, 801,000 workers were hired by farm operators during the same October time period, compared to 817,000 hired workers during 2007.

Hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$10.95 during the

survey week, up 60 cents from October 2007. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$10.70 per hour, compared with \$10.38 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 42.1 hours in the Northeast 1 region compared with 41.3 hours worked nationwide during the survey week. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast 1 region** consist of the six New England States and New York.

**Quarterly Farm Labor: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week
Northeast I and United States, October 2008 with Comparisons ¹**

Region	Hired Workers on Farms			Hours Worked During the Week		
	Oct 7–13, 2007	July 6 –12, 2008	Oct 12–18, 2008	Oct 7–13, 2007	July 6 –12, 2008	Oct 12–18, 2008
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
NORTHEAST I ²	34	37	42	39.8	38.0	42.1
UNITED STATES ³	817	828	801	42.2	40.5	41.3

¹ Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers. Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

² Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

³ United States excludes Alaska.

⁴ Revised.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 21, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**Quarterly Farm Labor: Wage Rates for Hired Workers,
Northeast I and United States, October 2008 with Comparisons ¹**

Northeast I ²	Oct 7–13, 2007	July 6 –12, 2008	Oct 12–18, 2008	United States ³	Oct 7–13, 2007	July 6 –12, 2008	Oct 12–18, 2008
	Dollars Per Hour				Dollars Per Hour		
All Hired Workers ⁴	10.35	10.50	10.95	All Hired Workers ⁴	10.38	10.34	10.70
Field	9.96	9.68	10.66	Field	9.62	9.66	10.05
Livestock	9.22	9.89	10.08	Livestock	10.02	9.98	10.19
Field and Livestock	9.70	9.75	10.45	Field and Livestock	9.73	9.74	10.08

¹ Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

² Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

³ United States excludes Alaska.

⁴ Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

⁵ Revised.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 21, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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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. This office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov.
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