



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2019

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2018 POTATOES ANNUAL SUMMARY

Colorado potato growers produced an estimated 21.72 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, up 2 percent from last year's crop. Fall potatoes produced in the San Luis Valley totaled 20.12 million hundredweight compared with 19.31 million hundredweight produced last year. Fall potatoes grown in all other areas in Colorado totaled 1.60 million hundredweight compared with 1.91 million hundredweight last year. Average yield, at 395 hundredweight per acre, increased 13 hundredweight per acre from the combined yield attained last year. The harvested area, estimated at 55,000 acres is down from the 55,600 acres harvested last year.

The total value of production of the 21.72 million cwt totaled \$216.8 million, up 9 percent over the previous year. Value of sales was also up 9 percent to \$191.3 million. Price per hundredweight was \$9.98.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All potato production in 2018 totaled 450 million cwt, down slightly from the 2017 crop. Harvested area, at 1.01 million acres, was down 3 percent from 2017. The average yield of 443 cwt per acre was up 11 cwt from the previous year.

Spring potato final production for 2018 totaled 17.8 million cwt, 18 percent below the previous year. Harvested area, at 51,800 acres, decreased 17 percent from 2017. The average yield for spring potatoes was 343 cwt per acre, down 7 cwt from 2017.

Summer potato production was 17.8 million cwt for 2018, a 21 percent decrease from 2017. Harvested area, at 56,400 acres, was down 17 percent from 2017. The average yield of 315 cwt per acre was down 16 cwt from 2017.

Fall potato production was estimated at 414 million cwt for 2018, up 2 percent from the 2017 crop. Area harvested in 2018 was 906,600 acres, 1 percent below the previous year. The average fall potato yield, at 457 cwt per acre, was up 12 cwt from 2017.

The value of all potatoes sold in 2018, at \$3.75 billion, decreased 3 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$8.90 per cwt, was down \$0.27 from 2017. The quantity of potatoes sold from the 2018 crop totaled 420 million cwt, down slightly from 2017. Quantity sold accounted for 93 percent of 2018 production, unchanged from the previous year.

Growers from the 23 estimating States sold 289 million cwt of raw potatoes to processors from the 2018 crop, up 2 percent from 2017. Table stock sales totaled 106 million cwt, 3 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 24.1 million cwt were down 5 percent from 2017. Sales for livestock feed, at 697 thousand cwt, decreased 64 percent from 2017.

Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 25.5 million cwt for 2018, 2 percent above 2017. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 556,000 cwt, a 37 percent decrease from the previous season. Growers kept 3.49 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 1 percent from 2017.

United States potatoes used for processing totaled 298 million cwt, up 6 percent from 2017. Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 62.7 million cwt, up 7 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 179 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 5 percent from 2017. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 49.1 million cwt, up 7 percent from 2017. Canning use, at 1.87 million cwt, was up 1 percent from the previous year. Other products made from potatoes utilized 5.55 million cwt of potatoes, a 10 percent decrease from 2017.

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