

## 2006 WINTER PRODUCTION

**FLORIDA:** Mostly mild weather during December provided clear conditions for ground preparations and planting. Growers reported no significant damage from a cold snap in early January. Digging around Lake Okeechobee, and in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas, got underway by early February. Total winter crop acreage is set at 5,700 acres planted with 5,500 acres expected to be dug. Comparable acreage planted last year totaled 6,000 acres planted and 5,800 acres harvested. Yield is expected to average 240 hundredweight per acre, equal to the previous year's average. The expected production of 1,320,000 hundredweight compares with 1,392,000 hundredweight dug during the winter of 2005.

**UNITED STATES:** Production for 2006 is forecast at 4.44 million cwt, down 9 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below 2004. Harvested acreage in the 2 winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at 17,500 acres, down 12 percent from 2005, while the average yield is forecast at 254 cwt per acre, 7 cwt above last year. In California, where rain has been prevalent, growers report no problems thus far and expect to receive average yields.

## 2005 SPRING PRODUCTION

**FLORIDA:** Mostly mild, dry weather during the last weeks of 2004 provided good conditions for ground preparations. Mostly mild conditions during January, February and early March speeded planting and aided growth. Plants in a few spots of the Hastings area recovered from hail damage after mid-March. Rains during late March saturated fields with adequate drainage preventing any damage to tubers. The harvesting of chipper types in the Hastings area and other central Peninsula localities got underway during early April with some activity curtailed by heavy rains early in the month. Mostly dry conditions over the southern Peninsula kept the digging of table types on schedule during April. From late April through mid-May, scattered rains interrupted some digging; however, most stayed on schedule. Mostly clear conditions persisted during late May with harvesting very active. Wet weather during most of June interrupted digging with growers dodging adverse conditions caused by Tropical Storm Arlene in early June. Rains persisted during most of July and brought harvesting to an end early in the month.

**HASTINGS:** Acreage planted totaled 17,300 acres with 17,000 acres dug. In the previous year, 18,200 acres were planted and 18,000 acres were dug. Yield averaged 280 hundredweight per acre, down 40 hundredweight from the previous year. Production totaled 4,760,000 hundredweight, down 1,000,000 hundredweight or 17 percent from the 5,760,000 hundredweight dug during the spring of 2004.

**OTHER AREAS:** Production totaled 1,767,000 hundredweight, down 151,000 hundredweight or 8 percent from the previous year. Yield per acre averaged 285 hundredweight per acre compared with 295 hundredweight for the spring of 2004. Acreage planted and harvested was 6,300 and 6,200 acres, respectively. In the spring of 2004, acreage planted and harvested was 6,600 and 6,500 acres, respectively.

**UNITED STATES:** Production for 2005 is revised to 18.7 million cwt, up 3 percent from the May forecast but 17 percent below 2004. Harvested area totaled 66,700 acres, down 8 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 281 cwt per acre decreased 33 cwt from 2004. Spring potato production in Arizona and California decreased 33 percent and 26 percent, respectively, from 2004. Florida's crop is down 15 percent from the previous year and production in Texas is 7 percent below 2004. North Carolina is the only spring potato State that increased production from last year, up 6 percent. North Carolina growers increased planted and harvested acres due to more processing contracts being available. The increase in harvested acres more than offset a decrease in yield.

## POTATOES

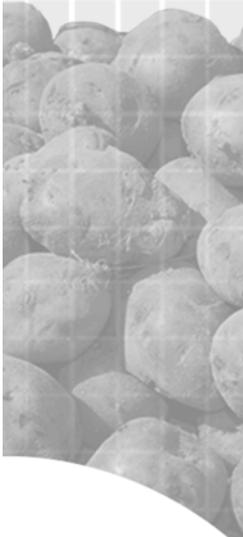
Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2005	Indicated 2006	2004	2005	Indicated 2006
	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	14.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	250	260	3,250	3,500	3,120
Florida	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	240	1,568	1,392	1,320
Total	20.0	17.7	19.8	17.5	247	254	4,818	4,892	4,440
Spring <sup>1/</sup>									
Arizona	4.3		4.3		275		1,767	1,183	
California	15.1		15.1		405		8,313	6,116	
Florida	23.6		23.2		281		7,678	6,527	
Hastings	17.3		17.0		280		5,760	4,760	
Other	6.3		6.2		285		1,918	1,767	
North Carolina	15.5		15.0		190		2,700	2,850	
Texas	9.5		9.1		225		2,205	2,048	
Total	68.0		66.7		281		22,663	18,724	

<sup>1/</sup> 2005 Revised.

## POTATO STOCKS, DOWN 7 PERCENT

The 13 major potato States held 219 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2006, down 7 percent from last year and 6 percent below January 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 10 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 86 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and long whites but a larger percentage of russets than a year ago for comparable States.

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Disappearance of 154 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt, is down 14 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 81.7 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 5 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below 2 years ago. Both Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 6 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 14 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2004.

Western States held 156 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, down 5 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 12 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds stored 11 percent less than in 2005, stocks in Montana are 3 percent below last season, and California's stocks decreased 43 percent from last year. Oregon's potato stocks are up 14 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 7 percent more than last season.

Central States accounted for 49.5 million cwt of potato stocks on January 1, down 14 percent from last year for comparable States. Minnesota's potato stocks decreased 4 percent from last year, Wisconsin's stocks are down 7 percent from 2005, Nebraska's potato sheds stored 8 percent less than last season, and stocks in North Dakota are 35 percent below January 1, 2005. Michigan potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year.

Eastern States stored 13.8 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Maine's potato sheds hold 10 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 44 percent from a year ago.

**POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2003-2005<sup>1/</sup>**

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire season
		<i>1,000 cwt</i>							
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000	58,090	65,800	84,600
	2005	22,590	28,960						
Maine <sup>2/</sup>	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004	1,540	1,970	2,600	3,135	3,700	4,340	4,910	6,590
	2005	1,290	1,805						
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2003	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004	32,305	38,130	43,570	50,730	57,140	63,855	71,355	78,680
	2005 <sup>3/</sup>	30,310	35,880						
Other States <sup>4/</sup>	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,490	15,000	17,965	20,910	24,150	27,480	30,945	41,175
	2005 <sup>3/</sup>	11,820	15,030						
Total	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004	70,695	85,940	100,955	119,385	135,990	153,765	173,010	211,045
	2005 <sup>3/</sup>	66,010	81,675						
Dehydrated <sup>5/</sup>	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	14,525	18,540	21,875	25,970	30,020	33,685	38,505	47,805
	2005 <sup>3/</sup>	12,180	15,995						

<sup>1/</sup> Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3/</sup> December revised.

<sup>4/</sup> CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

<sup>5/</sup> Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

**FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2005 and 2006<sup>1/</sup>**

State	Crop of 2004			Crop of 2005			
	Production	Stocks Jan 1, 2005	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2005	Stocks Jan 1, 2006	January as percent of production
	<i>1,000 cwt</i>			<i>1,000 cwt</i>			
			<i>Percent</i>				<i>Percent</i>
California	3,648	2,300	63	3,240	1,600	1,300	40
Colorado	23,791	15,800	66	22,292	16,300	14,000	63
Idaho	131,970	84,500	64	116,975	84,000	74,500	64
Maine <sup>2/</sup>	19,065	12,800	67	15,736	12,800	11,500	73
Michigan <sup>2/</sup>	13,650	6,300	46	13,920	7,900	6,400	46
Minnesota	18,920	11,600	61	17,630	13,500	11,100	63
Montana <sup>2/</sup>	3,551	3,400	96	3,434	3,400	3,300	96
Nebraska	9,288	5,300	57	8,245	5,700	4,900	59
New York	5,184	1,600	31	5,226	3,100	2,300	44
North Dakota	26,765	17,500	65	20,500	14,000	11,300	55
Ohio <sup>3/</sup>	1,080	100	9				
Oregon	19,775	14,500	73	22,023	19,000	16,500	75
Pennsylvania <sup>3/</sup>	2,640	1,100	42				
Washington	93,810	43,000	46	95,480	52,000	46,000	48
Wisconsin <sup>2/</sup>	30,450	16,900	56	27,880	18,500	15,800	57
Total 15 States <sup>2/ 4/</sup>	403,587	236,700	59	372,581	251,800	218,900	59

<sup>1/</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.

<sup>2/</sup> December 1, 2005, stocks revised.

<sup>3/</sup> Stock estimates discontinued in 2005

<sup>4/</sup> 13 States for the 2005 crop.