



FIELD CROPS

Potato Acreage, Production and Stocks

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2007 WINTER AND SPRING PRODUCTION

FLORIDA: Florida winter potatoes were combined with spring potatoes for the 2007 crop.

WEATHER: Mostly mild weather during December 2006 helped planting to stay on schedule and aided crop development. Dry weather throughout the months of January to March kept planting on schedule around Hastings and in the northern Peninsula. In late March, Hastings growers continued to make double crop plantings following cabbage harvests. Potato digging is expected to begin by mid to late April in the Hastings area and it is underway in the other spring potato areas.

SPRING: Producers planted 27,800 acres, down 1,000 acres from the combined 28,800 winter and spring acres planted in 2006. Acreage for harvest was set at 27,200 acres, down 900 acres from the combined winter and spring acres harvested a year ago. Yield is expected to average 290 hundredweight per acre, up 5 hundredweight from the previous year. The combined winter and spring production is anticipated to total 7,888,000 hundredweight, up one percent or 72,000 hundredweight from the 2006 combined production. Growers in the Hastings area planted 16,500 acres and hope to dig 16,200 acres compared with 17,000 acres planted and 16,600 acres dug in 2006. The Hastings area yield is expected to average 290 hundredweight per acre, up 5 cwt or 2 percent from the 285 per acre averaged in 2006. The Hastings production is set at 4,698,000 hundredweight, down 33,000 hundredweight or one percent from the 4,731,000 hundredweight dug last year. The combined winter and spring production from other areas is expected to total 3,190,000 hundredweight, up 105,000 hundredweight or 3 percent from the 3,085,000 cwt dug a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Production for 2007 is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, 14 percent below the January forecast and 45 percent below last year. The California production is 21 percent below 2006. Area for harvest in California, at 11,500 acres, is unchanged from January but down 4 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 215 cwt per acre is down 35 cwt from January and 45 cwt below a year ago. Freezing temperatures in January damaged the crop, resulting in lower yield potential.

SPRING: Spring production in 2007 is forecast at 20.8 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest is forecast at 69,800 acres, 3 percent above 2006. The average yield is forecast at 298 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from a year ago.

California's spring potato production forecast, at 6.12 million cwt, is 1 percent above last year. Freezing temperatures in January caused some delays in planting, slowed growth, and caused some crop damage. However, growers rate the overall crop condition better than the 2006 crop. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.90 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year. As of April 1, the crop was rated 85 percent good to excellent and planting was nearing completion. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 2.87 million cwt, virtually unchanged from last season. Producers report good growing conditions with high levels of moisture available. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.05 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year.

SUMMER POTATOES, 2006 REVISIONS: The final estimate of 2006 summer potato crop production is 18.4 million cwt, down 1 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Crop Production 2006 Summary but up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. Harvested area covered 54,300 acres, unchanged from the 2006 preliminary estimate but up 6 percent from 2005. The average yield of 338 cwt per acre is down 2 cwt from the 2006 preliminary estimate and 4 cwt below the 2005 crop.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2006	Indicated 2007	2005	2006	Indicated 2007
	2006	Indicated 2007	2006	Indicated 2007					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	12.0	11.5	12.0	11.5	260	215	3,500	3,120	2,473
Florida ^{1/}	5.7		5.5		250		1,392	1,375	
Total	17.7	11.5	17.5	11.5	257	215	4,892	4,495	2,473
Spring									
Arizona	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.5	300	300	1,183	1,170	1,050
California	15.3	15.5	15.3	15.5	395	395	6,116	6,044	6,123
Florida ^{1/}	23.1	27.8	22.6	27.2	285	290	6,527	6,441	7,888
Hastings	17.0	16.5	16.6	16.2	285	290	4,760	4,731	4,698
Other	6.1	11.3	6.0	11.0	285	290	1,767	1,710	3,190
North Carolina	17.7	16.0	15.5	14.5	210	200	2,850	3,255	2,900
Texas	10.7	9.6	10.2	9.1	280	315	2,048	2,856	2,867
Total	70.7	72.4	67.5	69.8	293	298	18,724	19,766	20,828

^{1/} Winter potatoes combined with spring potatoes in 2007

APRIL POTATO STOCKS DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 13 major potato States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2007, down 2 percent from last year and 12 percent below April 1, 2005, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 30 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks were added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 1.40 million cwt on April 1, 2007. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 269 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss, at 21.9 million cwt, is up 8 percent from the previous year.

Processors have used 144 million cwt of 2006 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing increased 9 percent from a year ago, Maine's total processing was 10 percent above the same date in 2006, and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was up 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.2 million cwt of the total processing, up 13 percent from last year and 1 percent above the same date in 2005.

Western States held 81.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 8 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington's potato sheds held 16 percent less than last year, and Oregon's stocks declined 11 percent from last season. Colorado potato sheds held 2 percent more stocks than last year and California's potato stocks increased 14 percent from last season. Montana's potato stocks are unchanged from last year.

Central States accounted for 24.0 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 18 percent from last year. North Dakota's potato stocks increased 36 percent from last year, Wisconsin's sheds held 6 percent more, Minnesota stocks are up 24 percent, and potato stocks in Michigan are 18 percent above last season. Nebraska's potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2006.

Eastern States stored 8.30 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 19 percent from last year. Maine's potato sheds held 22 percent more than last year, while New York's potato stocks declined 20 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2004-2006^{1/}

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	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000	58,090	65,800	84,600
	2005	22,840	29,300	35,970	43,300	50,820	57,830	65,030	77,360
	2006	26,130	32,810	40,100	47,730	55,380			
Maine ^{2/}	2004	1,540	1,970	2,600	3,135	3,700	4,340	4,910	6,590
	2005	1,365	1,880	2,485	3,090	3,800	4,450	5,130	6,825
	2006	1,755	2,360	2,910	3,465	4,165			
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2004	32,305	38,130	43,570	50,730	57,140	63,855	71,355	78,680
	2005	30,310	35,895	40,545	48,290	55,320	61,885	69,360	78,550
	2006	30,980	37,060	42,190	49,930	56,690			
Other States ^{3/}	2004	12,490	15,000	17,965	20,910	24,150	27,480	30,945	41,175
	2005	11,055	14,070	17,005	19,895	22,520	25,270	27,740	35,535
	^{4/} 2006	13,465	16,905	20,450	23,820	27,815			
Total	2004	70,695	85,940	100,955	119,385	135,990	153,765	173,010	211,045
	2005	65,570	81,145	96,005	114,575	132,460	149,405	167,260	198,270
	^{4/} 2006	72,330	89,135	105,650	124,945	144,050			
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2004	14,525	18,540	21,875	25,970	30,020	33,685	38,505	47,810
	2005	11,920	15,655	19,225	22,765	26,605	30,065	34,130	41,625
	2006	12,860	17,130	21,270	25,550	30,180			

^{1/} 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 and WI.

^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{4/} March revised

^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1997 through 2006

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>								
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005 ^{2/}	374,298	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006 ^{2/}	382,283	252,200	220,000	187,800	153,200	113,600		

^{1/} Data not available prior to 1998.

^{2/} Thirteen major States.