North Dakota
FARM REPORTER

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POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota
Growers, dealers and processors held 2.80 million hundredweight (cwt) of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 61 percent from a year ago and 66 percent from two years ago. This is the lowest level of May 1 potato stocks since 1994's 2.30 million cwt. Current stocks represent 14 percent of production, down from 27 percent last year. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 17.7 million cwt, down from 19.6 million cwt a year ago and 19.1 million cwt two years ago. April disappearance totaled 2.00 million cwt, down from 3.10 million cwt a year ago and 2.90 million cwt two years ago.

United States
The 13 major potato states held 73.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 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 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage states' production, down 2 percent from last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt of potatoes is down 4 percent from last year for comparable states. Processors in the 9 major states have used 150 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
15 Major States and United States, May 1, 2005-2006

State	Crop of 2004		Crop of 2005	
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2005 1/	Production	Stocks May 1, 2006 1/
	1,000 Cwt	*1,000 Cwt*	*1,000 Cwt*	*1,000 Cwt*
North Dakota	26,765	7,200	20,500	2,800
California	3,648	500	3,240	400
Colorado	23,791	6,000	22,292	4,300
Idaho	131,970	38,500	116,975	30,000
Maine	19,065	5,000	15,736	4,600
Michigan	13,650	900	13,920	900
Minnesota	18,920	5,100	17,630	2,700
Montana	3,551	500	3,434	
Nebraska	9,288		8,245	1,200
New York	5,184		5,226	
Ohio 2/	1,080			
Oregon	19,775	3,900	22,023	5,000
Pennsylvania 2/	2,640			
Washington	93,810	15,500	95,480	17,000
Wisconsin	30,450	3,800	27,880	3,700
Other States		1,650		350
15 State Total 3/	403,587	88,550	372,581	72,950

1/ Missing stocks combined into Other States. 2/ Stocks estimates discontinued in 2005. 3/ 13 states for the 2005 crop.

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Rank of North Dakota Counties [1]

County	Crop Production - 2005								
	Spring Wheat	Durum Wheat	Barley	Oats	Oil Sunflower	Canola	Soybeans	Corn Grain	Dry Edible Beans
Adams	33	21	44	30	50			40	
Barnes	8		21	36	16		2	7	21
Benson	18	26	4	23	17	12	18	15	5
Billings	52	28	51	28				48	
Bottineau	17	12	1	29	3	6	34		
Bowman	41	13	35	34				42	
Burke	35	6	29	24	21	11			
Burleigh	31	18	32	7	10	21	31	19	
Cass	1		31	39	19		1	2	19
Cavalier	4	16	9		34	1	25		16
Dickey	48		46	18	45		8	3	20
Divide	53	2	50	31	42	19			
Dunn	15	22	25	4	39			39	
Eddy	44		15	19	22	23	20	23	18
Emmons	16	39	16	2	1		29	12	
Foster	27		9	38	18	20	13	16	
Golden Valley	50	17	49	13	44			35	
Grand Forks	5		33	46	13	38	12	13	3
Grant	30	34	37	5	37	29			
Griggs	37	41	24	45	26	28	14	17	15
Hettinger	9	7	45	37	28	17		38	
Kidder	46	31	36	3	14	35	30	21	
LaMoure	28	38	26	25	47		5	4	13
Logan	43	29	23	13	8	36	22	20	
McHenry	21	23	7	9	4	13	28	23	22
McIntosh	36	30	30	11	6	34	21	18	
McKenzie	42	8	20	12		24		43	
McLean	6	4	13	8	11	2		26	9
Mercer	45	14	38	10		25		46	
Morton	13	26	27	1	35	30		27	
Mountrail	39	3	12	16	29	7			
Nelson	24	37	19	44	24	14	16	25	11
Oliver	40	32	39	17	32			30	25
Pembina	12		43	49	43	27	19		4
Pierce	23	24	11	21	12	10	23	28	28
Ramsey	25	20	3		30	9	15	11	6
Ransom	34		47	42	23		9	8	12
Renville	20	9	2	32	7	5	33		
Richland	22				25		3	1	
Rolette	47	19	22	35	27	8	32		
Sargent	38				40		6	5	17
Sheridan	32	33	14	33	15	15	26	34	26
Sioux	51	40	52	26	31				
Slope	29	10	42	40	48	31		44	
Stark	10	11	34	6	36	33		36	
Steele	25		40		46		10	10	7
Stutsman	11	35	8	20	9	22	4	9	14
Towner	14	15	17	50	33	3	24		10
Traill	19		41		51		7	6	8
Walsh	2	36	27	40	20	18	17	22	1
Ward	3	5	5	15	2	4	27	33	30
Wells	7	25	6	27	5	16	11	14	2
Williams	49	1	18	22	41	26		47	23

1 County rank may not be published to avoid disclosure of individual data.

HAY STOCKS & WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

North Dakota
Stocks of all hay stored on North Dakota farms totaled 1.81 million tons on May 1, 2006, up 97 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, totaled 3.77 million tons, 26 percent more hay used than in the same period a year ago. Hay production during 2005 was the second highest on record, which significantly contributed to the high volume of hay stocks.

United States
Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 30, at 36 percent, was 27 percentage points below last year.

All hay stored on U.S. farms May 1, 2006 totaled 21.3 million tons, down 23 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, totaled 83.7 million tons, 3 percent less than the disappearance of 86.8 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Hay Stocks and Winter Wheat Production
North Dakota and United States, 2004-2006

Item	Unit	2004	2005	2006
Winter Wheat 1/				
United States				
Harvested for Grain	*1,000 Acres*	34,462	33,794	31,177
Yield Per Acre	*Bushels*	43.5	44.4	42.4
Production	*1,000 Bushels*	1,499,434	1,499,129	1,322,831
Hay Stocks				
North Dakota				
Quantity, May 1	*1,000 Tons*	828	917	1,806
Quantity, December 1	*1,000 Tons*	3,923	5,580	
United States				
Quantity, May 1	*1,000 Tons*	25,947	27,758	21,315
Quantity, December 1	*1,000 Tons*	114,516	105,056	

1/ 2006 winter wheat forecasted yield and production.

WHEAT OUTLOOK

Small 2006/07 Winter Wheat Crop Leads to Higher Prices

The 2006/07 United States wheat outlook is for a decrease in projected production, exports, and stocks, and higher prices. Total production is forecast down 11 percent from 2005/06 to 1,873 million bushels. Total wheat supplies are down 8 percent from 2005/06 to 2,515 million bushels. Total wheat use is projected to decrease 5 percent in 2006/07, mostly because of lower exports. The projected 2006/07 price range is $3.50 to $4.10 per bushel, compared with an estimated $3.42 for 2005/06.

World wheat use in 2006/07 is projected to exceed production by 16 million tons, reducing world wheat ending stocks significantly to 128 million, the second lowest level in 25 years. Global use is projected down 2 percent with most of the decline in feed use. World wheat production is expected to decline 3 percent in 2006/07, mostly because of reduced production in Ukraine, Russia, the United States, and India. Foreign wheat production is projected down 14 million tons to 550 million. World wheat trade in 2006/07 (July-June) is expected to decline 1 million tons to 110 million due mostly to reduced imports by North Africa, the EU-25, and reduced imports of wheat used for feeding. These declines more than offset a significant increase for India. United States wheat exports are expected to drop 11 percent to 24.5 million tons because of tight supplies and high United States prices.

Spring Wheat Seeding Expected Down This Year

The forecasted spring and durum wheat planted area for 2006/07 is 15.7 million acres, down from 16.8 million acres. Spring and durum wheat production for 2006/07 is projected at 550 million bushels based on trend yields and the most recent 10-year average of harvest to planted ratios.

Crop Production reported that spring wheat seeding began slowly, falling behind normal early in April, mostly due to wet conditions in the Pacific Northwest. However, progress accelerated in the final week, advancing nearly to the normal pace. At month's end, 42 percent of the crop had been sown, compared with 58 percent last year and 43 percent for the 5-year average. Though progress continued to trail behind normal in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies, growers in Minnesota and the Dakotas were at or ahead of normal. Eleven percent of the crop had emerged, 8 points behind last year and 4 points behind normal. Emergence was ahead of normal in South Dakota but behind normal elsewhere, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

Reduced Beginning Stocks Compound Reduced Production, Wheat Supplies Tight in 2006/07

World wheat beginning stocks for 2006/07 are estimated at 144 million tons, down 7 million from a year earlier. This adds to the 20 million ton reduction in global production, leaving world wheat supplies in 2006/07 projected down 3 percent. The global wheat supply in 2005/06 is projected to reach 744 million tons, down 26 million from the previous year, but still 24 million larger than the tight supplies in 2003/04.

Australia and Canada, major foreign exporters, have 2006/07 beginning stocks up significantly, so they will be able to compete vigorously for exports early in the marketing year. Beginning stocks in the EU-25 are forecast down 4 million tons to 21 million, but remain large. FSU-12 beginning stocks are projected up 11 percent to 16 million tons, partly offsetting lower production. However, India's beginning stocks are estimated at extremely low levels, so imports will be needed to offset reduced production. China does not publish wheat stocks data, so uncertainty about the exact level of stocks persists. China appears to still have large government stocks, and even with beginning wheat stocks forecast down 4 million tons to 35 million, China remains by far the world's largest holder of wheat stocks.

Source: *Wheat Outlook*, USDA-ERS, May 16, 2006

MILK PRODUCTION

United States
Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from April 2005. March revised production, at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from March 2005. The March revision represented an increase of 25 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

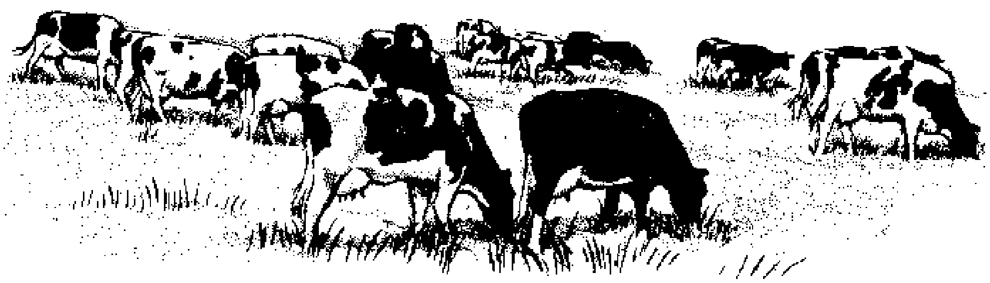
Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,727 pounds for April, 37 pounds above April 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.24 million head, 124,000 head more than April 2005, and 13,000 head more than March 2006.

Milk Cows and Production
By Month, 23 Major States 1/, 2005-2006 2/

Month	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Production		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	Change from 2005
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Mil Pounds*	*Mil Pounds*	*Percent*
January	8,087	8,195	1,643	1,710	13,287	14,014	5.5
February	8,084	8,206	1,522	1,587	12,301	13,022	5.9
March	8,099	8,228	1,707	1,775	13,825	14,604	5.6
April	8,117	8,241	1,690	1,727	13,717	14,230	3.7
May	8,131		1,760		14,311		
June	8,138		1,690		13,755		
July	8,151		1,683		13,715		
August	8,162		1,671		13,640		
September	8,167		1,599		13,057		
October	8,168		1,637		13,373		
November	8,167		1,592		13,002		
December	8,179		1,663		13,599		
Annual	8,138		19,857		161,582		

1/ AZ, CA, CO, FL, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA AND WI. 2/ 2005 revised. 3/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.



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