

New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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Maine Wild Blueberries January 2002

January 25, 2002

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine Wild Blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing wild blueberry surveys during 2001.

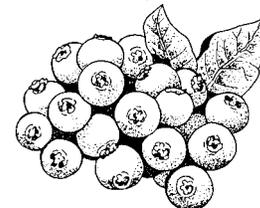
2001 WILD BLUEBERRY CROP REDUCED BY DROUGHT

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2001 wild blueberry crop was 75.2 million pounds, 32 percent below the record production in 2000 and 14 percent above the 1999 output.

Grower comments received during the beginning of the blueberry growing season indicated the 2001 Maine wild blueberry crop would match or exceed the record crop produced in 2000. However, drought conditions which lasted from late July until harvest dramatically decreased yields on non-irrigated fields. Disease and insects were not significant problems in 2001; however, the dry conditions forced some growers to completely abandon selected fields.

The price for processing berries in 2001 is expected to be about 10 cents per pound less than in 2000, resulting in a total processing value of \$22.5 million.

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY CROP: According to Dave Yarborough, Extension Blueberry Specialist, "In Canada, Quebec produced a record crop estimated at more than 55 million pounds. This is more than double their five-year average of 23 million pounds. Unlike Maine and the Maritime Provinces, Quebec received more than ample moisture in 2001. All the other provinces, except for Prince Edward Island, had a crop that was less than their five-year average. The total wild crop is estimated at 175 million pounds, which is less than last year but exceeds the five-year average by 29 million pounds. The cultivated crop, at an estimated 215 million pounds, exceeds their five-year average by 32 million pounds. The total North American blueberry production at 390 million pounds is the second highest, only exceeded by the 398 million pound record set in 2000."



WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1991 - 2001

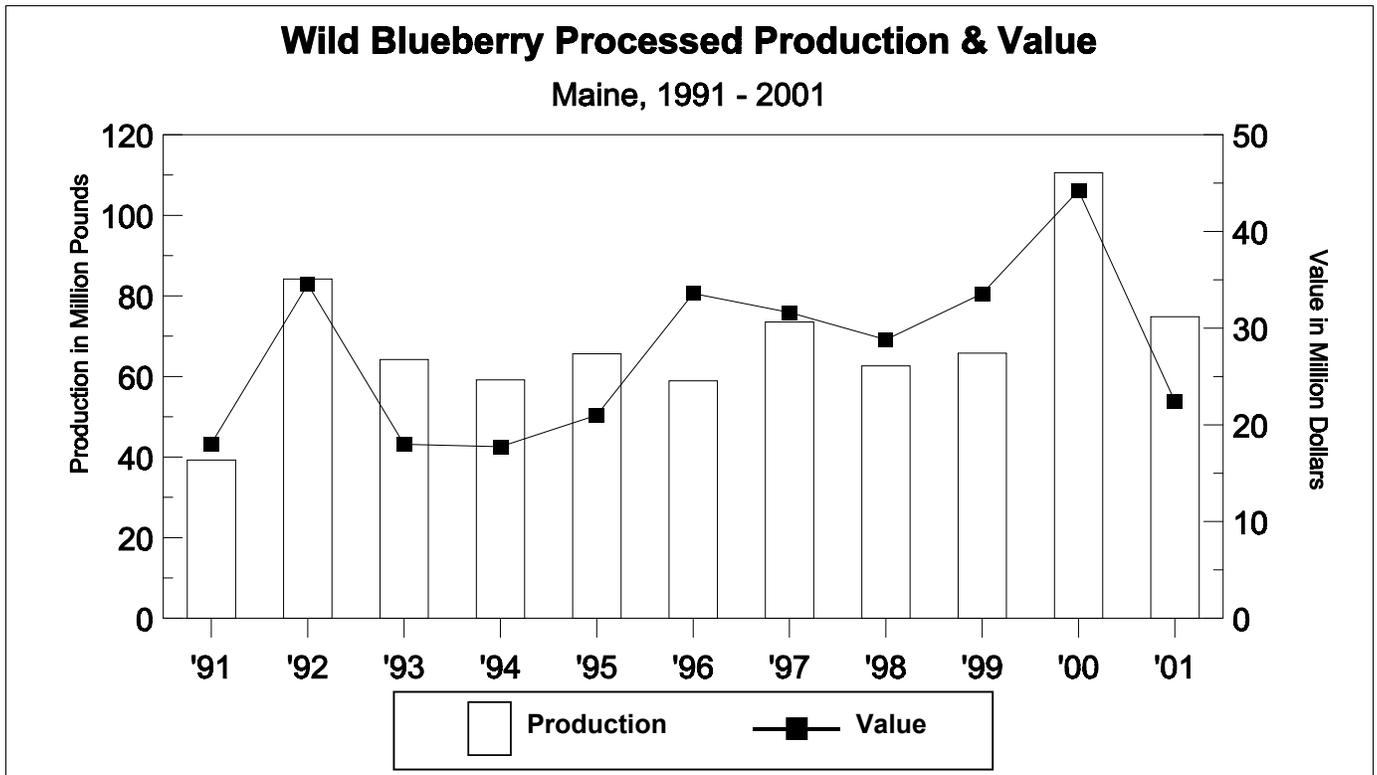
STATE & YEAR	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound ^{1/} Cents	Total Value of Production ^{1/} 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Blueberries ^{2/}			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Cents	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
Maine									
1991	39,464	46	18,057	209	--	--	39,255	46	18,057
1992	84,513	41	34,519	320	--	--	84,193	41	34,519
1993	64,562	28	17,979	350	--	--	64,212	28	17,979
1994	59,495	30	17,744	350	--	--	59,145	30	17,744
1995	65,944	32	21,004	305	--	--	65,639	32	21,004
1996	59,198	57	33,590	268	--	--	58,930	57	33,590
1997	73,816	43	31,622	276	--	--	73,540	43	31,622
1998	62,981	46	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	46	28,806
1999	66,102	51	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	51	33,559
2000	110,990	40	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	40	44,228
2001 ^{3/}	75,200	31	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	30	22,455

^{1/} All Price per Pound and Total Value of Production for 1991 - 1997 do not include fresh market blueberries.

^{2/} Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production is not available before 1998.

^{3/} Preliminary Price and Value based on expectations as of September 2001.

The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture as a service to growers and others in the industry. The next Wild Blueberry report will be published and available on the Internet in mid-July. It will contain the final price statistics for the 2001 crop and the production forecast for the 2002 crop.



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