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POTATO STOCKS

Maine potato stocks on hand April 1, 2009 totaled 5.6 million hundredweight (cwt), 13 percent below the previous year and the lowest level on hand since April 1, 2002. Disappearance to April 1 in Maine totaled 9.2 million cwt, compared with 10.3 million cwt a year earlier. Storage accounted for 38 percent of Maine's total production, the same as last year, but below the previous 5-year average of 40 percent.

The 13 major potato States held 115 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2009, down nine percent from a year ago and five percent below April 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 31 percent of the 2008 fall storage states' production, slightly below April 1, 2008. Potato disappearance, at 253 million cwt, was seven percent below April 1, 2008 and down six percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.6 million cwt, was down seven percent from the same date in 2008 and eight percent below 2007. Processors in the nine major states have used 134 million cwt of potatoes this season, down seven percent from the same period last year and down eight percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 24.9 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, April 1, 2008 – 2009 [1]

State	2007 Crop			2008 Crop			
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks March 1, 2009	Stocks April 1, 2009	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Percent
California	3,792	600	16	3,939	1,000	800	20
Colorado	20,981	7,500	36	21,338	10,900	8,700	41
Idaho	130,010	49,000	38	114,805	54,000	42,500	37
Maine	**16,668**	**6,400**	**38**	**14,769**	**7,100**	**5,600**	**38**
Michigan	14,700	2,100	14	14,875	3,500	1,900	13
Minnesota	21,560	6,200	29	20,400	8,700	6,500	32
Montana	3,696	2,100	57	3,465	3,000	2,100	61
Nebraska	8,217	2,000	24	8,342	3,500	2,300	28
New York	5,216	500	10	5,696	800	450	8
North Dakota	23,660	6,000	25	22,680	8,100	6,100	27
Oregon	20,293	9,200	45	18,676	9,800	7,400	40
Washington	100,800	27,500	27	93,000	31,400	23,700	25
Wisconsin [2]	28,160	6,400	23	25,730	9,600	6,500	25
13 STATES [2]	397,753	125,500	32	367,715	151,400	114,550	31
Klamath Basin [3]		1,150			2,000	1,450	

[1] Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2008 totaled 24.5 million cwt.
[2] March 1, 2009 stocks revised.
[3] Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13 state total.
SOURCE: ***Potato Stocks,*** 3:00 p.m., April 15, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

POTATOES: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2005 – 2008 Crop Years

Crop Year	To Dec1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1
	Million Cwt						
2005	12.7	15.0	16.8	18.4	20.2	22.0	23.7
2006	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5
2007	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3
2008	12.7	14.9	16.8	18.7	20.6		

SOURCE: ***Potato Stocks,*** 3:00 p.m., April 15, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2004 – 2008 Crop Years
Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average [1]

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	6.50
2005	*	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25
2006	*	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.40	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.80
2007	*	6.20	6.40	7.25	7.55	7.60	8.00	8.55	8.65	9.15	8.75	7.90
2008	*	7.20	7.75	9.80	10.00	9.85	10.30	10.40 [2]				

[1] Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.
[2] Preliminary price reflecting prices received for the entire month.
* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.
SOURCE: ***Agricultural Prices,*** 3:00 p.m., March 30, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS

New England farmers intend to plant fewer acres of field corn and harvest less dry hay in 2009 than a year earlier. Based on intentions as of March 1, 2009, farmers expect to plant 183,000 acres of field corn in 2009, with acreage decreases in Connecticut, Maine, and Massachusetts partially offset by an increase in Vermont. Farm operators in the six-state region intend to harvest 502,000 acres of dry hay in 2009, compared with 506,000 acres harvested in 2008. Oat growers in Maine plan to seed 30,000 acres in 2009, a decrease of 2,000 acres from a year earlier. Maine's barley producers intend to seed 20,000 acres in 2009, no change from 2008. Broadleaf tobacco for harvest in Connecticut and Massachusetts in 2009 is forecast at 2,500 acres, 300 acres above last year's hail-reduced harvested acreage. Grower intentions in early March placed 2009 shade tobacco acreage for harvest in the two states at 1,000 acres, a decrease of 90 acres from the previous year's harvested acreage.

UNITED STATES FIELD CROP ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR 2009: Corn growers intend to plant 85.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2009, down one percent from last year as lower corn prices and unstable input costs are discouraging some growers from planting corn. If realized, this will be the second consecutive year-over-year decrease since 2007 but will still be the third largest acreage since 1949, behind 2007 and 2008. Expected acreage is down from last year in many states, however, producers in the ten major corn-producing states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) collectively intend to plant 66.3 million acres, up slightly from the 66.1 million acres planted last year.

Soybean growers intend to plant an estimated 76.0 million acres in 2009, up slightly from the acreage planted in 2008 and will be the largest on record, if realized. Tightening soybean supplies and lower input costs than corn have resulted in farmers intending to plant more soybean area this year. Compared with last year, the largest increase is expected in Kansas, up 200,000 acres. Increases of 100,000 acres or more are also expected in Arkansas, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, and Ohio. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas and New York will be the largest on record, and the planted acreage in North Dakota will tie the previous record high. Meanwhile, the states with the largest expected declines are Missouri and South Dakota, both down 150,000 acres.

Oats growers intend to plant an estimated 3.40 million acres, up six percent from the 3.22 million acres planted in 2008. Most of the increase in acreage is expected to be in the Great Plains States. The largest acreage increase is expected to occur in Iowa, where growers intend to plant 200,000 acres, 50,000 more than last year. Acreage intentions increased or remained unchanged in all but eight of the estimating states. The largest declines are in the Great Lakes region.

Barley growers intend to plant 3.95 million acres for 2009, down seven percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing state, the expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, down six percent from 2008. Growers in California, Minnesota, New York, Washington, and Wyoming intend to decrease their acreage by 20 percent or more. Planted acreage is expected to decline to record low levels in California, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, and Utah. Oregon expects to match its lowest acreage on record.

All cigar type tobacco intentions, at 5,500 acres, are eight percent above last year but down nine percent from 2007. Increases in cigar binder and cigar filler more than offset decreases in shade-grown tobacco. Connecticut Valley binder area for harvest is 14 percent above 2008. Pennsylvania seedleaf, at 2,000 acres, is expected to be up 11 percent from a year ago. Expected Connecticut Valley shade-grown tobacco acres are down eight percent from a year ago.

FIELD CORN and DRY HAY: Acreage, 2008 – 2009

State	Corn Planted for All Purposes			All Dry Hay Harvested		
	2008	2009 [1]	2009 as Percentage of 2008	2008	2009 [1]	2009 as Percentage of 2008
	1,000 Acres		Percent	1,000 Acres		Percent
Connecticut	27	25	93	55	55	100
Maine	29	28	97	138	140	101
Massachusetts	19	18	95	73	70	96
New Hampshire	15	15	100	53	50	94
Rhode Island	2	2	100	7	7	100
Vermont	94	95	101	180	180	100
NEW ENGLAND	186	183	98	506	502	99
UNITED STATES	85,982	84,986	99	60,062	60,297	100

[1] Intended plantings in 2009 as indicated by reports from farmers.
SOURCE: ***Prospective Plantings,*** 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

OATS and BARLEY: Area Planted, 2007 – 2009

State	Oats Planted for All Purposes				Barley Planted for All Purposes			
	2007	2008	2009 [1]	2009 as Percentage of 2008	2007	2008	2009 [1]	2009 as Percentage of 2008
	1,000 Acres			Percent	1,000 Acres			Percent
Maine	29	32	30	94	18	20	20	100
UNITED STATES	3,763	3,217	3,400	106	4,018	4,234	3,953	93

[1] Intended plantings in 2009 as indicated by reports from farmers.
SOURCE: ***Prospective Plantings,*** 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TOBACCO: Area Harvested by Type, 2007 – 2009

State and Type	Area Harvested 2007	Area Harvested 2008	Area Harvested 2009 [1]	2009 as a Percentage of 2008
	Acres			Percent
Broadleaf (Type 51)				
Connecticut	1,900	1,700	1,700	100
Massachusetts	1,100	500	800	160
CT and MA Total	3,000	2,200	2,500	114
Shade (Type 61)				
Connecticut	1,000	900	800	89
Massachusetts	220	190	200	105
CT and MA Total	1,220	1,090	1,000	92
UNITED STATES (All Types)	356,000	354,190	353,200	100

[1] Intended plantings in 2009 as indicated by reports from farmers.
SOURCE: ***Prospective Plantings,*** 8:30 a.m., March 31, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Vermont totaled 213 million pounds for the month of March 2009, a decrease of 4.5 percent from March 2008. There were an estimated 137,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during the month, an increase of 1,000 head from the previous month. Milk production per cow averaged 1,555 pounds, a decrease of 35 pounds per cow from March 2008.

Milk production in New England totaled 989.8 million pounds for the first quarter (January - March) of 2009, down 4.8 percent from the same quarter in 2008. There were 219,100 head of milk cows on New England farms, a decrease of 2,500 cows from the previous quarter (October - December). Milk production per cow averaged 4,518 pounds across New England, a decrease of 143 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

Milk production in the United States totaled 47.3 billion pounds during the first quarter of 2009, a decrease of 0.6 percent from the same quarter of 2008. Nationwide the number of milk cows averaged 9.3 million from January - March 2009, roughly the same number of head as a year earlier. The United States' average quarterly rate was 5,088 pounds per cow, a decrease of 39 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, March 2009 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows [1] March 2008	Milk Cows [1] February 2009	Milk Cows [1] March 2009	Production per Cow [2] March 2008	Production per Cow [2] February 2009	Production per Cow [2] March 2009	Production [2] March 2008	Production [2] February 2009	Production [2] March 2009
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	136	137	1,590	1,415	1,555	223	192	213
New York	626	623	623	1,690	1,540	1,670	1,058	959	1,040
Pennsylvania	549	551	550	1,680	1,490	1,670	922	821	919
UNITED STATES [3]	8,467	8,486	8,482	1,794	1,606	1,788	15,191	13,627	15,164

[1] Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
[2] Excludes milk sucked by calves.
[3] UNITED STATES includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL ,ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.
SOURCE: ***Milk Production***, 3:00 p. m., April 17, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, January – March 2009 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows [1] Jan – Mar 2008 [3]	Milk Cows [1] Oct – Dec 2008 [3]	Milk Cows [1] Jan – Mar 2009	Production per Cow [2] Jan – Mar 2008 [3]	Production per Cow [2] Oct – Dec 2008 [3]	Production per Cow [2] Jan – Mar 2009	Production Jan – Mar 2008 [3]	Production Oct – Dec 2008 [3]	Production Jan – Mar 2009
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	19.0	4,890	4,630	4,790	93.0	88.0	91.0
Maine	33.0	33.0	33.0	4,460	4,490	4,430	147.0	148.0	146.0
Massachusetts	15.0	14.5	14.0	4,290	4,230	4,240	64.0	61.0	59.0
New Hampshire	15.0	15.0	15.0	5,040	4,830	4,870	76.0	72.0	73.0
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,360	4,440	4,360	4.8	4.9	4.8
Vermont	140.0	139.0	137.0	4,679	4,468	4,496	655.0	621.0	616.0
New England	223.1	221.6	219.1	4,661	4,490	4,518	1,039.8	994.9	989.8
UNITED STATES	9,286.0	9,330.0	9,297.0	5,127	5,008	5,088	47,610.0	46,727.0	47,304.0

[1] Average number for quarter including dry cows.
[2] In Vermont, New England, and the United States, quarterly production per cow equals milk production for the quarter divided by the average number of milk cows for the same quarter.
[3] Revised.
SOURCE: ***Milk Production,*** 3:00 p.m., April 17, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2004 – 2009 [1]

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
2004	14.00	14.40	16.20	17.80	20.10	19.80	17.60	15.50	16.30	16.60	17.00	17.20	16.90
2005	16.90	16.00	16.60	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50	16.10	15.50	16.00
2006	15.30	14.60	13.80	12.80	12.70	12.70	12.70	12.90	13.60	14.50	14.70	14.80	13.70
2007	15.70	15.90	16.80	17.70	19.20	21.20	23.20	23.50	23.80	23.30	23.80	23.30	20.60
2008	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.70	18.80	18.40	16.50	*
2009 [2]	15.10	12.60	11.70										

[1] Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.
[2] Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.
* 2008 Annual average will be available in April 2009.
SOURCE: ***Agricultural Prices,*** 3:00 p.m., March 30, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, February 2009 with Comparisons

Product	February 2008 [1]	January 2009 [1]	February 2009	February 2009 as percent of: February 2008	February 2009 as percent of: January 2009
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	3,542	1,856	1,726	49	93
American Type Cheese [2]	6,687	8,031	6,200	93	77
Mozzarella Cheese	4,818	1,785	1,908	40	107
Other Italian Cheese [3]	2,901	979	1,288	44	132
Cottage Cheese [4]	615	753	783	127	104
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	4,989	5,002	5,641	113	113
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,092	494	395	36	80
Milk Sherbet, Hard	113	97	123	109	127

[1] Revised.
[2] American Type Cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.
[3] Includes all Italian Cheese except Mozzarella.
[4] Creamed and Low Fat.
SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: ***Dairy Products,*** 3:00 p.m., April 3, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

CHICKENS

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, March 2008 – 2009

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above: March 2008	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above: March 2009	All Layers [1]: March 2008	All Layers [1]: March 2009	Eggs per 100 for All Layers [1]: March 2008	Eggs per 100 for All Layers [1]: March 2009	Egg Production from All Layers [1]: March 2008	Egg Production from All Layers [1]: March 2009
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,770	2,754	2,838	2,822	2,326	2,339	66	66
Maine	4,141	3,450	4,204	3,531	2,307	2,181	97	77
UNITED STATES	276,989	278,597	342,017	340,451	2,244	2,269	7,675	7,724

[1] Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.
SOURCE: ***Chickens and Eggs,*** 3:00 p.m., April 21, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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