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A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, internet, telephone, or personal interviews.

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

**Potatoes:** Acreage, Production, Acreage By Variety and Price  
**Milk:** Production and Price

**Chickens:** Layers and Eggs  
**Dairy Products:** Butter, Cheese, Creams

**POTATOES:** Maine's 2006 potato production was estimated at 18.3 million cwt (hundredweight), 18 percent above 2005 and the highest yielding crop ever harvested in the state. Maine farmers planted 58,500 acres in 2006, an increase of 1,000 acres from the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 58,000 acres, 500 fewer acres than planted due to losses from washouts from early June storms. Frequent shower activity and warm temperatures in July and August provided excellent growing conditions, and yields averaged a record high 315 cwt per acre in 2006.

Results from the 2006 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,613 hills per acre, up from the 10,595 hills per acre in 2005. On average, growers harvested 9.1 tubers per hill in 2006, compared with the 8.6 tubers per hill average in 2005. Survey results placed fewer potatoes in the US Number 1 category in 2006 than in earlier years. Round white varieties graded out at 78 percent US #1, compared with 83 percent in 2005 and the 5 year average of 82 percent. Long whites graded out at 60 percent US #1 in 2006, compared with 81 percent in 2005 and five year average of 69 percent. Russets graded out at 63 percent US #1 in 2006, compared with 74 percent in 2005 and five year average of 71 percent. Further results from the 2006 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 12, 2007 in the Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** battled wet conditions to get the last of the crop planted and heavy rains in June delayed emergence until month's end. Hot and humid conditions during July pushed crop growth, and had growers on high alert to control disease. Massachusetts growers harvested 3,100 acres and yields averaged 260 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields were expected to average 250 cwt per acre.

**POTATO STOCKS:** Maine potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2006 totaled 14.7 million cwt, 18 percent above 2005's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1, 2006 totaled 3.6 million cwt, compared with 3.0 million cwt a year earlier. Maine's processing usage (excluding chips) was up 29 percent from last year's unusually low usage. Storage accounted for 80 percent of Maine's total production, below last year's 81 percent but above the previous five-year average of 77 percent. Of the Maine stocks on hand the first of December, 60 percent were russets, 37 percent were round

white varieties and three percent were reds. Long white varieties on hand December 1, 2006 averaged less than one percent of total stocks.

The 13 major potato States held 252 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2006, down one percent from last year and six percent below December 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 66 percent of the 2006 fall storage States' production, down two percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks have been added to the potato stocks program starting with December 2006 and total 4.0 million cwt. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon, potato stocks.

Potato disappearance, at 130 million cwt, is up eight percent from last year. Season to date shrink and loss, at 14.0 million cwt, is up ten percent from last year. Processors in the nine major states have used 72.3 million cwt of potatoes this season, up ten percent from a year ago and two percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 8 percent from last year but 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

**MILK PRODUCTION:** Milk production in **Vermont** during November 2006 totaled 202 million pounds, a decrease of three percent from November 2005. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 2,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow during November averaged 1,445 pounds, which decreased 20 pounds per cow from November 2005.

**LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION:** **Connecticut** and **Maine** layer inventories in November 2006 averaged 6.7 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 84 million eggs during November 2006. Connecticut layers produced 70 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during November 2006 averaged 345.7 million, down less than one percent from the previous earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.67 billion eggs during November 2006, unchanged from last year. Production included 6.49 billion table eggs and 1.03 billion hatching eggs.

## FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2005 – 2006

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	57.5	58.5	56.2	58.0	275	315	15,455	18,270
Massachusetts	2.5	3.1	2.4	3.1	260	260	624	806
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210	250	105	125
<b>UNITED STATES FALL CROP</b>	<b>967.7</b>	<b>987.9</b>	<b>949.0</b>	<b>976.4</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>382,743</b>	<b>391,902</b>
<b>UNITED STATES ALL SEASONS</b>	<b>1,109.1</b>	<b>1,136.1</b>	<b>1,086.9</b>	<b>1,118.4</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>423,926</b>	<b>435,774</b>

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Production and December 1 Stocks, 2005 – 2006 <sup>1/</sup>

State	2005 Crop			2006 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2005	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2006	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,306	1,600	48	3,783	1,800	48
Colorado	22,910	17,200	75	22,686	17,200	76
Idaho	118,288	85,000	72	121,820	84,000	69
<b>Maine</b>	<b>15,455</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>18,270</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>80</b>
Michigan	13,910	7,900	57	14,190	8,200	58
Minnesota	17,630	13,500	77	20,400	12,000	59
Montana	3,445	3,400	99	3,413	3,400	100
Nebraska	8,245	5,600	68	8,589	5,800	68
New York	5,226	2,900	55	5,700	2,800	49
North Dakota	20,500	14,000	68	25,480	17,300	68
Oregon	22,023	19,000	86	18,533	16,000	86
Washington	95,480	52,500	55	89,900	49,000	55
Wisconsin	27,880	18,700	67	29,370	20,100	68
<b>13 STATES</b>	<b>374,298</b>	<b>253,800</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>382,134</b>	<b>252,300</b>	<b>66</b>
Klamath Basin <sup>2/</sup>					4,000	

<sup>1/</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2006 totaled 25.6 million cwt.<sup>2/</sup> Estimates began in 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County OR.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2005 - 2006 <sup>1/</sup>

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites <sup>2/</sup>		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre
Idaho	2005	5	13,665	9	12,740	265	12,502
	2006	6	13,811	4	12,019	276	12,480
<b>Maine</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13,005</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>9,007</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14,532</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12,689</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10,208</b>
Minnesota	2005	44	11,272	8	11,011	94	12,589
	2006	36	12,331	10	12,158	84	12,498
North Dakota	2005	20	9,540	40	10,516	101	11,938
	2006	21	11,257	42	10,511	78	11,977
Oregon	2005	3	15,278	22	13,727	80	13,879
	2006			21	14,496	95	13,239
Washington	2005	5	15,184	14	15,193	167	15,009
	2006	13	16,358	27	13,801	151	14,409
Wisconsin	2005	15	15,501	33	15,319	80	13,119
	2006	13	15,372	36	14,717	73	12,973

<sup>1/</sup> Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.<sup>2/</sup> Includes long white and round white varieties.SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m. December 15, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, <sup>1/</sup> by Type, 2002 - 2006**

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Percent														
Number 1 2 Inch Minimum <sup>2/</sup>	83	77	85	83	78	73	62	69	81	60	77	61	70	74	63
No. 2 or Processing Usable 1 1/2 Inch Minimum <sup>3/</sup>	11	11	8	8	10	19	19	11	11	17	16	22	13	16	21
Cull <sup>4/</sup>	6	12	7	9	12	8	19	20	8	23	7	17	17	10	16

<sup>1/</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.

<sup>2/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>3/</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>4/</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2001 – 2006 Crop Years  
Prices Received <sup>1/</sup> by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average**

Crop Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05
2003	6.00	5.25	5.45	5.85	5.70	5.80	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.75	7.05	6.05
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	2/	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.50	8.25
2006 <sup>3/</sup>	2/	5.85	6.05	6.90								

<sup>1/</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

<sup>2/</sup> Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

<sup>3/</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2006 with Comparisons**

State	Milk Cows <sup>1/</sup>			Production per Cow			Production <sup>2/</sup>		
	November 2005	October 2006	November 2006	November 2005	October 2006	November 2006	November 2005	October 2006	November 2006
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	142	140	140	1,465	1,485	1,445	208	208	202
New York	648	638	633	1,485	1,575	1,535	962	1,005	972
Pennsylvania	556	552	550	1,500	1,600	1,560	834	883	858
<b>UNITED STATES <sup>3/</sup></b>	<b>8,167</b>	<b>8,245</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>13,002</b>	<b>13,652</b>	<b>13,328</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2/</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3/</sup> 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., December 18, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**VERMONT MILK: 2001 – 2006 Prices Received <sup>1/</sup> by Farmers for Milk Sold**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
2001	13.70	14.30	15.00	15.40	16.20	16.80	17.00	17.30	17.90	16.40	15.80	14.10	15.80
2002	14.20	13.80	13.30	13.10	12.70	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.00	12.50	12.50	12.40	12.70
2003	12.30	11.90	11.50	11.40	11.50	11.50	12.10	13.40	15.00	15.80	15.50	14.80	13.00
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 <sup>2/</sup>	15.30	14.60	13.70	12.90	12.80	12.70	12.60	12.90	13.60	14.60	14.80		

<sup>1/</sup> Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

<sup>2/</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2006 with Comparisons**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1/</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1/</sup>		Egg Production from All Layers <sup>1/</sup>	
	November 2005	November 2006	November 2005	November 2006	November 2005	November 2006	November 2005	November 2006
	1,000 Birds		Number		Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,970	2,836	3,021	2,896	2,317	2,417	70	70
Maine	3,964	3,844	4,029	3,910	2,234	2,148	90	84
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>282,406</b>	<b>283,434</b>	<b>345,874</b>	<b>345,696</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>7,514</b>	<b>7,522</b>

<sup>1/</sup> 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., December 22, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2006 with Comparisons**

Product	Oct 2005	Sept 2006	Oct 2006	October 2006 as percent of:	
				October 2005	September 2006
		1,000 Pounds		Percent	
Butter	2,526	915	1,202	48	131
American Type Cheese <sup>1/</sup>	5,556	5,606	6,822	123	122
Mozzarella Cheese	3,375	3,236	4,011	119	124
Other Italian Cheese <sup>2/</sup>	1,031	730	445	43	61
Cottage Cheese <sup>3/</sup>	664	625	555	84	89
		1,000 Gallons		Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,960	7,289	7,011	88	96
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,233	929	1,021	83	110
Milk Sherbet, Hard	213	174	210	99	121

<sup>1/</sup> American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

<sup>3/</sup> Creamed and low fat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., December 1, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

This is a monthly summary of New England agricultural statistics taken from nationwide reports issued by USDA's **National Agricultural Statistics Service**. This office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)

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