

Agricultural Review

December 2008

December 23, 2008

Volume: 28. Issue 10

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



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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.

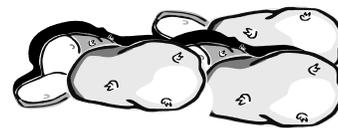
In This Issue:

Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Number By Variety and Price
Dairy Products: Butter, Cheese, Creams

Milk: Production and Price
Chickens: Layers and Eggs



FALL POTATOES



POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2008 totaled 10.8 million cwt, 16 percent below 2007's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1, 2008 totaled 3.7 million cwt, compared with 3.9 million cwt a year earlier. Maine's processing usage (excluding chips) was down four percentage points from last year. Storage accounted for 75 percent of Maine's total production, below last year's 77 percent and the previous five-year average of 79 percent. Of the Maine stocks on hand the first of December, 52 percent were russets, 43 percent were round white varieties, three percent were yellows and two percent were reds.

The 13 major potato States held 242 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2008, down nine percent from a year ago and seven percent below December 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below December 1, 2007. Potato disappearance, at 123 million cwt, was six percent below December 1, 2007 and down five percent from December 1, 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.0 million cwt, was down eight percent from the same date in 2007 and down two percent from 2006. Processors in the nine major States have used 71.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, down two percent from the same period last year and down three percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 26 percent below the same period in 2006.

POTATOES: 2008 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 14.5 million cwt (hundredweight), 14 percent below 2007 output due to reductions in both acreage and yield. Maine farmers planted

56,000 acres, 1,100 fewer acres than the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed 2008 acres harvested at 54,700 acres, with 1,300 acres abandoned due to losses from wet conditions and disease.

Results from the 2008 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,210 hills per acre, down three percent from the 11,519 hills per acre seeded in 2007. On average, growers harvested 8.6 tubers per hill in 2008, compared with the 8.9 tubers per hill average in 2007. Survey results placed fewer potatoes in the US Number 1 category in 2008 than in earlier years for round whites and russets. Round white varieties graded out at 76 percent US #1, compared with 89 percent in 2007 and the 5 year average of 82 percent. Russets graded out at 66 percent US #1 in 2008, compared with 70 percent in 2007 and five year average of 68 percent. Lab results placed more long whites in the US Number 1 category than the previous two years. Long whites graded out at 64 percent US #1 in 2008, compared with 59 percent in 2007 and the five year average of 66 percent. Yellow varieties graded out at 82 percent US #1, unchanged from the previous year. Further results from the 2008 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 12, 2009 in the **Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report**.

Based on early December assessments, Massachusetts growers planted 2,800 acres and harvested 2,400 acres and yields averaged 260 cwt per acre. Losses were heavy at some locations from high winds and excessive moisture. **Rhode Island** potato farmers enjoyed drier weather conditions, and yields were expected to average 285 cwt per acre from the 500 acres harvested.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2007 – 2008

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	57.1	56.0	57.0	54.7	295	265	16,815	14,496
Massachusetts	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.4	310	260	837	624
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	300	285	180	143
UNITED STATES FALL CROP	1,010.8	930.4	996.8	921.2	409	406	407,517	374,360
UNITED STATES ALL SEASONS	1,148.8	1,059.1	1,129.7	1,046.1	396	393	446,807	411,409

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, December 1, 2007 – 2008¹

State	2007 Crop			2008 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2007	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,792	2,000	53	3,939	1,900	48
Colorado	20,981	15,200	72	21,338	16,400	77
Idaho	130,010	92,000	71	114,805	83,000	72
Maine	16,815	12,900	77	14,496	10,800	75
Michigan	14,700	8,800	60	13,600	8,000	59
Minnesota	20,680	13,400	65	20,160	13,000	64
Montana	3,696	3,500	95	3,564	3,500	98
Nebraska	8,217	5,300	65	8,299	5,300	64
New York	5,216	2,900	56	5,696	2,600	46
North Dakota	23,660	14,500	61	22,680	14,800	65
Oregon	20,238	18,000	89	18,387	15,900	86
Washington	102,300	59,000	58	93,000	49,500	53
Wisconsin	28,160	20,000	71	25,730	17,500	68
13 STATES	398,465	267,500	67	365,694	242,200	66
Klamath Basin ²		4,200			4,000	

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 Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County OR.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 15, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2007 – 2008¹

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites ²		Russets		Yellows	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre						
Idaho	2007	3	17,356	8	14,131	264	12,134	4	13,626
	2008	*	*	10	12,682	270	12,536	*	*
Maine	2007	6	12,874	63	13,098	68	9,629	11	13,418
	2008	8	13,785	50	12,655	69	9,603	9	13,228
Minnesota	2007	43	12,936	5	11,070	82	12,293	*	*
	2008	43	13,278	8	11,854	83	12,309	*	*
North Dakota	2007	29	10,741	23	11,367	81	12,105	*	*
	2008	16	11,499	25	11,743	88	12,311	*	*
Oregon	2007	*	*	25	14,051	91	12,409	3	13,042
	2008	*	*	24	14,555	91	13,591	7	13,136
Washington	2007	6	16,271	18	14,292	154	15,087	*	*
	2008	5	15,012	24	14,600	129	14,852	*	*
Wisconsin	2007	11	14,950	34	13,823	77	12,875	*	*
	2008	17	14,957	35	15,077	77	12,693	*	*

¹ Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

² Includes long white and round white varieties.

* Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., December 11, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2004 – 2008 Crop Years
Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average¹**

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	8.90 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., November 28, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, by Type, 2003 – 2008 ¹

Grade	Yellows ²						Round Whites					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Percent											
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) ³	—	—	—	—	82	82	77	85	83	78	89	76
No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2 Inch Minimum) ⁴	—	—	—	—	12	10	11	8	8	10	9	12
Cull ⁵	—	—	—	—	6	8	12	7	9	12	2	12

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

² Lab counts began in 2007.

³ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

⁴ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

⁵ 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

MAINE FALL POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, by Type, 2003 – 2008 Continued ¹

Grade	Long Whites						Russets					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Percent											
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) ²	62	69	81	60	59	64	61	70	74	63	70	66
No. 2 or Processing Usable (1 1/2 Inch Minimum) ³	19	11	11	17	24	21	22	13	16	21	18	20
Cull ⁴	19	20	8	23	17	15	17	17	10	16	12	14

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

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

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

⁴ 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

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION

Connecticut and Maine total layer inventories in November 2008 averaged 6.4 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 79 million eggs during November 2008. Connecticut layers produced 62 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

United States egg production totaled 7.51 billion during November 2008, down 4 percent from last year. The total number of layers during November 2008 averaged 339 million, down 2 percent from last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,217 eggs, up 1 percent from November 2007.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2007 – 2008

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers ¹		Eggs per 100 for All Layers ¹		Egg Production from All Layers ¹	
	November 2007	November 2008	November 2007	November 2008	November 2007	November 2008	November 2007	November 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,846	2,700	2,903	2,753	2,308	2,252	67	62
Maine	3,813	3,544	3,889	3,615	2,134	2,185	83	79
UNITED STATES	279,955	277,639	344,229	338,926	2,191	2,217	7,542	7,513

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., December 22, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK AND DAIRY

Milk production in **Vermont** during November 2008 totaled 203 million pounds, a decrease of two million pounds from November 2007. Milk production per cow averaged 1,460 pounds, a decrease

of five pounds per cow from the same month last year. There were an estimated 139,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November, unchanged from the previous month and a decrease of 1,000 head from November 2007.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow ²			Production ²		
	November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	November 2007	October 2008	November 2008	November 2007	October 2008	November 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	139	139	1,465	1,490	1,460	205	207	203
New York	626	625	624	1,575	1,620	1,580	986	1,013	986
Pennsylvania	550	549	548	1,580	1,570	1,510	869	862	827
UNITED STATES ³	8,369	8,462	8,468	1,654	1,701	1,657	13,843	14,398	14,032

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., December 18, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2003 – 2008 ¹

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Price per Cwt													
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	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 ²	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.70	18.80	19.20		

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.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2008 with Comparisons

Product	October 2007 ¹	September 2008 ¹	October 2008	October 2008 as percent of:	
				October 2007	September 2008
1,000 Pounds					
Butter	1,389	1,617	1,687	121	104
American Type Cheese ²	7,069	5,560	7,072	100	127
Mozzarella Cheese	2,499	3,012	638	26	21
Other Italian Cheese ³	488	370	395	81	107
Cottage Cheese ⁴	658	520	665	101	128
1,000 Gallons					
Ice Cream, Hard	6,261	6,812	5,265	84	77
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,342	522	746	56	143
Milk Sherbet, Hard	187	159	143	76	90

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., December 3, 2008, 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

All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>. These reports are also available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS home page at <http://www.nass.usda.gov> locate the syndication section at the bottom of the right hand column, under receive reports by E-mail, click national or state, then follow the instructions on the screen.

Gary R. Keough, Director

Alexander I. Slosman, Office Automation

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director

Statisticians: Robin Helrich, Lorie Warren, Jennifer Zaleski

Send in your Farm Photos!

The New England field office of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is looking for photos of your farming operation for the Annual Statistics Bulletin and/or monthly Ag Review publication which are available in print and on the web. If you have photos of your farm, livestock, field crops, fruits, vegetables, etc., please email them to Kathy Schmitt at kathy_schmitt@nass.usda.gov. Be sure to include your name, farm name and location. By submitting photos, you are granting permission for the New England field office of NASS to use them in their publications. Feel free to contact Kathy at (603) 227-3138 with any questions.



Photo courtesy of Bickford's Diamond B Farm, New Durham, NH