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**In This Issue:** **Potatoes:** Acreage, Production, Stocks, Shrinkage, and Price  
**Milk:** Production and Price

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

## FALL POTATOES

**Maine potato stocks** on hand for December 1, 2009 totaled 12.0 million cwt, six percent above 2008's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1, 2009 totaled 3.3 million cwt, compared with 3.5 million cwt a year earlier. Maine's processing usage (excluding chips) was down one percentage point from last year, and fresh shipments continue to trail 2008. Storage accounted for 79 percent of Maine's total production, above last year's 77 percent but on target with the previous five-year average. Of the Maine stocks on hand the first of December, 45 percent were russets, 45 percent were round white varieties, six percent were yellows and four percent were reds.

The **13 major potato states** held 265 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2009, up nine percent from a year ago but slightly below December 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 69 percent of the 2009 fall storage states' production. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.50 million cwt on December 1, 2009, up 13 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 120 million cwt, was five percent below December 1, 2008 and down nine percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.1 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2008 but one percent below 2007. Processors in the nine major states have used 60.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 12 percent from the same period last year and down 17 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 11.0 million cwt of the total processing, up three percent from last year but 14 percent below the same period in 2007.

Fall potato production in **Maine** was estimated at 15.3 million cwt (hundredweight) in 2009, three percent above 2008, but eight percent below 2007 output. Although planted acreage was unchanged from the previous year, Maine farmers harvested more acreage in 2009. The December 1 forecast placed 2009 acres harvested at 55,500 acres, 800 more acres than a year earlier. Yields averaged 275 cwt per acre, compared with 270 cwt per acre in 2008 and the five-year average of 292 cwt per acre.

Results from the 2009 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,810 hills per acre, up five percent from the 11,210 hills per acre seeded in 2008. On average, growers harvested 9.1 tubers per hill in 2009, compared with the 8.6 tubers per hill average in 2008. Further results from the 2009 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 12, 2010 in the **Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report**.

**Massachusetts** potato production weighed in at 910,000 cwt in 2009, a 30 percent increase over the previous year due to an additional 800 acres harvested. Based on early December 2009 assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 3,500 acres and yields averaged 260 cwt per acre. **Rhode Island** potato farmers harvested 400 acres in 2009 and yields averaged 210 cwt per acre. Losses from excessive moisture this season forced growers to leave 100 acres unharvested.

### FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2008 – 2009

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	56.0	56.0	54.7	55.5	270	275	14,769	15,263
Massachusetts	2.8	3.5	2.7	3.5	260	260	702	910
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	280	210	140	84
<b>United States Fall Crop</b>	931.1	936.9	922.0	919.4	411	429	378,588	393,969
<b>United States All Seasons</b>	1,059.6	1,065.4	1,046.9	1,044.0	396	414	415,055	432,131

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, December 10, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, December 1, 2008 – 2009 <sup>1</sup>**

State	2008 Crop			2009 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2009	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,948	1,900	48	4,158	2,100	51
Colorado	21,907	16,600	76	22,080	15,800	72
Idaho	116,475	85,000	73	131,000	96,500	74
<b>Maine</b>	<b>14,769</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>15,263</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>79</b>
Michigan	14,875	8,300	56	15,660	8,700	56
Minnesota	20,400	13,200	65	21,150	13,000	61
Montana	3,465	3,400	98	3,278	3,200	98
Nebraska	8,245	5,600	68	8,712	5,800	67
New York	5,696	2,600	46	4,950	2,500	51
North Dakota	22,680	14,800	65	19,125	13,000	68
Oregon	18,676	16,100	86	21,460	17,400	81
Washington	93,000	49,500	53	88,450	54,500	62
Wisconsin	25,730	15,400	60	28,980	20,000	69
<b>13 STATES</b>	<b>369,866</b>	<b>243,700</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>384,266</b>	<b>264,500</b>	<b>69</b>
Klamath Basin <sup>2</sup>		4,000			4,500	

<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 2008 totaled 24.5 million cwt.

<sup>2</sup> Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County OR.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, December 15, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**POTATOES: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2006-2009 <sup>1</sup>**

Crop Year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1
	Million Cwt						
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	22.3	23.8
2009	14.1						

<sup>1</sup> Fall Storage States include California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, December 15, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2008 – 2009 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites <sup>2</sup>		Yellows		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre						
Idaho	2008	*	*	10	12,682	*	*	270	12,536
	2009	5	17,938	9	12,142	*	*	253	12,940
<b>Maine</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13,785</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>12,655</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13,228</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>9,603</b>
	<b>2009</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14,873</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13,807</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15,617</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>9,638</b>
Minnesota	2008	43	13,278	8	11,854	*	*	83	12,309
	2009	43	12,314	8	13,507	*	*	89	13,446
North Dakota	2008	16	11,499	25	11,743	*	*	88	12,311
	2009	21	10,403	18	9,660	*	*	87	12,166
Oregon	2008	*	*	24	14,555	7	13,136	91	13,591
	2009	*	*	22	13,575	*	*	103	13,549
Washington	2008	5	15,012	24	14,600	*	*	129	14,852
	2009	12	16,779	11	15,779	4	16,892	142	14,612
Wisconsin	2008	17	14,957	35	15,077	*	*	77	12,693
	2009	8	14,288	47	14,514	*	*	66	12,678

<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.

\* Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, December 10, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2005 – 2009 Crop Years**  
**Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average <sup>1</sup>**

Crop Year	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt										
2005	5.85	6.30	7.85	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.50	8.25
2006	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.35	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	7.80	8.65	10.20	9.95	9.95	10.40	11.20	10.60	9.70	9.15	9.75
2009	9.15	8.80	9.30 <sup>2</sup>								

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

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary price reflecting prices received for the entire month.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, November 30, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### LAYERS and EGG

**Connecticut** and **Maine** layer inventories in November 2009 totaled 6.3 million birds, down 112,000 birds from the combined total in November 2008. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, laying 82 million eggs in November 2009. Connecticut layers produced 58 million eggs.

The **United States** layer inventory during November 2009 totaled 337 million, down 0.7 million birds from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.5 billion eggs during November 2009, an increase of 0.8 percent from November 2008.

### MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2008 – 2009

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 2008	November 2009	November 2008	November 2009	November 2008	November 2009	November 2008	November 2009
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,699	2,496	2,758	2,559	2,248	2,267	62	58
Maine	3,544	3,620	3,624	3,711	2,180	2,210	79	82
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>277,453</b>	<b>277,160</b>	<b>337,995</b>	<b>337,309</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>7,490</b>	<b>7,549</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*, December 22, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in **Vermont** during November 2009 totaled 197 million pounds, a decrease of five million pounds from November 2008. Milk production per cow averaged 1,470 pounds, an increase of fifteen pounds per cow from the same month last year.

There were an estimated 134,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November, unchanged from the previous month but 5,000 head fewer than the same period in 2008.

### MILK PRODUCTION: Number of Cows and Production, November 2009 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow			Production		
	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009	November 2008	October 2009	November 2009
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	139	134	134	1,455	1,495	1,470	202	200	197
New York	624	614	611	1,580	1,630	1,580	986	1,001	965
Pennsylvania	548	539	537	1,510	1,600	1,560	827	862	838
<b>UNITED STATES <sup>2</sup></b>	<b>8,519</b>	<b>8,316</b>	<b>8,310</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>14,089</b>	<b>14,301</b>	<b>13,955</b>

<sup>1</sup> Average number for month, includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> United States includes 23 major States: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: *Milk Production*, December 18, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2004 – 2009 <sup>1</sup>

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	19.50
2009 <sup>2</sup>	15.10	12.60	12.40	12.80	12.80	12.80	12.40	12.70	13.30	14.90	15.50		

<sup>1</sup> Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

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

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, November 30, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## DAIRY PRODUCTS

## MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2009 with Comparisons

Product	October 2008 <sup>1</sup>	September 2009 <sup>1</sup>	October 2009	October 2009 as percent of:	
				October 2008	September 2009
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,677	2,259	1,830	109	81
American Type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	7,109	5,515	7,006	99	127
Mozzarella Cheese	2,379	3,642	2,997	126	82
Other Italian Cheese <sup>3</sup>	2,443	2,511	1,507	62	60
Cottage Cheese <sup>4</sup>	665	561	534	80	95
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	5,378	5,379	5,312	99	99
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	789	713	679	86	95
Milk Sherbet, Hard	145	174	85	59	49

<sup>1</sup> Revised.<sup>2</sup> American Type Cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.<sup>3</sup> Includes all Italian Cheese except Mozzarella.<sup>4</sup> Creamed and Low Fat.SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, December 4, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**Gary R. Keough**, Director**A.I. Slosman**, Office Automation**Ty Kalaus**, Deputy Director**Statisticians:** Robin Helrich, Henan Ortiz, Lorie Warren,

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