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## FIELD CROPS

Heavy rains through the beginning of May initially delayed fieldwork, however by the end of the month planting progress for most field crops had surpassed last year and normal. Strong thunderstorms occurred regularly during June in many areas. Constant rain stressed the corn crop and hindered dry hay harvest, while strong winds and hail damaged tobacco, fruit and vegetable crops. Wet conditions continued into the beginning of July in many areas; however skies cleared up mid-month giving farmers a much needed break from the rain. By the end of July, heavy rains, severe thunderstorms and strong winds were affecting many New England farmers once again. July 24th brought a tornado to New Hampshire, leaving a path of destruction nearly 40 miles long and 1/3 of a mile wide. Despite the abundance of moisture at many locations, some areas of New England were completely bypassed by showers. A cool and wet beginning to August delayed harvest of most field crops and strong storms damaged tobacco and corn crops. By mid-month, temperatures had warmed up and rain was minimal, allowing harvest to advance to match previous years' progress. Harvest was brought to a standstill at times during September due to remnants of tropical storms and hurricanes moving through New England. Cooler temperatures during October brought light frosts to many areas of New England with harder freezes occurring in northern areas. Farmers were able to finish harvest of most crops by the end of October; however quality and quantity was off on many crops due to excessive moisture.

New England **dry hay** production totaled 916,000 tons in 2008, 13 percent below the previous year's level. There were 506,000 acres harvested in the six-state region, a decrease of six percent from 2007. Dry hay yields averaged 1.81 tons per acre compared with 1.97 tons per acre a year earlier. Production of **all hay forage** in Vermont totaled 913,000 tons in 2008, six percent below the previous year due to reductions in both acres harvested and yields. **All haylage and greenchop** production totaled 1.2 million tons; a seven percent increase from the tonnage produced a year earlier due to increased yields. Farmers harvested 170,000 acres for haylage and greenchop in 2008 and crop yields averaged 7.23 tons per acre.

New England's **corn silage** crop weighed in at 3.2 million tons in 2008, up one percent from the previous year. Wet, cool weather delayed **field corn** planting and slowed crop emergence. June brought much needed warmer weather, but also thunderstorms and heavy rain. Replanting took place where wet conditions and insect damage affected the first seeding and by early July, emergence was complete. July was a relatively dry month, but rains returned for most of August. Farmers in southern areas of New England, which received less rain, began chopping silage by the first week in September.

Crop conditions ranged from fair to excellent, varying across the region depending on moisture levels. Drier weather finally arrived mid-month and corn silage harvest moved into high gear. Chopping continued into October and was nearly complete by the end of the month, on par with last year and ahead of normal. Yields increased or remained steady in every state except Massachusetts. Silage yields in the six New England states averaged 19.5 tons per acre in 2008, up 0.4 tons per acre from a year earlier.

Planting of 2008 crop small grains in Maine was delayed until mid-May due to cool, wet conditions. Despite sporadic rain showers, planting schedules remained on par or ahead of normal during May. Maine's **barley and oat** crops were 100 percent planted and between 45 and 65 percent emerged by the end of the first week of June, approximately a week ahead of the five-year average. Small grain harvest did not begin until the third week of August in Maine due to the later planting date and excessive moisture during the summer. Standing water in fields as well as damage from strong thunderstorms reduced quality and lowered oat and barley crop yields below the previous year. Oats harvested for grain totaled 31,000 acres, an increase of 3,000 acres from 2007. Oat yields averaged 65 bushels per acre in 2008, placing grain production at 2.02 million bushels, three percent above 2007 output. Barley acreage increased to 19,000 acres harvested for grain. Barley yields averaged 55 bushels per acre in 2008, placing grain production at 1.05 million bushels, 5 percent below 2007 output.

**TOBACCO:** The December 1, 2008 tobacco forecast placed **broadleaf** marketed production at 3.6 million pounds in the Connecticut River Valley, 35 percent below 2007 marketed output. The 2008 season was very challenging for tobacco growers. Hail, heavy rains and high winds late in the season decimated fields, leaving an estimated 1,070 acres unharvested across both states. Additional losses showed up in the sheds as the crop cured. Excessive moisture during curing resulted in a high incidence of pole sweat and spots on leaves, particularly at the lowest tiers. Growers provided early December assessments with the crop bundled and ready for sale, however sales were not finalized at many locations. As of early December, broadleaf marketed yields were expected to average 1,616 pounds per acre in the two states, compared with 1,824 pounds per acre a year earlier.

Producers intend to market 1.5 million pounds of **shade tobacco** in Connecticut and Massachusetts, a 20 percent drop in production from the previous year's output. Based on early December assessments, yields were expected to average 1,341 pounds per acre, compared with the 1,499 pounds per acre average a year earlier.

## FIELD CROPS: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2007– 2008

Crops	Area Planted for All Purposes		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2008 as Percent of 2007
<b>Fall Potatoes</b>	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt		Percent
Maine	57.1	56.0	56.5	54.7	295	270	16,668	14,769	89
Massachusetts	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.4	320	270	832	648	78
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	300	285	180	143	79
<b>Oats for Grain</b>					Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Maine	29	32	28	31	70.0	65.0	1,960	2,015	103
<b>Barley for Grain</b>									
Maine	18	20	17	19	65.0	55.0	1,105	1,045	95
<b>Corn for Silage</b>					Tons		1,000 Tons		
Connecticut	26	27	24	23	19.5	21.5	468	495	106
Maine	28	29	25	25	18.0	18.0	450	450	100
Massachusetts	18	19	15	15	20.0	19.5	300	293	98
New Hampshire	14	15	13	14	20.5	21.5	267	301	113
Rhode Island	2	2	2	2	20.0	20.5	40	41	103
Vermont	92	94	87	86	19.0	19.0	1,653	1,634	99
<b>New England</b>	180	186	166	165	19.1	19.5	3,178	3,214	101
<b>Dry Hay</b>									
<b>Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures</b>									
Connecticut	—	—	8	9	2.30	2.50	18	23	128
Maine	—	—	9	8	2.50	2.70	23	22	96
Massachusetts	—	—	9	8	2.40	2.10	22	17	77
New Hampshire	—	—	5	5	2.40	2.80	12	14	117
Rhode Island	—	—	1	1	1.80	2.70	2	3	150
Vermont	—	—	30	30	2.20	1.70	66	51	77
<b>New England</b>	—	—	62	61	2.31	2.13	143	130	91
<b>Other Dry Hay</b>									
Connecticut	—	—	53	46	1.90	2.10	101	97	96
Maine	—	—	135	130	1.80	1.50	243	195	80
Massachusetts	—	—	70	65	1.80	2.10	126	137	109
New Hampshire	—	—	50	48	1.90	1.90	95	91	96
Rhode Island	—	—	7	6	1.90	1.90	13	11	85
Vermont	—	—	160	150	2.10	1.70	336	255	76
<b>New England</b>	—	—	475	445	1.92	1.77	914	786	86
<b>All Dry Hay</b>									
Connecticut	—	—	61	55	1.95	2.18	119	120	101
Maine	—	—	144	138	1.85	1.57	266	217	82
Massachusetts	—	—	79	73	1.87	2.11	148	154	104
New Hampshire	—	—	55	53	1.95	1.98	107	105	98
Rhode Island	—	—	8	7	1.88	2.00	15	14	93
Vermont	—	—	190	180	2.12	1.70	402	306	76
<b>New England</b>	—	—	537	506	1.97	1.81	1,057	916	87
<b>Tobacco</b>					Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds
<b>Broadleaf (Type 51)</b>									
Connecticut	—	—	1,900	1,700	1,850	1,650	3,515	2,805	80
Massachusetts	—	—	1,100	500	1,780	1,500	1,958	750	38
CT and MA Total	—	—	3,000	2,200	1,824	1,616	5,473	3,555	65
<b>Shade (Type 61)</b>									
Connecticut	—	—	1,000	900	1,510	1,350	1,510	1,215	80
Massachusetts	—	—	220	190	1,450	1,300	319	247	77
CT and MA Total	—	—	1,220	1,090	1,499	1,341	1,829	1,462	80

SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual Summary*, 3:00 p.m., January 12, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## APPLES

New England utilized **apple** production in 2008 totaled 4.1 million bushels (42-pound units), five percent above 2007 utilized output. Growing conditions for the 2008 apple crop were less than favorable in some areas of New England and very favorable in others. The crop survived the winter with few instances of winterkill due to record-breaking snowfall across the region. Cool, wet conditions in April led to poor pollination and increased instances of scab. May's cool, windy weather brought the season back to normal in time for peak bloom. Warmer weather arrived in June and July, but much of New England

was plagued by prolonged thunderstorms, leading to severe hail damage in four of the six New England states. Overall, producers rated the apple crop in good condition throughout the growing season. A preliminary grower estimate of expected price for the 2008 apple crop placed New England value of utilized production at \$84.4 million, 29 percent above the previous year's value. An updated estimate of value will be available July 8, 2009, after the majority of the 2008 crop has been marketed.

APPLES: Bearing Acreage, Yield, and Total Production, 2007 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	Bearing Acreage		Yield per Acre <sup>2</sup>				Total Production <sup>3</sup>			
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres		Pounds		Bushels <sup>4</sup>		Million Pounds		1,000 Bushels	
Connecticut	2,200	2,200	10,500	9,320	250	222	23.0	20.5	548	488
Maine	3,100	3,100	12,900	12,600	307	300	40.0	39.0	952	929
Massachusetts	4,000	4,000	9,630	9,750	229	232	38.5	39.0	917	929
New Hampshire	2,100	2,100	16,400	16,700	390	398	34.5	35.0	821	833
Rhode Island	300	300	8,670	7,670	206	183	2.6	2.3	62	55
Vermont	2,800	2,800	13,600	15,700	324	374	38.0	44.0	905	1,048
<b>New England</b>	14,500	14,500	12,179	12,400	290	295	176.6	179.8	4,205	4,281
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	350,890	349,890	25,900	28,700	617	683	9,089.4	10,035.2	216,414	238,933

<sup>1</sup> Apple production from commercial orchards of 100 or more trees.

<sup>2</sup> Yield based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions.

<sup>3</sup> Total production is the quantity actually harvested plus quantities which would have been acceptable for fresh market processing but were not harvested because of economic or natural reasons.

<sup>4</sup> Bushels are calculated using 42-lb. bushel equivalent.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 p.m., January 23, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

APPLES: Utilized Production and Value, 2007 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	Utilized Production <sup>2</sup>				Utilized Price per Pound		Utilized Price per Bushel <sup>3</sup>		Value of Utilized Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Million Pounds		1,000 Bushels		Dollars		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
Connecticut	22.0	20.0	524	476	0.489	0.545	20.54	22.89	10,766	10,890
Maine	36.0	37.0	857	881	0.409	0.500	17.18	21.00	14,739	18,509
Massachusetts	36.5	37.0	869	881	0.437	0.527	18.35	22.13	15,960	19,486
New Hampshire	33.0	34.0	786	810	0.356	0.427	14.95	17.93	11,750	14,504
Rhode Island	2.4	2.2	57	52	0.561	0.670	23.56	28.14	1,346	1,475
Vermont	33.0	41.0	786	976	0.332	0.476	13.94	19.99	10,961	19,514
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	162.9	171.2	3,879	4,076	0.402	0.493	16.89	20.70	65,522	84,378
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	9,045.4	9,939.5	215,367	236,655	0.288	0.262	12.10	11.00	2,608,220	2,599,499

<sup>1</sup> Apple production from commercial orchards of 100 or more trees.

<sup>2</sup> Yield based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions.

<sup>3</sup> Bushels are calculated using 42-lb. bushel equivalent.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 p.m., January 23, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## PEACHES and PEARS

## PEACHES and PEARS: Bearing Acreage, Yield, Production, and Value, 2007 – 2008

Fruit Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield per Bearing Acre <sup>1</sup>		Production <sup>2</sup>		Utilized Production <sup>3</sup>		Average Price		Value of Utilized Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Acres		Tons		Tons		Tons		Dollars		1,000 Dollars	
<b>Peaches</b>												
Connecticut	400	400	2.75	3.00	1,100	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,800	1,800	1,980	2,160
Massachusetts	430	430	3.84	3.84	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,650	1,800	2,000	2,880	3,300
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	125,310	124,000	8.99	9.05	1,127,150	1,121,910	1,115,895	1,100,130	450	490	502,087	539,491
<b>Pears</b>												
Connecticut	D	D	D	D	1,000	700	1,000	700	1,300	1,300	1,300	910
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	58,640	58,640	14.90	14.00	872,950	818,450	871,850	871,480	416	473	363,092	386,787

<sup>1</sup> Yield based on total production, which includes unharvested production and fruit harvested but not sold due to market conditions.

<sup>2</sup> Total production is the quantity actually harvested plus quantities which would have been acceptable for fresh market or processing but were not harvested because of economic or natural reasons.

<sup>3</sup> Utilized production includes fruit sold, amount used on the operation or given away, and fruit in storage.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 p.m., January 23, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2008 wild blueberry crop totaled 89.95 million pounds, an increase of 16 percent above 2007 output, and 21 percent higher than 2006 production. The price growers receive for processing berries in 2008 is expected to average \$0.60 per pound, a decrease of \$0.47 per pound from 2007. If realized, this would place the 2008 processing value at a three-year low of \$53.64 million, compared with \$83.0 million the previous year.

Maine's wild blueberry crop survived the winter with minimal damage due to the large amount of snow coverage. Traces of mummyberry and red leaf

disease were evident in some fields, however disease pressure was light and there were few insect problems. A good bloom in May, accompanied by great pollinating conditions, resulted in an average fruit set in most areas. Dry conditions in early July were cause for concern, but rains arrived later in the month to improve berry size. Harvest began during the first week of August but was halted at times due to rainy conditions. Excessive moisture in some areas caused berries to swell and crack. Where weather conditions were favorable, berries matured quickly and developed better flavor. Harvest was complete mid-September, slightly behind last year and normal

## MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 2006 – 2008

Year	Total Production	All Price Per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Wild Blueberries			Wild Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
2006	74,600	0.805	60,040	400	1.700	680	74,200	0.800	59,360
2007	77,250	1.070	83,031	450	1.900	855	76,800	1.070	82,176
2008 <sup>1</sup>	89,950	0.608	54,707	550	1.940	1,067	89,400	0.600	53,640

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production. Final price statistics to be published in July, 2009.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – Preliminary*, 3:00 pm January 23, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MASSACHUSETTS CRANBERRIES

Cranberry production in Massachusetts totaled 2.3 million barrels in 2008, nearly doubling last year's output. Growers harvested 13,000 acres of cranberries, unchanged from the previous year. The crop yield averaged 176.9 barrels per acre a 59.8 barrel per acre increase from a year earlier. Heavy bloom, ideal pollination conditions and an abundance of bees contributed to an excellent fruit set. Timely rains followed increasing fruit size and helped produce the largest cranberry crop in Massachusetts history.

Cranberry handlers were contacted in the fall of 2008 to report price expected to be paid to Massachusetts growers for 2008 grown berries. Massachusetts 2008 preliminary price for fresh cranberries averaged \$70.90 per barrel and processed cranberries averaged \$55.00 per barrel. The next price update for the 2008 crop will be published in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Summary* which is scheduled for release on July 8, 2009.

## CRANBERRIES: Acres, Yield, Production, Utilization, Price and Value, by State, 2007 – 2008

Year and State	Area Harvested	Yield per Acre	Production		Utilization		Price per Barrel <sup>1 2</sup>			Value of Utilized Production
			Total	Utilized	Fresh	Processed	Fresh	Processed	All	
	Acres	Barrels <sup>2</sup>	Barrels <sup>2</sup>		Barrels <sup>2</sup>		Dollars			1,000 Dollars
<b>2007</b>										
Massachusetts	13,000	117.1	1,522,000	1,522,000	101,000	1,421,000	68.60	45.00	46.60	70,874
New Jersey	3,100	171.3	531,000	531,000	*	531,000	*	42.20	42.20	22,408
Oregon	2,700	183.3	495,000	495,000	*	495,000	*	59.60	59.60	29,502
Washington	1,700	103.5	176,000	176,000	29,000	147,000	64.00	42.40	46.00	8,089
Wisconsin	17,600	217.6	3,830,000	3,830,000	230,000	3,600,000	64.00	44.90	46.00	176,360
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>38,100</b>	<b>172.0</b>	<b>6,554,000</b>	<b>6,554,000</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>6,194,000</b>	<b>65.30</b>	<b>45.80</b>	<b>46.90</b>	<b>307,233</b>
<b>2008</b>										
Massachusetts	13,000	176.9	2,300,000	2,300,000	129,000	2,171,000	70.90	55.00	55.90	128,551
New Jersey	3,100	165.2	512,000	512,000	*	512,000	*	49.70	49.70	25,446
Oregon	2,700	148.1	400,000	400,000	*	400,000	*	91.50	91.50	36,600
Washington	1,700	55.3	94,000	94,000	19,500	74,500	68.00	49.00	52.90	4,977
Wisconsin	17,700	242.9	4,300,000	4,300,000	200,000	4,100,000	68.00	57.30	57.80	248,530
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>38,200</b>	<b>199.1</b>	<b>7,606,000</b>	<b>7,606,000</b>	<b>348,500</b>	<b>7,257,500</b>	<b>69.10</b>	<b>57.90</b>	<b>58.40</b>	<b>444,104</b>

<sup>1</sup> Weighted average of co-op and independent sales. Co-op prices represent pool proceeds less returns for processing non-cranberry products, capital stock dividends, capital stock retains, and other retains.

<sup>2</sup> A barrel weighs 100 pounds.

\* Small quantities of fresh cranberries are included in processed to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2008 Preliminary Summary*, 3:00 p.m., January 23, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## FALL POTATOES

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2004 – 2008 Crop Years  
Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average<sup>1</sup>

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	9.20 <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.

\* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

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

## POTATO STOCKS

Maine potato stocks on hand January 1, 2009 totaled 10.0 million cwt, 12 percent below January 1, 2008 holdings. Disappearance to January 1 in the state totaled 4.8 million cwt, compared with 5.3 million cwt a year earlier. Storage accounted for 68 percent of Maine's total production, compared with the previous five-year average of 70 percent. Of the stocks on hand January 1 in Maine, 54 percent were russet varieties, 41 percent were round whites, three percent were yellows and two percent were reds.

The 13 major potato States held 213 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2009, down nine percent from a year ago and six percent below January 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 58 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, down one point from January 1, 2008.

Potato disappearance, at 155 million cwt, was five percent below both January 1, 2008 and 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.8 million cwt, was down ten percent from the same date in 2008 and eight percent below 2007. Processors in the nine major States have used 87.3 million cwt of potatoes this season, down three percent from the same period last year and down four percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 14.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year and 24 percent below the same period in 2007.

Beginning this month, previous month's stocks, shrinkage, and dehydration estimates are open for revisions. Any changes will be indicated with a footnote.

FALL POTATOES: Production and January 1 Stocks, 2008 – 2009 <sup>1</sup>

State	2007 Crop			2008 Crop			
	Production	Stocks January 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2008	Stocks January 1, 2009	January Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent		1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,792	1,600	42	3,939	1,900	1,500	38
Colorado	20,981	13,200	63	21,338	16,400	14,500	68
Idaho	130,010	82,000	63	114,805	83,000	73,500	64
<b>Maine</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>16,668</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14,769</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>68</b>
Michigan <sup>2</sup>	14,700	7,000	48	14,875	8,300	6,500	44
Minnesota	21,560	11,600	54	20,400	13,000	11,300	55
Montana <sup>2</sup>	3,696	3,400	92	3,465	3,400	3,300	95
Nebraska <sup>2</sup>	8,217	4,500	55	8,342	5,500	4,900	59
New York	5,216	2,100	40	5,696	2,600	1,800	32
North Dakota	23,660	12,500	53	22,680	14,800	12,500	55
Oregon <sup>2</sup>	20,293	16,100	79	18,676	16,100	14,100	75
Washington	100,800	52,000	52	93,000	49,500	43,800	47
Wisconsin	28,160	16,700	59	25,730	17,500	14,800	58
<b>13 STATES</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>397,753</b>	<b>234,100</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>367,715</b>	<b>243,300</b>	<b>212,500</b>	<b>58</b>
Klamath Basin <sup>3</sup>		3,400			4,000	3,300	

<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> December 1, 2008 stocks revised.

<sup>3</sup> Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County OR.

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

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

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Season
	Million Cwt							
2005	12.7	15.0	16.8	18.4	20.2	22.0	23.7	26.4
2006	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5	27.8
2007	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3	27.1
2008 <sup>1</sup>	12.8	14.8						

<sup>1</sup> December 1, 2008 shrinkage and loss revised.

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

## SWEET CORN

During the first week of May frost damaged a small amount of sweet corn already sprouted that was not covered. By mid-May, corn planting was in full-swing, however freeze damage was evident in early plantings. As the end of June approached, thunderstorms caused significant hail damage in fields. By the end of the month, planting of the sweet corn crop was nearly complete. In northern New England, standing water was reported in some fields as constant thunderstorms continued to plague the east coast. In southern New England, most sweet corn fields had emerged by early July. Development ranged from tasseled and silked in some areas, to ready for harvest. By the end of July, in southern states, the crop was beginning to brown due to lack of moisture and high temperatures. In the northern states, the crop was reported in good condition and the harvest

was going well. The majority of the New England states experienced a wet summer with reports of continued standing water in fields. But by the beginning of September, sweet corn was plentiful in most states with the crop in good condition. In mid-September, some sweet corn was knocked down by heavy winds from hurricanes Hanna and Ike, but overall the crop was in good to excellent condition. In New England, fresh market sweet corn production totaled 1.1 million hundredweight (cwt) in 2008, a 5 percent reduction from the 2007 output. Growers in the six-state region harvested 14,300 acres, with an average yield of 77 cwt per acre. Value of sweet corn production for New England was placed at \$47.3 million, an increase of 13 percent from the 2007 value.

## FRESH MARKET SWEET CORN: Acreage, Yield, and Production and Value, 2007 – 2008

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production		Value of Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt		1,000 Dollars	
Connecticut	5.0	4.5	4.5	3.9	80	85	360	332	9,720	11,620
Maine	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	80	60	152	108	5,092	4,644
Massachusetts	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	80	80	416	416	16,224	17,888
New Hampshire	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6	60	80	102	128	5,304	7,808
Rhode Island	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	60	85	54	68	1,890	2,516
Vermont	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	65	50	72	50	3,672	2,800
<b>New England</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>41,902</b>	<b>47,276</b>

SOURCE: *Vegetables – Annual Summary*, 3:00 p.m., January 28, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**DRY HAY: Production and Stocks on Farm, December 1, 2007 – 2008**

State	Production 2007	Stocks December 1, 2007 <sup>1</sup>	Production 2008	Stocks December 1, 2008	Stocks 2008 as Percent of Stocks 2007
	1,000 Tons				
Connecticut	119	69	120	65	94
Maine	266	160	217	145	91
Massachusetts	148	74	154	77	104
New Hampshire	107	57	105	70	123
Rhode Island	15	6	14	10	167
Vermont	402	228	306	175	77
<b>New England</b>	<b>1,057</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>146,901</b>	<b>104,089</b>	<b>145,672</b>	<b>103,658</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Revised.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., January 12, 2009, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA.SOURCE: *Crop Production Annual Summary*, 3:00 p.m., January 12, 2009, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA.**VERMONT HAY FORAGE: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006 – 2008**

Type of Hay Forage	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres			Tons			1,000 Tons		
All Hay Forage <sup>1</sup>	335	315	310	2.70	3.07	2.95	904	968	913
All Alfalfa Forage <sup>2</sup>	85	75	75	3.55	3.92	4.00	302	294	300
All Haylage and Greenchop <sup>3</sup>	185	170	170	6.33	6.74	7.23	1,171	1,145	1,229
Alfalfa Haylage and Greenchop <sup>4</sup>	70	65	65	6.70	7.10	7.75	469	462	504

<sup>1</sup> All hay forage production is the sum of the following dry equivalents: alfalfa hay harvested as dry hay, all other hay harvested as dry hay, alfalfa haylage and greenchop, all other haylage and greenchop; after converting alfalfa and all other haylage and greenchop to a dry equivalent basis.<sup>2</sup> All alfalfa forage production is the sum of alfalfa harvested as dry hay and alfalfa haylage and greenchop production after converting it to a dry equivalent basis.<sup>3</sup> Includes all types of forage harvested as haylage or greenchop (green weight). Forage harvested as dry hay, and corn and sorghum silage/greenchop are not included.<sup>4</sup> Includes only alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures that were harvested as haylage or greenchop (green weight). Alfalfa harvested as dry hay is not included.SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual Summary*, 3:00 p.m., January 12, 2009, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA.**MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, December 2007 – 2008**

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>	
	December 2007	December 2008	December 2007	December 2008	December 2007	December 2008	December 2007	December 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,925	2,779	2,980	2,829	2,383	2,298	71	65
Maine	3,816	3,517	3,888	3,584	2,058	2,204	80	79
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>280,219</b>	<b>279,650</b>	<b>344,965</b>	<b>340,957</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>7,784</b>	<b>7,778</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., January 23, 2009, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA.**HOGS AND PIGS**

On December 1, 2008, the New England inventory of hogs and pigs totaled 24,700 head, a decrease of 3,200 head from 2007. Massachusetts accounted for 40 percent of New England's hog inventory with 10,000 head.

The 2008 average litter rate was 7.7 for New England, 1.7 pigs per litter less than the 9.4 national litter rate. The 2008 pig crop for New England totaled 40,800 head, almost no change from 2007.

**ANNUAL HOGS and PIGS: December 1 Inventory, 2007 – 2008**

State	Breeding Hogs		Market Hogs		Total Inventory	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head					
Connecticut	0.9	0.6	2.8	2.5	3.7	3.1
Maine	0.9	1.0	3.5	3.4	4.4	4.4
Massachusetts	1.5	1.5	10.5	8.5	12.0	10.0
New Hampshire	0.6	0.5	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.8
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	1.7	1.3	2.3	1.8
Vermont	0.6	0.6	2.1	2.0	2.7	2.6
<b>New England</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>24.7</b>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>6,233.0</b>	<b>6,081.0</b>	<b>61,944.0</b>	<b>60,627.0</b>	<b>68,177.0</b>	<b>66,708.0</b>

SOURCE: *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs*, 3:00 p.m., December 30, 2008, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA.

## ANNUAL HOGS and PIGS: Sows Farrowed, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop, 2007 – 2008

State	December – November <sup>1</sup>					
	Sows Farrowed		Pigs per Litter		Pig Crop	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head		Number		1,000 Head	
Connecticut	0.70	0.50	7.80	8.10	5.46	4.05
Maine	1.30	1.30	6.80	7.20	8.84	9.36
Massachusetts	1.60	1.80	7.50	7.70	12.00	13.86
New Hampshire	0.60	0.40	7.50	8.30	4.50	3.32
Rhode Island	0.60	0.70	7.90	7.30	4.74	5.11
Vermont	0.70	0.60	7.40	8.00	5.18	4.80
<b>New England</b> <sup>2</sup>	5.50	5.30	7.40	7.70	40.70	40.81
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	12,247.00	12,190.00	9.22	9.41	112,874.0	114,704.0

<sup>1</sup> December preceding year.<sup>2</sup> Total may not add due to rounding.SOURCE: *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs*, 3:00 p.m., December 30, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in **Vermont** during December 2008 totaled 212 million pounds, a decrease of two percent from December 2007. Milk production per cow averaged 1,525 pounds, a decrease of 20 pounds per cow from the same month last year. There were an estimated 139,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during December, unchanged from the previous month and a decrease of 1,000 head from December 2007.

Milk production in **New England** totaled 995.8 million pounds for the fourth quarter (October - December) of 2008, down one percent from the same quarter in 2007. There were a total of 221,600 milk cows in New England, a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous quarter and unchanged

from a year earlier. Quarterly milk production averaged 4,494 pounds per cow, a decrease of 43 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

Milk production in the **United States** during the fourth quarter of this year totaled 46.6 billion pounds, an increase of 1.4 percent from the fourth quarter of 2007. Nationwide, the number of milk cows averaged 9.3 million head from October – December 2008, compared with 9.2 million a year earlier. The United States' average quarterly rate was 5,024 pounds per cow, an increase of 21 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

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

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow <sup>2</sup>			Production <sup>2</sup>		
	December 2007	November 2008	December 2008	December 2007	November 2008	December 2008	December 2007	November 2008	December 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	139	139	1,545	1,445	1,525	216	201	212
New York	626	624	625	1,620	1,580	1,620	1,014	986	1,013
Pennsylvania	550	548	548	1,620	1,510	1,580	891	827	866
<b>UNITED STATES</b> <sup>3</sup>	8,389	8,472	8,479	1,718	1,655	1,726	14,414	14,021	14,633

<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., January 16, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October – December 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow <sup>2</sup>			Production		
	Oct – Dec 2007	Jul – Sep 2008	Oct – Dec 2008	Oct – Dec 2007	Jul – Sep 2008	Oct – Dec 2008	Oct – Dec 2007	Jul – Sep 2008	Oct – Dec 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	19.0	4,610	4,630	4,630	88.0	88.0	88.0
Maine	33.0	33.0	33.0	4,450	4,670	4,520	147.0	154.0	149.0
Massachusetts	14.5	14.5	14.5	4,250	4,420	4,300	62.0	64.0	62.0
New Hampshire	14.0	15.0	15.0	5,130	4,870	4,830	72.0	73.0	72.0
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,110	4,455	4,340	4.5	4.9	4.8
Vermont	140.0	140.0	139.0	4,514	4,579	4,460	632.0	641.0	620.0
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>	221.6	222.6	221.6	4,537	4,604	4,494	1,005.5	1,024.9	995.8
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	9,198.0	9,278.0	9,283.0	5,003	5,048	5,024	46,015.0	46,835.0	46,640.0

<sup>1</sup> Average number for quarter including dry cows.<sup>2</sup> In Vermont, New England, and the United States, quarterly production per cow equals milk production for the quarter divided by average number of milk cows for the same quarter.SOURCE: *Milk Production*, 3:00 p.m., January 16, 2009, 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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**VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

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 <sup>2</sup>	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.70	18.80	18.40	17.30	*

<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.

\* 2008 annual average will be available in April 2009.

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

**DAIRY PRODUCTS**

**MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, November 2008 with Comparisons**

Product	November 2007 <sup>1</sup>	October 2008 <sup>1</sup>	November 2008	November 2008 as percent of:	
				November 2007	October 2008
1,000 Pounds					
Butter	1,533	1,687	1,813	118	107
American Type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	6,476	7,067	7,236	112	102
Mozzarella Cheese	3,304	638	509	15	80
Other Italian Cheese <sup>3</sup>	689	395	373	54	94
Cottage Cheese <sup>4</sup>	559	665	439	79	66
1,000 Gallons					
Ice Cream, Hard	4,888	5,259	4,301	88	82
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	990	743	848	86	114
Milk Sherbet, Hard	114	143	86	75	60

<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*, 3:00 p.m., January 5, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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