



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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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, telephone, or personal interviews. This issue contains the results of monthly and quarterly surveys.

IN	Labor
THIS	Milk: Monthly Production and Price
ISSUE	Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Disposition, Stocks

POTATOES: Maine's 2002 potato production is estimated at 17 million cwt. (hundredweight), three percent above 2001 output. The November 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 64,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres from the previous year. Cool, wet weather conditions prevailed during May. Potatoes were only 55 percent planted by the end of May, compared with 85 percent planted a year earlier and normal of 65 percent. Wet conditions persisted for the remainder of planting while emergence was slow due to cool soil temperatures. A mix of rain and heat in June and July provided excellent conditions for the emerging crop. Hot, dry weather followed in August, reducing tuber size but keeping disease under control. Showers returned at the end of August and growers delayed harvest of russet varieties to take advantage of late season rains to improve sizing. Potatoes were 100 percent dug by October 21, on schedule with normal. Potato yields averaged 265 cwt. per acre, unchanged from the previous year.

Results from the 2002 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 36.4 percent of the total acres planted. All russet varieties comprised 43 percent of all potato acreage planted in Maine in 2002, compared with 35 percent planted a year earlier. The number two variety planted was Frito-Lay, followed by Ontario and Shepody varieties.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also battled drought conditions during the 2002 growing season. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,900 acres with yields averaging 275 cwt. per acre.

Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 200 cwt. per acre.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during October totaled 218 million pounds. There were an estimated 153,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October, unchanged from September. Milk production per cow averaged 1,425 pounds.

Milk production in the **20 major milk-producing States** during October totaled 12.0 billion pounds. The number of milk cows on farms totaled 7.8 million head during October, unchanged from September. Milk production per cow averaged 1,544 pounds.

LABOR: Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast region** consist of the six New England States and New York. During the survey week of October 6 - 12, 2002, there were 50,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast, a four percent increase from one year ago when there were 48,000 hired workers. There were 935,000 hired workers on the **Nation's farms** during the October survey week compared with 991,000 hired workers the previous year. Hired workers in the Northeast region earned an average hourly wage of \$9.36 during the survey week in October 2002, up 57 cents from October 2001. Across the United States, hired workers were paid an average of \$8.93 per hour and worked an average of 40.4 hours.

Although only quarterly statistics are available for the Northeast region, annual averages for wage rates are available for the six New England States. In 2002, the **New England** agricultural wage rates increased from \$9.34 in 2001 to \$9.95 in 2002 for all hired workers.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2001 - 2002

STATE	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Maine	62.0	64.0	62.0	64.0	265	265	16,430	16,960
Massachusetts	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	265	275	742	798
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	280	200	140	100
U.S. Fall Crop	1,091.5	1,148.4	1,073.2	1,117.1	367	371	393,750	414,962
U.S. All Seasons	1,247.7	1,308.1	1,222.2	1,271.1	358	362	437,888	459,734

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 1997 - 2002 Crop Years

CROP YEAR	Prices Received by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average ^{1/}										
	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt.										
1997	8.10	5.65	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.10	6.35	6.55	6.95	6.75	6.40
1998	6.25	5.40	5.70	5.85	5.90	6.15	6.45	6.90	7.45	7.05	6.45
1999	5.80	5.30	5.45	6.35	6.45	6.30	6.35	6.40	6.80	6.60	6.35
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	6.15
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.65
2002 ^{2/}	6.30	5.85	5.95								

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 1998 - 2002

VARIETY & TYPE	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BY VARIETY:	Percent				
Russet Burbank	23.0	26.1	33.7	29.1	36.4
Frito-Lay, All	10.2	9.5	11.1	12.6	10.9
Ontario	12.8	17.5	9.2	7.3	9.7
Shepody	14.1	15.0	11.1	11.4	9.2
Superior	9.0	7.8	5.7	8.9	7.2
Russet Norkotah	3.5	1.0	4.0	3.5	4.7
Atlantic	4.6	4.7	2.8	3.6	3.4
Norwis	1.7	1.7	2.6	2.4	2.2
Chieftain	1.1	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.8
Katahdin	2.9	3.3	1.7	3.9	1.6
Norland	1.9	1/	1.3	1.6	1.6
Snowden	4.0	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.4
Yukon Gold	1/	1.8	2.2	2.2	1.4
Goldrush	2.6	1/	1/	1.7	1.1
Kennebec	1/	1/	2.3	1/	1/
Other Varieties	8.6	6.0	7.9	8.1	7.4
TOTAL VARIETIES	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
BY TYPE:					
Reds	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0
White (Long & Round)	68.0	68.0	57.0	60.0	53.0
Russet Varieties	28.0	28.0	39.0	35.0	43.0
TOTAL VARIETIES	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Included with other varieties.

Source: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 12, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2001 - 2002

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/}	
	October 2001	October 2002	October 2001	October 2002	October 2001	October 2002	October 2001	October 2002
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,998	3,016	3,044	3,072	2,293	2,279	70	70
Maine	3,992	4,276	4,057	4,328	2,384	2,033	97	88
U.S.	272,581	274,801	337,085	338,036	2,180	2,192	7,347	7,410

^{1/} Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

SOURCE: *Chickens & Eggs*, 3:00 p.m., November 22, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October 2002 with Comparisons

STATE	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Oct 2001	Sep 2002	Oct 2002	Oct 2001	Sep 2002	Oct 2002	Oct 2001	Sep 2002	Oct 2002
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	153	153	153	1,450	1,400	1,425	222	214	218
New York	673	676	676	1,470	1,460	1,500	989	987	1,014
Pennsylvania	596	587	591	1,500	1,460	1,495	894	857	884
U.S. ^{2/}	7,726	7,785	7,793	1,522	1,498	1,544	11,756	11,663	12,030

^{1/} Average number for the month, including dry cows.

^{2/} U.S. includes only 20 major states: AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NM, NY, OH, PA, TX, VT, VA, WA, and WI.

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., November 15, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 1997 - 2002

YEAR	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold to Plants												Annual Avg
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	Dollars Per Cwt.												
1997	13.70	13.60	14.10	14.00	13.80	13.00	13.80	14.10	14.60	15.40	15.80	15.50	14.30
1998	15.20	15.20	15.20	14.90	14.60	15.10	14.80	15.90	17.30	17.90	17.70	18.00	16.00
1999	18.20	16.60	16.50	13.90	13.90	14.10	14.50	14.90	16.20	16.30	16.30	13.90	15.40
2000	13.40	13.40	13.50	13.40	13.50	13.80	13.50	13.80	14.00	14.00	14.30	14.60	13.80
2001	13.70	14.20	14.90	15.30	16.10	16.80	16.90	17.30	17.80	16.40	15.70	14.00	15.80
2002 ^{2/}	14.20	13.70	13.30	13.00	12.60	12.10	11.60	11.70	12.10	12.40			

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

^{2/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week Northeast and U.S., October 2002 with Comparisons^{1/}

REGION	Hired Workers on Farms ^{2/}			Hours Worked During the Week		
	October 7 - 13 2001	July 7 - 13 2002	October 6 - 12 2002	October 7 - 13 2001	July 7 - 13 2002	October 6 - 12 2002
	1,000 Workers			Hours Per Week		
NORTHEAST ^{3/}	48	44	50	40.7	37.8	41.2
U.S. ^{4/}	991	1,006	935	41.7	40.0	40.4

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

^{3/} Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

^{4/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m., November 15, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR: Wage Rates for Hired Workers, Northeast and U.S., October 2002 with Comparisons^{1/}

NORTHEAST ^{2/}	October 7 - 13 2001	July 7 - 13 2002	October 6 - 12 2002	UNITED STATES ^{3/}	October 7 - 13 2001	July 7 - 13 2002	October 6 - 12 2002
	Dollars Per Hour				Dollars Per Hour		
All Hired Workers ^{4/}	8.79	9.12	9.36	All Hired Workers ^{4/}	8.59	8.57	8.93
Field	8.24	8.41	9.16	Field	8.01	7.90	8.30
Livestock	7.50	7.90	7.70	Livestock	8.39	8.38	8.44
Field & Livestock	8.03	8.25	8.76	Field & Livestock	8.09	8.02	8.33

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

^{3/} United States excludes Alaska.

^{4/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m., November 15, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL FARM LABOR: Workers on Farms, Hours Worked per Week for Hired Workers and Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Annual Average, New England and Northeast, 2001 - 2002^{1/}

REGION	Number of Workers on Farms, Annual Average ^{2/}		Hours Worked During the Week, Annual Average ^{2/}		Wage Rates by Type of Hired Worker, Annual Average ^{3/}					
	Hired Workers ^{3/}		Hired Workers ^{3/}		All Hired		Field		Field & Livestock	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 Workers		Hours Per Week		Dollars Per Hour ^{4/}					
New England ^{5/}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.34	9.95	8.69	9.19	8.40	8.98
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.22	8.68	7.80	8.47	7.59	8.17
Northeast ^{6/}	42.3	42.7	39.8	39.9	8.72	9.26	8.23	8.82	7.94	8.53
U.S. ^{7/}	873.3	884.5	39.9	39.8	8.45	8.80	7.78	8.11	7.86	8.17

^{1/} Farm Labor excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Data not available for New England and New York.

^{3/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers.

^{4/} Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by data collected in January, April, July, and October.

^{5/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

^{6/} Northeast includes CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, and VT.

^{7/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: **Farm Labor**, 3:00 p.m., November 15, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2002 with Comparisons

PRODUCT	September 2001	August 2002	September 2002	September 2002 as Percent of:	
				September 2001	August 2002
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,389	1,892	3,244	136	171
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,174	4,600	3,860	75	84
Mozzarella Cheese	3,368	6,418	5,769	171	90
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	714	524	495	69	94
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	555	572	521	94	91
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,321	9,070	7,527	108	87
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	395	411	567	144	138
Milk Sherbet, Hard	151	199	197	130	99

^{1/} American type cheese includes cheddar, Colby, washed curd, stirred curd, Monterey, and Jack.

^{2/} Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.

^{3/} Creamed and low fat.

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., November 4, 2002, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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