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Milk: Production and Price
Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Acreage by Variety, and Price

POTATOES: 2005 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 15.8 million cwt (hundredweight), 17 percent below 2004 production and the smallest crop harvested in the state since 1922. Maine farmers planted 57,500 acres in 2005, a reduction of 6,000 acres from the previous year. The November 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 56,500 acres, 1,000 fewer acres than planted. A late season and poor harvesting conditions in October conspired to keep farmers harvesting into early November, and many farmers were still digging when the fall survey was conducted. Final acres harvested figures will be available December 15, 2005 in the **Potato Stocks** release, when end of season reports are tabulated. Yields averaged 280 cwt per acre in 2005, below 2004's record yielding crop, but above the previous 5-year average of 276 cwt per acre. Maine's 2005 potato crop had a rainy start and a rainy finish. Cool, wet weather during the month of May delayed planting by two weeks. The crop was only 20 percent planted as of June 1, compared with last year's 95 percent planted and normal of 80 percent planted. Drought conditions during the summer put stress on the developing crop, but kept disease pressure in check. September rains bulked up potatoes, but made harvest difficult. Excessive rains hit mid-October, when the crop was only 80 percent harvested. Flooded fields delayed harvest at many locations, and growers were still digging at the end of October.

Results from the 2005 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 42.5 percent of the total acres planted. Frito-Lay varieties comprised 17.1 percent of the total acreage, followed by Shepody with 7.2 percent. Atlantic replaced Ontario as the fourth largest variety planted in the state, with 3.5 percent seeded in 2005. Fewer white varieties (long and round), and more russets were planted in Maine in 2005 than a year earlier. Maine's **Annual Grade and Size** report will be available on January 12, 2006.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** also battled wet conditions to get the crop planted and harvested, with near drought conditions during the growing season. The remnants of Hurricane Rita hit in early October, when harvest was 85-95 percent complete. Flooding was extensive and field entry impossible at many locations during the next two weeks due to oversaturated soils. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,400 acres with yields averaging 260 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato

farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 225 cwt per acre.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during October 2005 totaled 214 million pounds, an increase of one percent from October 2004. There were an estimated 142,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 3,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow during October averaged 1,505 pounds, an increase of 50 pounds per cow from October 2004.

LABOR: There were 38,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast during the week of October 9 -15, 2005, down 16 percent from a year earlier when there were 45,000 hired workers. Nationally, there were 840,000 workers hired by farm operators during the same October time period, compared to 851,000 hired workers during 2004. In the Northeast, hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$10.19 during the survey week, up 38 cents from October 2004. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$9.61 per hour, compared with \$9.32 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 40.1 hours in the Northeast compared with 42.0 hours worked nationwide during the survey week. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast region** consist of the six New England States and New York.

Although only quarterly statistics were available for the Northeast region, annual averages for wage rates were available for the six New England States. In 2005, the **New England** agricultural wage rates decreased from \$10.64 per hour in 2004 to \$10.40 per hour in 2005 for all hired workers.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in October 2005 averaged 7.0 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 83 million eggs during October 2005. Connecticut layers produced 70 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during October 2005 averaged 344 million, down less than one percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.7 billion eggs during October 2005, an increase of nearly one percent over last year. Production included 6.6 billion table eggs and 1.1 billion hatching eggs.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004 - 2005

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	63.5	57.5	61.5	56.5	310	280	19,065	15,820
Massachusetts	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	320	260	800	624
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290	225	145	113
United States Fall Crop	1,039.7	972.2	1,022.3	951.8	401	402	410,253	382,212
United States All Seasons	1,193.3	1,108.2	1,166.9	1,084.3	391	389	456,041	421,326

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m. November 10, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15
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 ^{3/}	^{2/}	5.90	6.60									

^{1/} Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.^{2/} Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.^{3/} Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2001 – 2005

Variety and Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
By Variety:	Percent				
Russet Burbank	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7	42.5
Frito-Lay, All	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5	17.1
Shepody	11.4	9.2	9.7	9.3	7.2
Atlantic	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.5
Superior	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0	3.4
Yukon Gold	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.8
Ontario	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5	2.8
Goldrush	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.7
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4
Katahdin	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.4
Snowden	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.2
Russet Norkotah	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0	1.6
Reba (NY 87)	^{1/}	^{1/}	1.7	1.7	1.4
Norland	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.3
Monona	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}	1.7	1.0
Chieftain	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	^{1/}
Centennial Russet	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}	1.2	^{1/}
Mainstay	^{1/}	^{1/}	^{1/}	1.0	^{1/}
Other Varieties	8.1	7.4	^{1/}	6.4	4.7
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:					
Reds	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	3.5
White (Long and Round)	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0	49.5
Russet Varieties	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5	47.0
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 10, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2004 – 2005

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 2004	October 2005	October 2004	October 2005	October 2004	October 2005	October 2004	October 2005
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,794	2,946	2,844	3,001	2,426	2,333	69	70
Maine	2,729	3,958	2,781	4,019	2,229	2,065	62	83
United States	280,339	280,509	345,056	344,043	2,220	2,239	7,659	7,703

^{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., November 22, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October 2005 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005	October 2004	September 2005	October 2005
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	145	142	142	1,455	1,480	1,505	211	210	214
New York	653	649	650	1,470	1,515	1,550	960	983	1,008
Pennsylvania	563	561	558	1,465	1,500	1,550	825	842	865
United States ^{2/}	8,103	8,157	8,161	1,583	1,594	1,636	12,824	13,005	13,353

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

^{2/} 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., November 16, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
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	14.30	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 ^{2/}	16.70	15.80	16.40	15.80	15.50	15.10	15.80	15.70	16.10	16.50			

^{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, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR ^{1/}: Hired Workers ^{2/} on Farms and Hours Worked per Week
Northeast and United States, October 2005 with Comparisons

Region	Hired Workers on Farms			Hours Worked During the Week		
	October 10-16 2004	July 10-16 2005	October 9-15 2005	October 10-16 2004	July 10-16 2005	October 9-15 2005
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
NORTHEAST ^{3/}		45	46		36.8	40.0
United States ^{4/}		851	936		40.5	42.0

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

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

^{3/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

^{4/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 18, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY FARM LABOR ^{1/}: Wage Rates for Hired Workers, Northeast and United States October 2005 with Comparisons

Northeast ^{2/}	October 10-16 2004	July 10-16 2005	October 9-15 2005	United States ^{3/}	October 10-16 2004	July 10-16 2005	October 9-15 2005
	Dollars per Hour				Dollars per Hour		
All Hired Workers ^{4/}	9.81	9.70	10.19	All Hired Workers ^{4/}	9.32	9.38	9.61
Field	9.37	8.88	9.42	Field	8.62	8.61	8.90
Livestock	8.64	9.55	9.42	Livestock	8.91	9.26	9.14
Field and Livestock	9.10	9.11	9.42	Field and Livestock	8.69	8.78	8.96

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

^{2/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

^{3/} United States excludes Alaska.

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

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 18, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL FARM LABOR ^{1/}: Workers on Farms, Hours Worked per Week for Hired Workers and Wage Rates by Type of Worker,
Annual Average, New England and Northeast, 2004 - 2005

Region	Number of Workers on Farms, Annual Average		Hours Worked During the Week Annual Average		Wage Rates by Type of Hired Worker, ^{3/} Annual Average					
	Hired Workers ^{3/}		Hired Workers ^{3/}		All Hired		Field		Field and Livestock	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Workers		Hours per Week		Dollars per Hour ^{4/}					
New England ^{5/}	2/	2/	2/	2/	10.64	10.40	9.56	9.46	9.37	9.50
New York	2/	2/	2/	2/	9.37	9.41	9.25	8.81	8.79	8.85
Northeast ^{6/}	36.2	35.2	38.5	39.1	9.96	9.88	9.41	9.13	9.05	9.16
United States ^{7/}	825.2	779.5	39.6	40.1	9.23	9.50	8.45	8.69	8.56	8.83

^{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 the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all states, regions, and the United States is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

^{5/} New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

^{6/} Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

^{7/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 18, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2005 with Comparisons

Product	September 2004	August 2005	September 2005	September 2005 as Percent of:	
				September 2004	August 2005
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,633	1,151	1,563	59	136
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	4,988	5,514	4,437	89	80
Mozzarella Cheese	5,503	6,383	6,052	110	95
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,391	1,006	1,069	77	106
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	695	672	561	81	83
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	6,674	9,816	8,064	121	82
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	628	1,582	1,110	177	70
Milk Sherbert, Hard	259	264	293	113	111

^{1/} American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.

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

^{3/} Creamed and lowfat

SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., November 3, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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