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IN THIS ISSUE

Chickens: Layers and Eggs

Farm Labor: Workers, Hours, and Wages

Dairy Products: Butter, Cheese, Creams

Milk: Production and Price

Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Acreage By Variety and Price

POTATOES: 2006 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 17.98 million cwt (hundredweight), 16 percent above 2005's low output due to increased acreage and record high yields. Maine farmers planted 58,500 acres in 2006, an increase of 1,000 acres from the previous year. The November 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 58,000 acres, 500 fewer acres than planted due to losses from washouts from early June storms. Frequent shower activity and warm temperatures in July and August provided excellent growing conditions for tubers, but also suitable conditions for the development of late blight. Aggressive spray programs kept the disease from expanding beyond a few locations. Harvest proceeded on schedule with normal, and 95 percent was dug by mid-October. Rains slowed the last of the crop from moving into storage; most were finished by the week ending October 22nd. Final acres harvested estimates will be available December 15, 2006 in the Potato Stocks release, when end of season reports are tabulated. Yields averaged 310 cwt per acre in 2006, matching 2004's record high yielding crop, and above the previous 5-year average of 275 cwt per acre.

Results from the 2006 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 5.2 percent. Superiors replaced Atlantics as the fourth largest variety planted in the state, with 4.5 percent seeded in 2006. More white varieties (long and round), and fewer russets were planted in Maine in 2006 than a year earlier.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** battled wet conditions to get the last of the crop planted and heavy rains in June delayed emergence until month's end. Hot and humid conditions during July pushed crop growth, and had growers on high alert to control disease. Harvest in the two states was 95 percent complete by mid-October, with wet fields slowing progress on the remaining acreage. Based on early November assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 3,200 acres and yields averaged 235 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields were expected to average 250 cwt per acre.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during October 2006 totaled 208 million pounds, a decrease of three percent from October 2005. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 2,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow during October averaged 1,485 pounds, a decrease of 20 pounds per cow from October 2005.

LABOR: There were 37,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast during the week of October 8 -14, 2006, down 3 percent from a year earlier when there were 38,000 hired workers. Nationally, there were 797,000 workers hired by farm operators during the same October time period, compared to 842,000 hired workers during 2005. In the Northeast, hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$10.20 during the survey week, up 1 cent from October 2005. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$9.95 per hour, compared with \$9.61 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 40.9 hours in the Northeast compared with 41.6 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 2006, the **New England** agricultural wage rates increased from \$10.40 per hour in 2005 to \$10.80 per hour in 2006 for all hired workers.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: **Connecticut** and **Maine** layer inventories in October 2006 averaged 6.7 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 84 million eggs during October 2006. Connecticut layers produced 66 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during October 2006 averaged 344 million, up less than one percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.7 billion eggs during October 2006, a slight increase over last year. Production included 6.6 billion table eggs and 1.1 billion hatching eggs.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2005 – 2006

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	57.5	58.5	56.2	58.0	275	310	15,455	17,980
Massachusetts	2.5	3.2	2.4	3.2	260	235	624	752
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	210	250	105	125
UNITED STATES FALL CROP	967.7	988.4	949.0	976.9	403	400	382,743	390,917
UNITED STATES ALL SEASONS	1,109.1	1,136.6	1,086.9	1,118.9	390	389	423,926	434,789

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2001 – 2006 Crop Years**
Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average

Crop Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
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	2/	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.50	8.25
2006 ^{3/}	2/	5.85	6.40									

^{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, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2001 – 2006**

Variety and Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
By Variety:	Percent					
Russet Burbank	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7	42.5	42.5
Frito-Lay, All	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5	17.1	17.1
Shepody	11.4	9.2	9.8	9.3	7.2	5.2
Superior	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0	3.4	4.5
Katahdin	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.1
Yukon Gold	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.0
Ontario	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5	2.8	2.9
Norland	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3
Russet Norkotah	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.1
Reba (NY 87)	1/	1/	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1
Snowden	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
Monona	1/	1/	1/	1.7	1.0	1.9
Atlantic	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.5	1.5
Goldrush	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.0
Andover	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.0
Mainstay	1/	1/	1/	1.0	1/	1/
Chieftain	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1/	1/
Centennial Russet	1/	1/	1/	1.2	1/	1/
Other Varieties	8.1	7.4	7.1	6.4	4.7	5.3
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:						
Reds	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	3.5	3.6
White (Long and Round)	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0	49.5	50.6
Russet Varieties	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5	47.0	45.8
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^{1/} Included with other varieties.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 9, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.**MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2006 with Comparisons**

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 2005	October 2006	October 2005	October 2006	October 2005	October 2006	October 2005	October 2006
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,946	2,665	3,001	2,725	2,333	2,422	70	66
Maine	3,958	3,897	4,019	3,967	2,065	2,117	83	84
UNITED STATES	279,284	282,055	342,823	343,776	2,236	2,231	7,665	7,671

^{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 21, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, October 2006 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production ^{2/}		
	October 2005	September 2006	October 2006	October 2005	September 2006	October 2006	October 2005	September 2006	October 2006
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	142	140	140	1,505	1,460	1,485	214	204	208
New York	650	553	638	1,550	1,530	1,575	1,008	979	1,005
Pennsylvania	558	640	552	1,550	1,560	1,600	865	863	883
UNITED STATES ^{3/}	8,168	8,244	8,246	1,637	1,615	1,656	13,373	13,312	13,652

^{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., November 17, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: 2001 – 2006 Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
	Price per Cwt												
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	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 ^{2/}	15.30	14.60	13.70	12.90	12.80	12.70	12.60	12.90	13.60	13.80			

^{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, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Quarterly Farm Labor: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week Northeast and United States, October 2006 with Comparisons ^{1/}

Region	Hired Workers on Farms			Hours Worked During the Week		
	Oct 9 – 15 2005	July 9 – 15 2006	Oct 8 – 14 2006	Oct 9 – 15 2005	July 9 – 15 2006	Oct 8 – 14 2006
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
NORTHEAST ^{2/}	38	36	37	40.1	39.1	40.9
UNITED STATES ^{3/}	842	876	797	42.0	41.0	41.6

^{1/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers; excludes agricultural service workers.

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

^{3/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 17, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Quarterly Farm Labor : Wage Rates for Hired Workers, Northeast and United States, October 2006 with Comparisons ^{1/}

Northeast ^{2/}	Oct 9 – 15 2005	July 9 – 15 2006	Oct 8 – 14 2006	United States ^{3/}	Oct 9 – 15 2005	July 9 – 15 2006	Oct 8 – 14 2006
	Dollars Per Hour			Dollars Per Hour			
All Hired Workers	10.19	9.95	10.20	All Hired Workers	9.61	9.72	9.95
Field	9.42	9.28	9.80	Field	8.90	8.93	9.25
Livestock	9.42	9.57	8.62	Livestock	9.15	9.49	9.41
Field and Livestock	9.42	9.38	9.42	Field and Livestock	8.96	9.07	9.29

^{1/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers excludes agricultural service workers.

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

^{3/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 17, 2006, 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, 2005 – 2006 ^{1/}

Region	Number of Workers on Farms, Annual Average		Hours Worked During the Week Annual Average		Wage Rates by Type of Hired Worker, Annual Average					
	Hired Workers		Hired Workers		All Hired		Field		Field and Livestock	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 Workers		Hours per Week		Dollars per Hour ^{3/}					
New England ^{4/}	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	10.40	10.80	9.46	9.90	9.51	9.79
New York	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	<i>2/</i>	9.41	10.05	8.81	9.54	8.86	9.30
Northeast ^{5/}	35.3	32.5	39.1	40.5	9.88	10.35	9.14	9.70	9.17	9.50
UNITED STATES ^{6/}	780.0	751.8	40.1	40.5	9.51	9.87	8.70	9.06	8.84	9.15

^{1/} Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers; excludes agricultural service workers.

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

^{3/} 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.

^{4/} New England includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

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

^{6/} United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 17, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2006 with Comparisons

Product	Sept 2005	Aug 2006	Sept 2006	September 2006 as percent of:	
				September 2005	August 2006
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,558	725	915	59	126
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	4,434	6,949	5,606	126	81
Mozzarella Cheese	6,052	6,105	3,248	54	53
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,068	963	745	70	77
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	561	652	625	111	96
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,970	7,782	7,289	91	94
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,142	1,204	929	81	77
Milk Sherbet, Hard	283	387	174	61	45

^{1/} American type Cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, 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 3, 2006, 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

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