

Agricultural Review

OCTOBER 2005

Released: Oct. 21, 2005
Volume: 25, Issue 11

A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture



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Agricultural
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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.

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FIELD CROPS: Maine **oat** production is expected to total 2.2 million bushels in 2005, a decrease of 14 percent from the previous year's output. Grain acreage harvested is estimated at 30,000 acres, down 2,000 acres from a year earlier. The bulk of the 2005 oat crop was seeded after June 1 this year due to excessive spring rainfall; planting ranged from one to two weeks later than normal. Warm, sunny conditions prevailed during June, but by mid-July the crop was beginning to show signs of stress due to lack of moisture. Heat and sparse shower activity through August brought crop development back on schedule with normal. As of the first week in September, 55 percent of the oats had been combined, ahead of last year's 30 percent and normal of 35 percent. Early September grower assessments placed oats for grain yields at 73 bushels per acre, compared with 80 bushels per acre a year earlier.

Maine's 2005 **barley** production is estimated at 1.3 million bushels, five percent below 2004 output due to fewer acres harvested. Grain acreage harvested totaled 21,000 acres, 1,000 acres less than a year earlier. Grain yields are expected to average 60 bushels per acre, unchanged from the 2004 barley yield average.

TOBACCO: After a cold, wet start, an excellent growing season prevailed for **broadleaf** tobacco in 2005. The October 1, 2005 forecast placed broadleaf production at 4.1 million pounds in the Connecticut River Valley. Improved yields would place 2005 production ten percent above last year's output and 22 percent above 2003 crop sales. Hot, dry conditions during the summer forced irrigation at many farms, but confined the spread of blue mold to one location. Broadleaf harvest finished up by mid-September, on schedule with normal, and excellent curing conditions prevailed through the end of that month. Growers provided early October assessments with the crop still hanging in the sheds and placed broadleaf yields at 1,725 pounds per acre. Since then, heavy rains have caused severe flooding along the Connecticut River Valley. The moisture provided the damp conditions needed to take down the crop, however increased the incidence of mold at some locations.

Producers intend to harvest 1.8 million pounds of **shade** tobacco in Connecticut and Massachusetts, a one percent

drop in production from last year's output. Based on early October assessments, yields were expected to average 1,538 pounds per acre, compared with the 1,597 pounds per acre average a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** totaled 210 million pounds for September 2005, an increase of one percent from September 2004. There were an estimated 142,000 milk cows on Vermont farms in September, a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous month and a decline of 3,000 from September 2004.

Milk production in New England during the third quarter (July-September) of 2005 totaled 1.05 billion pounds, unchanged from the previous year. There were an estimated 229,100 milk cows on hand from July through September 2005, a decrease of 1,900 cows from the previous quarter. Milk production per cow averaged 4,582 pounds per cow, an increase of two percent from the same quarter in 2004.

Milk production in the United States during the third quarter of this year totaled 44.0 billion pounds, an increase of four percent from the third quarter of 2004. There were 9.1 million milk cows in the United States during the third quarter of the year, slightly above the previous quarter's total. The United States average quarterly milk production rate was 4,862 pounds per cow for the third quarter of 2005, a nearly four percent increase from the third quarter of 2004.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in September 2005 averaged 7.1 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 80 million eggs during September 2005. Connecticut layers produced 68 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during September 2005 averaged 342 million, down less than one percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.38 billion eggs during September 2005, up less than one percent from last year. Production included 6.31 billion table eggs and 1.07 billion hatching eggs.

MAINE OATS and BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2004 - 2005

Crop and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres				Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Oats								
Maine	34	31	32	30	80.0	73.0	2,560	2,190
United States	4,085	4,240	1,787	1,823	64.7	63.1	115,695	115,002
Barley								
Maine	23	22	22	21	60.0	60.0	1,320	1,260
United States	4,527	3,922	4,021	3,276	69.6	64.8	279,743	212,196

SOURCE: *Small Grains 2005 Summary*, 8:30 a.m., September 30, 2005, (revised October 3, 2005) National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TOBACCO: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2003 - 2005

Crop and State	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2003	2004	2005 Forecast as of October 1	2003	2004	2005 Forecast as of October 1	2003	2004	2005 Forecast as of October 1
Tobacco	Acres			Pounds			1,000 Pounds		
Broadleaf (Type 51):									
Connecticut	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,530	1,800	1,960	2,295	2,700
Massachusetts	970	920	900	1,470	1,600	1,600	1,426	1,472	1,440
CT and MA Total	2,370	2,420	2,400	1,429	1,557	1,725	3,386	3,767	4,140
Shade (Type 61):									
Connecticut	780	870	900	1,290	1,600	1,550	1,006	1,392	1,395
Massachusetts	280	300	300	1,150	1,590	1,500	322	477	450
CT and MA Total	1,060	1,170	1,200	1,253	1,597	1,538	1,328	1,869	1,845
United States (All Types)	411,150	408,040	307,010	1,952	2,155	2,083	802,654	879,227	639,566

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., October 12, 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/	5.35										

^{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., September 29, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Sept 2004	August 2005	Sept 2005	Sept 2004	August 2005	Sept 2005	Sept 2004	August 2005	Sept 2005
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	145	143	142	1,430	1,550	1,480	207	222	210
New York	654	647	649	1,420	1,600	1,515	929	1,035	983
Pennsylvania	562	562	561	1,415	1,575	1,500	795	885	842
United States ^{2/}	8,104	8,157	8,158	1,533	1,667	1,597	12,426	13,595	13,032

^{1/} Average number for month, includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

^{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., October 17, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, July - September 2005 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	Jul - Sep 2004	Apr - Jun 2005	Jul - Sep 2005	Jul - Sep 2004	Apr - Jun 2005	Jul - Sep 2005	Jul - Sep 2004	Apr - Jun 2005	Jul - Sep 2005
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Connecticut	20.0	20.0	20.0	4,730	5,030	4,620	95.0	101.0	92.0
Maine	34.0	33.0	33.0	4,580	4,690	4,570	156.0	155.0	151.0
Massachusetts	17.0	17.0	16.0	4,320	4,550	4,470	73.0	77.0	72.0
New Hampshire	16.0	16.0	16.0	4,600	4,970	4,650	74.0	80.0	74.0
Rhode Island	1.1	1.0	1.1	4,230	4,850	4,300	4.7	4.9	4.7
Vermont	145.0	144.0	143.0	4,448	4,778	4,587	645.0	688.0	656.0
NEW ENGLAND	233.1	231.0	229.1	4,495	4,787	4,582	1,047.7	1,105.9	1,049.7
United States	9,027.0	9,034.0	9,054.0	4,679	5,054	4,862	42,239.0	45,660.0	44,024.0

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

SOURCE: **Milk Production**, 3:00 p.m., October 17, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005

Year	Prices Received ^{1/} by Farmers for Milk Sold												Annual Average
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	Dollars 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	15.80				

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes 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., September 29, 2005, National Agricultural Service, USDA.

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

Product	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	August 2005 as percent of:	
				August 2004	July 2005
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,393	1,374	1,151	48	84
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,404	5,863	5,514	102	94
Mozzarella Cheese	6,062	5,294	6,383	105	121
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	937	1,039	1,006	107	97
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	616	561	672	109	120
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	6,313	10,334	6,787	108	66
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	778	1,502	1,582	203	105
Milk Sherbet, Hard	279	300	264	95	88

^{1/} American Type Cheese includes cheddars, 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., October 4, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

