

Agricultural Review

October 2008

October 23, 2008

Volume: 28, Issue 10

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



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics
53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

A special "Thank you" goes to New England producers and agri-businesses who have helped us by completing surveys via mail, internet, telephone, or personal interviews.

In This Issue: **Oats And Barley:** Acreage, Yield, and Production
Potatoes: Acreage, Production Disposition, Stocks
Dairy Products: Butter, Cheese, Creams

Tobacco: Acreage, Yield, and Production
Milk: Number of Cows, Production, and Price
Chickens: Layers and Eggs

FIELD CROPS

Maine's 2008 **oat** production is expected to total 2.0 million bushels, a four percent decrease from last year. Grain acreage harvested is estimated at 31,000 acres, an increase of 1,000 acres from a year earlier. Early September grower assessments placed grain yields at 65 bushels per acre, compared with 70 bushels per acre in 2007.

Maine's 2008 **barley** production is estimated at 1.0 million bushels, a 12 percent decrease from a year earlier. Grain acreage harvested is estimated at 19,000 acres, an increase of 2,000 acres from last year. Based on grower assessments in early September, grain yields are expected to average 55 bushels per acre in the state of Maine, a decrease of 15 bushels per acre from 2007 yields.

Wet and cool conditions at the beginning of May delayed planting by one week for many Maine oat and barley growers. The rest of May was marked by above average temperatures and a lack of good soaking rains. As a result, planting was completed by the second week of June, ahead of last year and normal. The first three weeks of August had many days of soaking rains and thunderstorms. Small grain harvest was delayed until the last week of August, however by mid - September it had progressed to ahead of schedule. Harvest wrapped up during the first two weeks of October, on schedule with last year and ahead of normal. Crop weather specialists rated Maine's barley crop in fair to good condition for the entire harvesting season, while Maine's oat crop was good to fair.

MAINE OATS and BARLEY: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2007 – 2008

Crop and State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Oats								
Maine	31	32	30	31	70.0	65.0	2,100	2,015
UNITED STATES	3,760	3,217	1,505	1,395	60.9	63.5	91,599	88,635
Barley								
Maine	18	20	17	19	70.0	55.0	1,190	1,045
UNITED STATES	4,020	4,234	3,508	3,767	60.4	63.6	211,825	239,498

SOURCE: *Small Grains 2008 Summary*, 8:30 a.m., September 30, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

TOBACCO

The October 1, 2008 tobacco forecast placed **broadleaf** production at 3.56 million pounds in the Connecticut River Valley. Fewer broadleaf acres harvested and lower yields would place 2008 marketed production 34 percent below last year's output in the two states. Hail, heavy rains and high winds late in the growing season decimated fields in both states leaving many growers with total crop losses. Tobacco growers had the crop harvested and curing in sheds by mid September. Excess moisture during curing led to pole sweat, even with firing in the barns; others reported problems with brown spot.

Early October assessments were made as the broadleaf crop hung in the sheds to cure. Growers placed expected marketed yield at 1,616 pounds per acre, 185 pounds per acre less than the previous year due to damage from hail and disease.

Based on early October marketed yield projections, **shade** production was expected to total 1.5 million pounds in Connecticut and Massachusetts, 16 percent below the previous year due to fewer acres harvested and reduced yields.

TOBACCO: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006 – 2008

Crop and State	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of October 1	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of October 1	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of October 1
	Acres			Pounds			1,000 Pounds		
Broadleaf (Type 51):									
Connecticut	1,650	1,900	1,700	1,760	1,830	1,650	2,904	3,477	2,805
Massachusetts	950	1,100	500	1,610	1,750	1,500	1,530	1,925	750
CT and MA Total	2,600	3,000	2,200	1,705	1,801	1,616	4,434	5,402	3,555
Shade (Type 61):									
Connecticut	850	1,000	900	1,140	1,450	1,350	969	1,450	1,215
Massachusetts	200	220	190	1,310	1,300	1,300	262	286	247
CT and MA Total	1,050	1,220	1,090	1,172	1,423	1,341	1,231	1,736	1,462
UNITED STATES (All Types)	339,000	356,000	356,040	2,146	2,191	2,261	727,347	779,899	804,927

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., October 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES


MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2003 – 2007 Crop Years
Prices Received by Farmers for Fall Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average ¹

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Market Year Average
	Dollars per Cwt											
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	*	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

¹ Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

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

SOURCE: *Potatoes, 2007 Summary*, 3:00 p.m., September 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in **Vermont** during September 2008 totaled 204 million pounds, a decrease of one million pounds from September 2007. There were an estimated 139,000 milk cows on Vermont farms in September, a decrease of 1,000 head from the previous month and from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,470 pounds, an increase of five pounds per cow from September 2007.

Milk production in New England totaled 1.02 billion pounds for the third quarter (July - September) of 2008, up 1.0 percent from the same quarter in 2007. There was a total of

222,100 milk cows on New England farms, an increase of 1000 head from a year earlier. Quarterly milk production averaged 4,615 pounds per cow, an increase of 26 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

Milk production in the United States during the third quarter of this year totaled 46.8 billion pounds, an increase of 1.6 percent from the third quarter of 2007. Nationwide, the number of milk cows averaged 9.3 million head from July – September 2008, compared with 9.2 million a year earlier. The United States' average quarterly rate was 5,049 pounds per cow, an increase of 15 pounds per cow from the same quarter the previous year.

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

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow			Production		
	September 2007	August 2008	September 2008	September 2007	August 2008	September 2008	September 2007	August 2008	September 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	140	139	1,465	1,535	1,470	205	215	204
New York	626	626	626	1,570	1,690	1,590	983	1,058	995
Pennsylvania	550	548	548	1,550	1,590	1,530	853	871	838
UNITED STATES ²	8,341	8,467	8,459	1,645	1,720	1,652	13,718	14,563	13,976

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, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

QUARTERLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, July – September 2008 with Comparisons

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow ²			Production		
	Jul – Sep 2007	Apr – Jun 2008	Jul – Sep 2008	Jul – Sep 2007	Apr – Jun 2008	Jul – Sep 2008	Jul – Sep 2007	Apr – Jun 2008	Jul – Sep 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Connecticut	19.0	19.0	18.5	4,690	4,950	4,760	89.0	94.0	88.0
Maine	33.0	33.0	33.0	4,580	4,670	4,670	151.0	154.0	154.0
Massachusetts	14.5	14.5	14.5	4,320	4,620	4,420	63.0	67.0	64.0
New Hampshire	14.5	15.0	15.0	4,980	5,070	4,820	72.0	76.0	73.0
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,140	4,730	4,455	4.6	5.2	4.9
Vermont	139.0	140.0	140.0	4,568	4,721	4,579	635.0	661.0	641.0
NEW ENGLAND	221.1	222.6	222.1	4,589	4,749	4,615	1,014.6	1,057.2	1,024.9
UNITED STATES	9,159.0	9,274.0	9,277.0	5,034	5,249	5,049	46,110.0	48,683.0	46,841.0

¹ Average number for quarter including dry cows.

² 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., October 17, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 2003 – 2008 ¹

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 ²	22.20	20.40	18.90	19.30	18.80	19.90	20.80	19.90	19.50				

¹ Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

² Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., September 29, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, July 2008 with Comparisons

Product	August 2007 ¹	July 2008 ¹	August 2008	August 2008 as percent of:	
				August 2007	July 2008
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,174	1,135	633	54	56
American Type Cheese ²	6,565	6,465	6,573	100	102
Mozzarella Cheese	3,729	3,702	3,818	102	103
Other Italian Cheese ³	590	327	310	53	95
Cottage Cheese ⁴	552	607	532	96	88
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,816	7,925	8,176	105	103
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,243	423	659	53	156
Milk Sherbet, Hard	165	217	153	93	71

¹ Revised.

² American Type Cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.

³ Includes all Italian Cheese except Mozzarella.

⁴ Creamed and Low Fat.

SOURCE OF NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., October 3, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION

Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in September 2008 totaled 6.6 million birds, down 1.5 percent from the combined total in September 2007. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, laying 81 million eggs in September 2008. Connecticut layers produced 66 million eggs.

The **United States** layer inventory during September 2008 totaled 334 million, down two percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.55 billion eggs during September 2008, a decrease of 0.6 percent from September 2007.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, September 2007 – 2008

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	
	September 2007	September 2008	September 2007	September 2008	September 2007	September 2008	September 2007	September 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,824	2,866	2,879	2,921	2,327	2,191	66	66
Maine	3,743	3,602	3,822	3,678	2,093	2,202	86	81
UNITED STATES	276,651	272,424	340,984	334,374	2,168	2,194	7,594	7,549

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., October 21, 2008, 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.

All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>. These reports are also available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS home page at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>, under receive reports by E-mail, click **national** or **state**, then follow the instructions on the screen.



Gary R. Keough, *Director*

Alexander I Slosman *Office Automation*

Gerald D. Tillman, *Deputy Director*

Statisticians: Robin Helrich, Brandy Lane, Lorie Warren, Jennifer Zaleski

PRESORTED
 FIRST CLASS MAIL
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID
 USDA
 PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
 53 PLEASANT STREET ROOM 2100
 CONCORD NH 03301
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED