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NEW ENGLAND
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Statistics

22 Bridge St. 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1444
Concord, NH 03302



Aubrey R. Davis, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.usda.gov/nass

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, telephone or personal interviews.

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Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Disposition, Stocks

POTATOES: **Maine** was the seventh largest producer of fall potatoes in the nation in 2004. The state's 2004 potato crop was finalized at 19.1 million cwt (hundredweight), 12 percent above 2003 production and the largest crop harvested in the state since 1997. Record high yields offset a 4,000 acre decline in harvested acreage. Growers harvested 61,500 acres in 2004, and yields averaged 310 cwt per acre. Crop growth was excellent through mid-August with timely rains and sun promoting superior growth. Then, heavy rains hit, which caused severe flooding in the St. John Valley and forced growers to abandon fields. An estimated 2,000 acres were left unharvested in 2004 in the state. Prolonged rains interrupted needed spray schedules, increased the incidence of disease, and resulted in numerous tuber quality problems. Losses were high for the 2004 potato crop due to breakdown problems in storage. Potatoes lost from shrinkage and dumping totaled 4.9 million cwt in 2004, 26 percent of production, and the largest shrink and loss recorded in the state since 1992. With sales at \$90.8 million, Maine ranked eighth in the nation based on the value of 2004 fall potato sales. The price received for Maine grown potatoes averaged \$6.50 per cwt, up \$0.45 per cwt from a year earlier, and above the national fall potato average of \$5.08 per cwt.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** enjoyed excellent growing and harvesting conditions during the 2004 season. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,500 acres with yields surpassing all records, averaging 320 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 290 cwt per acre, which matched the record yield set in 1992.

Total **United States** 2004 potato production is estimated at 456 million cwt, down fractionally from the estimate made in the January Annual Crop Summary and less than 1 percent below the 2003 crop. Harvested area, at 1.17 million acres, decreased 7 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 391 cwt per acre is up 24 cwt from 2003 and 29 cwt above the average yield from the 2002 crop. This is a record high yield, 10 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Fall potatoes are finalized at 410 million cwt for 2004, virtually unchanged from the 2003 crop. Area harvested in 2004 is estimated at 1.02 million acres, down 6 percent from a year earlier. The average yield, at 401 cwt per acre, is up 25 cwt from a year earlier and a record high, 9 cwt above the previous record high set in 2000.

The value of all potatoes sold in 2004 is estimated at \$2.34 billion, down 5 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$5.67 per cwt, is down \$0.22 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2004 potato crop totaled 414 million cwt, down

1 percent from 2003. Sales account for 91 percent of 2004 production. Non-sales account for 42.2 million cwt, 3 percent above the previous year. Over the past five years, 91 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other 9 percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 259 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2004 crop, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 130 million cwt, 2 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.9 million cwt are down 7 percent from 2003. Sales for livestock feed, at 1.94 million cwt, are down 3 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.1 million cwt in 2004, down 5 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 155 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 3 percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 48.5 million cwt, virtually unchanged from 2003. Canning use, at 3.84 million cwt, fell 10 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 1.53 million cwt of potatoes, 11 percent above the previous year.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 37.4 million cwt for 2004, up 6 percent from 2003. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.18 million cwt, 23 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 3.61 million cwt for seed on their own farms, down 10 percent from a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during August 2005 totaled 222 million pounds, an increase of two percent from August 2004. There were an estimated 143,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during August, unchanged from the previous month, and a decrease of 2,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow during August averaged 1,550 pounds, an increase of 55 pounds per cow from August 2004.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in August 2005 averaged 7.1 million birds. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 91 million eggs during August 2005. Connecticut layers produced 72 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during August 2005 averaged 341 million, down 0.6 percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.56 billion eggs during August 2005, an increase of 0.3 percent from a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2003 - 2004

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	66.0	63.5	65.5	61.5	260	310	17,030	19,065
Massachusetts	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.5	265	320	716	800
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	285	290	171	145
United States Fall Crop	1,106.0	1,039.7	1,090.9	1,022.3	376	401	410,588	410,253
United States All Seasons	1,272.6	1,193.3	1,248.6	1,166.9	367	391	457,814	456,041

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 22, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production, Disposition, Price, and Value, 2004 Crop

State	Production	Total Used for Seed ^{1/}	Disposition			Price per Cwt	Value of	
			On Farm Where Grown		Sold		Production	Sales
			Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss				
	1,000 Cwt				Dollars	1,000 Dollars		
Maine	19,065	1,188	190	4,900	13,975	6.50	123,923	90,838
Massachusetts	800	61	5	6	789	6.60	5,280	5,207
Rhode Island	145	14	--	3	142	7.65	1,109	1,086
United States Fall Crop	410,253	21,639	4,549	35,923	369,781	5.08	2,090,058	1,877,912
United States All Seasons	456,041	24,695	4,796	37,408	413,837	5.67	2,575,204	2,344,481

^{1/} Seed used to plant 2005 crop acreage.SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 22, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.FALL POTATOES: Stocks Held By Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors, 15 Fall States 2004 Crop ^{1/ 2/}

State	December 1 2004	January 1 2005	February 1 2005	March 1 2005	April 1 2005	May 1 2005	June 1 2005
	1,000 Cwt						
California	3,000	2,300	1,800	1,500	900	500	--
Colorado	18,000	15,800	13,700	11,900	9,000	6,000	3,600
Idaho	93,500	84,500	75,000	64,000	52,000	38,500	24,000
Maine	15,000	12,800	11,100	9,400	7,500	5,000	2,900
Michigan	8,000	6,300	4,800	3,600	2,200	900	--
Minnesota	13,000	11,600	10,200	8,800	6,500	5,100	3,500
Montana	3,500	3,400	3,350	2,400	1,900	500	--
Nebraska	6,300	5,300	--	--	--	--	--
New York	2,300	1,600	1,200	700	300	--	--
North Dakota	19,600	17,500	15,300	13,100	10,300	7,200	4,800
Ohio	200	100	--	--	--	--	--
Oregon	17,000	14,500	11,800	9,000	6,200	3,900	2,100
Pennsylvania	1,600	1,100	900	700	500	--	--
Washington	50,000	43,000	36,500	29,000	22,000	15,500	8,000
Wisconsin	20,100	16,900	13,600	10,700	7,200	3,800	1,600
Other ^{3/}	--	--	4,240	3,220	2,400	1,650	1,200
Total 15 States	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700

^{1/} Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each estimate.^{2/} Revised.^{3/} Missing stocks combined into "Other States" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 22, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production		
	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005	August 2004	July 2005	August 2005
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	145	143	143	1,495	1,565	1,550	217	224	222
New York	654	647	647	1,500	1,600	1,600	981	1,035	1,035
Pennsylvania	560	561	562	1,475	1,610	1,575	826	903	885
United States ^{2/}	8,102	8,145	8,154	1,601	1,681	1,665	12,970	13,692	13,573

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

^{2/} United States includes only 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., September 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
	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					

^{1/} Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity.

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

Source: **Agricultural Prices**, 3:00 p.m., August 31, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

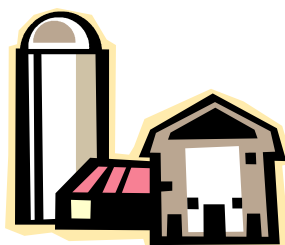
Product	July 2004	June 2005	July 2005	July 2005 as percent of:	
				July 2004	June 2005
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	2,094	2,326	1,374	66	59
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,515	4,622	5,863	106	127
Mozzarella Cheese	5,758	5,081	5,325	92	105
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,001	982	1,039	104	106
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	667	609	561	84	92
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,332	9,297	10,335	141	111
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,155	1,321	1,499	130	113
Milk Sherbet, Hard	298	285	300	101	105

^{1/} American type Cheese includes Cheddars, Colby, Monterey and Jack.

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

^{3/} Creamed and low fat.

Source of National Production: **Dairy Products**, 3:00 P.M., September 2, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, August 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/}	
	August 2004	August 2005	August 2004	August 2005	August 2004	August 2005	August 2004	August 2005
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,641	2,854	2,684	2,911	2,496	2,473	67	72
Maine	2,756	4,227	2,808	4,287	2,493	2,123	70	91
UNITED STATES	277,973	276,458	342,983	340,770	2,198	2,219	7,538	7,562

^{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., September 23, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Aubrey R. Davis , Director	Sandie White , Editorial Assistant	Gerald Tillman , Deputy Director
Statisticians: Travis Averill, Angela Considine, Sherry Deane, Robin Helrich, Dianne Johnson, Dave Mikelson, John Miyares		

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