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USDA NASS
NEW ENGLAND
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Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nass

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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POTATOES: Maine was the seventh largest producer of fall potatoes in the nation in 2005. The state's 2005 potato crop was finalized at 15.5 million cwt (hundredweight), 19 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. Growers harvested 56,200 acres, 1,300 fewer acres than planted. A late season and poor harvesting conditions in October conspired to keep farmers harvesting into early November and some acreage ended up being too wet for field entry. Yields averaged 275 cwt per acre in 2005, below 2004's record yielding crop and on target with 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 into early November. With sales at \$115.7 million, Maine ranked seventh in the nation based on the value of 2005 fall potato sales. The price received for Maine grown potatoes averaged \$8.25 per cwt, up \$1.75 per cwt from a year earlier and above the national fall potato average of \$6.53 per cwt.

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 210 cwt per acre.

Total **United States** 2005 fall potato production was finalized at 383 million cwt, down seven percent from the 2004 crop. Harvested area, at 949,000 acres, was also down seven percent from a year earlier. The average yield of 403 cwt per acre was a record high, two percent above the previous record high set in 2004.

The value of **all potatoes sold in the United States** in 2005 is estimated at \$2.76 billion, up 18 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$7.06 per cwt, is up \$1.40 from a

year earlier. Sales from the 2005 potato crop totaled 391 million cwt, down six percent from 2004. Sales account for 92 percent of 2005 production. Non-sales accounted for 33.3 million cwt, 21 percent below the previous year. Over the past five years, 92 percent of the potatoes grown have been sold. The other eight percent were either lost (shrinkage and loss) or used on farms where grown (seed, home use, and livestock feed).

Processors used 246 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2005 crop, down five percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 120 million cwt, eight percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.3 million cwt are down three percent from 2004. Sales for livestock feed, at 2.0 million cwt, are up three percent from a year earlier. Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 51.0 million cwt in 2005, up two percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 148 million cwt of raw potatoes, down four percent. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 42.3 million cwt, 13 percent below 2004. Canning use, at 3.05 million cwt, fell 20 percent. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 1.58 million cwt of potatoes, three percent above the previous year. Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 28.5 million cwt for 2005, down 24 percent from 2004. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.19 million cwt, one percent below the previous season. Growers kept 3.60 million cwt for seed on their own farms, virtually unchanged from a year earlier.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during August 2006 totaled 213 million pounds, a decrease of four percent from August 2005. There were an estimated 141,000 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 1,510 pounds, a decrease of 40 pounds per cow from August 2005, and decreased 30 pounds from July 2006.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in August 2006 averaged 6.7 million birds. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 94 million eggs during August 2006. Connecticut layers produced 65 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

The total number of layers in the **United States** during August 2006 averaged 341 million, up 0.5 percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.64 billion eggs during August 2006, an increase of 1.4 percent from a year earlier.

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	56.2	310	275	19,065	15,455
Massachusetts	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	320	260	800	624
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290	210	145	105
United States Fall Crop	1,039.7	967.7	1,022.3	949.0	401	403	410,253	382,743
United States All Seasons	1,193.3	1,109.1	1,166.9	1,086.9	391	390	456,041	423,926

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 21, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production, Disposition, Price, and Value, 2005 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	15,455	1,274	242	1,183	14,030	8.25	127,504	115,748
Massachusetts	624	71	4	8	612	8.80	5,491	5,386
Rhode Island	105	12	—	2	103	8.50	893	876
United States Fall Crop	382,743	22,338	4,545	27,115	351,083	6.53	2,504,612	2,290,850
United States All Seasons	423,926	25,628	4,791	28,519	390,616	7.06	2,991,495	2,758,275

^{1/} Seed used to plant 2006 crop acreage.

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 21, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Stocks Held By Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors, 13 Fall States 2005 Crop ^{1/2/}

State	December 1 2005	January 1 2006	February 1 2006	March 1 2006	April 1 2006	May 1 2006	June 1 2006
	1,000 Cwt						
California	1,600	1,300	1,100	900	700	400	260
Colorado	17,200	15,000	12,900	11,200	8,800	5,700	3,300
Idaho	85,000	75,500	66,000	56,000	43,500	31,000	18,500
Maine	12,500	11,200	9,700	8,400	6,500	4,300	2,500
Michigan	7,900	6,200	4,500	3,100	1,700	500	—
Minnesota	13,500	11,100	9,000	7,100	4,500	2,700	2,000
Montana	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,200	1,900	—	—
Nebraska	5,600	4,700	3,900	3,300	2,200	1,200	—
New York	2,900	2,200	1,700	1,200	500	—	—
North Dakota	14,000	11,500	9,400	7,200	5,300	3,200	1,300
Oregon	19,000	16,500	14,500	11,500	8,500	5,000	2,300
Washington	52,500	46,500	40,500	32,500	25,000	17,500	9,400
Wisconsin	18,700	15,500	12,600	9,900	6,600	3,900	1,300
Other States ^{3/}	—	—	—	—	—	500	700
Total 13 States ^{4/}	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560

^{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.

^{4/} 13 fall storage states for 2005, Ohio and Pennsylvania stock estimates discontinued in 2005.

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 21, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows ^{1/}			Production per Cow			Production ^{2/}		
	August 2005	July 2006	August 2006	August 2005	July 2006	August 2006	August 2005	July 2006	August 2006
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	143	141	141	1,550	1,540	1,510	222	217	213
New York	647	647	643	1,600	1,605	1,605	1,035	1,038	1,032
Pennsylvania	562	555	554	1,575	1,600	1,580	885	888	875
UNITED STATES ^{3/}	8,162	8,259	8,250	1,671	1,686	1,680	13,640	13,925	13,861

^{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., September 18, 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	12.70					

^{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., August 31, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

Product	July 2005	June 2006	July 2006	July 2006 as percent of:	
				July 2005	June 2006
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	1,364	2,564	1,364	100	53
American Type Cheese ^{1/}	5,865	5,192	6,697	114	129
Mozzarella Cheese	5,294	5,292	5,565	105	105
Other Italian Cheese ^{2/}	1,037	1,138	916	88	80
Cottage Cheese ^{3/}	561	599	581	104	97
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	10,138	7,486	8,690	86	116
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,503	1,070	1,291	86	121
Milk Sherbet, Hard	330	183	303	92	166

^{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., September 1, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, August 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/}	
	August 2005	August 2006	August 2005	August 2006	August 2005	August 2006	August 2005	August 2006
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,854	2,606	2,911	2,665	2,473	2,493	72	65
Maine	4,227	3,960	4,287	4,026	2,169	2,335	93	94
UNITED STATES	275,065	278,488	339,351	341,007	2,218	2,239	7,528	7,635

^{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 22, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.



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You are Our Best Data Source: The primary sources of information for NASS reports are those who know the most – farmers and other agribusiness operators – who also put the estimates to practical use. NASS relies on voluntary survey responses to supply most of our data. Without this cooperation, a workable and meaningful estimating program would not be possible. NASS survey information is gathered in several ways; mail surveys, telephone interviews, face-to-face interviews, and field observations. Our success is the direct result of operators' recognition of the importance our survey results and confidence in the confidential treatment NASS affords all data on individual operations.

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Gary R. Keough, Director

Alexander I. Slosman, Editorial Assistant

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director

Statisticians: Travis Averill, Angela Considine, Robin Helrich

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
53 PLEASANT STREET
CONCORD, NH 03301

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