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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, internet, telephone, or personal interviews.

In This Issue: **Tobacco Revised Forecast:** Acreage, Yield, and Production **Milk:** Number of Cows and Production and Prices Received
Monthly Dairy Products: New England Production **Monthly Chickens:** Layers and Egg Production
Potatoes: Production, Percent Planted by Variety, Stocks, and Production, Disposition, Price, and Value

TOBACCO

The September 1, 2008 tobacco forecast placed broadleaf production at 3.6 million pounds in the Connecticut River Valley, a reduction of 34 percent from the previous year. No blue mold had been reported in the area, however, extreme weather conditions plagued growers throughout the growing season. Hail, high winds and heavy rains decimated many fields in both states. Late August and early September saw more favorable dry weather and warmer temperatures, which aided harvest.

By late August Massachusetts and Connecticut growers had close to 90 percent of the tobacco curing in barns. Early September broadleaf assessments were made and growers reported an expected marketed yield of 1,616 pounds per acre. Based on early September projections, shade production was expected to total 1.6 million pounds in the two states, 11 percent below previous year, due to poor weather conditions throughout the season.

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

Crop and State	Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of September 1	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of September 1	2006	2007	2008 Forecast as of September 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	1,450	969	1,450	1,305
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	1,424	1,231	1,736	1,552
UNITED STATES (All Types)	339,000	356,000	356,040	2,146	2,191	2,289	727,347	779,899	814,907

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 8:30 a.m., September 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in **Vermont** during August 2008 totaled 215 million pounds, an increase of one million pounds from August 2007. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during August, unchanged from the previous month,

and an increase of 1,000 head from the same month the previous year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,535 pounds, a decrease of 5 pounds per cow from August 2007 and 50 pounds from July 2008.

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

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow			Production		
	August 2007	July 2008	August 2008	August 2007	July 2008	August 2008	August 2007	July 2008	August 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	139	140	140	1,540	1,585	1,535	214	222	215
New York	625	626	626	1,640	1,690	1,690	1,025	1,058	1,058
Pennsylvania	550	546	548	1,610	1,630	1,590	886	890	871
UNITED STATES²	8,330	8,470	8,467	1,719	1,743	1,717	14,323	14,762	14,539

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., September 18, 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

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VERMONT MILK: 2003 – 2008 Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold 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	19.80					

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., August 29, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

Product	July 2007 ¹	June 2008 ¹	July 2008	July 2008 as percent of:	
				July 2007	June 2008
		1,000 Pounds		Percent	
Butter	1,174	1,689	1,135	97	67
American type Cheese ²	6,565	5,772	7,288	111	126
Mozzarella Cheese	3,729	3,599	3,102	83	86
Other Italian Cheese ³	590	230	327	55	142
Cottage Cheese ⁴	552	474	607	110	128
		1,000 Gallons		Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,816	7,105	7,387	95	104
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,243	669	639	51	96
Milk Sherbet, Hard	165	143	196	119	137

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., September 5, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

POTATOES

Revised 2007: Maine was the eighth largest producer of fall potatoes in the nation in 2007. The state's 2007 potato crop was finalized at 16.8 million cwt (hundredweight), six percent below 2006 output. Maine farmers harvested 57,000 acres in 2007, a reduction of 1,000 acres from the previous year. Although not matching the record high yields set in 2004 and 2006, quality was excellent. Sufficient shower activity and favorable temperatures resulted in rapid plant growth and good vitality. Above average temperatures in September helped offset growth delays in later planted fields, and yields averaged 295 cwt per acre. With sales at \$125.2 million, Maine ranked seventh in the nation based on the value of 2007 fall potato sales. The price received for Maine grown potatoes averaged \$7.90 per cwt, up \$0.10 per cwt from a year earlier and above the national fall potato average of \$7.51 per cwt.

Massachusetts potato farmers harvested 2,700 acres in 2007, a reduction of 400 acres from the previous year. Heavy yields offset fewer acres harvested and production weighed in at the highest level since 1995. Growers harvested 837,000 cwt of potatoes in 2007, up 13 percent from 2006 due to near record yields of 310 cwt per acre. The value of 2007 crop sales was placed at \$6.2 million, compared with \$7.4 million generated from sales of the 2006 crop. The price received for the 2007 crop of Massachusetts grown potatoes averaged \$7.50 per cwt, compared with \$10.10/cwt a year earlier.

Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 600 acres and yields averaged 300 cwt per acre in 2007. Growers received \$8.55/cwt on average for the 2007 crop, and value of sales just under \$1.5 million, the largest value of sales in the state since 1997.

United States fall potatoes are finalized at 447 million cwt for 2007, down 1 percent from the estimate in the January Crop Production 2007 Summary but 1 percent above the 2006 crop. Harvested area, at 1.13 million acres, increased 1 percent from 2006. The average yield of 396 cwt per acre is a record high, up 3 cwt from 2006, which had the previous record high. Starting in 2007, Florida's winter potato production was combined with their spring potatoes. Therefore, winter potatoes refer to only California in 2007. Winter potato production in 2007 is 2.47 million cwt, down 45 percent from 2006. Harvested area, at acres, is 35 percent

below 2006. The average yield for winter potatoes is 215 cwt per acre, down 42 cwt from 2006. Spring potato final production for 2007 is 19.8 million cwt, slightly above the previous year. Harvested acres, at 70,200 acres, increased 4 percent from 2006. The average yield for spring potatoes of 282 cwt per acre is down 11 cwt from 2006. Summer potato production is 17.0 million cwt for 2007, 6 percent lower than 2006. Harvested area, at 51,200 acres, is down 5 percent from 2006. The average yield of 332 cwt per acre is down 5 cwt from 2006. Fall potato production is finalized at 408 million cwt for 2007, 2 percent above the 2006 crop. Area harvested in 2007 is 996,800 acres, up 1 percent from the previous year. The average yield, at 409 cwt per acre, is a record high, 3 cwt above the previous record high set in 2006. The value of all potatoes sold in 2007, at \$3.11 billion, increased 5 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$7.51 per cwt, is up \$0.21 from 2006. The quantity of potatoes sold from the 2007 crop totaled 414 million cwt, up 2 percent from 2006. Sales account for 93 percent of 2007 production, up slightly from the previous year.

Processors used 278 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2007 crop, up 4 percent from 2006. Table stock sales totaled 112 million cwt, 2 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.3 million cwt are down 6 percent from 2006. Sales for livestock feed, at 1.23 million cwt, decreased 26 percent from a year earlier.

Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 53.6 million cwt in 2007, down 18 percent from the previous year. Frozen french fries and other frozen products utilized 168 million cwt of raw potatoes, which increased 12 percent from 2006. Potatoes used for dehydrating totaled 49.5 million cwt, 2 percent above 2006. Canning use, at 3.34 million cwt, is up 16 percent from the previous year. Starch, flour, and other products were made from 4.08 million cwt of potatoes, about 3 times more than in 2006.

Shrinkage and loss is estimated at 29.1 million cwt for 2007, 3 percent below 2006. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.12 million cwt, 9 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 2.99 million cwt for seed on their own farms, 15 percent lower than a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006 – 2008 ¹

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested			Yield per Acre			Production		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres						Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Maine	58.5	57.1	55.0	58.0	57.0	54.5	310	295	*	17,980	16,815	*
Massachusetts	3.1	2.7	2.6	3.1	2.7	2.6	240	310	*	744	837	*
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	260	300	*	130	180	*
United States Fall Crop	993.7	1,010.8	929.1	983.0	996.8	916.2	406	409	*	398,921	407,517	*
United States All Seasons	1,140.1	1,148.8	1,057.8	1,121.9	1,129.7	1,041.1	393	396	*	441,348	446,807	*

¹ 2007 crop revised.* The forecast of fall 2008 potato production will be published in **Crop Production** on November 10, 2008.SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 3:00 p.m., September 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production, Disposition, Price, and Value, 2007 Crop

State	Production	Total Used for Seed ¹	Disposition			Price per Cwt	Value of	
			On Farm Where Grown		Sold		Production ²	Sales
			Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss				
	1,000 Cwt			Dollars			1,000 Dollars	
Maine	16,815	1,172	195	800	15,820	7.90	133,092	125,216
Massachusetts	837	60	—	12	825	7.50	6,278	6,188
Rhode Island	180	12	—	5	175	8.55	1,539	1,496
United States Fall Crop	407,517	21,547	3,899	27,796	375,823	7.05	2,879,247	2,649,705
United States All Seasons	446,807	24,512	4,104	29,096	413,609	7.51	3,361,002	3,114,963

¹ Seed used to plant 2007 crop acreage.² May not calculate due to rounding.SOURCE: **Potatoes**, 3:00 p.m., September 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety and Type, 2003 – 2008

Variety and Type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 ¹	2008
By Variety:	Percent					
Russet Burbank	33.2	36.7	42.5	42.5	39.1	42.6
Frito-Lay, All	11.9	11.5	17.1	17.1	18.9	13.8
Shepody	9.8	9.3	7.2	5.2	4.6	4.6
Russet Norkotah	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.1	2.6	4.2
Norland	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.0
Yukon Gold	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.7
Goldrush	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	3.7
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.8	3.6
Superior	6.1	3.0	3.4	4.5	5.0	3.5
Ontario	8.3	5.5	2.8	2.9	2.0	2.6
Katahdin	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.4
Reba(NY87)	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.5	2.2
Atlantic	3.5	3.0	3.5	1.5	2.0	1.4
Red LaSoda ²	—	—	—	—	—	1.0
Andover	*	*	*	1.0	*	*
Centennial Russet	*	1.2	*	*	*	*
Chieftain	1.4	1.3	*	*	*	*
Mainstay	*	1.0	*	*	*	*
Monona	*	1.7	1.0	1.9	1.9	*
Snowden	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.8	*
Other Varieties	7.1	6.4	4.7	5.3	5.3	6.7
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:						
Russets	40.0	43.5	47.0	45.8	44.8	53.0
Whites (Long and Round)	56.0	51.0	49.5	50.6	46.2	40.0
Yellows ³	—	—	—	—	5.4	3.0
Reds	4.0	5.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	4.0
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Revised.² Not available prior to September 2008.³ Not available prior to 2007.

* Included with other varieties.

SOURCE: **Crop Production**, 3:00 p.m., September 12, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Stocks Held By Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors, 13 Fall States 2007 Crop ^{1 2}

State	December 1 2007	January 1 2008	February 1 2008	March 1 2008	April 1 2008	May 1 2008	June 1 2008
	1,000 Cwt						
California	2,000	1,600	1,400	1,100	600	460	300
Colorado	15,200	13,200	11,200	9,500	7,500	4,500	2,500
Idaho	92,000	82,000	71,500	60,500	49,000	35,000	23,000
Maine	12,900	11,400	9,700	8,000	6,400	4,300	2,500
Michigan	8,800	7,000	5,300	3,700	2,100	800	*
Minnesota	13,400	11,600	9,900	8,200	6,200	4,300	2,400
Montana	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,100	2,100	*	*
Nebraska	5,300	4,500	3,700	3,000	2,000	1,000	*
New York	2,900	2,100	1,600	1,200	500	*	—
North Dakota	14,500	12,500	10,000	8,000	6,000	4,200	2,800
Oregon	18,000	16,100	13,900	11,600	9,200	6,400	4,200
Washington	59,000	52,000	45,000	37,000	29,000	20,500	12,500
Wisconsin	20,000	16,700	13,900	10,100	6,400	3,100	1,000
Other States	—	—	—	—	—	900	720
Total 13 States	267,500	234,100	200,500	165,000	127,000	85,460	51,920
Klamath Basin ³	4,200	3,400	2,700	2,050	1,150	570	D

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 Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County, OR.

* Combined into 'Other States' to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

D Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION

Connecticut and **Maine** layer inventories in August 2008 totaled 6.7 million birds, up three percent from the combined total in August 2007. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, laying 81 million eggs in August 2008. Connecticut layers produced 66 million eggs.

The **United States** layer inventory during August 2008 totaled 335 million, down 1.6 percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.55 billion eggs during August 2008, a decrease of 0.6 percent from August 2007.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, August 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	
	August 2007	August 2008	August 2007	August 2008	August 2007	August 2008	August 2007	August 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,653	2,862	2,708	2,920	2,437	2,260	66	66
Maine	3,712	3,691	3,786	3,763	2,272	2,153	86	81
UNITED STATES	276,292	272,258	340,651	335,060	2,229	2,252	7,594	7,547

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, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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