



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

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

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Maine Wild Blueberries January 2005

January 27, 2005

A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine Wild Blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing wild blueberry surveys during 2004.

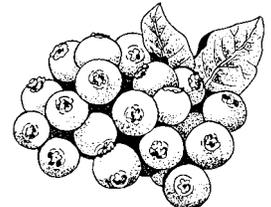
LOWEST WILD BLUEBERRY PRODUCTION IN MAINE IN OVER TEN YEARS

MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY CROP: Maine's 2004 wild blueberry crop totaled 46 million pounds, a decrease of 43 percent from the 2003 output, 26 percent below 2002 production and the lowest output in the state since 1991.

The price for processing berries in 2004 is expected to average 40 cents per pound, an increase of seven cents from 2003, resulting in a total processing value of \$18.3 million.

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY CROP: According to Extension Blueberry Specialist David Yarborough, "The major contributing factor to Maine's crop reduction was extensive winter kill to the blueberry stems caused by the absence of snow cover and excessively cold winter conditions. The wet spring limited the ability of bees to pollinate and provided ideal conditions for infection and blight by the mummy berry fungus. Rain fall in August was above normal and increased what little crop we had. Without this rain, the crop reduction would have been much greater."

"Canadian wild blueberry production saw their second largest crop at 114.2 million pounds, which was just below their all-time high in 2003 at 120.8 million pounds. Quebec had an estimated 45 million pounds, which was slightly above their 31.6 million pound average and is tied for their second largest crop in 2002. Nova Scotia had the next largest crop at 41.2 million pounds, which was close to their 41.3 million pound 5-year average. New Brunswick reported 18.5 million pounds, which was also their second largest crop. Prince Edward Island had 8.5 million pounds, which was a record crop for the province; it is expected that this production will increase over time as the large number of new acres becomes more productive. Newfoundland was estimated at a one million pound crop, which was average. The major contributing factor of these large crops was the ample rainfall they received last fall and this year."



MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1994 - 2004

State and Year	Total Production 1,000 Lbs	All Price per Pound ^{1/} Cents	Total Value of Production ^{1/} 1,000 Dollars	Fresh Blueberries ^{2/}			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Dollars	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars	Production 1,000 Lbs	Price per Pound Cents	Value of Production 1,000 Dollars
Maine									
1994	59,495	30	17,744	350	--	--	59,145	30	17,744
1995	65,944	32	21,004	305	--	--	65,639	32	21,004
1996	59,198	57	33,590	268	--	--	58,930	57	33,590
1997	73,816	43	31,622	276	--	--	73,540	43	31,622
1998	62,981	46	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	46	28,806
1999	66,102	51	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	51	33,559
2000	110,990	40	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	40	44,228
2001	75,200	31	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	30	22,455
2002	62,400	29	17,860	400	1.25	500	62,000	28	17,360
2003	80,400	33	26,880	400	1.20	480	80,000	33	26,400
2004 ^{3/}	46,000	41	18,670	300	1.30	390	45,700	40	18,280

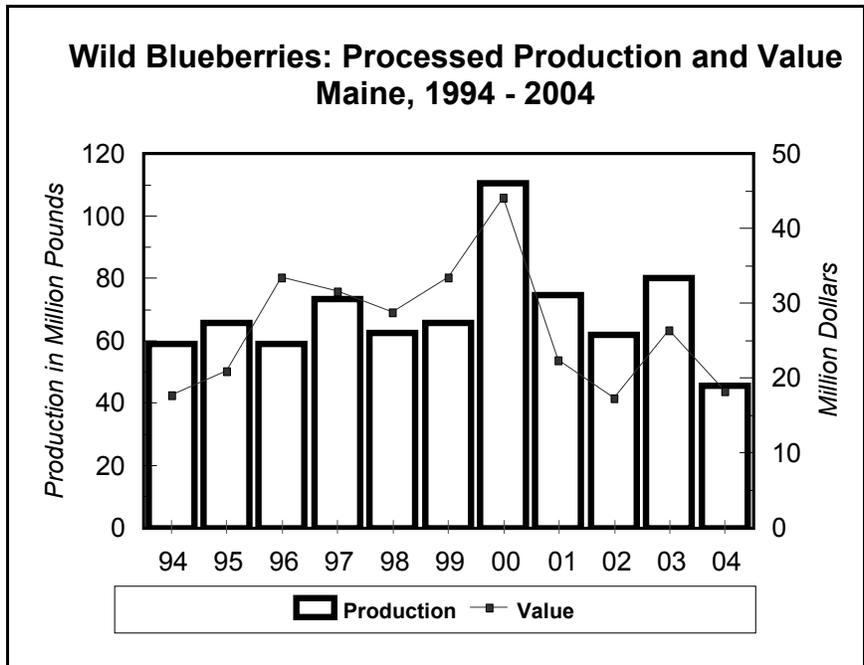
^{1/} All Price per Pound and Total Value of Production for 1994 - 1997 do not include fresh market blueberries.

^{2/} Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production are not available before 1998.

^{3/} Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production. Final price statistics to be published in July, 2005.

Source: **Non-Citrus Fruits and Nuts - Preliminary**, 3:00 p.m. January 25, 2005, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources as a service to growers and others in the industry. The next Wild Blueberry report will be published and available on the Internet in mid-July. It will contain the final price statistics for the 2004 crop and the production forecast for the 2005 crop.



AUBREY R. DAVIS , Director	<i>Judy Price</i> , Editorial Assistant AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN: John Miyares	GERALD TILLMAN , Deputy Director
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