



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

## New England Field Office

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## USDA TO PUBLISH MONTHLY POTATO STOCKS AND PRICES

Concord, NH – The 2008 potato harvest is coming to an end. Growers and processors will soon need potato stocks and price information to move the crop throughout the marketing year. That is why the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon be providing monthly information about potato stocks and prices.

“These are a couple of marketing tools that growers can use to make marketing decisions,” said Gary Keough, director of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) New England Field Office. “These reports allow all involved in the potato industry access to the same information. “

Starting in October, NASS began making monthly contacts with selected potato growers for information about the amount of potatoes they have in storage. Potato processors are also being contacted for information about the prices they paid for potatoes and how the potatoes were used.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. “NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified,” Keough said.

Data provided by growers will be compiled to provide information about potato stocks, processing, and disappearance in the 13 fall potato states. It will be available around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month in the **Potato Stocks Report** beginning on December 15, 2008 and continue through June 2009. Potato prices will be available in the **Agricultural Prices Report** beginning on October 31, 2008. These and all NASS reports are available on the agency’s web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS New England Field Office at 800-224-9639.