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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

**Potatoes:** Acreage, Production, Number By Variety and Price  
**Chickens:** Layers and Eggs

**Milk:** Production and Price  
**Dairy Products:** Butter, Cheese, Creams

**POTATOES:** 2007 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 16.5 million cwt (hundredweight), eight percent below 2006 output due to reductions in both acreage and yield. Maine farmers planted 57,100 acres, 1,400 fewer acres than the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed 2007 acres harvested at 57,000 acres, and yields at 290 cwt per acre. Although not matching the record high yields set in 2004 and 2006, quality going into storage was excellent.

Results from the 2007 Potato Objective Yield (POY) Survey placed the average number of hills per acre for all potato varieties planted in Maine at 11,519 hills per acre, down slightly from the 11,613 hills per acre seeded in 2006. On average, growers harvested 8.9 tubers per hill in 2007, compared with the 9.1 tubers per hill average in 2006. Survey results placed more potatoes in the US Number 1 category in 2007 than in earlier years for round whites. Round white varieties graded out at 89 percent US #1, compared with 78 percent in 2006 and the 5 year average of 81 percent. Long whites graded out at 59 percent US #1 in 2007, compared with 60 percent in 2006 and the five year average of 69 percent. Russets graded out at 70 percent US #1 in 2007, compared with 63 percent in 2006 and five year average of 69 percent. Lab counts began in 2007 for yellow varieties, which graded out at 82 percent US #1. Further results from the 2007 Objective Yield survey will be published on January 11, 2008 in the Maine Annual Potato Size and Grade Report.

Potato farmers in **Massachusetts** and **Rhode Island** began seeding the 2007 crop the last week in April and finished up the last week in May, ahead of last year and the previous 5-year average. Rainfall had tapered off towards the end of June, and conditions were getting dry as plants moved out of full bloom. Hot conditions persisted through much of July and August, with growers supplementing lack of shower activity with irrigation if available. Harvest was underway in mid-August, with the last of the acreage expected to be dug by mid-November. Based on early December assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 2,700 acres and yields averaged 295 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 600 acres and yields were expected to average 300 cwt per acre.

**POTATO STOCKS:** **Maine** potato stocks on hand for December 1, 2007 totaled 12.7 million cwt, 12 percent below 2006's December 1 holdings. Disappearance to December 1, 2007 totaled 3.8 million cwt, compared with 3.6 million cwt a year earlier. Maine's processing usage (excluding chips)

was down three percentage points from last year's unusually high usage. Storage accounted for 77 percent of Maine's total production, below last year's 80 percent and the previous five-year average of 79 percent. Of the Maine stocks on hand the first of December, 52 percent were russets, 42 percent were round white varieties, three percent were reds and one percent were long whites.

The 13 major potato States held 270 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2007, up four percent from last year and six percent above December 1, 2005. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up one percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.20 million cwt on December 1, 2007, up five percent from last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks. Potato disappearance, at 130 million cwt, is virtually unchanged from last year but up eight percent from 2005. Season to date shrink and loss, at 13.9 million cwt, is up five percent from 2006 and nine percent above two years ago. Processors in the nine major States have used 72.0 million cwt of potatoes this season, down three percent from a year ago but ten percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year but seven percent above the same date in 2005.

**MILK PRODUCTION:** Milk production in **Vermont** during November 2007 totaled 205 million pounds, an increase of 1.5 percent from November 2006. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during November, unchanged from both the previous month and November 2006. Milk production per cow during November averaged 1,465 pounds, which increased 20 pounds per cow from November 2006.

**LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION:** **Connecticut** and **Maine** total layer inventories in November 2007 averaged 6.8 million birds. Maine was the leading producer of eggs in New England, with an output of 83 million eggs during November 2007. Connecticut layers produced 68 million eggs from all layers during the same month.

**United States** egg production totaled 7.51 billion during November 2007, down 1 percent from last year. The total number of layers during November 2007 averaged 343 million, down 1 percent from last year. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,190 eggs, up 1 percent from November 2006.

## FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2006 – 2007

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
Maine	58.5	57.1	58.0	57.0	310	290	17,980	16,530
Massachusetts	3.1	2.7	3.1	2.7	240	295	744	797
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	260	300	130	180
<b>UNITED STATES FALL CROP</b>	<b>993.7</b>	<b>1,010.8</b>	<b>983.0</b>	<b>997.6</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>398,921</b>	<b>409,221</b>
<b>UNITED STATES ALL SEASONS</b>	<b>1,140.1</b>	<b>1,149.1</b>	<b>1,121.9</b>	<b>1,129.8</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>441,348</b>	<b>448,866</b>

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 14, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Production and December 1 Stocks, 2006 – 2007<sup>1</sup>

State	2006 Crop			2007 Crop		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2006	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2007	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,870	1,800	47	4,223	2,000	47
Colorado	22,686	17,200	76	20,981	15,200	72
Idaho	128,915	90,000	70	131,650	94,000	71
<b>Maine</b>	<b>17,980</b>	<b>14,400</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>16,530</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>77</b>
Michigan	14,190	8,100	57	14,700	9,500	65
Minnesota	20,400	13,300	65	20,680	13,500	65
Montana	3,518	3,300	94	3,696	3,600	97
Nebraska	8,730	5,800	66	7,800	5,200	67
New York	5,700	3,000	53	5,216	2,800	54
North Dakota	25,480	17,300	68	23,660	14,500	61
Oregon	18,533	16,000	86	20,238	18,000	89
Washington	89,900	49,000	55	102,300	60,000	59
Wisconsin	29,370	20,100	68	28,160	19,000	67
<b>13 STATES</b>	<b>389,272</b>	<b>259,300</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>399,834</b>	<b>270,000</b>	<b>68</b>
Klamath Basin <sup>2</sup>		4,000			4,200	

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2007 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates began in 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath County OR.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 14, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

FALL POTATOES: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2006 – 2007<sup>1 2</sup>

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites <sup>3</sup>		Russets		Yellows <sup>4</sup>	
		Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Average Number Hills per Acre
Idaho	2006	6	13,811	4	12,019	276	12,480		
	2007	3	17,356	8	14,131	264	12,134	4	13,626
<b>Maine</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14,532</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>12,689</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10,208</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12,874</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>13,098</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9,629</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13,418</b>
Minnesota	2006	36	12,331	10	12,158	84	12,498		
	2007	43	12,936	5	11,070	82	12,293		
North Dakota	2006	21	11,257	42	10,511	78	11,977		
	2007	29	10,741	23	11,367	81	12,105		
Oregon	2006			21	14,496	95	13,239		
	2007			25	14,051	91	12,409	3	13,042
Washington	2006	13	16,358	27	13,801	151	14,409		
	2007	6	16,271	18	14,292	154	15,087		
Wisconsin	2006	13	15,372	36	14,717	73	12,973		
	2007	11	14,950	34	13,823	77	12,875		

<sup>1</sup> Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

<sup>2</sup> Missing data represents insufficient number of samples.

<sup>3</sup> Includes long white and round white varieties.

<sup>4</sup> Field counts began in 2007.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 14, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade by Type, 2002 – 2007<sup>1</sup>**

Grade	Round Whites						Long Whites						Russets					Yellows <sup>2</sup>	
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Percent																			
No. 1 2 Inch Minimum <sup>3</sup>	83	77	85	83	78	89	73	62	69	81	60	59	77	61	70	74	63	70	82
No. 2 or Processing Usable 1 1/2 Inch Minimum <sup>4</sup>	11	11	8	8	10	9	19	19	11	11	17	24	16	22	13	16	21	18	12
Cull <sup>5</sup>	6	12	7	9	12	2	8	19	20	8	23	17	7	17	17	10	16	12	6

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.

<sup>2</sup> Lab counts began in 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>4</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>5</sup> Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., December 14, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2003 – 2007 Crop Years  
Prices Received by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average<sup>1</sup>**

Crop Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Market Year Average
Dollars per Cwt												
2003	6.00	5.25	5.45	5.85	5.70	5.80	5.70	6.10	6.30	6.75	7.05	6.05
2004	5.90	5.15	5.65	6.15	6.35	5.90	6.55	6.60	6.95	7.30	7.40	6.50
2005	*	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25
2006	*	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.40	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.80
2007	*	6.10	6.25	6.95								

<sup>1</sup> Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

\* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MONTHLY MILK: Number of Cows and Production, November 2007 with Comparisons**

State	Milk Cows <sup>1</sup>			Production per Cow <sup>2</sup>			Production <sup>2</sup>				
	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007	November 2006	October 2007	November 2007		
1,000 Head											
Vermont	140	140	140	Pounds						Million Pounds	
New York	626	626	626	1,445	1,510	1,465	202	211	205		
Pennsylvania	550	551	550	1,515	1,630	1,575	948	1,020	986		
<b>UNITED STATES<sup>3</sup></b>	8,260	8,353	8,361	1,560	1,610	1,580	858	887	869		
	8,260	8,353	8,361	1,614	1,699	1,654	13,332	14,190	13,833		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

<sup>3</sup> 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., December 18, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**VERMONT MILK: 2002 – 2007 Prices Received by Farmers for Milk Sold<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Price per Cwt													
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	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 <sup>2</sup>	15.60	15.80	16.70	17.60	19.00	21.00	23.20	23.40	23.60	23.20	23.10		

<sup>1</sup> Prices include quality, quantity, and other premiums; excludes deductions for hauling and hauling subsidies.

<sup>2</sup> Most recent monthly price is a preliminary mid-month forecast.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., November 30, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, November 2006 – 2007**

State	Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 and Above		All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup>		Egg Production from All Layers <sup>1</sup>	
	November 2006	November 2007	November 2006	November 2007	November 2006	November 2007	November 2006	November 2007
1,000 Birds								
Connecticut	2,836	2,846	2,897	2,902	Number			
Maine	3,844	3,813	3,913	3,887	2,416	2,309	Million Eggs	
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	284,089	278,246	346,936	342,905	2,176	2,190	7,678	7,699

<sup>1</sup> 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., December 21, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

## MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, October 2007 with Comparisons

Product	October 2006 <sup>1</sup>	September 2007 <sup>1</sup>	October 2007	October 2007 as percent of:	
				October 2006	September 2007
		1,000 Pounds		Percent	
American Type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	1,268	1,238	1,396	110	113
Mozzarella Cheese	6,822	5,848	7,066	104	121
Other Italian Cheese <sup>3</sup>	3,429	2,327	2,676	78	115
Cottage Cheese <sup>4</sup>	445	540	367	82	68
	555	509	658	119	129
		1,000 Gallons		Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard		6,807	6,260	89	92
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	7,035				
Milk Sherbet, Hard	1,021	932	1,337	131	143
American Type Cheese <sup>2</sup>	210	121	187	89	155

<sup>1</sup> Revised.<sup>2</sup> American type cheese includes Cheddar, Colby, Monterey, and Jack.<sup>3</sup> Includes all Italian cheese except Mozzarella.<sup>4</sup> Creamed and low fat.SOURCE of NATIONAL PRODUCTION: *Dairy Products*, 3:00 p.m., December 3, 2007, 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](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)

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