

Agricultural Review

March 26, 2008

Volume: 28, Issue 3

March 2008

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



NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



53 Pleasant Street
Room 2100
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

nass-nh@nass.usda.gov

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

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, and Prices Received
Chickens: Inventory, Value, Layers and Eggs
Dairy Products: Butter, Cheese, Ice Cream

Milk: Prices Received, Number of Cows, Production and Price
Bee and Honey: Colonies, Yield, Production, Value, and Stocks

POTATO STOCKS: Maine potato stocks on hand March 1, 2008, totaled 8.0 million hundredweight (cwt), 18 percent below March 1, 2007 holdings. Disappearance to March 1 in the state totaled 8.5 million cwt, compared with 8.2 million cwt moved a year earlier. Storage on March 1 accounted for 48 percent of Maine's total production, compared with last year's 55 percent and the previous five-year average of 51 percent.

The 13 major potato states held 172 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2008, up eight percent from last year and ten percent above March 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the 2007 fall storage states' production, up two percentage points from last year. Potato disappearance, at 228 million cwt, was down one percent from last year but up four percent from 2006. Season to date shrink and loss, at 9.7 million cwt, was down three percent from the same date in 2007 but seven percent above 2006. Processors in the nine major states have used 123 million cwt of potatoes this season, down three percent from the same time last year but eight percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 25.2 million cwt of the total processing, down ten percent from last year but 11 percent above the same date in 2006.

HONEY: Honey production from Maine and Vermont producers with five or more colonies totaled 554,000 pounds in 2007, a reduction of six percent from 2006. Yields from Maine's and Vermont's 14,000 colonies producing honey averaged 45 pounds in 2007, compared with 40 pounds a year earlier. Total value of production for the two states totaled \$728,000, down ten percent from the previous year. Nationwide, 2007 honey production totaled 148.5 million pounds, a decline of four percent from the previous year.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in Vermont during February 2008 totaled 210 million pounds, an increase of 8 percent from February 2007. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during February, unchanged from January. Milk production per cow averaged 1,500 pounds during the month.

Milk production in the 23 major milk-producing states during February 2008 totaled 13.9 billion pounds compared with 13.1 billion pounds during the same month the previous year. The number of milk cows on farms totaled 8.4 million head and milk production per cow averaged 1,653 pounds during February 2008.



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

With planting season just around the corner, New England farmers still have a chance to sow a seed for their future by standing up and being counted in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. There is still time to be counted. So before you jump back on that tractor, take a moment to complete and return your Census.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, March 1, 2007 – 2008 ¹

State	2006 Crop			2007 Crop		
	Production	Stocks March 1, 2007	Stocks as Percentage of Production	Production	Stocks March 1, 2008	Stocks as Percentage of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
California	3,870	1,200	31	4,223	1,100	26
Colorado	22,686	11,300	50	20,981	9,500	45
Idaho	128,915	59,500	46	131,650	63,000	48
Maine	17,980	9,800	55	16,530	8,000	48
Michigan	14,190	3,300	23	14,700	4,600	31
Minnesota	20,400	8,300	41	20,680	8,500	41
Montana	3,518	3,100	88	3,696	3,300	89
Nebraska	8,730	3,400	39	8,051	3,000	37
New York	5,700	1,000	18	5,216	700	13
North Dakota	25,480	9,900	39	23,660	8,000	34
Oregon	18,533	9,700	52	20,238	11,600	57
Washington	89,900	28,500	32	102,300	40,000	39
Wisconsin	29,370	10,700	36	28,160	10,500	37
13 STATES	389,272	159,700	41	400,085	171,800	43
Klamath Basin ²		2,200			2,050	

¹ 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.

² Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., March 14, 2008, 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 ¹

Crop Year	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	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	*	6.20 ²	6.30 ²	7.20	7.35 ²	7.45	7.55					7.50 ³

¹ Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.

² Revised.

³ Preliminary.

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

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., February 29, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

POTATOES: Shrinkage and Loss,
13 Fall Storage States, 2004 – 2007

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Season
	Million Cwt							
2004 ¹	15.5	19.1	22.0	24.8	27.3	29.7	32.5	35.4
2005	12.7	15.0	16.8	18.4	20.2	22.0	23.7	26.4
2006	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5	27.8
2007	13.9	16.0	18.0	19.7				

¹ 15 fall storage states.

SOURCE: *Potato Stocks*, 3:00 p.m., March 14, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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	15.60	15.80	16.70	17.60	19.00	21.00	23.20	23.40	23.60	23.20	23.60	23.00	*
2008 ²	22.20	21.10											

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.

* 2007 Annual average will be available in April 2008.

SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., February 29, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow			Production ²		
	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008	February 2007	January 2008	February 2008
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	140	140	1,385	1,585	1,500	194	222	210
New York	628	626	626	1,480	1,660	1,590	929	1,039	995
Pennsylvania	548	552	551	1,500	1,630	1,530	822	900	843
UNITED STATES ³	8,286	8,413	8,422	1,584	1,746	1,653	13,125	14,688	13,919

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., March 17, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, February 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	
	February 2007	February 2008	February 2007	February 2008	February 2007	February 2008	February 2007	February 2008
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,807	2,756	2,867	2,813	2,197	2,133	60	63
Maine	3,955	4,147	4,017	4,215	1,917	2,135	77	90
UNITED STATES	283,763	277,480	348,843	343,366	1,993	2,075	6,951	7,125

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., March 24, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

BEE and HONEY: Colonies, Yield, Production, Value, and Stocks 2006 – 2007 ¹

State	Honey Producing Colonies		Yield per Colony		Production		Average Price per Pound ²		Value of Production		Stocks ³ as of December 15	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		Cents		1,000 Dollars		1,000 Pounds	
Maine	11	9	23	26	253	234	161	139	407	325	86	59
Vermont	6	5	56	64	336	320	120	126	403	403	144	96
Other States ⁴	18	18	44	49	787	873	252	253	1,983	2,209	294	271
United States	2,393	2,442	64.7	60.8	154,907	148,482	103.6	103.2	160,484	153,233	60,548	52,484

¹ For producers with five or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.

² Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

³ Stocks held by producers.

⁴ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC are combined and published as "Other States" to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

SOURCE: *Honey*, 3:00 p.m., February 29, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: NEW ENGLAND Production, January 2008 with Comparisons

Product	January 2007 ¹	December 2007 ¹	January 2008	January 2008 as percent of:	
				January 2007	December 2007
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	3,371	1,424	3,511	104	247
American Type Cheese ²	7,491	6,349	7,457	100	117
Mozzarella Cheese	3,195	3,062	3,885	122	127
Other Italian Cheese ³	398	438	496	125	113
Cottage Cheese ⁴	525	397	591	113	149
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	8,408	4,822	6,739	80	140
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	1,204	504	1,070	89	212
Milk Sherbet, Hard	190	72	78	41	108

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., March 3, 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

All national reports and state newsletters are available on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. These reports are also available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS home page at <http://www.nass.usda.gov> locate the syndication section at the bottom of the right hand column, under receive reports by E-mail, click national or state, then follow the instructions on the screen.

Gary R. Keough, Director

Statisticians: Robin Helrich, Lorie Warren

Alexander I. Slosman, Office Automation**Gerald D. Tillman**, Deputy Director

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
53 PLEASANT STREET ROOM 2100
CONCORD, NH 03301
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED