

Agricultural Review

November 2007



USDA NASS
NEW ENGLAND
Agricultural
Statistics



Room 2100
53 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Released: November 29, 2007

Volume: 27, Issue 11

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

Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

www.nass.usda.gov

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

Potatoes: Acreage, Production, Acreage By Variety and Price

Milk: Production and Price

Dairy Products: Butter, Cheese, Creams

Chickens: Layers and Eggs

Farm Labor: Workers, Hours, and Wages

POTATOES: 2007 potato production in **Maine** is estimated at 16.8 million cwt (hundredweight), six 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. Cool, wet soil conditions forced growers to hold off planting until mid-May this season. Planting had advanced to 20 percent by the week ending May 20, behind last year's 60 percent planted and normal of 30 percent. Emergence was initially stalled by cool soil temperatures, but by mid-June half the plants had broken ground compared with 80 percent emerged in 2006 and 45 percent normal. Sufficient shower activity and favorable temperatures persisted into August, causing rapid plant growth and good vitality at most locations. Above average temperatures in September helped offset growth delays in later planted fields. Farmers had the crop dug by mid-October, with long stretches of dry weather allowing a smooth and steady harvest. The November 1 forecast placed 2007 acres harvested at 57,000 acres, and yields at 295 cwt per acre. Although not matching the record high yields set in 2004 and 2006, quality going into storage was excellent. Final acres harvested estimates will be available December 14, 2007 in the Potato Stocks Release, when end of season reports are tabulated.

Results from the 2007 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed Russet Burbank as the leading variety seeded in Maine, comprising 39.1 percent of the total acres planted. Frito-Lay varieties comprised 18.9 percent of the total acreage, followed by Superiors with 5.0 percent and Shepodys at 4.6 percent. Yellow varieties were published as a separate type for the first time in 2007, comprising 5.4 percent of planted acreage. Yukon Golds and Norwis are the leading yellow varieties planted in Maine. The percentage of white varieties planted totaled 46.2 percent. Fewer russets were planted in Maine in 2007 than a year earlier; red acreage remained unchanged from 2006.

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 November 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 285 cwt per acre.

LAYER AND EGG PRODUCTION: Connecticut and Maine **layer** inventories in October 2007 totaled 6.6 million birds, up 1.3 percent from the combined total in October 2006. Maine is the leading producer of eggs in New England, laying 83 million eggs in October 2007. Connecticut layers produced 68 million eggs.

The **United States** layer inventory during October 2007 totaled 277 million, down two percent from a year earlier. United States egg production totaled 7.70 billion eggs during October 2007, an increase of 0.2 percent from October 2006.

MILK PRODUCTION: Milk production in **Vermont** during October 2007 totaled 211 million pounds, an increase of 1.4 percent from October 2006. There were an estimated 140,000 milk cows on Vermont farms during October, unchanged from September 2007. Milk production per cow during October averaged 1,510 pounds, an increase of 25 pounds per cow (1.7 percent) from October 2006.

LABOR: There were 34,000 hired workers on farms in the Northeast 1 region during the week of October 7 - 13, 2007. This represents an 8 percent drop from a year earlier when there were 37,000 hired workers. Nationally, 806,000 workers were hired by farm operators during the same October time period, compared to 800,000 hired workers during 2006.

Hired workers earned an average hourly wage of \$10.35 during the survey week, up 15 cents from October 2006. Across the United States hired workers were paid an average of \$10.33 per hour, compared with \$9.96 one year ago. Hired workers worked an average of 39.8 hours in the Northeast 1 region compared with 42.1 hours worked nationwide during the survey week. Quarterly farm labor statistics for the **Northeast 1 region** consist of the six New England States and New York.

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	295	17,980	16,815
Massachusetts	3.1	2.7	3.1	2.7	240	295	744	797
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	260	285	130	171
UNITED STATES FALL CROP	993.7	1,010.8	983.0	997.8	406	409	398,921	408,325
UNITED STATES ALL SEASONS	1,140.1	1,149.1	1,121.9	1,130.0	393	396	441,348	447,970

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 9, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2003 – 2007 Crop Years
Prices Received ¹ by Farmers for All Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average

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	– ²	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25
2006	– ²	6.25	6.50	8.15	8.25	8.40	7.90	7.60	8.15	8.20	8.05	7.80
2007	– ²	6.10	6.35									

¹ Average price of potatoes sold for fresh market, processing, seed, and feed.² Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.SOURCE: *Agricultural Prices*, 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2002 – 2007

Variety and Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
By Variety:	Percent					
Russet Burbank	36.4	33.2	36.7	42.5	42.5	39.1
Frito-Lay, All	10.9	11.9	11.5	17.1	17.1	18.9
Superior	7.2	6.1	3.0	3.4	4.5	5.0
Shepody	9.2	9.8	9.3	7.2	5.2	4.6
Snowden	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.8
Yukon Gold	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.3
Goldrush	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.0	2.8
Katahdin	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.1	2.8
Russet Norkotah	4.7	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.1	2.6
Norland	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.6
Atlantic	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.5	1.5	2.0
Ontario	9.7	8.3	5.5	2.8	2.9	2.0
Monona	– ¹	– ¹	1.7	1.0	1.9	1.9
Norwis	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.8
Reba (NY87)	– ¹	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.5
Andover	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹	1.0	– ¹
Mainstay	– ¹	– ¹	1.0	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹
Chieftain	1.8	1.4	1.3	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹
Centennial Russet	– ¹	– ¹	1.2	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹
Other Varieties	7.4	7.1	6.4	4.7	5.3	5.3
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:						
Whites (Long and Round)	53.0	56.0	51.0	49.5	50.6	46.2
Russets	43.0	40.0	43.5	47.0	45.8	44.8
Yellows ²	–	–	–	–	–	5.4
Reds	4.0	4.0	5.5	3.5	3.6	3.6
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ Included with other varieties.² Not available prior to November 2007.SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 9, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

MONTHLY CHICKENS: Layers and Egg Production, October 2006 – 2007

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	
	October 2006	October 2007	October 2006	October 2007	October 2006	October 2007	October 2006	October 2007
	1,000 Birds				Number		Million Eggs	
Connecticut	2,665	2,849	2,725	2,904	2,422	2,342	66	68
Maine	3,897	3,797	3,967	3,876	2,117	2,141	84	83
UNITED STATES	282,245	276,668	344,538	341,490	2,228	2,253	7,678	7,695

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., November 20, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

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

State	Milk Cows ¹			Production per Cow			Production ²		
	October 2006	September 2007	October 2007	October 2006	September 2007	October 2007	October 2006	September 2007	October 2007
	1,000 Head			Pounds			Million Pounds		
Vermont	140	140	140	1,485	1,465	1,510	208	205	211
New York	630	626	626	1,550	1,570	1,630	977	983	1,020
Pennsylvania	552	550	551	1,600	1,550	1,610	883	853	887
UNITED STATES ³	8,255	8,340	8,353	1,652	1,646	1,699	13,637	13,725	14,190

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., November 16, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

VERMONT MILK: 2002 – 2007 Prices Received ¹ by Farmers for Milk Sold

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 ²	15.60	15.80	16.70	17.60	19.00	21.00	23.20	23.40	23.60	23.50			

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., October 31, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Quarterly Farm Labor: Hired Workers on Farms and Hours Worked per Week
Northeast I and United States, October 2007 with Comparisons ¹

Region	Hired Workers on Farms			Hours Worked During the Week		
	Oct 8 – 14 2006	July 8 – 14 2007	Oct 7 – 13 2007	Oct 8 – 14 2006	July 8 – 14 2007	Oct 7 – 13 2007
	1,000 Workers			Hours per Week		
Northeast I ²	37	39	34	40.9	41.6	39.8
UNITED STATES ³	800 ⁴	843 ⁴	806	41.9 ⁴	41.4 ⁴	42.1

¹ Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers; excludes agricultural service workers.

² Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

³ United States excludes Alaska.

⁴ Revised.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 16, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Quarterly Farm Labor : Wage Rates for Hired Workers,
Northeast I and United States, October 2007 with Comparisons ¹

Northeast I ²	Oct 8 – 14 2006	July 8 – 14 2007	Oct 7 – 13 2007	United States ³	Oct 8 – 14 2006	July 8 – 14 2007	Oct 7 – 13 2007
	Dollars Per Hour				Dollars Per Hour		
All Hired Workers	10.20	10.00	10.35	All Hired Workers	9.96 ⁴	9.99 ⁴	10.33
Field	9.80	9.58	9.96	Field	9.26 ⁴	9.24 ⁴	9.62
Livestock	8.62	9.37	9.22	Livestock	9.42 ⁴	9.73 ⁴	9.98
Field and Livestock	9.42	9.51	9.70	Field and Livestock	9.30 ⁴	9.37 ⁴	9.72

¹ Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers; excludes agricultural service workers.

² Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

³ United States excludes Alaska.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 16, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ANNUAL FARM LABOR: Workers on Farms, Hours Worked per Week for Hired Workers and Wage Rates
by Type of Worker, Annual Average, New England and Northeast I, 2006 – 2007 ^{1 2}

Region	Number of Workers on Farms, Annual Average		Hours Worked During the Week Annual Average		Wage Rates by Type of Hired Worker, Annual Average					
	Hired Workers		Hired Workers		All Hired		Field		Field and Livestock	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	1,000 Workers		Hours per Week		Dollars per Hour					
Northeast I ³	32.5	31.5	40.5	40.7	10.35	10.49	9.70	9.92	9.50	9.70
UNITED STATES ⁴	751.8	739.8	40.5	40.7	9.87	10.21	9.06	9.40	9.15	9.49

¹ Hired workers include field, livestock, supervisory, and other workers; excludes agricultural service workers.

² Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The 2007 annual average for all regions, and the United States is based on modeled data for January and survey data for April, July, and October.

SOURCE: *Farm Labor*, 3:00 p.m., November 16, 2007, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

³ Northeast I includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

⁴ United States excludes Alaska.

MONTHLY DAIRY PRODUCTS: New England Production, September 2007 with Comparisons

Product	Sept 2006 ¹	Aug 2007 ¹	Sept 2007	September 2007 as percent of:	
				September 2006	August 2007
	1,000 Pounds			Percent	
Butter	964	953	1,238	128	130
American Type Cheese ²	5,606	6,337	5,848	104	92
Mozzarella Cheese	3,236	3,625	2,313	71	64
Other Italian Cheese ³	730	792	540	74	68
Cottage Cheese ⁴	625	679	509	81	75
	1,000 Gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream, Hard	7,337	6,809	6,807	93	100
Low Fat Ice Cream, Hard	929	1,132	932	100	82
Milk Sherbet, Hard	174	97	120	69	124

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., November 2, 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

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

Alexander I. Slosman, Office Automation

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director

Statisticians: Travis Averill, Robin Helrich, Dianne Johnson, Lorie Warren

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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