



# News Release

PO Box 3166, Fargo, ND 58108-3166  
800-626-3134

Potato Production & Stocks  
December 14, 2007

## Potato Production

### North Dakota

Potato production in North Dakota is estimated at 23.7 million hundredweight (cwt) for 2007, up 2 percent from last month, but down 7 percent from last year, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Total planted area is 97,000 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 91,000 acres, is down 7 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 260 cwt per harvested acre, up 5 cwt per acre from last month. The average yield is the same as last year, which is the second highest yield on record.

Russet potatoes account for 45,000 acres or 49.4 percent of the total harvested acres, down from last year's 46,000 acres. Whites decreased to 27,300 acres harvested, 30.0 percent of the total harvested acres. Reds, at 18,000 acres harvested, is 19.8 percent of the total harvested acres. Last year whites totaled 30,000 acres and reds were 22,000 acres. Yellows account for 700 acres or 0.8 percent of the total harvested acres and were included under white types in previous years.

Of the total production, russet potatoes account for 64.7 percent, whites 22.2 percent, reds 12.6 percent and yellows 0.5 percent. Last year russets accounted for 63.2 percent of the total production, while whites accounted for 21.8 percent, which included yellows, and reds accounted for 15.0 percent.

### United States

Production of fall potatoes for 2007 is forecast at 409 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last month and 3 percent above last year. Area harvested, at 997,600 acres, is virtually unchanged from November but up 1 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 410 cwt per acre, up 1 cwt from last month and 4 cwt above the record high set last year.

## December 1 Potato Stocks

### North Dakota

North Dakota growers, dealers and processors held 14.5 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2007, down 16 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent above 2005. Current stocks represent 61 percent of the production, down from 68 percent in 2006 and 2005. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Comparing stocks by type, russets accounted for 66 percent of the total, same as last year, but up from 65 percent in 2005. Round whites were 16 percent of the total, down from 17 percent in 2006 and 18 percent in 2005. Long whites were 4 percent, up from 2 percent in 2006, but the same as 2005. All white potatoes, at 20 percent of total stocks, were up from 19 percent last year, but were down from 22 percent two years ago. Reds, at 14 percent of total stocks, were down from 15 percent last year, but were up from 13 percent in 2005. Yellows are not published due to less than a half of a percent in storage on December 1, 2007. In previous years, yellows were included under white types.

### United States

The 13 major potato states held 270 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2007, up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above December 1, 2005. Potatoes in storage account for 68 percent of the 2007 fall storage states' production, up 1 percent from last year. Stocks by type were 4 percent reds, 11 percent round whites, 3 percent long whites, 2 percent yellows and 80 percent russets, with more round and long whites than a year ago for comparable states.

Disappearance of 130 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is virtually unchanged from last year. Shrink and loss, at 13.9 million cwt, is up 5 percent from the previous year. Processors have used 72.0 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 10 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 12.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year but 7 percent above the same date in 2005.

**Fall Potatoes: Acreage, Production and Stocks By Type  
North Dakota, 2006-2007**

Item	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	Dec 1 Stocks
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
<b>2006</b>					
Reds	22,500	22,000	174	3,830	2,590
Whites	30,500	30,000	185	5,550	3,290
Russets	47,000	46,000	350	16,100	11,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>25,480</b>	<b>17,300</b>
<b>2007</b>					
Reds	19,000	18,000	165	2,970	2,030
Whites	29,000	27,300	193	5,265	2,900
Yellows <sup>1/</sup>	1,000	700	179	125	
Russets	48,000	45,000	340	15,300	9,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,000</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>23,660</b>	<b>14,500</b>

1/ Estimates began in 2007.

**Fall Potatoes: Acreage, Production and Stocks  
13 Major States and United States, December 1, 2006-2007**

State	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		Total Stocks	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
<b>North Dakota</b>	100.0	97.0	98.0	91.0	260	260	25,480	23,660	17,300	14,500
California	8.6	8.2	8.6	8.2	450	515	3,870	4,223	1,800	2,000
Colorado	59.9	59.2	59.7	59.1	380	355	22,686	20,981	17,200	15,200
Idaho	335.0	350.0	334.0	349.0	386	377	128,915	131,650	90,000	94,000
Maine	58.5	57.1	58.0	57.0	310	290	17,980	16,530	14,400	12,700
Michigan	43.5	42.5	43.0	42.0	330	350	14,190	14,700	8,100	9,500
Minnesota	51.0	50.0	48.0	47.0	425	440	20,400	20,680	13,300	13,500
Montana	10.6	11.3	10.5	11.2	335	330	3,518	3,696	3,300	3,600
Nebraska	19.5	20.5	19.4	20.0	450	390	8,730	7,800	5,800	5,200
New York	20.6	19.0	19.0	18.3	300	285	5,700	5,216	3,000	2,800
Oregon	35.0	36.5	35.0	36.5	530	554	18,533	20,238	16,000	18,000
Washington	156.0	165.0	155.0	165.0	580	620	89,900	102,300	49,000	60,000
Wisconsin	66.0	64.5	66.0	64.0	445	440	29,370	28,160	20,100	19,000
<b>13 State Total</b>							389,272	399,834	259,300	270,000
<b>United States</b>	993.7	1,010.8	983.0	997.6	406	410	398,921	409,221		

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks  
10 Selected States, December 1, 2006-2007**

State	Potato Types									
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Yellows <sup>1/</sup>		Russets	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>	<i>Pct</i>
<b>North Dakota</b>	15	14	17	16	2	4			66	66
Colorado	3	4	13	3				11	84	82
Idaho	2	2			2	3		1	96	94
Maine	2	3	38	42		1		2	60	52
Michigan	1	1	87	86				1	12	12
Minnesota	12	12	4	8	2				82	80
New York	5	16	90	69				13	5	2
Oregon	1	1	2	4	2	2		1	95	92
Washington	2	3	1	4	5	7		1	92	85
Wisconsin	4	4	14	34					82	62
<b>10 State Avg</b>	4	4	10	11	2	3		2	84	80

1/ Estimates began in 2007.

December 14, 2007