FALL POTATOES

December 1, 2007 assessments placed Maine's 2007 potato production at 16.5 million cwt (hundredweight), eight percent below 2006, and seven percent above 2005. Maine farmers planted 57,100 acres in 2007, 1,400 fewer acres than the previous year. Cool, wet soil conditions forced growers to hold off planting until mid-May. Planting had advanced to 20 percent by the week ending May 20, behind last year's 60 percent planted and normal of 30 percent. Sufficient shower activity and favorable temperatures in July and August promoted rapid plant growth and good vitality at most locations. Above average temperatures in September helped offset growth delays in later planted fields. The December 1 forecast placed 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 in to storage was excellent. Results from the 2007 Potato Objective Yield Survey placed more potatoes in the U.S. Number 1 category in 2007 than in earlier years for both Round Whites and Russets.

Projected value of the 2007 crop was placed at $124 million, 12 percent below the previous year due to reductions in volume harvested and expected lower market year average price. The preliminary price received for 2007 crop potatoes was estimated at $7.50 per cwt, down $0.30 per cwt from a year earlier, and above the National fall potato average price of $6.61 per cwt. Final 2007 crop disposition and sales data will be available September 25, 2008.

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. Harvest was underway in mid-August, with the last of the acreage dug by mid-November. Based on early December assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 2,700 acres with yields averaging 295 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 600 acres and yields were expected to average 300 cwt per acre.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1998 – 2007 [1]

State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price Per Cwt	Value of	
						On Farm Where Grown		Sold			
	Planted	Harvested				Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss			Production	Sales
	1,000 Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt					Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
MAINE											
1998	65.5	64.5	280	18,060	1,430	360	1,740	15,960	6.45	116,487	102,942
1999	65.0	62.5	285	17,813	1,408	330	1,850	15,633	6.35	113,113	99,270
2000	64.0	64.0	280	17,920	1,313	315	1,490	16,115	6.15	110,208	99,107
2001	62.5	62.0	265	16,430	1,355	301	849	15,280	7.65	125,690	116,892
2002	64.5	64.0	265	16,960	1,386	310	790	15,860	7.05	119,568	111,813
2003	66.0	65.5	260	17,030	1,245	215	2,430	14,385	6.05	103,032	87,029
2004	63.5	61.5	310	19,065	1,231	190	4,900	13,975	6.50	123,923	90,838
2005	57.5	56.2	275	15,455	1,264	242	1,183	14,030	8.25	127,504	115,748
2006	58.5	58.0	310	17,980	1,236	228	1,482	16,270	7.80	140,244	126,906
2007	57.1	57.0	290	16,530					7.50 *	123,975 *	
MASSACHUSETTS											
1998	2.9	2.9	235	682	60	0	30	652	6.25	4,263	4,075
1999	3.0	2.9	255	740	64	0	30	710	6.35	4,699	4,509
2000	2.9	2.6	255	663	63	1	75	587	5.40	3,580	3,170
2001	3.0	2.9	265	769	71	5	30	734	6.90	5,306	5,065
2002	3.3	3.2	255	816	65	5	16	795	7.30	5,957	5,804
2003	3.0	2.7	265	716	56	5	16	695	6.00	4,296	4,170
2004	2.6	2.5	320	800	59	5	6	789	6.60	5,280	5,207
2005	2.5	2.4	260	624	76	4	8	612	8.80	5,491	5,386
2006	3.1	3.1	240	744	59	5	5	734	10.10	7,514	7,413
2007	2.7	2.7	295	797					8.80 *	7,014 *	
RHODE ISLAND											
1998	0.7	0.7	210	147	11	–	2	145	6.60	970	957
1999	0.6	0.6	225	135	9	–	2	133	7.25	979	964
2000	0.5	0.5	275	138	13	–		138	7.20	994	994
2001	0.5	0.5	280	140	10	–	3	137	6.70	938	918
2002	0.5	0.5	235	118	13	–		118	7.75	915	915
2003	0.6	0.6	285	171	11	–	12	159	7.00	1,197	1,113
2004	0.5	0.5	290	145	14	–	3	142	7.65	1,109	1,086
2005	0.5	0.5	210	105	12	–	2	103	8.50	893	876
2006	0.5	0.5	260	130	14	–	2	128	10.40	1,352	1,331
2007	0.6	0.6	300	180					8.80 *	1,584 *	
NEW ENGLAND [2]											
1998	69.1	68.1	277	18,889	1,501	360	1,772	16,757	6.44	121,720	107,974
1999	68.6	66.0	283	18,688	1,481	330	1,882	16,476	6.36	118,791	104,743
2000	67.4	67.1	279	18,721	1,389	316	1,565	16,840	6.13	114,782	103,271
2001	66.0	65.4	265	17,339	1,436	306	882	16,151	7.61	131,934	122,875
2002	68.3	67.7	264	17,894	1,464	315	806	16,773	7.07	126,440	118,532
2003	69.6	68.8	260	17,917	1,312	220	2,458	15,239	6.06	108,525	92,312
2004	66.6	64.5	310	20,010	1,304	195	4,909	14,906	6.52	130,312	97,131
2005	60.5	59.1	274	16,184	1,352	246	1,193	14,745	8.27	133,888	122,010
2006	62.1	61.6	306	18,854	1,309	233	1,489	17,132	7.92	149,110	135,650
2007	60.4	60.3	290	17,507					7.57 *	132,573 *	

[1] 2007 crop production, disposition and sales will be published September 25, 2008, in the ***Potatoes, 2007 Summary***.
[2] New England includes: Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
* 2007 figures are preliminary as published in ***Crop Values***, February 14, 2008.

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	*	*	1.7	1.0	1.9	1.9
Norwis	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.8
Reba (NY87)	*	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.5
Andover	*	*	*	*	1.0	*
Mainstay	*	*	1.0	*	*	*
Chieftain	1.8	1.4	1.3	*	*	*
Centennial Russet	*	*	1.2	*	*	*
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 [1]	–	–	–	–	–	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] Unavailable prior to 2007.
* Included with other varieties.

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2002 – 2007 [1]

Year	Yellows		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets		All Varieties [2]	
	Tubers per Hill [3]	Hills per Acre [3]	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre
2002	–	–	7.4	13,803	5.6	12,230	10.7	9,596	8.5	11,948
2003	–	–	7.8	13,521	6.8	12,021	10.5	9,731	8.9	11,729
2004	–	–	8.5	13,609	6.8	13,024	10.7	10,012	9.3	11,969
2005	–	–	7.3	12,494	6.7	10,402	9.8	9,007	8.6	10,595
2006	–	–	8.0	12,604	6.0	13,149	10.9	10,208	9.1	11,613
2007	6.6	13,418	7.1	13,290	7.5	11,943	11.0	9,629	8.9	11,519

[1] Tubers 1½ inches and over.
[2] Includes Red varieties.
[3] Unavailable prior to 2007.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, by Type, 2002 – 2007 [1]

Grade	Yellows [2]	Round Whites						Long Whites						Russets					
	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Percent																		
No. 1 (*2 Inch Minimum*) [3]	82	83	77	85	83	78	89	73	62	69	81	60	59	77	61	70	74	63	70
No. 2 or Processing Usable (*1 ½ Inch Minimum)* [4]	12	11	11	8	8	10	9	19	19	11	11	17	24	16	22	13	16	21	18
Cull [5]	6	6	12	7	9	12	2	8	19	20	8	23	17	7	17	17	10	16	12

[1] Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.
[2] Unavailable prior to 2007.
[3] Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
[4] Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
[5] 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.

MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks by Month, 2001 – 2006 Crop Years

Crop Year	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors						
		Current Year	Following Year					
		December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	1,000 cwt							
2001	16,430	12,200	10,800	8,900	7,100	5,300	3,300	1,800
2002	16,960	12,600	11,200	9,500	8,000	6,300	3,900	2,100
2003	17,030	13,500	12,100	10,500	8,900	6,500	4,100	2,300
2004	19,065	15,000	12,800	11,100	9,400	7,500	5,000	2,900
2005	15,455	12,500	11,200	9,700	8,400	6,500	4,300	2,500
2006	17,980	14,400	12,800	11,300	9,800	7,700	5,300	3,000

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average 2001 – 2006 Crop Years [1]

Crop Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
2001	6.20	5.70	6.05	6.65	7.50	7.75	8.30	8.65	9.45	8.05	7.80	7.65
2002	5.75	5.45	5.60	6.65	6.95	7.10	7.10	7.45	8.10	8.15	7.40	7.05
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

[1] Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed.
* Missing data indicates too few potatoes being marketed to set price.