FALL POTATOES

December 1, 2005 assessments placed Maine's 2005 potato production at 15.7 million cwt (hundredweight), 17 percent below 2004 and the smallest crop harvested in the state since 1922. Maine farmers planted 57,500 acres in 2005, a reduction of 6,000 acres from the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 56,200 acres, 1,300 fewer acres than planted. A late season and poor harvesting conditions in October conspired to keep farmers digging into early November; some acreage ended up being too wet for field entry. Yields averaged 280 cwt per acre in 2005, below 2004's record yielding crop, but above the previous five year average of 276 cwt per acre. Maine's 2005 potato crop had a rainy start and a rainy finish. Cool, wet weather during the month of May delayed planting by two weeks. The crop was only 20 percent planted as of June 1, compared with last year's 95 percent planted and normal of 80 percent planted. Drought conditions during the summer put stress on the developing crop, but kept disease pressure in check. September rains bulked up potatoes, but made harvest difficult. Excessive rains hit mid-October, when the crop was only 80 percent harvested. Flooded fields delayed harvest at many locations, and growers were still digging into early November. Final 2005 crop disposition and sales data will be available September 21, 2006.

Maine ranked eighth in the Nation based on the value of 2004 fall potato sales. The price received for 2004 crop Maine potatoes averaged $6.50 per cwt, up $0.45 per cwt from a year earlier, and above the National fall potato average price of $5.08 per cwt.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island also battled wet conditions in 2005 to get the crop planted and harvested, with near drought conditions during the growing season. The remnants of Hurricane Rita hit in early October, when harvest was 85-95 percent complete. Flooding was extensive and field entry impossible at many locations due to oversaturated soils. Massachusetts growers harvested 2,400 acres with yields averaging 260 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields averaged 210 cwt per acre.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1996 – 2005

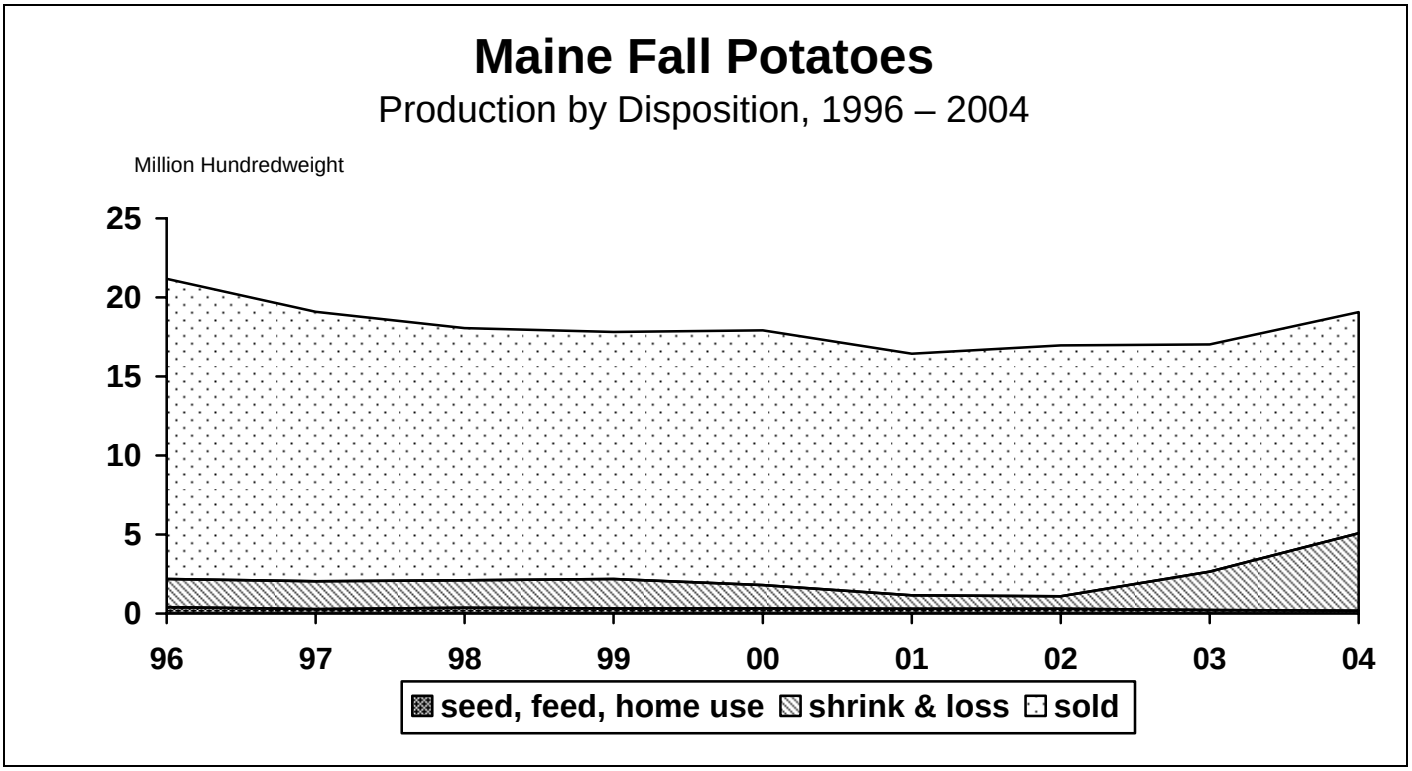
State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price Per Cwt	Value of	
						On Farm Where Grown					
	Planted	Harvested				Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss	Sold		Production	Sales
	1,000 Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt					Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
MAINE											
1996	78.0	77.0	275	21,175	1,584	395	1,800	18,980	4.60	97,405	87,308
1997	72.0	72.0	265	19,080	1,430	275	1,760	17,045	6.40	122,112	109,088
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	1,188	190	4,900	13,975	6.50	123,923	90,838
2005	57.5	56.2	280	15,736	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
MASSACHUSETTS											
1996	2.7	2.6	260	676	59	0	18	658	5.65	3,819	3,718
1997	3.0	3.0	270	810	68	0	40	770	7.70	6,237	5,929
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	61	5	6	789	6.60	5,280	5,207
2005	2.5	2.4	260	624	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

See footnotes after the New England table.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1996 – 2005

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	
RHODE ISLAND											
1996	0.8	0.8	240	192	16	—	2	190	6.50	1,248	1,235
1997	0.8	0.8	270	216	16	—	3	213	7.60	1,642	1,619
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	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
NEW ENGLAND [2/]											
1996	81.5	80.4	274	22,043	1,659	395	1,820	19,828	4.65	102,472	92,261
1997	75.8	75.8	265	20,106	1,514	275	1,803	18,028	6.47	129,991	116,636
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	1,263	195	4,909	14,906	6.52	130,312	97,131
2005	60.5	59.1	279	16,465	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/

[1/] 2005 Crop production, disposition, and sales will be published September 21, 2006 in the Potatoes, 2005 Summary Report.
[2/] New England includes: Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island



MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2001 – 2005

Variety and Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
By Variety:					
Russet Burbank	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7	42.5
Frito-Lay, All	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5	17.1
Shepody	11.4	9.2	9.8	9.3	7.2
Atlantic	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.5
Superior	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0	3.4
Yukon Gold	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.8
Ontario	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5	2.8
Goldrush	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.7
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4
Katahdin	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.4
Snowden	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.2
Russet Norkotah	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0	1.6
Reba (NY 87)	1/	1/	1.7	1.7	1.4
Norland	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.3
Monona	1/	1/	1/	1.7	1.0
Chieftain	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1/
Centennial Russet	1/	1/	1/	1.2	1/
Mainstay	1/	1/	1/	1.0	1/
Other Varieties	8.1	7.4	7.1	6.4	4.7
Total Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
By Type:					
Reds	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	3.5
White (Long and Round)	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0	49.5
Russet Varieties	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5	47.0
Total Varieties	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

1/ Included with other varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers 1/ per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2001 – 2005

Year	Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets		All Varieties 2/	
	Tubers 1/ per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers 1/ per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers 1/ per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers 1/ per Hill	Hills per Acre
2001	6.2	13,509	6.4	12,722	9.4	9,304	7.5	11,862
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

1/ Tubers 1½ inches and over
2/ Includes red varieties

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, 1/ by Type, 2001 – 2005

Grade	Round Whites					Long Whites					Russets				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	Percent														
United States No. 1 2/	83	83	77	85	83	61	73	62	69	81	75	77	61	70	74
United States No. 2 3/	10	11	11	8	8	20	19	19	11	11	15	16	22	13	16
Culls 4/	7	6	12	7	9	19	8	19	20	8	10	7	17	17	10

1/ Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage
2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA Agriculture Marketing Service.
3/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA Agriculture Marketing Service.
4/ Potatoes not meeting the requirements for US #1 or US #2, as stated in United States Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers and Processors by Month, 2000 – 2004 Crop Years

Crop Year	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors						
		Current Year	Following Year					
		Dec. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	1,000 Cwt							
2000	17,920	14,100	12,500	10,900	8,700	6,600	4,000	1,900
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

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2000 – 2004 Crop Years

Crop Year	Prices Received [1/] by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average											
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
2000	5.80	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.50	5.90	6.20	6.80	7.30	7.00	6.15
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

[1/] Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed.

United States Fall Potato Production, 2005

Percent by State

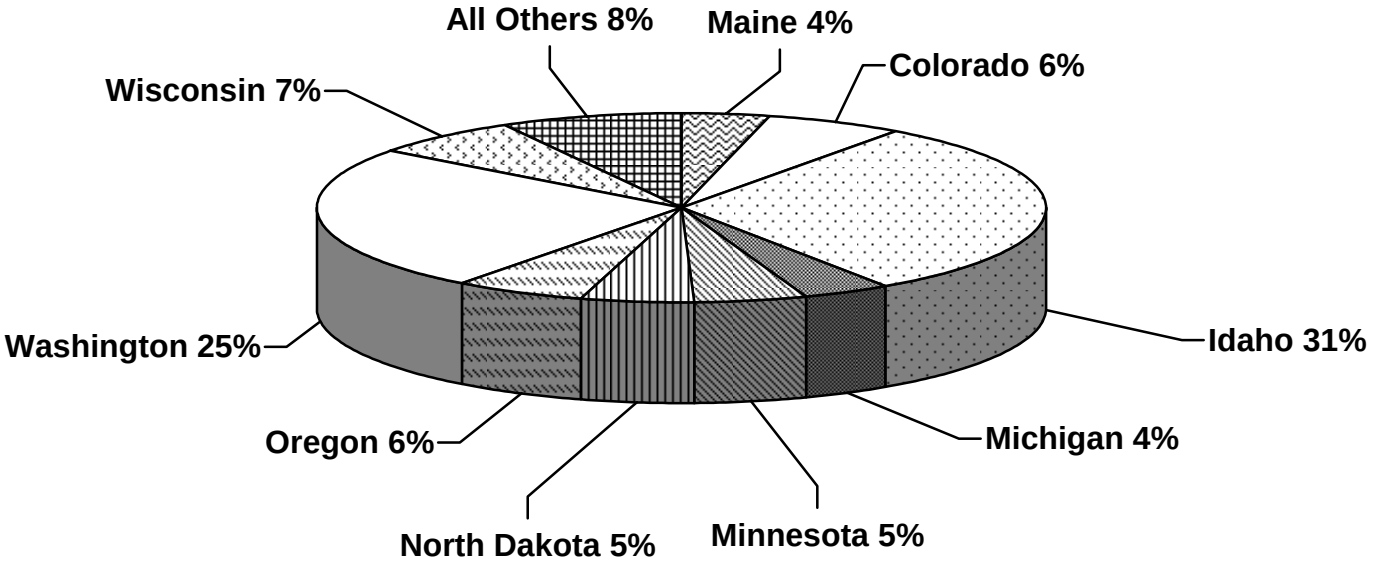


Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Total United States Fall Potato Production 381.0 Million Cwt