FALL POTATOES

December 1, 2006 assessments placed Maine's 2006 potato production at 18.3 million cwt (hundredweight), 18 percent above 2005 and the highest yielding crop ever harvested in the state. Maine farmers planted 58,500 acres in 2006, an increase of 1,000 acres from the previous year. The December 1 forecast placed acres harvested at 58,000 acres, 500 fewer acres than planted due to losses from washouts from early June storms. Frequent shower activity and warm temperatures in July and August provided excellent growing conditions, and yields averaged a record high 315 cwt per acre in 2006. Harvest proceeded on schedule with normal with 95 percent of the crop dug by mid-October. Rains slowed the last of the crop from moving into storage; most were finished by the week ending October 22nd. Projected value of the 2006 crop was placed at $147 million, 15 percent above the previous year due to the increase in volume harvested. Final 2006 crop disposition and sales data will be available September 20, 2007.

Maine ranked seventh in the Nation based on the value of 2005 fall potato sales. The price received for 2005 potatoes averaged $8.25 per cwt, up $1.75 per cwt from a year earlier, and above the National fall potato average price of. $6.53 per cwt.

Potato farmers in Massachusetts and Rhode Island battled wet conditions in 2006 to get the crop planted, and heavy rains in June delayed emergence until month's end. Hot and humid conditions during July pushed crop growth, and had growers on high alert for control disease. Harvest in the two states was 95 percent complete by mid-October, with wet fields slowing progress on the remaining acreage. Based on early December assessments, Massachusetts growers harvested 3,100 acres with yields averaging 260 cwt per acre. Rhode Island potato farmers harvested 500 acres and yields also averaged 260 cwt per acre.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1997 – 2006

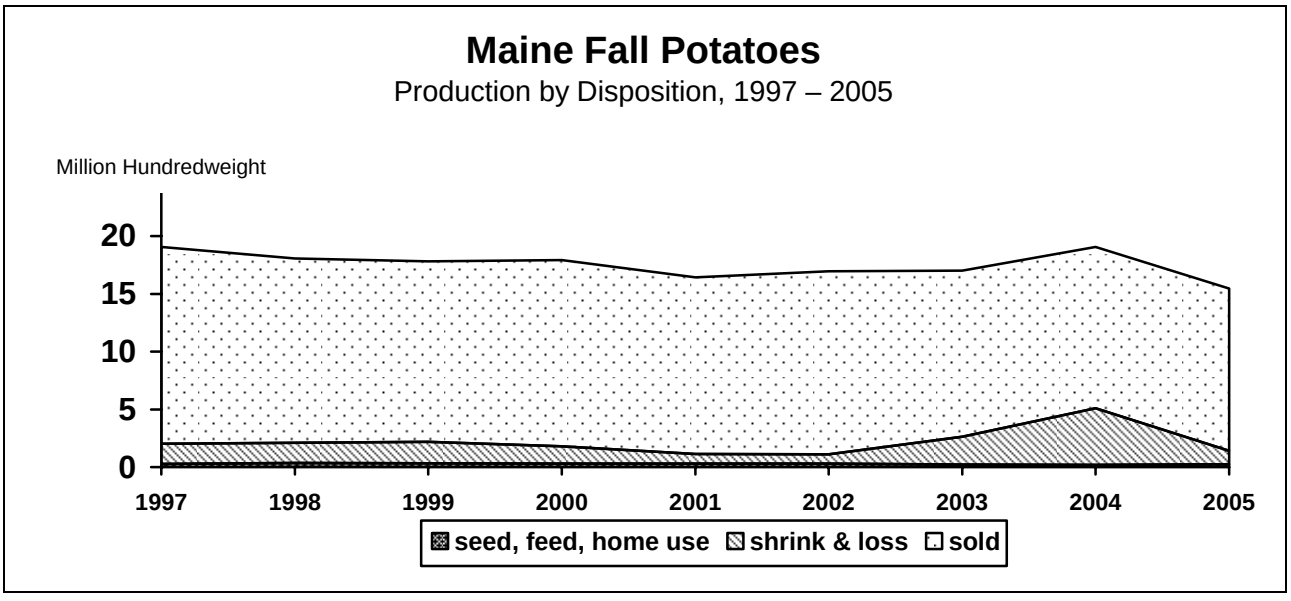
State and Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production	Total Used for Seed	Disposition			Price Per Cwt	Value of	
						On Farm Where Grown		Sold			
	Planted	Harvested				Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrink and Loss			Production	Sales
	1,000 Acres		Cwt	1,000 Cwt					Dollars	1,000 Dollars	
Maine											
1997	72.0	72.0	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	1,231	190	4,900	13,975	6.50	123,923	90,838
2005	57.5	56.2	275	15,455	1,274	242	1,183	14,030	8.25	127,504	115,748
2006	58.5	58.0	315	18,270	1/	1/	1/	1/	8.05 2/	147,074 2/	1/
Massachusetts											
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	59	5	6	789	6.60	5,280	5,207
2005	2.5	2.4	260	624	71	4	8	612	8.80	5,491	5,386
2006	3.1	3.1	260	806	1/	1/	1/	1/	9.50 2/	7,657 2/	1/

See footnotes after the New England table.

FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, Production, Disposition and Value, 1997 – 2006

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											
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	12	—	2	103	8.50	893	876
2006	0.5	0.5	260	130	1/	1/	1/	1/	11.00 2/	1,430 2/	1/
New England 3/											
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	1,304	195	4,909	14,906	6.52	130,312	97,131
2005	60.5	59.1	274	16,184	1,357	246	1,193	14,745	8.27	133,888	122,010
2006	62.1	61.6	312	19,206	1/	1/	1/	1/	8.13 2/	156,161 2/	1/

1/ 2006 Crop production, disposition, and sales will be published September 20, 2007 in the ***Potatoes, 2006*** Summary Report.
2/ Preliminary ***Crop Values,*** February 15, 2007
3/ New England includes: Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island



MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2001 – 2006

Variety and Type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
By Variety:			Percent			
Russet Burbank	29.1	36.4	33.2	36.7	42.5	42.5
Frito-Lay, All	12.6	10.9	11.9	11.5	17.1	17.1
Shepody	11.4	9.2	9.8	9.3	7.2	5.2
Superior	8.9	7.2	6.1	3.0	3.4	4.5
Katahdin	3.9	1.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.1
Yukon Gold	2.2	1.4	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.0
Ontario	7.3	9.7	8.3	5.5	2.8	2.9
Norland	1.6	1.6	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3
Russet Norkotah	3.5	4.7	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.1
Reba (NY 87)	1/	1/	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1
Snowden	1.5	1.4	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
Monona	1/	1/	1/	1.7	1.0	1.9
Atlantic	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.0	3.5	1.5
Goldrush	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.0
Andover	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1.0
Mainstay	1/	1/	1/	1.0	1/	1/
Chieftain	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.3	1/	1/
Centennial Russet	1/	1/	1/	1.2	1/	1/
Other Varieties	8.1	7.4	7.1	6.4	4.7	5.3
Total Varieties	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
By Type:						
Reds	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	3.5	3.6
White (Long and Round)	60.0	53.0	56.0	51.0	49.5	50.6
Russet Varieties	35.0	43.0	40.0	43.5	47.0	45.8
Total Varieties	100.0	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 – 2006

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
2006	8.0	12,604	6.0	13,149	10.9	10,208	9.1	11,613

1/ Tubers 1½ inches and over.
2/ Includes Red varieties.

MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Grade, by Type, 2001 – 2006

Grade	Round Whites						Long Whites						Russets					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Percent																	
Number 1 *2 Inch Minimum* 1/	83	83	77	85	83	78	61	73	62	69	81	60	75	77	61	70	74	63
No. 2 or Processing Usable, *1 1/2 Inch Minimum* 2/	10	11	11	8	8	10	20	19	19	11	11	17	15	16	22	13	16	21
Cull 3/	7	6	12	7	9	12	19	8	19	20	8	23	10	7	17	17	10	16

1/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
2/ Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.
3/ 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, 2000 - 2005 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						
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
2005	15,455	12,500	11,200	9,700	8,400	6,500	4,300	2,500

MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received, 2000 - 2005 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
2005	—	5.85	6.30	7.90	8.20	8.20	8.40	8.75	9.45	9.30	8.55	8.25

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