

# Maine Potatoes 2008 Crop Acreage, Yield, Size and Grade

January 13, 2009



NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics

53 Pleasant Street  
Room 2100  
Concord, NH 03301

Gary R. Keough, Director

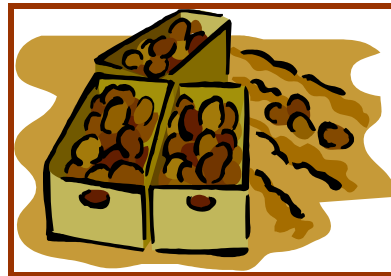
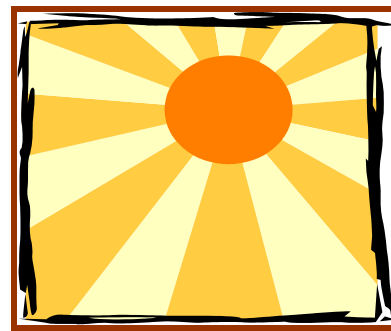
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*A special "THANK YOU" goes to Maine growers who have helped us by participating in the Potato Objective Yield Survey. The study estimates yield, size and grade from randomly selected hills that are dug just before harvest.*



This report is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture as a service to growers and others in the industry. It is published annually and is available on the Internet in mid-January.

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## Maine Potatoes Acreage, Yield, Size, and Grade, 2008 Crop

**FORWARD:**

We are pleased to present the Maine Acreage, Yield, Size, and Grade Report for the 2008 potato crop. Data contained in this report are based on the results of the Potato Objective Yield Survey, a project conducted annually since 1968. The National Potato Objective Yield Survey encompasses seven of the major fall potato producing states (Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin) that grew 82 percent of the United States fall potato crop in 2008.

The 2008 Potato Objective Yield Survey in Maine consisted of 210 “samples” chosen by systematic random sampling. Each sample consisted of two independently located units. Within each unit, hill counts were made along a 20-foot length of the row, width of the row was measured, and three hills were harvested. Thus, tubers were harvested from six hills of potatoes for each sample. These potatoes were graded, sized, and weighed using strict laboratory procedures. After harvest, enumerators returned to one-fourth of the sample fields to obtain an objective indication of harvest loss. Tubers were collected from two units, each unit covering a three foot by six foot area, and sent to the lab for weighing.

The success of this project must be credited to the cooperation of many potato growers across the State of Maine. We sincerely appreciate their time and efforts in supplying crop information, and granting permission for field entry and sample diggings. The 2008 Maine Potato Objective Yield Survey was under the leadership of Statistician Dianne Johnson. Data collection was supervised by NASDA field supervisor Marcia Gartley. NASDA field enumerators included Keith Boulter, Don Butts, Margaret Wolverton, Benjamin Michaud, Brittany Hickey, Shannon Lion, Wayne Curtis, Dot Curtis, and Julie Kosch. Lab supervision was under the direction of John Bourgoine. Robin Helrich was responsible for setting the estimates of acreage, yield, production, prices, and stocks. We would also like to recognize Lynne Arsenault, Deirdre Davis, and Alexander I. Slosman for their assistance in preparing this publication.

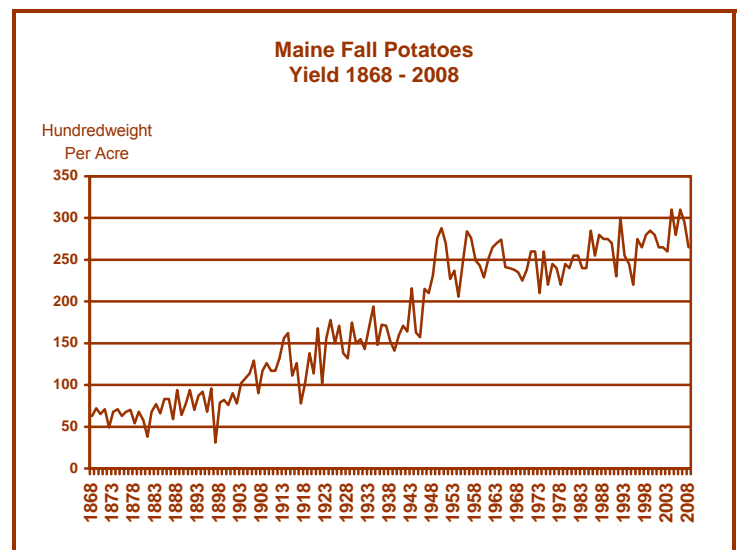
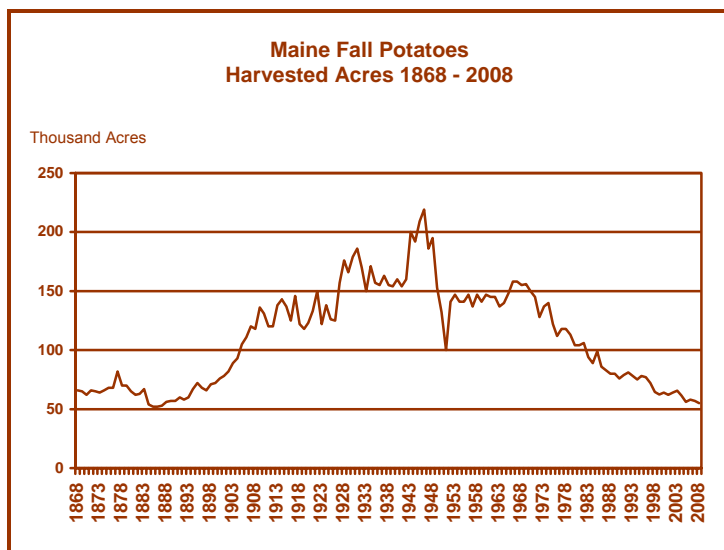


Table 1: MAINE POTATOES: Acres, Yield and Production, 2003 – 2008

Year	Area		Yield per Acre	Production
	Planted	Harvested		
	Acres			
2003	66,000	65,500	260	17,030
2004	63,500	61,500	310	19,065
2005	57,500	56,200	275	15,455
2006	58,500	57,000	305	17,385
2007	57,100	56,500	295	16,668
2008	56,000	54,700	270	14,769

SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual*, 8:30 a.m., January 12, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Table 2: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Acres Planted by Variety, 2003 – 2008

Variety and Type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
<b>By Variety:</b>	Percent					
Russet Burbank	33.2	36.7	42.5	42.5	39.1	42.6
Frito-Lay, All	11.9	11.5	17.1	17.1	18.9	13.8
Shepody	9.8	9.3	7.2	5.2	4.6	4.6
Russet Norkotah	4.4	3.0	1.6	2.1	2.6	4.2
Norland	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.0
Yukon Gold	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.7
Goldrush	1.6	1.9	2.7	1.0	2.8	3.7
Norwis	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	1.8	3.6
Superior	6.1	3.0	3.4	4.5	5.0	3.5
Ontario	8.3	5.5	2.8	2.9	2.0	2.6
Katahdin	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.4
Reba(NY87)	1.7	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.5	2.2
Atlantic	3.5	3.0	3.5	1.5	2.0	1.4
Red LaSoda	*	*	*	*	*	1.0
Andover	*	*	*	1.0	*	*
Centennial Russet	*	1.2	*	*	*	*
Chieftain	1.4	1.3	*	*	*	*
Mainstay	*	1.0	*	*	*	*
Monona	*	1.7	1.0	1.9	1.9	*
Snowden	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	3.8	*
Other Varieties	7.1	6.4	4.7	5.3	5.3	6.7
<b>Total Varieties</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>By Type:</b>						
Russets	40.0	43.5	47.0	46.0	45.0	52.0
Whites (Long and Round)	56.0	51.0	49.5	51.0	46.0	35.0
Yellows <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	—	5.0	8.0
Reds	4.0	5.5	3.5	3.0	4.0	5.0
<b>Total Types</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

<sup>1</sup> Revised.

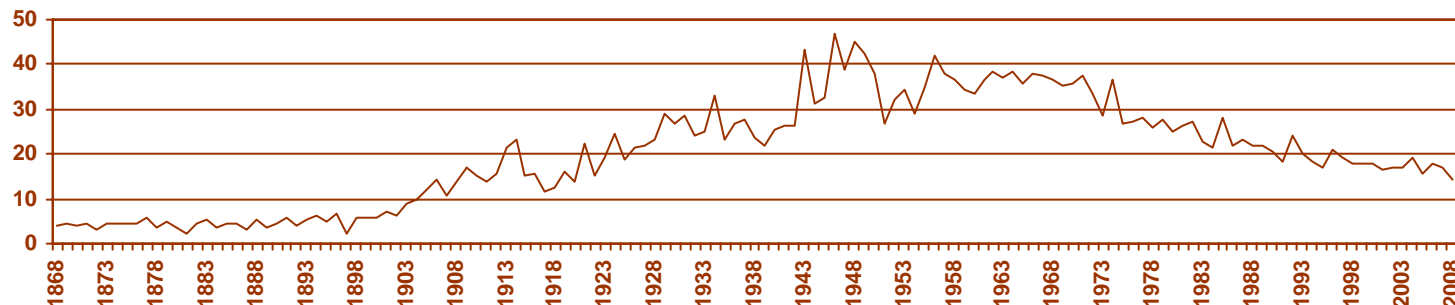
<sup>2</sup> Not available prior to 2007.

\* Included with other varieties.

SOURCE: *Crop Production*, 3:00 p.m., November 10, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

### Maine Fall Potatoes Production 1868 – 2008

Million Hundredweight



**Table 3A: MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Round Whites		Long Whites		All Whites	
	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre
	Number					
2003	7.8	13,521	6.8	12,021	—	13,235
2004	8.5	13,609	6.8	13,024	—	13,495
2005	7.3	12,494	6.7	10,402	—	12,240
2006	8.0	12,604	6.0	13,149	—	12,689
2007	7.1	13,290	7.5	11,943	—	13,098
2008	6.7	12,796	5.0	11,784	—	12,655

<sup>1</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over.  
 — Unavailable.

**Table 3B: MAINE POTATOES: Number of Tubers per Hill and Hills per Acre, by Type, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Year	Reds		All Whites		Yellows		Russets		All Varieties	
	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre	Tubers per Hill	Hills per Acre
	Number									
2003	—	—	—	13,235	—	—	10.5	9,731	8.9	11,729
2004	—	12,598	—	13,495	—	—	10.7	10,012	9.3	11,969
2005	—	13,005	—	12,240	—	—	9.8	9,007	8.6	10,595
2006	—	14,532	—	12,689	—	—	10.9	10,208	9.1	11,613
2007	8.1	12,874	—	13,098	6.6	13,418	11.0	9,629	8.9	11,519
2008	7.2	13,785	—	12,655	9.0	13,228	10.2	9,603	8.6	11,210

<sup>1</sup> Tubers 1½ inches and over.  
 — Unavailable.

**Table 4A: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Size Groups  
 Reds, Round Whites, and Yellows 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Reds <sup>2</sup>		Round Whites						Yellows <sup>2</sup>	
	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Percent									
1 ½" - under 1 ⅞"	6	1	3	2	2	*	1	*	1	1
1 ⅞" - under 2"	7	2	4	3	3	2	1	4	3	2
2" - under 2 ¼"	16	16	14	10	9	11	10	12	8	10
2 ¼" - under 2 ½"	28	27	20	16	15	18	21	20	13	15
2 ½" - under 3 ½"	43	54	55	63	61	64	61	60	65	69
3 ½" - under 4"	*	*	3	6	9	4	5	3	10	2
4" and over	—	—	1	*	1	1	1	1	*	1
	Number									
Number of Samples	6	8	67	62	58	59	54	43	11	9

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for harvest loss.  
<sup>2</sup> Unavailable prior to 2007.  
 \* Less than one percent.

**Table 4B: MAINE POTATOES: Percent of Net Yield by Weight within Size Groups  
 Long Whites and Russets, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Long Whites ( <i>Shepody</i> )						Russets					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Percent											
1 ½" - under 1 ⅞"	6	1	5	1	2	2	10	3	4	6	7	6
1 ⅞" - under 2"	5	2	1	3	1	6	8	4	4	7	6	7
2" and over:												
4 oz - under 6 oz <sup>2</sup>	30	15	27	22	37	19	33	29	32	35	33	35
6 oz - under 8 oz	25	21	18	19	25	19	21	21	18	19	20	20
8 oz - under 10 oz	19	18	19	19	20	15	11	15	15	12	14	12
10 oz and over:												
10 oz - under 12 oz	4	17	13	9	5	17	8	9	10	8	8	7
12 oz - under 14 oz	8	8	9	12	9	13	5	6	6	4	5	5
14 oz and over	3	18	8	15	1	9	4	13	11	9	7	8
	Number											
Number of Samples	17	15	8	11	9	7	66	62	79	64	68	69

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted for harvest loss.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes potatoes two inches or greater weighing less than four ounces.

**Table 5A: MAINE POTATOES:  
Percent of Net Yield by Grade, by Type, Reds, Round Whites, and Yellows 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Grade	Reds <sup>2</sup>		Round Whites						Yellows <sup>2</sup>	
	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Percent									
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) <sup>3</sup>	80	87	77	85	83	78	89	76	82	82
No. 2 or Processing Usable 1 ½ Inch Minimum) <sup>4</sup>	17	9	11	8	8	10	9	12	12	10
Culls <sup>5</sup>	3	4	12	7	9	12	2	12	6	8

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.

<sup>2</sup> Unavailable prior to 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>4</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

**Table 5B: MAINE POTATOES:  
Percent of Net Yield by Grade, by Type, Long Whites and Russets, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Grade	Long Whites ( <i>Shepody</i> )						Russets					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Percent											
No. 1 (2 Inch Minimum) <sup>2</sup>	62	69	81	60	59	64	61	70	74	63	70	66
No. 2 or Processing Usable(1 ½ Inch Minimum) <sup>3</sup>	19	11	11	17	24	21	22	13	16	21	18	20
Cull <sup>4</sup>	19	20	8	23	17	15	17	17	10	16	12	14

<sup>1</sup> Percent of net yield – adjusted for field loss. Reflects condition before harvest or handling damage.

<sup>2</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #1, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>3</sup> Potatoes which meet the requirements for US #2, as stated in U.S. Standards for Grades of Potatoes, USDA, Agriculture Marketing Service.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

**Table 6A: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Size Group, Round Whites, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Round Whites					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Cwt per Acre					
1 ½" – under 1 ⅞"	4	3	1	7	4	6
1 ⅞" – under 2"	2	2	1	3	3	2
2" – under 2 ¼"	2	3	4	5	2	4
2 ¼" – under 2 ½"	3	3	3	3	1	3
2 ½" – under 3 ½"	4	3	6	4	3	7
3 ½" – under 4"	0	1	0	0	0	1
4" and over	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2 and Culls.

**Table 6B: MAINE POTATOES: Harvest Loss by Weight Within Size Groups, Long Whites and Russets, 2003 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>**

Size	Long Whites ( <i>Shepody</i> ) <sup>2</sup>						Russets					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Cwt per Acre											
1 ½" - under 1 ⅞"	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	3	6	5	10
1 ⅞"- under 2"	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	3	2	2
2" and over:												
4 oz - under 6 oz <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	9	6	9	2	5
6 oz - under 8 oz	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	3	2	1
8 oz - under 10 oz	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	*	2	2
10 oz and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	2	*	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>—<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes United States No. 1, United States No. 2, and Culls.

<sup>2</sup> Long white totals by size unavailable.

<sup>3</sup> Includes potatoes two inches or greater weighing less than four ounces.

<sup>4</sup> Too few reports to publish.

\* Less than 0.5 cwt per acre.

**Table 7: MAINE POTATOES: Planting Progress, 2003 – 2008**

Week Ending	Percent of Acres Planted Weekly						Accumulated Percent of Acres					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Percent											
Before May 1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
May 8	4	4	0	15	5	1	4	4	0	17	5	1
May 15	6	40	5	40	25	16	10	44	5	57	30	17
May 22	40	37	5	5	20	39	50	81	10	62	50	56
May 29	36	14	15	25	30	30	86	95	25	87	80	86
June 5	12	3	50	10	15	13	98	98	50	97	95	99
After June 5	2	2	25	3	5	1	100	100	100	100	100	100

**Table 8: MAINE POTATOES: Potato Production and Stocks by Month, 2002 – 2007 Crop Years <sup>1</sup>**

Crop Year	Production	Stocks Held by Growers, Local Dealers, and Processors						
		Year	Following Year					
		December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
		1,000 cwt						
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 <sup>2</sup>	17,385	14,400	12,800	11,300	9,800	7,700	5,300	3,000
2007 <sup>2</sup>	16,668	12,900	11,400	9,700	8,000	6,400	4,300	2,500

<sup>1</sup> Data in this table is not derived from the Potato Objective Yield Survey. This data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price Survey also conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> Revised production published January 12, 2009: *Crop Production – Annual*.

Revised stocks available January 30, 2009, *Potatoes – Final Estimates 2003 –2007*

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

**Table 9: MAINE POTATOES: Prices Received by Farmers for Potatoes, Monthly and Marketing Year Average 2002 – 2007 Crop Years <sup>1 2</sup>**

Crop Year	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Market Year Average
	Dollars Per Cwt											
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
2007	*	6.20	6.40	7.25	7.55	7.60	8.00	8.55	8.65	9.15	8.75	7.90

<sup>1</sup> Data in this table is not derived from the Potato Objective Yield Survey. This data is derived from the monthly Potato Stocks/Price Survey also conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

SOURCE: *Potatoes*, 3:00 p.m., September 25, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

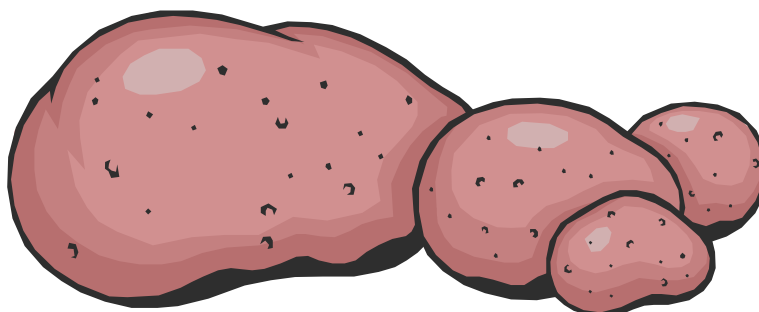


Table 10: FALL POTATOES: Acreage, Yield, and Production, 2007 – 2008 <sup>1</sup>

State	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield per Acre		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 Cwt	
California	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.8	480	505	3,792	3,939
Colorado	59.2	57.0	59.1	56.9	355	375	20,981	21,338
Idaho	350.0	305.0	349.0	304.0	373	378	130,010	114,805
<b>Maine</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>16,668</b>	<b>14,769</b>
Massachusetts	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.4	320	270	832	648
Michigan	42.5	43.0	42.0	42.5	350	350	14,700	14,875
Minnesota	52.0	50.0	49.0	48.0	440	425	21,560	20,400
Montana	11.3	10.9	11.2	10.5	330	330	3,696	3,465
Nebraska	21.0	19.5	19.8	19.4	415	430	8,217	8,342
Nevada	7.3	5.8	7.3	5.8	390	410	2,847	2,378
New Mexico	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.9	370	390	1,998	2,301
New York	19.0	18.0	18.3	17.8	285	320	5,216	5,696
North Dakota	97.0	82.0	91.0	81.0	260	280	23,660	22,680
Ohio	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.1	330	325	990	683
Oregon	36.5	35.3	36.5	35.3	556	529	20,293	18,676
Pennsylvania	10.5	10.0	10.0	9.5	220	265	2,200	2,518
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	300	285	180	143
Washington	160.0	155.0	160.0	155.0	630	600	100,800	93,000
Wisconsin	64.5	63.5	64.0	62.0	440	415	28,160	25,730
<b>United States Fall Crop</b>	<b>1,007.8</b>	<b>930.5</b>	<b>993.2</b>	<b>921.1</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>406,800</b>	<b>376,386</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data in this table is not derived solely from the Potato Objective Yield Survey; data is derived from other end of year surveys conducted by New England Agricultural Statistics.  
SOURCE: *Crop Production – Annual*, 8:30 a.m., January 12, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

Gary R. Keough, Director  
Statisticians: Robin Helrich, Dianne Johnson

Alexander I. Slosman, Office Automation

Gerald D. Tillman, Deputy Director  
Statistical Assistants: Lynne Arsenault, Deirdre Davis

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