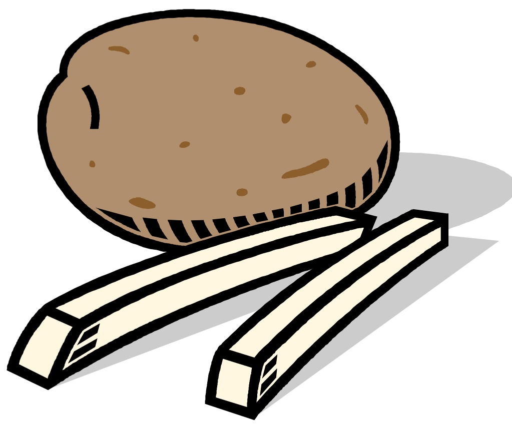
Marketing U.S. Potatoes

2009 Crop



Federal-State
Market News Service

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Cooperating with

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Fruit & Vegetable Programs

Marketing U.S. Potatoes
2009 Crop

Foreword

This abbreviated summary is the result of technology that allows you to select only the prices and shipments you are interested in from the Market News Portal. You can access the **Fruit and Vegetable Market News Portal** at

http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv

Historical shipment and price information can be obtained by using **Run a Custom Report**.

The U.S. Potato Monthly Shipments are generated out of the Market News Portal, downloaded in Excel and organized into a Pivot Table.

The *National Potato and Onion Report* is still published and is available by a free email service. To receive this report by email call 208-525-0166. It is also available on the Web at http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/idop.pdf

If you have any questions, call the Idaho Falls Market News office at 208-525-0166

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MARKETING KERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA SPRING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: USDA, NASS estimated the California Spring crop production at:

KERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT SPRING POTATO CROP					
CROP YEAR	**HARVESTED ACRES**	**YIELD PER ACRE**	**PRODUCTION CWT**	**PRICE PER CWT**	**PRODUCTION VALUE**
2003	19,000	440	8,360,000	$12.60	105,336,000
2004	17,500	475	8,313,000	$13.40	111,394,000
2005	15,100	405	6,116,000	$13.00	79,508,000
2006	15,300	395	6,044,000	$12.00	72,528,000
2007	15,500	395	6,123,000	$10.20	62,455,000
2008	14,300	420	6,006,000	$11.00	66,066,000
2009	17,500	410	7,175,000	$17.50	125,563,000
5 year average	15,540	405	6,293,700	$12.74	80,181,738
change from 2008 to 2009	123%	98%	120%	159%	190%
change from ave to 2009	113%	101%	114%	137%	157%
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					

***Includes Chip Stock

Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards indicated acreage was:

	Kern County Spring Potato Acreage				
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**% change**
Lone White	1,932	1,826	1,679	1,810	108%
Round Red	1,686	2,047	1,960	2,398	122%
Russet	3,968	4,030	3,292	3,516	107%
Yellow Type	1,068	1,365	1,431	1,421	99%
Chipper	3,402	3,745	3,640	**	NA
Total Acreage	12,056	13,013	12,002	NA	NA
	*Please note: One major Kern County Packing Shed does not publicly release their acreage, therefore, it is not included in these totals. **Kern County Dept of Ag no longer tracks potato acreage. Acreage is compiled by local shippers.				

KERN DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA POTATO SHIPMENTS

	2007 Spring Crop	2008 Spring Crop	2009 Spring Crop
Purple Type	50,400 cwt	47,600 cwt	78,141
Fingerling	***	***	92,129
Yellow Type	384,300 cwt	446,300 cwt	412,708
Long White	606,600 cwt	643,300 cwt	607,073
Round Red	559,300 cwt	718,700 cwt	618,467
Russet	1,005,800 cwt	882,000 cwt	846,953
Rail/piggy-back	1,232,000 cwt	1,105,400 cwt	965,200
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	**3,838,400 cwt**	**3,897,800 cwt**	**3,620,671**

<u>Shipments</u>: Local Kern county shipments of 2009 crop started week-ending May 2 and continued until week-ending August 15

	Kern District Potato Shipments				
		2008 Spring Crop		2009 Spring Crop	
		CWT	percentage	CWT	Percentage
Truck Shipments	Purple	93,300	3%	78,141	3
	Fingerling			92,129	4
	Yellow Type	446,300	16%	412,708	15
	Long White	643,300	23%	607,073	23
	Round Red	718,700	26%	618,467	23
	Russet	882,000	32%	846,953	32
	Round Red/Yellow Flesh	2,200		0	
	Mixed Varieties	6,600		358	
	TOTAL TRUCK	**2,792,400**		**2,655,471**	
	Rail	1,105,400	28%	965,200	27
	TOTAL	**3,897,800**		**3,620,671**	

<u>Marketing</u>: The 2009 season was the third season the shippers ask for and received an additional handling fee of 45 cents per carton/bale.

Long Whites: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $14.45-16.45 per carton on week ending May 16, then closed at $16.45-on weekending July 18. They never traded lower than week ending May 23-June 6 and traded highest week ending June 20 and July 4.

Round Reds: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $10.45-12.45 per carton on week ending May 16, then closed at $14.45 on week ending July 25. They never traded higher than the last week and traded lowest on week ending May 23 and June 13 at $10.45.

Yellow Type: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $18.45-20.55 per carton on week ending May 16, then closed at $16.45-18.45 on week ending July 18. They never traded higher than the second week and traded lowest at $16.45-18.45 on week ending June 6 through the remainder of the season.

Russet Norkotah: U.S. One size A 100-pound sacks opened at $11.30-12.30 on week ending June 13, and closed at $9.30-10.30 on week ending July 25. They never traded higher than $12.30 on June 27 and never traded lower than $9.30-10.30 on the last three weeks of the season. U.S. One 50-pound carton 80s opened the season on weekending June 13 at $13.45 per carton and closed on weekending July 25 at $11.45-12.45 per carton. They never traded lower than the last two weeks and the highest they traded was the second week of the season.

Three of the Kern County shippers operate their facilities outside of the traditional spring potato season. They have a winter crop grown in their Kern fields, including the Lake Isabella area and operations in what they call "the desert", which is in the Imperial Valley-Coachella area. One Kern shipper also uses potatoes grown in the Lancaster area. Those three areas are reported in separate districts: Winter crop is California-Central, the desert deal in reported as California-Imperial Valley, and Lancaster is included in the California-Southern. Shipments are reported in a weekending format in these districts. Prices are not reported by the Market News in these areas, so that confidentiality can be maintained. The winter crop runs from November into March. The desert deal runs in April. The Lancaster crop starts as the Kern spring deal finishes in late June and runs into early October. One other California shipper has ground throughout southern California, allowing them to harvest potatoes throughout the year.

Transportation Trends: Trucks hauled 72 percent of the crop. Trucks were extremely hard to come by, but rail was even more of a shortage. Most shippers must rely on the customer to find a truck. Buyers had limited luck finding a truck that was going to California. Finding a truck already in-state that was empty was extremely difficult. Piggy-back continues to be an alternate method of transportation because of the limited availability of trucks and rail cars. Another transportation opportunity for Kern County shippers is Railex with Corporate Headquarters in Riverhead, New York. The shipping facility is located in Delano, California (outside of Bakersfield). Railex delivers potatoes/produce weekly, coast to coast in five days, from Delano, California to its Rotterdam, New York facility. The Albany, New York area is unique in that Railex can service 5 major cities in four hours or less. It is extremely well served by rail, yet lacks the congestion associated with major metropolitan areas. This combination makes for a highly efficient transfer of goods to market that can be coupled with high volume and consistent supply through Railex's platform. Kern shippers are indeed pleased with the new and additional opportunity for shipping into the lucrative East Coast market.

MARKETING COLORADO POTATOES

2009 CROP

Production:

COLORADO (Fall Potato Crop) NASS 2009 Summary					
Area Planted			**Area Harvested**		
2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
59,200	57,000	56,000	59,100	56,900	55,200
Yield			**Production**		
2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
355	385	400	20,981,000	21,907,000	22,080,000

Growing and Harvest Season: By week ending June 1, 2009: Summer potatoes were 90 percent planted compared to 5-year average of 78 percent; 50 percent emerged compared to 5-year average of 45 percent. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition on that date. Fall potatoes were 93 percent planted compared to 5-year average of 91 percent and 10 percent emerged compared to 5-year average of 7 percent. By week ending August 10 fall potatoes were rated in excellent to fair condition, while summer potatoes were rated in poor to excellent condition. By that date harvest of summer potatoes was underway with 2 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 4 percent. Week ending September 8 saw fall potatoes both rated in fair to excellent condition. Summer potatoes were 25 percent harvested compared to the five-year average of 35 percent. Harvest of fall potatoes had begun with 7 percent of the acreage dug compared to the five-year average of 7 percent. Week ending October 11 fall potatoes were 86 percent harvested compared to 78 percent on this day.

Summer Marketing Season: The USDA Market News Service does not publish F.O.B. shipping point prices for Colorado's summer crop due to having too few shippers to establish a market.

Fall Marketing Season: Russet varieties of count cartons and non-size A bales started week ending September 5. 70 count Russet cartons started out at \$8.50 per carton and finished the season \$12.50 per carton. Size A baled 5 10-pound film bags started out at \$6.50 and finished at \$7.50. U.S. Commercial bulk per cwt size A started at \$7.00-8.00 and finished at \$3.50-6.00.

Movement: The Market News Service began reporting light movement of Round Reds, Yellow Type week ending August 22, 2008. Shipments of Russets started shipping out of the San Luis Valley on weekending September 5. Fall potato shipments peaked in mid-November with the Thanksgiving promotions running add business. Week ending November 21 saw the peak at 412,638 cwt compared to 435,600 cwt shipped same week last year. Mid-December saw another bump of Holiday business. Weeks ending December 12 and 19 saw 382,030 and 398,856 cwt shipped. The Easter Holiday saw another bump of business with week ending March 13 shipments of 427,684 cwt. Colorado's total shipments for the crop year through week-ending August 28, 2010 equaled 15,127,000 cwt compared to last season at 15,020,000 cwt. By variety Fingerling 19,172 cwt, Long White 477 cwt, Mixed 74,903 cwt, Purple 1,546 cwt, Round Red 330,114 cwt, Round Red/Yellow Flesh 22,200 cwt, Round White 4,291 cwt, Russet 13,655,381 cwt, Yellow Type 830,609 cwt and shipped by rail 188,500 cwt.

Stocks:

	Stocks on Hand (CWT)						
2008 Crop	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09
	16,000,000	14,700,000	12,700,000	11,100,000	9,000,000	5,900,000	3,800,000
2009 Crop	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10
	15,900,000	13,900,000	12,200,000	10,500,000	8,100,000	4,900,000	3,300,000

Packaging: Major packaging remained the 50-pound cartons, 10 and 5-pound poly bags in 50-pound paper or poly balers or card board bins, and dry bulk for Russet varieties (predominantly Norkotah with some Canela Russet, Classic Russet, Centennial Russet, Russet Nugget and Rio Grande Russet). Round Reds shipped primarily in 10- and 5-pound poly in 50-pound paper or poly balers and card board bins, also 2 ½-3 ½" (Premiums) in 50-pound cartons, and size B in 50-pound paper sacks. Yellow Type shipped primarily as 5-pound poly in 50-pound paper or poly balers and card board bins, also 2 ½-3 ½" (Premiums) in 50-pound cartons.

Transportation: Trucks were a problem for the Colorado potato shippers most of the season. Transportation had become a critical issue as rising fuel prices in 2009 cut into growers' profits. There were a few incidents early in the new calendar year, such as the Holiday season when trucks tend to haul the high paying Christmas tree loads. Also, spring time creates additional problems when trucks are tied up hauling nursery stock that also pays a premium. Most of the Colorado's tablestock crop ships out of state, including major distribution centers such as: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, California; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and because of Colorado's tie to and close proximity to Texas, Amarillo, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Houston, TX.

MARKETING DELAWARE POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: According to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 1,700 acres of potatoes, of which 1,600 acres were harvested. This represents 100 acres less acreage harvested from the 2008 season. Production during the 2009 season increased to 480,000 cwt, an increase of 13 percent from the previous year (425,000 cwt). Yields also increased to 300 cwt per acre, compared to 250 cwt last year. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $9.10 per cwt, down sharply from the previous year ($13.50) with the total value of production for 2009 of $4.368 million dollars. The grower base has remained at 5, despite the continued pressures of urban sprawl. During 2009, the State average for agricultural land was $ 20,318.00, according to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service.

Movement: The Market News Service reported movement of approximately 322,000 cwt of tablestock for the 2009 season, up from the year before (269,000 cwt). During the 2009 season, Market News Service reported shipments of the following type of potatoes: Russets, Round Whites, Round Reds and Yellow Type. The first movement during the 2009 growing season was reported week ending July 25. No chipstock was reported in the State this year.

Growing and Harvest Season: Initial planting was underway the first week of April, with adequate soil moisture. Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation persisted during the rest of April. By late April, 83 percent of the potato crop was planted compared to the 5-year average of 75 percent. Heavy rains in mid-May slowed late planting progress as growers finished mid-month. Above normal temperatures and scattered showers continued through June, and some fields showed stress due to dry soil conditions. Harvest of Round Reds began around the 20th of July and warm but dry conditions continued through July and the first half of August. Late August and September saw above average rainfall which slowed harvest. Cooler temperatures continued into late September when most of the crop was finally harvested.

Marketing Season: Market News Service reported the first F.O.B. prices of the 2009 season on July 31. This date was two weeks behind the first report of July 17 during the 2008 season. Prices opened the season at lower levels than the 2008 season as 50-pound sacks of U.S. One Size A Round Reds were reported for $12.00. During the 2008 season, 50-pound sacks of U.S. One Size A Round Reds were reported for $16.00. While B size started the 2009 season at $16.00, which was also below 2008 pricing levels. Red supplies were light and finished by the end of middle of August at steady prices of $12.00 and $16.00 respectively. Round White U.S. One size A 50-pound sacks started the season in late July with F.O.B. prices of $9.00 and chefs at $11.00, while tote bags approximately 2,000 pounds size A brought mostly $16.00 cwt for much of the season. Prices slipped slightly by mid-August to $7.00-8.00 for A size 50s with chefs $9.00-10.00 and totes $14.00-16.00 cwt. The season was not completed as early this year due to the cool wet weather in the month of September.

MARKETING FLORIDA POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: 2009 crop production is listed by the USDA NASS in their January 2010 Crop Production-Annual Report for the 2008 crop summary. Area planted was 326,000 acres total, with Hastings as 200,000 acres and other as 126,000 acres. Area harvested was 289,000 acre total, with Hastings as 165,000 acres, and other as 124,000 acres. Yield per acre was 266 cwt per acres state wide. Production was 7,700,000 cwt total, with Hastings at 4,290,000 cwt and all other areas at 3,410,000 cwt.

Crop & Weather: Fields were being prepared for planting in early December. Dry conditions were reported in many areas as growers paused to observe the holidays. January saw cool temperature for the first 3 weeks, culminating with major freezing temperature the third week of the month. Most acreage showed no significant damage although the cold singed a few acres. Potato digging around Lake Okeechobee and in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas became active during February. Replanting of freeze areas started as assessments were made during February and into March. April saw the first of a series of heavy rain storms that reached their height in mid-May, effectively ending the season earlier than expected for many producers. Flooded fields, floating potatoes and unworkable soil resulted in a lackluster June.

Harvesting: None of the Florida potato crop is put into storage. The entire production is packed and shipped at harvest. Thus harvest is on going through the packing season. Enough acres are harvested each day to keep the packing plants going based on demand and sales. Harvesting is not as stressful in Florida as it is in storage states that harvest into the night.

Shipments: Shipments of fresh-table stock potatoes out of Florida for the 2009 season were 2,786,000 compared to 2,638,600 total cwt in 2008. Round Red was 2,051,400 cwt in 2009, 1,906,000 cwt in 2007; Round White 446,400 cwt in 2009, 555,200 cwt in 2008; Yellow Type 250,000 cwt in 2009, 175,600 cwt in 2008; Russet Norkotahs 3,250 in 2009, while none were shipped in 2008; and fingerling 490 cwt in 2009 compared to 1,800 cwt. in 2008. Round Red shipments began the weekending February 14 and finished weekending July 4. The Round Red crop had one week, March 28, that stood out with 1,663,620 cwt shipped. Round White shipments started on weekending February 14 and finished weekending June 20. Round White shipments stood out May 2 for the season. Yellow Type shipments began weekending February 28 and finishing the last week of the season of June 20. May and June were the biggest shipping months for Yellow Type. Shipments of chipper potatoes totaled 7,001,000 cwt in 2009; 3,446,900 cwt for the 2008 season. Chipper shipments began the weekending March 21 and finished week ending June 20. Chipper shipments peaked from weekending May 2 through May 16. There is an area in north Florida shipping chipper potatoes earlier than those recorded. This early deal is not reported by the USDA.

Marketing: No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2009 season as most movement was contracted or open sales were in the hands of a few growers, with too few prices reported to establish a market. The USDA, AMS, Fruit &Vegetable Market News reported prices out of Florida from weekending February 14 through June 13 on Round Red. Round Red 50-pound sacks size A started out at $14.50-15.60 per sack, finishing at $10.00-12.00. Round White 50-pound sacks size A started the season weekending February 28 at $23.50-27.60 and finished weekending May 30 at $15.00. Yellow Type 50-pound sacks size A started the season week ending February 28 at $24.00-27.60 and finished weekending May 23 at $20.00.

MARKETING IDAHO POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the in-season estimate for 2009 crop acreage was 320,000 acres planted, a five percent increase from the final estimate for the 2008 crop at 305,000 acres. The in-season estimate of 2009 yield was 415 cwt per acre for 2009, an eight percent increase from the final estimate for 2008s yield of 383 cwt per acre. The in-season estimate of 2009 production was 132,500,000 cwt, a fourteen percent increase from the final estimate of 2008s production of 116,475,000 cwt.

Shipments: The first 2009 crop shipments were recorded during the weekending August 15, 2009. 637,000 cwt of 2008 shipments over-lapped the start of the 2009 crop marketed in August 2009. It was the second week of September, 2009 before Idaho (as well as other areas) marketing was not competing with storage supplies. Fresh market shipments were in full volume from mid-September, 2009 onward. Shipments from Idaho in 2009 were 37,115,000 cwt, a twenty-two percent increase from 2008s shipments of 30,429,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was July at 3,521,000 cwt.

Shipments were ninety-six percent Russet, two percent were Round Reds (including red skin/yellow flesh), and two percent Yellows.

The crop year is the calendar year when harvest occurred. Seasons are not fixed dates. Shipments are reported by the crop year (season) so overlapping shipments (generally in August) do occur as marketing from storage of the 2009 crop extended through September of 2010 after 2010 harvest and shipments had started.

Crop & Weather: As of the first week of April, 2009 thirteen percent of Southwestern Idaho had been planted, compared to nine percent in 2008. The Twin Falls County Extension Educator reported cool weather had delayed potato planting. Many fields in Eastern Idaho remained covered in snow. Rain in the Southwestern and South Central districts and the afore mentioned snow in the Eastern Districts had delayed field progress. Adding to the planting and growing challenges, temperatures ranged 3 to 10 degrees below normal. During the weekending April 12, warmer weather had melted snow in some higher elevation fields. Most districts reported precipitation and some districts reported almost twice the average for the week.

Temperatures across the State ranged from 7 degrees above to 3 degrees below normal for the week. By mid-April, warm and dry weather improved growing conditions. However, some counties still reported surplus top soil moisture. Most districts reported precipitation and mild temperatures that ranged from 4 degrees above to 5 degrees below normal. Warm weather during the beginning of the last week in April was favorable to fieldwork. Conditions worsened later in the week as cool weather moved into the State. However, all districts reported above average or average temperatures that ranged from normal to 8 degrees above normal. By the end of April, planting in the southwest part of the State was 96 percent complete compared to 70 percent in 2008; in south central it was 33 percent complete compared to 67 percent; in Eastern Idaho is was 20 percent compared to 26 percent in 2008.

Conditions in the beginning of the first week of May were cool and wet for most of the State. Warm and dry weather moved into the State at the end of the week which improved conditions. All stations reported below normal temperature for a second week in a row, ranging from 2 to 6 degrees below normal. Planting was almost complete in Caribou and Power counties mid-May. Weather remained warm and dry throughout the month and was hot and dry during the last week. Temperatures ranged from 3 degrees to 11 degrees above normal. Dammer-diking potato fields was a major activity in Power County. Statewide, 96 percent of the crop had been planted compared to 99 percent in 2008. The crop was 100 percent emerged in the southwest; south central was 53 percent compared to 67 percent in 2008; and 13 percent in the Eastern part of the State compared to 7 percent in 2008. During the first week of June the weather was warm and wet. Temperatures ranged from 2 degrees below to 9 degrees above normal. The second week saw cool and wet weather for the southern part of the State. However, statewide emergence was 92 percent compared to 74 percent in 2008. During the weekending June 21, all but one weather station reported above normal precipitation for the week. Bingham County reported hail damage to potatoes on June 21. Temperatures ranged from 2 degrees above to 6 degrees below normal. Potato emergence was nearly complete. The Power County extension office reported flooding in potato fields. During the last week of June, temperatures ranged from normal to 6 degrees below normal. Forty-four percent of the potatoes were 12 inches high, compared to 29 percent in 2008.

By mid-July, crops remained in mostly good to excellent condition because of warm weather and adequate irrigation water supplies. By the end of July 96 percent of the potatoes were closing middles compared to 7 percent in 2008. Potato vines were also starting to die or being killed.

Bonneville County reported verticillium wilt in some fields in mid-August. Caribou County reported frost late in the weekending August 16. During the weekending August 23, harvest had begun for many farmers with Russet Norkotahs in the Treasure Valley and the Magic Valley. Harvest continued to move across the growing region through the rest of August and September.

During the weekending October 4, average weekly temperatures ranged from 2 to 9 degrees below normal. Above normal precipitation was recorded at most stations. Farm operators had goo harvesting weather during the beginning of the week. A cool front moved into the State later in the week bringing lower temperatures and significant precipitation. Potato frost damage was reported by the Jerome County Extension Office. Statewide, cool temperatures remained for most of the following week. Killing frosts and snow showers were reported by several University of Idaho Extension Educators. Cool weather slowed potato harvest. During the weekending October 18, cool temperatures and muddy fields continued to slow harvest in some locations. The Power County Extension Office reported that potato harvest would soon be complete in that area. Harvest was complete by the end of October.

Marketing: The first report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 15, 2009 out of the Twin Falls-Burley District and Western Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $5.00-5.50 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $13.00-15.00. Marketing shifted to include the Upper Valley the second week in September. The baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $5.50-6.50 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $7.00-7.50.

The first report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending September 26, 2009 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $4.50-6.00 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $8.00. The last report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending April 24, 2010 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $3.50-4.25 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $8.00-8.50.

The last report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending August 28, 2010 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $4.00 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $14.00. Prices represent open (spot) market sales by first handlers on product packed to U.S. Grade standards, as shown. No consideration is given to after-sale adjustments unless otherwise stated. Brokerage fees paid by the shipper are included in the price reported.

U.S. grade standards for potatoes were revised effective April 21, 2008. Among other changes, the U.S. Extra No. One grade was eliminated, creamer and chefs sized were added and tolerances were increased for arrivals.

Processing: The 2009 crop was generally a very nice crop. The potatoes could have used more size overall as there weren't many large sizes available half way through the season. The gravities seemed to be average. As always, there was some concern about potatoes that were dug later in the harvesting season due to heavy frosts the areas received in October 2009. Overall, it was a smooth crop with higher packout percentages which created less off-grade potatoes for the dehydrators.

MARKETING KLAMATH BASIN POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production:

California Fall Potatoes						
	Acres Planted	Acres Harvested	CWT Acre	CWT Production	CWT Price	Production Value
2006	8,600	8,600	450	3,870,000		
2007	7,900	7,900	480	3,792,000	$7.70	26,299,000
2008	8,400	8,400	470	3,948,000	$7.55	26,906,000
2009	8,400	8,400	495	4,158,000	$8.95	37,214,000

Klamath County Oregon Potatoes			
	Acres Harvested	CWT Acre	CWT Production
2007	5,300	485	2,570,500
2008	5,300	430	2,279,000
2009	5,400	450	2,430,000

Shipments: Klamath Basin fresh potato shipments were 2,250,281 million cwt; with the California side of the Basin at 997,646 million cwt and the Oregon side at 1,252,635 million cwt. The shipping period was from weekending August 29, 2009 to week ending September 25, 2010. The week ending November 21 was the peak of shipments with 75,683 cwt for that week, which was down from 92,200 cwt shipped that same week in 2008.

Season	2008	
Sum of 100lb units	**Column Labels**	
Row Labels	**KLAMATH BASIN**	**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT**
FINGERLING	7,494	
PURPLE TYPE	1,561	
ROUND RED	69,219	
ROUND WHITE	14,093	
RUSSET	1,052,754	1,000,108
YELLOW TYPE	33,099	
Grand Total	**1,178,220**	**1,000,108**

Season	2009	
Sum of 100lb units	**Column Labels**	
Row Labels	**KLAMATH BASIN**	**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT**
FINGERLING	26,178	
PURPLE TYPE	210	
ROUND RED	85,051	
ROUND WHITE	8,763	
RUSSET	1,059,415	997,646
YELLOW TYPE	73,018	
Grand Total	**1,252,635**	**997,646**

Marketing: Prices from the Klamath Basin for Russet Norkotah baled 5 10-pound film bags non-size A (on a per bale basis) opened at $4.50 the week ending November 7, 2009. Season ending prices were $7.00 week ending July 31, 2010, which was also the season high. The season low was $2.75-3.50 the first two weeks of May. 50-pound carton 70s prices opened at $7.00-8.00 per carton. Season ending prices on 70 counts was $12.00-13.00. The season low for 70 counts was $6.00-7.00, which held for most of February-March.

MARKETING MAINE POTATOES

2009 CROP

Production: Maine's 2009 potato production was reported at 15.26 million cwt, up 3 percent from 14.7 million cwt in 2008 due to a slightly increase in harvested acres over the previous season. Harvested acreage totaled 55,500, an increase of 800 acres over the previous year. Planted acreage remained the same at 56,000 acres. Yields of 275 cwt per acre increased slightly from 270 to 275 for the crop year. Maine's 2008 potato crop was the state's smallest in more than 60 years. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.10 per cwt, an increase from the previous year ($9.75) with the value of production $154 million dollars ($144).

Objective Yield Survey: Results from the annual Potato Objective Yield Survey conducted by NASS officials indicated the Russet Burbank again as the leading (fry processing) variety planted in the State, comprising 41.5 percent of the total acreage, followed by numbered Frito-Lay chipping selections at 11.1 percent, Russet Norkotah and Round White Superior for table sales at 5.1 and 4.9 percent respectively, and Yukon Gold 4.3 percent. Acreages by potato type were Russet at 51 percent, Whites unchanged (both Long and Round) at 35 percent, Yellows unchanged at 8 percent, and Reds 6 percent (5 percent). Round Whites graded by percentage of No.1 dropped from 76 percent to 73 percent for the 2009 season and the lowest in over six seasons, while Russets added 6 percent (72 versus 66 percent) and Yellows remained the same as the previous two years at 82 percent.

Growing & Harvest Seasons: Cool, dry soil conditions got planting off to an early start in early May. By May 24, the potato crop was 90 percent planted, compared to the 50 percent the prior year. Cool, cloudy and wet weather conditions followed, which slowed emergence and brought the crop progress back to a normal pace. Planting was completed the first week of June, ahead of the previous season but within the 5 year average of normal. By mid-June, only 35 percent of the crop had broken ground, compared with 60 percent last season and normal's 40 percent. The summer months brought warm temperatures but wet weather continued into early August. The crop saw rapid growth in July and August. Rainfall was extremely variable across the County, with southern areas wetter. By mid-August, sunshine returned along with dry conditions and continued well into September, which kept tubers from adding bulk prior to harvest. The dry soils also increased bruising and nicks during harvest. Showers and chilly temperatures arrived in early October when the crop was nearly 35 percent dug, and too late to boost yields. By the middle of the month, with about 10 percent of the crop left to be dug, temperatures dipped below freezing. The last few acres were dug by the end of October under challenging conditions.

Shipments: Maine fresh potato shipments through December 2009 were down sharply (20 percent) at 780,000 cwt compared to 978,953 cwt the previous season as reported by the Market News Service. Early Round White movement dropped 33 percent, Round Red and Yellows increased by 76 and 9 percent while Russets remained about the same from the previous year. Tablestock shipments through May totaled 2,148,601 cwt compared to 2,221,910 cwt the year before. Round White demand struggled for much of the season, due to an abundant Russet crop and lowball prices in the Western states, namely Idaho. The overall quality of Round White varieties was questionable from field to field due to bruising at harvest time along with nicks and general quality of the tuber. Shrink and waste was higher than normal and storage duration did not favor spring deliveries. By mid-March, Round White supplies were light and in few hands. The early Russet demand was respectable in spite of the gigantic Western crop, and quality was better going into the spring months with ample offerings. Major destinations for the crop included Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Maine and New Jersey. Shipments by type through June for the 2009 season were: Round White 1,233,629 cwt, Round Red 123,510 cwt, Yellow type 206,188 cwt, Russets 647,139 cwt.

Easements: According to the Maine Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service, 753 loads (396,308 cwt) were sent to Canada for processing for the season through July 2010, compared to the final of 521 loads (295,425 cwt) the previous year.

Potato Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2009 totaled 12 million cwt, 6 percent above the 2008 December 1 holdings. Disappearance totaled 3.3 million cwt, compared to 3.5 million cwt the previous season. Maine's processor usage (excluding chips) was down 1 percent from last season. Storage accounted for 79 percent of the State's total production: 45 percent Russets, 45 percent Round White varieties, 6 percent yellows and 4 percent red varieties. The May 1 stocks on hand reported 3.9 million cwt, 5 percent more than the previous season of 3.7 million cwt.

Marketing Season: Market News issued the first F.O. B. shipping point prices the last week of October with Round White U.S. One 2 inch minimum and Russet Norkotah U.S. One 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $6.50-7.00. This was sharply lower than the 2008 season start from $10.00-11.00, and the same level as the 2007 crop start. The huge Russet crop in the West brought weak pricing throughout the season and stiff competition to meet delivered prices in the East. Demand was sluggish for much of the year, particularly a tough sell for Round White varieties. Quality of these varieties varied and deteriorated quicker as storage progressed into the New Year. The late harvesting season made it harder to compete with those businesses out of state that had been shipping earlier and already captured market share. Early in January prices on Russets slipped $1.00 cwt, while Round Whites remained stable, although a tough sell. By the end of the year, shipments-to-date were 20 percent behind the previous year. In the latter half of March, Russet baled 5s slipped again to the mostly $5.50-6.00 range due to continued competition from Canada and Idaho. Round White supplies became light and in few hands but market prices remained stable with increased pressure bruising and consequent higher cullage. The last report for Round Whites was issued the end of April with U.S. One baled 10 5-pound film bags 2 inch minimum from $6.50-7.00. Russet prices began a slight descent in late March with ample supplies and sluggish movement from Western states. Maine Russet prices on baled 10-5-pound film bags 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum slid to $5.50-6.00 and finished at these prices in early May. Light shipments continued into July.

Packaging: The major consumer package for Maine potatoes has been the baled 10 5-pound film bags for Russet, Round Whites and Yellows. Some Russets are also packed as baled 10s with few cartons being utilized by packing sheds. Some potatoes were packed in totes and sent to repackers near metropolitan areas this season. There continued to be some premium pack sizes such as 2 ¼ inch minimum on Round Whites for some chain store accounts and 5-9 ounce packs on Russets packed in bales as well.

Transportation: Fuel costs were fairly stable during the fall and winter months with surcharges that averaged from 5-10 percent for deliveries north of Pennsylvania. However, surcharge costs increased for deliveries south of Philadelphia and ranged from 10-19 percent during much of the season. Base rates remained unchanged from the previous season: New York $3.00, Boston $2.40, Philadelphia $3.50 and Baltimore $3.75 cwt. There were only a few instances of truck shortages during the year, notably near holidays.

MAINE CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: Maine chipping potato movement totaled nearly 1.92 million cwt in 2009, 10 percent less than the previous season total (2.13), which was also 10 percent lower than the 2007 crop of 2.37 million cwt. Contracts were written similarly to the previous year. Yields were reported slightly higher at 275 cwt per acre compared to the previous year (270). Shipments began mid-August and finished in early June. Most of the chipping production is located in Central and Southern Aroostook County with two major growers in the northern part of the county. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.10 per cwt, an increase from the previous crop year ($9.75) with the value of production $154 million dollars ($144.0). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt in 2009, down 16 percent from the previous year.

Marketing: Harvest of out-of-the-field supplies began in mid-August; however, weekly shipments trailed the previous year's pace by 18 percent through November. The biggest shipping weeks of the crop year occurred in December and was the only month this season that surpassed the previous season By March 1, movement to date trailed last season by 12 percent and also was the lowest shipping total-to-date in over 10 years. Chip growers suffered higher cullage due to excess bruising of the tuber as dry conditions hampered digging in the fall. There were little or no instances of open market trading reported by the MNS as growers tended to plant only acreage contracted. Frito-Lay was the major buyer/contractor in the state with smaller contracts going to Cape Cod, Lances and Wachusett chip companies in Massachusetts and a few buying brokers in the East.

MARKETING MICHIGAN POTATOES

2009 CROP

Production: Michigan growers harvested 43,500 acres, up 1,000 acres from the previous season and production increased to nearly15.7 million cwt (14.8 million cwt in 2008). Record yields of 360 cwt topped the previous record of 350 cwt per acre as reported in the 2007 and 2008 seasons. Approximately 89 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, 10 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red varieties. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.50 per cwt, a slight increase from the previous year ($10.10) and the value of production $164.4 million dollars ($150).

Movement: Light shipments of the summer Onaway crop commenced the end of July with mature tubers and continued through October. An excess of western Russets and low prices during the summer months created little marketing opportunities for new crop Round Whites. A cooler summer promoted tuber growth and a few growers were concerned with storing some Onaways as well. Trading was slow and movement by the end of August was down sharply (-57 percent) from the previous summer. September and October movement helped closed the gap for Round White varieties, as the states Round White shipments were down 27 percent over the previous year to date. Russet movement also got off to a slow start; by the end of September, bulk cwt movement to repackers was down by 13 percent from the previous season for the same time frame. However, by the end of December, bulk shipments of Russet Norkotah had pulled ahead of last season by 13 percent. Consumer package shipments through the end of the year were lower; Round Whites were behind by 25 percent and Russet shipments down by 6 percent from the previous season. Peak shipping months for Round White Onaway occurred in September and October, while storage Round Whites saw their best movement in January – March. Russets saw their first big push for Thanksgiving, although the peak shipping period began mid-December through March. Round white and Russet consumer packages were shipped well into June by a few major growers in the state; however, bulk Russet offerings were virtually depleted by April 1st.

The final total for the season reported by the MNS the middle of June was approximately 2.52 million cwt, compared to 2.25 million cwt for the 2008 season. Round White loads accounted for 23 percent, with the remainder (75 percent) Russet varieties and Round Red and Yellows nearly 2 percent. Due to the slower season, Round White supplies were reported nearly two months longer than the 2008 season.

Growing & Harvest Seasons: Planting was off to a normal start in early April. Showers at the end of the month slowed planting progress. By mid-May, 56 percent of the crop was planted, compared to 50 percent the previous year. According to NASS, emergence on June 1 was reported at 49 percent, compared to 34 percent last year and the five-year average of 47 percent. Planting was generally completed in early June. Cooler than normal temperatures and drier conditions occurred during much of the summer growing period, which aided bulking and healthy yields for the crop. Even the summer Onaway crop had great yields, which caused concern for possible storage due to sluggish summer movement. Initial movement to storage began near Labor Day, although some fields were slower to mature due to cooler summer temperatures. Poor harvesting conditions plagued many growers during September and October. Scattered frosts, cool temperatures and excessive rainfall slowed the harvest all fall, and extended harvest into early November for a few growers.

Onaway Summer Marketing Season: The first pricing report issued by the Market News Service began the end of July with fairly light demand. Prices for Round White Onaway U.S. One ten pound open-window sacks loose size A were first reported at $2.05-2.15; however, within days the price had dropped to $1.80-1.90. By Labor Day, prices continued to fall and were reported at mostly $1.30 and remained at these levels through the harvest period. By the end of October, the few growers with supplies dropped the price slightly and 10s finished from $1.20-1.30.

Storage Season: The first F.O.B. shipping point prices for storage supplies began in mid-October with Russet Norkotah and Goldrush U.S. One 10-pound film bags loose size A at much lower prices than the previous season: $1.30 rather than last seasons' start from $2.25-2.60. This price became the mostly high for the season as prices remained depressed due to overproduction in several Western states. By the first part of January, Russet Norkotah 10s slipped to $1.10-1.30. These prices were fairly steady the rest of the shipping season (mid-May) in Michigan. A few growers continued to move light volume of potatoes through June. The first F.O.B. shipping point prices for storage Round Whites began in early November with mostly prices in the $1.25-1.35 range with fairly light demand as well. These prices were also stable for the bulk of the season. The last report for the crop year was issued in early April with prices of mostly $1.10-1.20. A few growers moved more of their Round White crop in totes this season, due to sluggish consumer demand and competition for shelf space with Western grown Russets.

Stocks on Hand: Michigan's potato stocks on hand December 1, 2009 totaled 8.7 million cwt compared to 8.3 million cwt and represented 56 percent of the crop year's production. The April 1 holdings of 1.2 million cwt were down sharply from the previous year (1.8 million cwt) and accounted for 8 percent of the year's production.

Packaging: The 10-pound open-window sack loose paper sack for Round White varieties remained the favored package while the 10-pound film bag loose for Russet varieties (notably Norkotah and Goldrush) was predominant. A few growers packed a 15-pound loose film bag for holiday promotions and a premium 8-pound film bag of Round whites and Russets for special in-house sales by a major retailer in the state. Another chain switched to only an eight-pound bag for both Round Whites and Russet varieties.

Transportation: Trucking was easily handled except for a tight supply near winter holiday promotions. Most of the table stock delivered to nearby or overnight destinations with little problems.

MICHIGAN CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Production: Michigan growers harvested 43,500 acres, up 1,000 acres from the previous year while production increased to nearly 15.7 million cwt (14.9 million cwt in 2008). Record yields of 360 cwt per acre topped the previous record of 350 cwt per acre, as reported in 2007 and 2008. Contracted chip acreage across the State was reported by industry officials as slightly higher than the previous season with contract increases from $2.50-3.00 cwt. It has been estimated that nearly 29,000 acres were devoted to chipstock. Approximately 89 percent of the December 1 stocks on hands were Round White varieties, heavily devoted to chipping acreage. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.50 per cwt, a slight increase from the previous year ($10.10) with the value of production $164.4 million dollars ($150.2). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt in 2009, down 16 percent from the previous year.

Growing & Harvest Seasons: Planting for out-of-the-field early supplies began in by mid April across the southern region of the State, followed shortly by other areas in the Lower Peninsula. The end of the month brought showers which slowed planting progress. By mid-May, 56 percent of the crop was in the ground, compared to 50 percent the previous year. Warmer temperatures and winds provided a favorable plant environment the remainder of the month. By June 1, emergence was reported by NASS at 49 percent, compared to 34 percent the previous year, and the 5 year average of 47 percent. Planting was completed in early June. Cooler than normal temperatures and drier conditions occurred during much of the summer growing period, which aided bulking of the crop and yields. Near the 4th of July, potato fields in St. Joseph County were blooming; however, late blight was discovered in a few fields around the county later in the month. Harvest began in southern Michigan the end of the month. Movement to storage was active during the latter half of September; 38 percent of the crop was harvested at this time, compared to the 5 year average of 46 percent. Some fields were slower to mature due to the cooler temperatures. In October, some frosts and excessive rains across the State slowed harvest and allowed little dry time for fields. Shorter harvesting hours in the latter half of the month slowed storage and pushed the remaining 2,000 acres into mid-November. Milder temperatures and dry conditions extended the season well into the second week of November. Due to harvest weather conditions, some tubers were bruised and tested high for solids, promoting some rejections at fry plants.

Marketing: There was little open market trading during the crop year due to harvest and storage losses. Some open market buying took place in late November through the holidays that ranged as low as $7.00 and as high as $10.00 cwt. as supplies in New York needed extra time to condition in storage. By February, some growers in Michigan reported higher cullage and shrink in storages, that continued to accelerate the rest of the season. The shipping season finished a few weeks earlier than normal in mid-May. Chipping potato movement for the 2009 season increased from the 2008 season, and totaled 8.7 million cwt., 6 percent above the previous year, and the largest volume since the 2003 crop, in spite of storage losses the latter half of the season. Predominant varieties included Atlantic, Snowden, Pike and FL numbered varieties.

Stocks: According to NASS, Michigan's potato stocks on hand December 1, 2009 totaled 8.7 million cwt compared to 8.3 million cwt, and represented 56 percent of the crop year's production. The April 1 holdings of 1.2 million cwt. were down sharply from the previous season (1.8 million cwt) and accounted for 8 percent of the season's production.

MARKETING BIG LAKE & CENTRAL MINNESOTA POTATO

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: National Agricultural Statistics Service reported planted acreage for all of Minnesota at 47,000 acres and 45,000 acres harvested in 2009; compared to 50,000 acres planted with 48,000 acres harvested in 2008.

Growing Conditions: The Big Lake and Central Minnesota District stretches from the Big Lake area (Sherburne County) in the south to Long Prairie, Perham, Bemidji, Trail and Red Lake areas in Central Minnesota.

Harvest: Light harvest activity of Round Reds started weekending August 1, 2009. Most growers of Round Reds had finished digging by mid-September with minimal weather delays during harvest. The peat soil area around Gully, MN finished harvesting Round Reds around mid-October. Some Russets were still being harvested into late October.

Shipments: Recorded shipments of Round Reds and Russets for the season totaled 1,697,957 cwt compared to 2,159,500 cwt in 2008. The Idaho Falls, Idaho, USDA Market News Service collected shipments through the voluntary cooperation of individual shippers. All shipments were transported by truck. Shipments of Round Reds started in late July week ending August 1, and peaked in August week ending August 29. Shipments of Russets started week ending August 8 and finished for the most part in mid-October; a few Russets were stored and marketed in November for the Thanksgiving market. Volume shipments continued through week ending October 3, then declined seasonally with light shipments continuing out of the peat soil storage area until the last potato was shipped on week-ending February 27, 2010.

Marketing: The Big Lake and Central Minnesota marketing of Round Reds started week ending August 1, 2009. Shipping point prices for Round Reds U.S. One size A in 50-pound paper sacks, started the week ending August 1 at $11.00 per 50-pound unit. During the eight weeks of the Round Red potato marketing season, prices ranged from a third week high of $14.50-16.50 per 50-pound unit for the Size A 50-pound paper sacks to a low of $10.00-11.00 per 50-pound unit the week of October 8. Russet Norkotah were not reported by the Idaho Falls, Idaho, USDA Market News Service. The Big Lake area has few Russets and a short window when they are all running. Not enough shippers were running at any one time to establish a market.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service, in their 2008 Summary, reported Average Price Received for Minnesota potatoes including Processing and Fresh was $7.70 in 2009 compared to $8.25 in 2008.

Packaging: The major packs for Round Red potatoes were 2000-pound tote bags. This package is used by shippers as the base price for pricing size A 50-pound paper sacks, 50-pound cartons, and 10- and 5-pound film bags. The packaging for Norkotah was size A and non-size A in 100-pound sacks, 10-pound and 5-pound film bags; 50-pound cartons of count size potatoes.

MARKETING RED RIVER VALLEY POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production:

STATE	CROP YEAR	ACRES PLANTED	ACRES HARVESTED	YIELD CWT	PRODUCTION CWT
MINNESOTA	2006	53,000	50,000	425	21,250,000
	2007	52,000	49,000	440	21,560,000
	2008	50,000	48,000	425	20,400,000
	2009	47,000	45,000	460	20,700,000
NORTH DAKOTA	2006	100,000	98,000	260	25,480,000
	2007	97,000	91,000	260	23,660,000
	2008	82,000	81,000	280	22,680,000
	2009	83,000	75,000	255	19,125,000

	ACREAGE			PRODUCTION		
Minnesota						
	2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
Sherburne (Big Lake)	5,600	6,200	5,600	235,200	2,400,000	3,158,000
Polk (East Grand Forks)	5,400	4,500	4,000	1,506,600	1,008,000	1,574,000
North Dakota						
	2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
Walsh (Grafton)	31,600	26,300	25,400	5,180,000	4,590,000	4,979,000
Pembina (Crystal)	22,800	21,600	20,100	3,840,000	4,590,000	3,662,000
Grand Forks (Grand Forks)	13,800	11,100	10,100	4,845,000	4,070,000	3,629,000

Planting: For weekending May 3, 2009 planting progress was listed at 1 percent complete. Week ending June 21 saw the potato crop 97 percent planted and virtually all of the planting equipment put away for the season and cultivating equipment in the fields as the seasons changed.

Growing Conditions: About 4,000 acres of planted potatoes were lost due to standing water in the northeastern part of North Dakota from heavy rains on June 26. An additional 4,000 acres in lost production was expected in areas where it was too wet to get in the field to harvest. Earlier in the summer there was a concern that potato blight could threaten the crop. The disease was confirmed in August in Grand Forks County and growers were told to scout their fields and to spray a preventive fungicide to head off and outbreak. It was discovered at one of the field days so there was a large crowd and the word got out very quickly. Growers went on an accelerated fungicide spray program and were able to contain the outbreak very well.

Harvest: Potato harvest began in North Dakota with week ending September 13 showing 5 percent of all potato acres being harvested; with chipper and process varieties being harvested. Weekending October 18 saw the potato harvest come to 95 percent harvested. After poor weather in October, nicer weather in November followed and producers had enough dry days in a row where they were able to harvest a portion of the remaining crop. Earlier in the fall USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service reported that 8,000 acres would go un-harvested in North Dakota. In the end instead of 8,000 acres probably only 6,000 acres were lost; because 2,000 were harvested in November. Minnesota growers got started on potato harvest week ending August 3 with 2 percent harvested that week. By week ending October 18 harvest was listed as 95 percent complete.

Marketing: The first report of the season was issued the week ending October 3, 2009 and the last report was put out week ending May 15, 2010 compared to June 27 last year. Prices for tote bags, approximately 2000 pounds per cwt, size A Round Reds U.S. One opened at $13.00-14.00. Tote bags finished the season at $15.00-16.00.

The customary trade practice in this district is to use the tote bags approximately 2000 pounds per cwt size A for Round Reds U.S. One as a base price. Baled 10-pound film bags were usually up-charged $3.50 per cwt premium and 5-pound film bags up-charged $4.50 per cwt from the tote price. 50-pound paper sacks were $2.00 per cwt over the tote base price and 50-pound cartons $4.00.

As a marketing program this year, the Northern Plains Potato Growers Association (NPPGA) utilized a pink ribbon promotion with the fresh potato growers. A portion of all the sales of Red River Valley potatoes that had a quick-lock tag with a pink ribbon on it went to the National Breast Cancer Foundation. The response from retailers taking part in the program was very good. Industry leaders were very happy about raising the money that went to a very worthy cause.

AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO GROWER				
		2007	2008	2009
Minnesota	All	$6.10	$8.25	7.70
North Dakota	All	$6.90	$8.30	9.45
	Fresh	$8.70	$14.90	10.10
	Processing	$6.40	$6.80	9.25

Shipments: Daily shipments were collected with the voluntary cooperation of the Red River Valley shippers by Idaho Falls, Idaho, Market News Service. Fresh market shipments of Round Reds began week ending September 12, 2009 and continued into the week ending June 12, compared to July 11 for the 2008 crop year. Fresh shipments totaled 3,183,866 cwt compared to previous year of 4,084,000 cwt for the 2008 crop compared to 3,911,600 cwt for the 2007 season. The Holiday Season showed some increases in shipments from other weeks. The week ending November 14 had shipments totaling 133,370 cwt compared to 2008 with shipments of 1,695,000 and 1,566,000 cwt shipped the same week in 2007.

Transportation Trends: The Valley often experiences more transportation problems than most other shipping areas because of its location and the lack of back hauls. Most trucks originate out of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The truck shortages that other segments of the produce industry experienced this year also plagued the Red River Valley. Frito-Lay hauls massive amounts of chippers out of State during harvest and the largest turkey producing area in the nation is just over the North Dakota border into Central Minnesota. These two commodities take many trucks from the potato shippers. Trucks were in tight supply by late-October and shortages continued through the month of December.

MARKETING LONG ISLAND POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, New York growers planted 17,100 acres of potatoes for the 2009 season, 900 less acres than the previous season, and according to NASS estimates, another record low for the State. Harvested acreage totaled a record low 16,500 acres, 1,300 less than the previous year. Production sunk to a record low 4.95 million hundredweight, 13 percent below the 2008 crop, with an average yield of 300 cwt, down slightly from the record breaking yield of 320 cwt the previous season. Unofficial sources reported estimated planted acreage of potatoes of 2,500-2,600 acres on Eastern Long Island. According to NASS, the average price for the season in New York totaled $12.80, a sharp decrease from the previous season ($16.20) and the value of production totaled $63.3 million dollars for the state ($92.2).

Growing & Harvest Seasons: Planting of the 2009 crop got off to a later start due to cooler, wet weather. Spring was late to arrive on the island and growers were plagued with several rain delays, cooler temperatures followed by many "gray" days. The excess rains during the early half of the season promoted growth spurts in the tubers, and fostered hollow heart and internal issues. A few growers began light harvest mid-August as nearby Delaware suffered many rain delays and hot temperatures. Harvest continued through much of October.

Marketing Season: The first F.O.B. shipping point prices were issued by the Market News Service in early September. The season was off to a later start than normal due to frequent rains and earlier weather conditions coming up the Atlantic Seaboard, which delayed harvest in many regions, notably Delaware who directly competes with Long Island. A few growers were able to pack earlier to fill in when Delaware was rained out. However, prices were disappointing from the onset of the shipping season. Round White U.S. One 50-pound sacks size A were first reported at mostly $7.00-7.50, compared to $12.00-13.00 in 2008, and slightly better than 2007 ($6.00). Large size 50s were quoted at mostly $8.00 when first reported mid-month, compared to last season's early trading at $14.00-15.00. By the end of October, 50-pound sacks size A brought $6.25-6.75 compared to $10.50-11.00 the previous year and large size only slightly higher from $6.50-7.25 ($11.50-12.00). The larger profile of the tuber due to frequent summer rains worked against the growers' returns this year. Baled 5s started the season from $9.00-9.50, much lower than the 2008 year prices of $15.00-16.00, and comparable to the 2007 season ($8.50-9.00). By mid-October, baled 5s settled out in the $8.00-8.50 range and remained at that level until after the holidays. Prices inched downward as baled 5s finished the season in late February from $6.50-7.00, much lower than the 2008 season finish from $12.00-13.50. 50-pound sacks size A last report in late February reported prices had slipped to $5.25-6.00, while large size brought $6.25-6.75. There were numerous reports of internal defect and some hollow heart in tubers due to rapid growth spurts. Lesser quality in general seemed to plague movement on the 2009 crop.

Movement: Early movement of the 2009 crop was thwarted by sluggish demand due to a later harvest in the southern and mid-Atlantic states and coupled with light demand. Shipments through October were down sharply by 40 percent. November brought better demand and improved movement as the pace increased 15 percent over the previous November, and December rallied 49 percent over the previous year. The pace continued to accelerate rapidly in January over the previous year due to the fact that January 2009 completed the shipping season. However, for the 2009 crop year, movement continued into mid-March. The Market News Service reported fresh shipments from Long Island of approximately 635,000 cwt for the 2009 season, compared to 640,000 cwt the previous year, which ended in late January due to better demand. The final figure was off nearly 12 percent from the 2007 season though, due to higher shrink and smaller acreage.

Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2009 for New York totaled 2.5 million hundredweight, down 4 percent from the previous season total of 2.6 million cwt. Storage accounted for 51 percent of the potato crop, compared with 46 percent the prior year.

Packaging: The major pack on the island is the 50-pound sack. Many growers and brokers delivered to re-packers and wholesalers in New York City, Florida and North Carolina, and large size potatoes to foodservice accounts along the East Coast.

NEW YORK CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 17,100 acres for the 2009 season, down 900 acres from the 2008 season and the lowest level since NASS estimates began in 1929. Harvested acres totaled 16,500, 1,300 less than the previous year and another record low as reported by NASS. Production fell 13 percent to 4.95 million cwt, with yields of 300 cwt, off 20 cwt from last year's record yield of 320 cwt per acre. Many chip growers reported huge yields, especially on Andovers. Chipping acreage is located generally in Western and Central New York, in Steuben, Wyoming, Wayne and Livingston counties. Approximately 5,000 acres were devoted to chip stock, with primary varieties grown Atlantic, Snowden, Andover and Marcy. According to NASS, the average price for the 2009 season totaled $12.80 per cwt, a sharp drop from the previous season ($16.20) with the value of production $63.3 million dollars. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt, down 16 percent from the 2008 season.

Growing & Harvest Season: Planting was underway in late April under cooler, wet conditions, and planting progress was slowed by continued wet weather across the State. The latter part of May brought improved conditions that allowed growers to forge ahead. Although by June 1, cool, wet weather returned once again. By mid-June, planting was completed. June and July continued to bring more than adequate moisture and cooler summertime temperatures spurred tuber growth. Growers were concerned with blight pressure and the potential for storage problems as a result of these growing conditions. Initial light harvest was underway at the beginning of August. The latter of the month brought warm and humid conditions. By mid-September, 57 percent of the crop was harvested, compared to 64 percent for the 5 year average. Rains and cooler weather prevailed the rest of the month and harvest was stalled again. Harvesting continued throughout October under less than ideal conditions, including rains and frost. High solids in tubers resulted in bruising during the harvest, thus higher defects and cullage.

Movement: Movement of out-of-the-field supplies began on schedule in early August and peaked in September with good yields. In fact, some growers had huge yields on Andovers and were faced with inadequate storage space for the huge crop. Some growers sold excess supplies on the open market for no more than $7.00 in the fall, $3.00-4.00 below the contract price. Movement during October dropped off by 32 percent from the previous season, as growers faced several wet, cool days as they tried to harvest the remaining potatoes in the field. According to the Market News Service, movement for the 2009 season totaled 2.13 million cwt, down 10 percent from the previous season (2.36 million cwt) and the largest chip season reported by Market News in recent years. The shipping season stretched into mid-June, weeks longer than previous seasons also. The major chip buyers in New York consisted of Wise Foods, EK Bare, Utz Quality Foods, Snyder's of Berlin, Hurst, Pennsylvania Potato Co-op and Stowe Potato Sales, as well as several smaller regional snack food companies.

Stocks on hand: New York Agricultural Statistics Service reported stocks on hand December 1, 2009 totaled 2.5 million cwt, down from the 2.6 million cwt. the previous year. Storage accounted for 51 percent of the 2009 crop, compared to 46 percent the previous season. By April 1, 500,000 cwt remained in storage, a decrease of 29 percent from the previous season and 10 percent of storage potatoes.

MARKETING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: Potatoes are generally grown in the Coastal Region of North Carolina from the Beaufort area north to the Elizabeth City area. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, harvested acreage of potatoes totaled 15,000 acres in 2009 compared to 14,000 acres in 2008 and 14,500 acres in 2007. Production finished at 33,800 hundredweight (cwt) compared to 25,200 cwt in 2008 and 27,000 cwt in 2007. In 2009 yield was 225 cwt per acre compared to 180 cwt in 2008 and 186 cwt in 2007.

Movement: According to the Market News Service, movement totaled 396,000 cwt for table stock and an additional 2,039,000 cwt of chipstock. The season started in mid to late June, slightly behind the 2008 season, and wrapped up in early August, also slightly later the previous season, which finished with shipments in late July of 2008.

Growing & Harvest Season: During the months of February and January, North Carolina received enough rainfall to maintain statewide moisture levels at mostly adequate. Average temperatures were normal to slightly below normal. Spring planting preparations for Irish potatoes were able to get underway during this time. Suitable soil moisture levels and normal average temperatures throughout March allowed for 87 percent of the crop to be planted by the end of the month compared to 73 percent in 2008. Planting wrapped up the weekending April 12. Crop conditions were rated as mostly good even though field conditions were wet during the month of April, temperatures were below normal, and the State was hit with a late frost. The State received rain throughout much of May. At this time the North Carolina Drought Management Council deemed the State as being drought-free for the first time in more than two years. Irish potato crop conditions were rated as 60 percent good by the USDA, NASS North Carolina Field Office. Harvest began in June though wet conditions often delayed fieldwork throughout most the month. By the weekending June 28, 48 percent of the crop had be harvested compared to 50 percent in 2008. The State experienced scattered showers throughout the month of July and average temperatures were below normal. By July 27, 97 percent of the Irish potato crop had been harvested compared to 98 percent in 2008 and 96 percent for the 5 year average.

Marketing Season: Prices this season for Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks were about steady with the previous year. The first F.O.B. price report was on June 22. Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks were $11.00-12.00 compared to the first price report of $11.25-12.00 in 2008. The last prices reported were on July 24 at $10.00 compared to $12.00 in 2008. Round Red U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks trended slightly higher in 2009 compared to 2008. The first F.O.B. price reported for Round Reds was on June 26. U.S. No. One, Size A 50-pound sacks were $12.00-13.00 compared to $12.50-12.75 in 2008. The final prices reported were on July 31 at $11.00-12.00 compared to $13.00-14.00 in 2008. There were no prices reported for Yellow Type U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks due to supplies being in too few hands to establish a market. Chip Potatoes are sold bulk per cwt and were marketed in 2009 generally on a contract basis. The general contract price on Round White Atlantics 85% or better U.S. No. One bulk per cwt was $10.75-11.75 compared to $7.00-8.00 in 2008. There was a small amount marketed on an open market basis with Round White Atlantics 85% or better U.S. No. One bulk per cwt at $7.50-10.00 compared to $17.50-18.50 in 2008.

OHIO CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: Ohio growers planted 2,300 acres in 2009, 200 less than 2008 and 900 less than 2007. Harvested potato acreage remained at 2,100 acres, although down 900 acres from 2007, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. This acreage again set a new record low number of harvested acres in the state since record-keeping began in 1866. Yields, on the other hand, inched upward to 335 cwt per acre and established a new record high (330 cwt last season and a record high). Production increased slightly to 704,000 cwt from last season's 683,000 cwt. The State's chipping acreage was estimated around 900 acres. The predominant growing areas in the State were western Ohio, from Findlay north to Toledo and south of Cleveland and in the Wooster area. According to NASS, the average price for the crop year totaled $10.40 per cwt, down sharply from the previous season ($16.60), with the value of production $7.3 million dollars ($11.3). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt, down 16 percent from the 2008 season.

Movement: The 2009 State's chipping potato movement totaled 168,880 cwt, up 24 percent from the previous seasons finish of 134,154 cwt, and the largest shipping season since 2006 (187,930 cwt), according to the Market News Service. No open market sales were reported during the season as growers grew only previously contracted volume.

Growing Season: Initial planting was underway in early April and progressed slowly due to below normal temperatures and wet conditions that persisted for much of the spring months. By May 10, only 50 percent of the planting was completed, six days behind last year and the 5 year average. Wet conditions continued to stall planting efforts and most growers finally finished in late June, several days later than normal.

Harvesting Season: Light harvest was underway in late July under moderate temperatures. By the end of August, harvest was on schedule with 31 percent of the crop out. In early October, frost across several northern counties was reported. At the same time a period of wet cool weather began and slowed harvest for much of the month. Most growers did not finish harvest until late October, much later than desired.

Stocks on hand: The National Agricultural Statistics Service discontinued monthly potato stocks reports for Ohio for the 2005 season.

PENNSYLVANIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Statistics: Pennsylvania harvested 9,500 acres of potatoes, the same as the previous season and again the lowest harvested acreage on record, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Approximately 3,000-3,400 acres were planted in chipping potatoes, with the predominant plantings in the Northwestern, East Central and Central districts of the state. Production of 2.9 million cwt increased 17 percent above the previous crop year (2.5 million cwt) with record yields of 310 cwt per acre compared to 265 cwt/acre the previous season. Predominant chipping varieties grown were Atlantic, Snowden, Pike, Andover and Marcy. According to NASS, the average price received for the 2009 crop was $12.70 cwt, down from $13.30 in 2008 with a decrease of 5 percent. The value of production totaled nearly $33.5 million dollars for the crop year. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 42.9 million cwt, down 16 percent from the 2008 season.

Growing Season: Planting was underway the latter half of April with variable weather patterns; rainy, frost and temperatures that reached 80 degrees around the state. Showers in early May slowed planting progress as only 24 percent of the crop was planted by May 10, compared to the previous season's progress of 47 percent and the 5 year average of 54 percent. Conditions improved and the next two weeks brought great strides to planting as 72 percent of the crop was in, compared to last year's 57 percent. Scattered showers throughout the state slowed progress only slightly as the crop was completed in early June, just slightly ahead of normal. Near ideal weather conditions with adequate moisture throughout the summer produced heavy yields, although growers were concerned with potential of blight outbreaks.

Harvesting Season: Initial harvest of field supplies began on schedule the first week of August. By the end of the month, 27 percent of the crop had been harvested, ahead of the 5 year average (22 percent). The weather cooperated and the harvest continued at a brisk pace; by mid-September, 71 percent was completed, far ahead of the previous season and the 5-year average (46 percent and 51 percent). Rains and colder temperatures slowed the remaining harvest and progress lagged behind the previous season and 5-year average considerably. By mid-October, 94 percent of the crop was under cover, compared to the 5 year average of 98 percent. Wintry weather settled in and brought harvest to a close.

Shipments peaked with field supplies late August through October. The shipping season continued slightly longer than normal and was completed mid-April with a total of 815,585 cwt, a 3 percent increase from the previous year (791,753 cwt) according to the Market News Service. No open market prices were reported this year as most growers planted for contracted sales only.

MARKETING VIRGINIA POTATOES

2009 CROP

Harvesting & Marketing: Harvest of the 2009 Virginia potato crop began in mid-June although supplies were light until later in the month. Virginia Market News Service began reporting shipping point prices on June 22 with the first F.O.B. Eastern Shore price quoted at \$12.00 per 50-pound sack of Round White, U.S. One, Size A potatoes. At the start of the harvest, demand was moderate and prices remained at \$12.00 until June 29 when sales were reported as a range of \$11.00-12.00. By July 2, demand was fairly light and the price was \$11.00 although some sales were made a lower levels. On July 6, prices decreased to \$10.00 per 50-pound sack and many growers complained about slow movement of the crop. Prices remained at mostly \$10.00 until the middle of the month and demand was generally fairly light to moderate. On July 20, the price decreased to mostly \$9.00 per 50-pound sack due to fairly light demand. Prices remained at mostly \$9.00 until early August. By August 10, supplies were light and in too few hands to establish the market as practically all growers had finished harvesting. Demand for Round White potatoes was disappointing in 2009, particularly after the excellent year Virginia growers had in 2008. Overall, prices were fairly high during 2009 but movement never got to the levels that growers had hoped for.

Prices for the large 2¾ to 4½ inch "Chef" Round White potatoes were first reported on June 22 at \$14.00 per 50-pound sack. Demand was reported as moderate. Prices remained at mostly \$14.00 until July 6 when a range of \$13.00-14.00 was reported. By July 8, prices were \$12.00-14.00 and on July 9, were mostly \$12.00. By the end of July, prices were \$11.00-12.00. The final reported price was on August 6 at \$11.00.

Russet potatoes continue to be an important crop for many Virginia growers; however, 2009 was a disappointing year for Russet potatoes on the Eastern Shore. Heavy supplies of inexpensive storage Russets in Western States caused demand for Virginia Russets to be light and, as a result, prices were low. During 2009, 50-pound sacks of Size A Russets were generally \$6.00-8.00 compared to \$13.00-14.00 in 2008. Prices for tote bags were generally \$10.00-14.00 per hundredweight in 2009 compared to \$23.00-28.00 in 2008.

Round Red prices were first reported on July 2 at \$12.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One, Size A and \$16.00 for Size B. Unlike Round White and Russet potatoes, demand ranged from fairly good to good for Red potatoes throughout most of July. By the end of July, demand did decrease and was generally moderate. The final reported price was on August 6 with Size A remaining at $12.00 and Size B at $16.00.

Yukon Gold potato prices were first reported on July 7 at $18.00-20.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One, Size A. Prices were mostly $18.00 from July 8 until the end of the month and demand ranged from moderate to fairly good. In many previous years, prices for Yukon Gold potatoes have dropped significantly as the harvest progressed but for the second consecutive year, prices held up well for the Yellow potatoes. The final reported price was on July 31 at $18.00 with moderate demand. Tote prices for Yellow potatoes throughout 2009 were generally $35.00 per hundredweight.

Weather: Weather conditions were fairly good for Virginia potato growers during 2009. A cool and wet spring delayed progress in some areas but overall the crop was in good condition. Heavy rainfall in late July caused some major harvest delays and a few quality problems arose as a result of the wet conditions.

The major factor related to weather in 2009 occurred during the spring in Florida. Extremely heavy rainfall in the Bunnell and Hastings areas caused major damage to the Florida crop. Many growers in those areas suffered catastrophic losses. Had it not been for the crop losses in Florida, supplies of potatoes would have been even higher during summer and, in turn, would have lowered demand for Virginia potatoes.

Production & Quality: Total Virginia production in 2009 was estimated at 1,764,000 hundredweight (cwt) by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to 1,254,000 cwt in 2008, 1,134,000 cwt in 2007, 1,512,000 cwt in 2006, 1,029,000 cwt in 2005, and 1,200,000 cwt in 2004. The increase in production during 2009 can be attributed to an increase in acreage and improved yields.

For the most part, quality of the 2009 crop was good. Late in the season, there were a few isolated reports of soft rot due to rainfall and heat. Overall, growers produced a high quality crop with very few problems.

Shipments: Shipments of Virginia potatoes were higher compared to 2007 and 2008. Approximately 1,761 truck lot equivalents (50,000 pounds) were shipped in 2009. Shipments were down from 2006 but exceeded the totals of 2005 and 2004. The primary reason for the increase in shipments was due to an increase in planted acreage which resulted in an increase in production.

Shipments during June 2009 accounted for approximately 10.5 percent of the crop, totaling 187 loads compared to 201 loads in June 2008 and only 93 loads in June 2007. In July 2009, 1,245 loads were shipped compared to 1,263 loads in July 2008 and 972 loads in July 2007. July 2009 shipments accounted for 70.5

percent of the crop. During August 2009, 19 percent of the crop or 329 loads were shipped. It was a big change from 2008 when movement of the crop was so good that the harvest was practically finished by the end of July. In 2009, 81 percent of the crop was shipped by the end of July, compared to 99 percent in 2008, 73 percent in 2007 and 84 percent in 2006.

Packaging: Potatoes were sold in 50-pound sacks, baled 5- and 10-pound bags, loose 10-pound bags and canvas totes. Both paper and poly bags were utilized. In the past few years, growers have seen a decline in demand for the smaller consumer packages but during the 2009 season, a small increase was noted. During 2009, approximately 16 percent of inspected potatoes were sold in 5-pound or 10-pound bags compared to only 10 percent in 2008. Mark-ups for packaging fluctuated but were typically $2.50-3.00 per cwt for loose 10-pound bags, $3.00-4.00 per cwt for baled 10-pound bags and $5.00-6.00 per cwt for baled 5-pound bags.

Potatoes sold in 50-pound sacks totaled approximately 33 percent of inspected potatoes compared to nearly 40 percent in 2009. Potatoes shipped in bulk accounted for approximately 51 percent which was practically unchanged from 2008. Use of canvas totes, each weighing approximately 2,000 pounds when full, continues to account for a significant amount of shipments.

Markets & Competition: Unlike 2008 when shortages of potatoes in competing areas improved market conditions for Virginia growers, supplies of potatoes were plentiful during the summer of 2009. In fact, acreage increases in many areas, including Virginia, led to an approximate 6 percent increase in production in the spring and summer growing areas. The increase in new crop potato supplies in California and North Carolina, compounded with heavy supplies of low priced storage potatoes, made it a struggle at times for Virginia growers to market their potatoes. Had it not been for major crop losses in Florida due to heavy rainfall, supplies in competing areas would have been even higher.

Canada has been an important market for Virginia potato growers for many years. Unfortunately, shipments to Canada continued to be fairly low in 2009 but were an improvement over the previous two years. Virginia potato growers shipped 108 loads (50,000 pounds) to Canada in 2009 compared to 61 loads in 2008 and 94 loads in 2007. Over the past five years, Virginia growers have shipped an average of 115 loads per year to Canada. Of the loads shipped to Canada, 39 percent were 50-pound sacks, 36.5 percent were bulk, 21.5 percent were loose 10-pound bags and 3 percent were baled 5-pound bags.

VIRGINIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2009 CROP

Chipstock potatoes continue to be a very important part of Virginia's potato crop and in 2009 they represented approximately 40 percent of the total shipments. The vast majority of chipstock sales were preseason contracts and were mostly in the $11.25-11.75 per cwt price range. The increase in contract price was necessary to offset higher input costs including fuel, fertilizer and seed. A few open market sales occurred early at $9.50 per cwt but later fell to $8.50 per cwt before finishing the season at $7.00 per cwt. Open market prices were down significantly from 2008 when prices were mostly $20.00 per cwt; however, they were an improvement from $5.25-5.50 in 2007 and $4.00-4.50 in 2006. For the most part, yields and quality were good although there were a few reports of internal defects. Heavy rainfall in late July caused harvest delays and reduced production late in the season.

Varieties: Of the 135.16 loads (50,000 pounds) of seed imported and inspected during the 2009 season, Superiors accounted for 22 percent of the total, once again making it the most popular of all varieties grown in Virginia. The next most popular Round White tablestock potato was the Envol, an early maturing variety. Envols increased to 11.5 percent in 2009 compared to 10 percent in 2008 and it was the third most popular of all varieties grown.

Chipping varieties accounted for the fourth, fifth and sixth most popular with FL-1867, a Frito Lay variety, at 7.4 percent, Atlantic at 6.8 percent and Snowden at 6 percent. The Andover variety, used for both tablestock and chipstock, was eighth most popular at 5.1 percent.

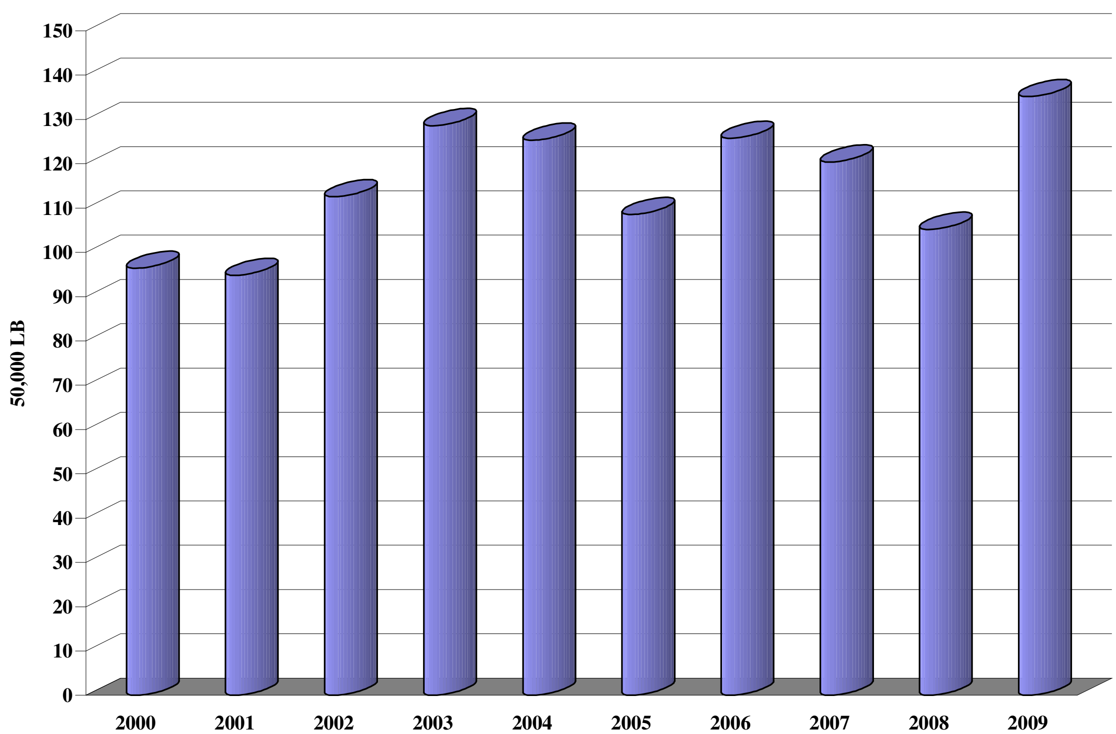
Russet potatoes, including the second ranked Norkotah and seventh ranked Gold Rush accounted for over 21 percent of the seed in 2009, compared to 20 percent in 2008, 13 percent in 2007 and 15.5 percent in 2006. It was the highest total ever for Russets which have seen a significant increase the past two years.

Red potatoes continue to play an important role for Virginia potato growers with the Red Norland the tenth most popular at 3.5 percent. All Red varieties accounted for approximately 8 percent in 2009, a decrease from 10 percent in 2008. Red potatoes have generally ranged between 7 and 10 percent since 2003 after accounting for 14 percent in 2002.

The Yellow flesh Satina and Yukon Gold varieties were the eleventh and twelfth most popular at approximately 2 percent. Yellow potatoes accounted for 5 percent of the potatoes grown in 2009, almost identical to the 2008 total. Yellow flesh varieties have generally ranged between 4 and 6 percent during the past eight years after accounting for 9 percent in 2001.

VIRGINIA SEED POTATO IMPORT TOTALS

CARLOT TOTALS – 50,000 LB UNITS



YEAR	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
TOTAL	96.4	94.8	112.6	128.6	125.3	108.5	125.8	120.4	105.2	135.2

Seed Potatoes Imports By Origin: Maine continued to be the leading supplier of seed potatoes to Virginia but only by a very slight margin. Maine shipped approximately 40 percent of the seed that was inspected during the 2009 season which was a substantial decrease from the previous five year average of 58 percent. Shipments from Maine accounted for 57 percent in 2008, 57 percent in 2007, 52 percent in 2006, 60 percent in 2005 and 64 percent in 2004. Canada was the second most popular origin and also supplied approximately 40 percent of the seed in 2009. Shipments from Canada were up considerably compared to the five year average of 21 percent. Canada supplied 24 percent in 2008, 25 percent in 2007, 30 percent in 2006, 12percent in 2005 and 15 percent in 2004. Wisconsin and New York both shipped approximately 9 percent of the seed in 2009 which was very near to the five year average. Seed from Wisconsin totaled 12 percent during 2008, 8 percent in 2007, 5 percent in 2006, 17 percent in 2005 and 8 percent in 2004. Seed from New York accounted for 7 percent in 2008, 10 percent in 2007, 12 percent in 2006 and 9 percent in both 2005 and 2004. North Dakota shipped approximately 3 loads of seed in 2009 and accounted for 2 percent of the total.

MARKETING COLUMBIA BASIN WASHINGTON – UMATILLA BASIN OREGON POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Columbia Basin Washington planted acreage was 145,000 acres in 2009, a slight decrease from 2008s 146,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2009 was 133,000 acres, a nine percent decrease from 2008s 146,500 acres. Columbia Basin Washington's yield per acre in 2009 was 625 hundredweight (cwt), a two percent increase from 2008s yield of 612 cwt. Columbia Basin Washington's production in 2009 was 83,130,000 cwt, a seven percent decrease from 2008s production of 89,685,000 cwt. Umatilla Basin Oregon planted and harvested acreage was 11,000 acres in 2009, an increase of 2008s acreage of 10,000 acres. Umatilla Basin Oregon's yield in 2009 was 635 cwt per acre, a fifteen percent increase from 2008s yield of 550 cwt per acre. Umatilla Basin Oregon's production in 2009 was 6,985,000 cwt, a twenty-seven percent increase from 2008s production of 5,500,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments for the 2009 season for Columbia Basin Washington were 7,126,000 cwt, of which 1,276,000 cwt were exports. This was a ten percent decrease from 2008s shipments of 7,919,000 cwt, of which 1,155,000 cwt were exports. Shipments for the 2009 season for Umatilla Basin Oregon were 1,830,000 cwt, of which 201,000 cwt were exports. This was a five percent decrease from 2008s shipments of 1,938,000 cwt, of which 154,000 cwt were exports.

The peak shipping month was August 2009 with 1,111,000 cwt shipped for the Columbia Basin Washington, and August 2009 with 193,000 cwt shipped for Umatilla Basin Oregon.

Crop & Weather: One percent of Columbia Basin Washington potatoes had been planted by the end of March, compared to nine percent in 2008. The growing area received snow rain and wind during the first week of April, average temperatures were cooler than normal. During the weekending April 12, temperatures remained typically cool in Franklin County. There was negligible potato emergence. In Adams County, the area had a couple days of very warm temperatures midweek, before the weekend closed out with a good beneficial rain. During the weekending April 19, fifteen percent of the crop had been planted compared to forty-three percent in 2008. Emergence was at three percent, compared to four percent in 2008. In Franklin County, temperatures were cooler than normal during the week. Light rain was received early in the week and on the weekend. The cool week caused slow emergence and growth in all the spring planted crops. Potato planting was expected to begin soon in Grant County.

Weekending May 3 in Franklin County, temperatures were right around normal. Spotty light rain was received during the week and county wide rain was received on Saturday, May 2, 2009. More planted potato acreage is being reported than expected. In Klickitat County, despite a couple nights that dipped near freezing, nighttime temperatures were mainly in the 30s and 40s. Home gardeners were planting potatoes. During the weekending May 10 in Franklin County, temperatures were at or a little below average for the period. The area received several good showers at the beginning and in the middle of the week. By mid-May, planting was ninety-five percent complete, compared to ninety percent in 2008. Emergence was thirty-nine percent, compared to forty-two percent in 2008. During the weekending May 24, potatoes had emerged in Klickitat County home gardens and the crop looked promising in Franklin County. By the end of May, the crop was one hundred percent planted and eighty-eight percent emerged.

By mid-June, potatoes began blooming in home gardens in Klickitat County. By the end of the third week of June, emergence was one hundred percent.

Harvest began the weekending July 5 with two percent of the crop harvested. Klickitat County gardeners were also digging new potatoes. During weekending July 12, Walla Walla weather was cool early in the week and then turned hot with thunderstorms over the weekend. During the weekending July 19, in Franklin County, the week started out with a mix of light precipitation and thunderstorms. Windy conditions and cooler weather immediately followed, moving to hot temperatures from mid-Monday throughout the remainder of the week. Temperatures hit triple digits on one or two days by early afternoon. Irrigation was continuous on potato fields. Some open market potatoes were being harvested.

By mid-August, thirty-five percent of the crop had been harvested, which was the same as in 2008. In Franklin County, temperatures were near normal the first half of the weekending August 16. One thunderstorm came through the beginning of the week. Some potatoes were harvested. Many of the potato field foliage were applied with broadleaf in preparation for upcoming digging operations. In Grant County, potato harvest was expected to begin soon.

By mid-September, temperatures in Franklin County ran from normal to above normal. There were breezes in the morning but were quiet by mid-day. No precipitation was received. Potatoes were still growing and progressing nicely with good growing degree days. Harvest continued (mostly open market) largely at the south end of the county. Potato harvest continued in Grant County.

During the weekending October 11, potato harvest was in full swing in Grant County. Home gardeners in Klickitat County were digging potatoes. In Walla Walla County, potato harvest was close to completion. Harvest was mostly complete by the end of October.

In Oregon's Umatilla Basin**,** potato planting was just finishing the weekending May 4. It had been cool until mid-April. The week had average temperatures and some rain. Precipitation hit almost all parts of the State due to scattered rain storms, causing conditions to be cooler and damp in comparison to the previous week.

By the end of May, temperatures had warmed up but crop growth was still about 2 weeks behind normal. Warmer, drier conditions were experienced throughout the State.

By mid-June, potato growing conditions had been very favorable. Conditions were generally mild throughout the State.

By the end of July, crops were mostly in average condition. The potato harvest had been delayed because of abundant stock piles. Harvest started the end of June but in July it was light. It was expected to be heavy in August.

During the first week of August, heat was brutal to potato fields. Ranger yields were expected to be down ten percent. The Shepody potato harvest was complete. Heat may affect late season potato qualities like Russet Burbank. Temperatures were in the triple digits.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the weekending July 25, 2009. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $14.00-16.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 8, 2009 at $12.00-14.00.

The first report of Yellow Type was issued during the weekending July 25, 2009. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $16.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 8, 2009 at $16.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 8, 2009. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $13.00-15.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 24, 2010 at $11.00-12.00.

MARKETING NORTHWEST WASHINGTON POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Skagit County Washington planted and harvested acreage was 10,000 acres in 2009, an eighteen percent increase from 2008s 8,500 acres. Skagit County Washington's yield per acre in 2009 was 410 hundredweight (cwt), a five percent increase from 2008s yield of 390 cwt. Skagit County Washington's production in 2009 was 4,100,000 cwt, a 24 percent increase from 2008s production of 3,315,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments of fresh-table stock potatoes out of Northwestern Washington for the 2009 crop was 1,452,500 cwt total which includes 47,400 cwt shipped by piggyback,1,405,100 domestic by truck, and 180,800 export by truck. The 2009 crop shipments by variety are: Round Red 847,900 cwt domestic, 75,800 export; Yellow Type 211,400 domestic, 38,200 export; Long White 161,600 domestic, 66,800 export; Russet 3,400 domestic, 0 cwt export; and Mixed Varieties 4,800 domestic, 3,700 export. These variety shipments do not include anything shipped by Piggyback. 2009 saw shipments peak seasonally for the Holiday's, the weeks ending November 21 and December 19. The majority of the potato crop out of this District is of the Round Red variety. Also grown, packed and shipped are Yellow Type, Long White, and a small amount of Russets. The first shipments for the 2009 season were moved on the weekending September 5, 2009 and the last shipments of the season were on weekending April 5, 2010. The Round Reds shipped throughout the season. The Long Whites were not moved this season until mid-February, and Yellow Type by early May. The week-ending December 19 was the biggest shipping week of the season with 55,600 cwt shipped.

Crop & Weather: April 2008 was reported to have ended the month with above average rainfall. Planting started on time at the end of April and was going at full steam by weekending May 9th.

Weekending June 8 saw warmer temperatures for the week and a rarity for Western Washington…irrigation. Most producers have finished planting and the crop is growing nicely. June was a very dry month for Western Washington with only very light rain arriving the weekending June 28.

July continued with good temperatures but little rain, requiring most producers in Western Washington to use supplemental irrigation. Measurable rain arrived finally during weekending August 8. Potato vines were being mowed down and harvest was expected to begin by the end of the month.

By weekending September 21 potato harvest continued, with conditions still drier than expected.

Harvesting: Weather is an extremely important factor in growing and harvesting the Northwestern Washington potato crop around the Mount Vernon/Burlington area of Skagit County. Seasonal rainfall for that area is normally 26 inches per year. Much of the soil type in the area used for potatoes is a sandy loam. Many fields also have drainage systems installed. Growers are able to harvest potatoes even in wet rainy weather, because they have grown the potatoes in sandy soil in fields that have the drainage systems. Also, most of the Long White variety are not harvested and put into storage. They are harvested and packaged late into the year. Often, harvest of Long Whites continues the following spring. The Long Whites do not store well and quality cannot be maintained. Most of the Northwest Washington potato crop is put into storage.

Marketing: The USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Market News reported prices out of Northwestern Washington from weekending September 5, 2009 through April 5, 2010 on Round Red; August 31, 2009 through November 21, 2009 on Long White; and Yellow Type ran from August 31, 2009 through the week of March 6, 2010. Round Red 50-pound cartons started out at $13.00-14.00 per carton, finishing at $13.00-15.00. The season basically did not deviate from the start to finish, with long periods from November to January were the price held steady at $13.00. Long White 50-pound cartons started at $18.00 weekending September 5, 2009 and finished at $16.00-18.00 weekending November 21, 2008. The Long White price never deviated from the $18.00 throughout the season. Yellow Type 50-pound cartons started out at $16.00-18.00 per carton. The season finished at the same $16.00-18.00. Supplies of Russet Norkotah and Fingerling were in too few hands to establish a market.

MARKETING CENTRAL WISCONSIN POTATOES

2009 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wisconsin potato planted acreage in 2009 was 63,500 acres, equal to 2008s 63,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2009 was 63,000 acres, up from 2008s 62,000 acres. Yield per acres was 460 hundredweight (cwt) in 2009, an increase from 2008s yield of 415 cwt. Production in 2009 was 28,980,000 cwt, a thirteen percent increase from 2008s production of 25,730,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments from Central Wisconsin in 2009 were 8,178,800, a ten percent increase from 2008s shipments of 7,466,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was November at 804,299 cwt. All of the potatoes were shipped by truck. There are no rail shipments out of Wisconsin.

Crop & Weather: Dry fields greeted producers during the weekending April 20 when planted began. Average temperatures were close to normal with average highs from the mid 50s to 60 degrees and average lows ranging from high 30s to low 40s. The previous months were some of the driest on record, with much of the state well below normal rainfall for the year. During the last week of April, most areas of the State saw some sort of precipitation, but not enough to counteract the early part of the year. Potato planting was reported to be on track with a good pace at the end of April.

During the first week of May rainfall arrived, but not the warmer temperatures needed to dry the ground, slowing the pace of planting in some areas. Average high temperatures ranged from 61-71 degrees by weekending May 11, but more rain once again slowed planting. Potato planting continues to progress during the week ending May 18 even with cooler temperatures and rain around the state. Drier conditions during the weekending May 27 with temperatures averaging 72-77 allowed for planting to continue at a good pace.

By the weekending June 8 some producers had reported to be finishing up potato hilling. Cooler temperatures had slowed growth with average highs 5-7 degrees below normal. The weekending June 22 the heat arrived with average high temperatures from 79-82 degrees. By the end of June, potatoes were blooming and showing good growth despite low precipitation levels.

By mid-July, potatoes were doing well but still in need of rain. During the weekending July 25 the first Round Red potatoes were harvested and shipped. Dry conditions persisted but cooler temperatures helped reduce stress on the plants. Average high temperatures ranged from 73 to 77 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 53 to 60 degrees.

Fresh potato harvest began in earnest at the beginning of August. By the weekending August 8, harvest continued with potatoes looking and producing good yields and quality. Harvest continued throughout the month of August and into September. By mid-September, harvest was just starting in one west-central Wisconsin county, while late harvest was underway in the central part of the state. Harvest continued through September.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the week-ending August 8, 2009. 50 pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $19.00-20.00. The last report was issued during the weekending February 20, 2010 at $6.50-7.00.

The first report of Round Whites was issued during the weekending August 29, 2009. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $6.00-6.50. The last report was issued during the weekending September 12, 2009 at $6.00-6.50.

The first report of Yellow Types was issued during the weekending August 15, 2009. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $15.00. The last report was issued during the weekending October 10, 2009 at $10.00-12.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 22, 2009. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $14.50-15.25. The last report was issued during the weekending June 26, 2010 at $10.00-11.00.

No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2009 season as most movement was contracted or open sales were in the hands of too few grower, with too few prices reported to establish a market.

MARKETING NEW BRUNSWICK POTATOES

2009 CROP

Production: According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick potato production totaled 14.7 million hundredweight, up 7 percent from the 2008 season total of 13.77 million cwt and down 8 percent (16.0 million cwt) from the 2007 season. The July 2010 production report placed harvested acreage at 54,500 acres, the same as the previous season and 4,000 acres less than 2007. Yields increased slightly (10 cwt) to 270 cwt per acre over the previous season. Total Canadian production of 100.9 million cwt was reported for the year, down 2 percent and 8 percent respectively from the previous two crop years.

Movement: Early movement (September-December) to the U.S. (752,546 cwt) was down (10 percent) from the 2008 season total of 838,190 cwt. These figures were compiled with data issued from the U.S. Commerce Department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and finalized by Statistics Canada. The season total through July 2010 of just under 2.0 million cwt dropped measurably from the previous year's movement to the U.S. of 2.37 million cwt The U.S. was the number one destination for much of New Brunswick potatoes, namely Russet varieties. Access to the States is made through the major border crossing at Houlton, Maine, with lighter shipments entering through Fort Fairfield and Bridgewater, Maine. Light shipments of the 2008 crop continued into early August by a few shippers. New Brunswick has predominantly been a processing (french-fry) region, with nearly 60 percent of production devoted to this market. It is also the original home of McCain Foods, one of the giants in the fry industry. There are two McCain processing plants in the province, Grand Falls and Florenceville.

Growing & Harvest Season: Planting was off to an earlier start than the previous year in early May, due to cool, dry soil conditions. However, continued cooler and cloudy days continued, which slowed progress and emergence. Planting was completed in early June. The summer months brought warmer temperatures and wetter conditions that spurred rapid growth and created some late blight issues in a few fields. In early

August, warm and dry conditions that persisted well into September. Yield potential was thwarted, especially on processing Burbanks, due to hot arid conditions. Bruising and nicks were more apparent due to these weather issues as well. Initial light harvest of Round white and Yellows was underway by September 1 for domestic usage, while Russet harvest commenced in latter September. October brought cooler temperatures, persistent showers and frosts which slowed harvest. By the end of the month, most of the crop was undercover.

Marketing Season: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News Service issued the first F.O.B. shipping report on Russet Norkotah late-October with U.S. One or CD One washed 2 ounce or 4 inch minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $11.00-12.00, sharply above the 2007 season start of mostly $6.50-7.00 (US dollars) per bale or $9.00-10.00 per cwt more. Prices slipped slightly by the first of the New Year to mostly $10.00-10.50, still sharply higher than a year earlier, when reported for baled 5s was $5.50-5.75. As the season progressed, prices continued to fall to $8.00-8.50 by late-April and remained at this level at the time of the last report issued around June 1, somewhat similar to the finish of the 2007 season for consumer packages. Carton demand was slow for much of the season, with early prices on Russet Norkotah 70s and 80s from $15.00-16.00. By January 1, carton demand remained sluggish and prices suffered: 60s and 70s sold from $11.00-13.00, with 90s and 100s $10.50-11.00. Little change was seen in these prices until late April when 60s and 70s brought mostly $10.00-10.50 and finished at these prices by June 1. This was just the opposite from the 2007 season when carton prices shot up sharply beginning in May with 60s and 70s from $9.00-9.50 and finished in mid-July at $20.00-22.00 per box.

Stocks on hand: New Brunswick's potato holdings on December 1, 2009 totaled 11.4 million cwt, up sharply (31 percent) from December 2008 holdings of 8.7 million cwt. However, adjustments to the province's holdings were made and by June 1, stocks on hand were 2.47 million cwt compared to the adjusted total of 2.83 million cwt, a respectable drop of nearly 13 percent. A few fresh shippers continued to pack lightly for the US market into early August.

Commodity Name	POTATOES

Sum of 100000lb units	Column Labels													
Row Labels	**Aug-09**	**Sep-09**	**Oct-09**	**Nov-09**	**Dec-09**	**Jan-10**	**Feb-10**	**Mar-10**	**Apr-10**	**May-10**	**Jun-10**	**Jul-10**	**Aug-10**	**Grand Total**
ARIZONA	7								44	308	6			365
CALIFORNIA-CENTRAL	430	98		98	195	226	164	30		811	1602	1461	334	5449
CALIFORNIA-IMPERIAL VAL								122	355	189	23			689
CALIFORNIA-NORTH	54	20	88	101	82	81	65	90	91	103	113	113	25	1026
CALIFORNIA-SOUTH	126	65	75	40	30	60	35	14			24	79	107	655
CANADA	240	197	322	363	433	463	398	552	139	675	244	211	113	4350
COLORADO	540	1144	1372	1502	1592	1423	1387	1715	1412	1418	1451	1038	425	16419
DELAWARE	155	80	31									58	131	455
FLORIDA							76	218	551	709	576			2130
IDAHO	2249	2371	2646	3116	3078	3120	2911	3449	2972	3171	3309	3521	2676	38589
KANSAS	637	147	46									60	447	1337
MAINE	5	56	104	282	335	331	315	342	258	131	62	42	15	2278
MICHIGAN	56	271	453	330	271	319	254	256	159	98	44	18	120	2649
MINNESOTA	914	649	224	151	177	186	137	140	81	61	9	135	813	3677
NEBRASKA	311	414	403	364	331	223	124	159	136	192	235	69	245	3206
NEVADA	79	60	134	88	68	99	74	74	77	92	37	112	40	1034
NEW MEXICO	50	119	153	180	116	62	31	7						718
NEW YORK	27	90	117	143	131	78	46	11					55	698
NORTH CAROLINA	7										75	172		254
NORTH DAKOTA		29	218	356	351	345	367	494	232	78			5	2475
OREGON	201	188	227	270	338	293	270	318	275	288	255	171	151	3245
PERU							0		0		0		0	0
TEXAS	544	154	111	138	105	127	100	105	95	51	21	441	362	2354
VIRGINIA	133										40	262		435
WASHINGTON	1186	1169	986	816	745	623	583	606	557	517	377	447	1211	9823
WISCONSIN	486	890	993	1015	965	838	679	834	553	518	280	187	445	8683
Grand Total	**8437**	**8211**	**8703**	**9353**	**9343**	**8897**	**8016**	**9536**	**7987**	**9410**	**8783**	**8597**	**7720**	**112993**