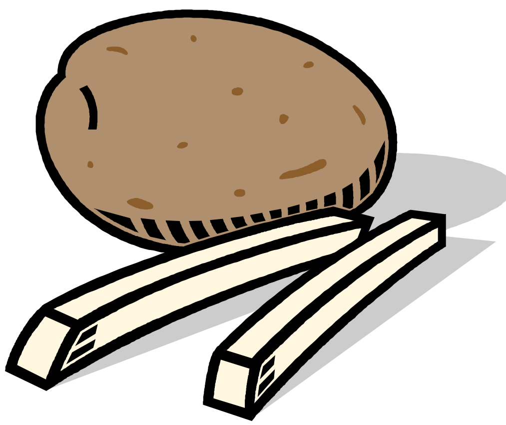
Marketing U.S. Potatoes

2006 Crop



Federal-State
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Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Oregon State University

Cooperating with

United State Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit & Vegetable Programs

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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 and the Prices for Idaho (Upper Valley, Twin-Falls Burley District) potatoes are examples for the Market News Portal. These were downloaded in Excel and the Prices organized into a Pivot Table.

The *National Potato and Onion Report* is still published and is available by subscription for mail or fax service. To subscribe to this report 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 the Kern District California 2006 Spring Potato Crop

Acreage & Production: USDA, NASS estimated the California Spring crop production at 15,300 acres harvested, compared to 15,100 acres in 2005 and 17,500 acres in 2004. Yields were also estimated at 395 cwt per acre for the 2006 crop year, compared to 405 cwt in 2005 and 475 cwt in 2004. Thus, production equaled 6,044,000 cwt in 2006, compared to 6,116,000 cwt in 2005 and 8,313,000 cwt in 2004. Kern County Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards indicated acreage was 12,056. Russets were the leading variety at 3,968 acres, followed by Chippers at 3,402 acres, Long Whites 1,932 acres, Round Reds 1,686 acres, and Yellow Type 1,068 acres.

KERN DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA POTATO SHIPMENTS
2006 Spring Crop

Purple Type	60,600 cwt
Yellow Type	382,200 cwt
Long White	593,400 cwt
Round Red	891,100 cwt
Russet	1,035,900 cwt
Rail/piggy-back	1,249,900 cwt
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	**4,213,100 cwt**

Shipments: Fresh shipments totaled 2.9 million cwt. Local Kern county shipments started week-ending April 22 and continued until week-ending August 12. Shipments were 35% Russet types, 20% Long White, 30% Round Red, 13% Yellow Type, and 2% Purple-fingerlings. Table stock shipments included shipments of 1,249,900 cwt moved by rail or piggy-back, which was 30% of movement.

Marketing: Long Whites: 50-lb carton size A, U.S. No. 1 opened at 20.00 per carton on week-ending May 6, then closed at 16.00 on week-ending July 8. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest on week-ending May 27 & June 17 at 14.00.

Round Reds: 50-lb carton size A, U.S. No. 1 opened at 12.00-14.00 per carton on week-ending May 6, then closed at 16.00-18.00 on week-ending July 8. They never traded higher than the last week and traded lowest on week-ending May 13-June 3 at 10.00-12.00.

Yellow Type: 50-lb carton size A, U.S. No. 1 opened at 24.00-25.00 per carton on week-ending May 6, then closed at 20.00 on week-ending July 8. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest on week-ending May 20 at 16.00-18.00.

Russet Norkotah: U.S. One non size A baled 5-10 pound film bags opened at 7.00 on week-ending June 17, and closed at 8.00 on week-ending July 29. They never traded higher than the last at 8.00 and traded the remainder of the season at 7.00. U.S. One carton 80s opened the season on week-ending June 17 at 12.00 per carton and closed on week-ending July 29 at 13.00-14.00 per carton. They never traded higher than the last week and the lowest they traded was week-ending June 24-July 1 at 11.00-12.00.

Transportation Trends: Trucks hauled 70% 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 all ready in-state that was empty was extremely difficult. Piggy-back continues to be a popular method transportation because of the limited availability of trucks and rail cars. Most cars are captured by a large re-packer with a growing operation in the Bakersfield area.

Colorado Potatoes
2006 season

Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Colorado growers **planted 63,600 acres** (59,900 Fall acres/3,700 Summer acres) and **harvested 63,300 acres** (59,700 Fall acres/3,600 Summer acres) in 2006, up 400 acres harvested from the previous season. Fall acres harvested increased 1,700, while summer decreased 1,300. However, potato yields decreased 14 cwt per acre from 393 cwt (375 summer/395 fall) in 2005 to **379** (360 summer/380fall). Production decreases slightly to **23,982,000 cwt** (1,995,000 cwt summer/23,795,000 cwt fall) from the previous years 24,748,000 cwt (1,296,000 cwt summer/22,686,000 cwt fall).

Growing and Harvest Season: By week ending June 4, 2006: Summer potatoes were 85% planted compared to 5-year average of 96%; 50% emerged compared to 5-year average of 76%. Summer potatoes were rated in mostly good condition. Fall potatoes were progressing nicely under heavy irrigation and were rated in fair to good condition. Fall potatoes were 95% planted compared to 5-year average of 94% and 23% emerged compared to 5-year average of 24%. By week ending August 7 Fall potatoes were progressing nicely under heavy irrigation and were rated in good to fair condition, while summer potatoes were 7% harvested by week's end compared to the 5-year average of 8% and were rated in good to excellent condition. Week-ending September 5 saw summer potatoes 40% harvested compared to the five-year average of 51% and rated in good to excellent condition. Fall potatoes were progressing nicely under heavy irrigation and were rated in good to fair condition, however elevated levels of precipitati8on had producers keeping a close eye on mold and other diseases. Week-ending September 11 saw summer potatoes 50% harvested. Producers began to harvest fall potatoes with 7% harvested by week's end. Reporters were indicating that recent wet weather is causing concerns with potato blight and early plant kill which will affect size and yield. While fall potatoes were rated in good to fair condition, producers continued to keep a close eye on diseases. Week-ending October 23 saw summer potatoes producers finish harvest. Fall potato producers also completed harvest by the end of the week.

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: The USDA Market News Service began reporting prices for Yellow Type and Round Red week-ending September 30, 2006, Russet varieties of Count cartons and no-size A bales started week-ending September 9 dry-bulk October 7. 70 count **Russet** cartons started out at \$10 per carton and finished the season \$14 per carton. Non-size A baled 510-lb film bags started out at \$6.50-7.00 and finished at 9.50-10.00, Size A baled 5 10-lb film bags started out at \$7.00-7.25 and finished at \$6.00, and U.S. Commercial bulk per cwt size A started at \$7.00-8.50 and finished at \$6.75. **Round Red** size A 50-lb cartons of 2 ½-3 ½ inch (premiums) started the season at \$14.00-15.00; size A baled 5 10-lb film bags started at \$8.00-9.00

and finished at $8.00-9.00; and size B 50-lb sacks started out at $18.00-19.00 and finished $15.00. **Yellow Type** 50-lb cartons 2 ½- 3 ½ inch (premiums) started out at $11.00-14.00 and finished $10.00; size A baled 10 5-lb film bags started out at $9.00-10.00 and finished $9.50.

Movement: The Market News Service began reporting light movement of Round Reds and Yellow Type out of the Northern portion of Colorado on week-ending July 29. Shipment of Russet varieties soon followed. Colorado's summer potatoes were shipped by week-ending March 24, 2007. Shipments of Round Red, Yellow Type and Russets out of San Luis Valley started shipping week-ending September 2, 2006. Fall potato shipments peaked in mid-November with the Thanksgiving promotions running add business. Week-ending November 18 saw 430,700 cwt shipped by truck, compared to 533,900 cwt shipped same week last season. Mid-December saw another bump of Holiday business. Week-ending December 16 saw truck shipments of 360,100 cwt, compared to same week last season of 492,400 cwt shipped. The Easter Holiday saw another bump of business with Week-ending March 31 truck shipments of 364,800 cwt compared to same week last season of 428,6000 cwt. Two other considerate shipment bumps occurred; week-ending January 13, 2007 with 3,977,000 cwt shipped, and week-ending May 19 with 3,660,000 cwt shipped. **Colorado's total table stock shipments for the crop year through week-ending September 1, 2006 equaled 14,302,700 compared to the previous year of 17,658,900 cwt, which was a decrease of 19 percent from 2005.** Of that total 975,000 cwt was shipped by rail.

Stocks: Colorado's Fall potato **stocks** on hand **December 1**, 2006 totaled **17,200,000 cwt**. Same as 2005's December 1 holdings of 17,200,000, and represented 72% of the year's production. The **April 1** potato holdings were **9,000,000 cwt**., up by nearly 2% from the previous season holdings of 8,800,000 cwt.

Packaging: Major packaging remained the 50 pound cartons, 10 & 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 Centennial, Nugget and Rio Grande). Round Reds shipped primarily in 10 & 5 pound poly in 50 pound paper or poly balers and card board bins, also 2 ½-3 ½" (Premiums) in 50 # 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 # cartons.

Transportation: Trucks were a problem for the Colorado potato shippers most of the season. Transportation has become a critical issue, Rising fuel prices in 2006 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. 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; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and because of Colorado's tie too and close proximity too Texas, Amarillo, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Houston, TX.

Delaware Potatoes

2006 Season

Statistics: According to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 3,000 acres of potatoes (down 300 acres from the 2005 season); however, harvested acreage was off sharply at 2,100 acres. Production totaled only 504,000 cwt, 37% below the previous two seasons (806,000 cwt). Yields were reported at 240 cwt per acre, compared to 260 the last two crop years.

Movement: The Market News Service reported movement of 419,200 cwt of tablestock for the 2006 season, down 18% from the year before (511,650 cwt) and an additional 49,325 cwt of chipping potatoes, a severe cutback of 45% from the 2005 season (89,345 cwt). The grower base continued to shrink in the area coupled with heavy rains prior to harvest that slashed production even further for the state.

Growing and Harvest Season: Planting was underway in late March with dry conditions reported since the beginning of the year. By mid-April, planting was 77% completed, compared to only 23% the previous season and the 5-year average of 32%. Above normal temperatures with only occasional showers continued through the completion of planting in early May. Cooler weather and some precipitation provided near ideal growing conditions during the month. However, high temperatures near Memorial Day dried soils once again. Feast or famine though, in late June, the southern part of the growing region received over 11 inches of rain, which left some acreage unable to be harvested.

Marketing Season: MNS reported the first f.o.b. shipping prices of the 2006 season in mid-July with 50 pound sacks of U.S.One Size A Round Reds from $11-12 followed shortly by a few B size Reds from $19-20. The red market was very short with supplies exhausted by mid-August. Round White U.S. One size A 50 pound sacks started out the season in mid-July at mostly $8.00 with large size mostly $10, while 10 pound open window sacks loose generally ranged from mostly $1.70-1.80 for the short season. The A size Round Whites slipped to $7.00 in early August, although large size offerings remained stable at $10 through the short season, which ended by mid-September with remaining supplies in too few hands to quote.

Marketing the Florida 2006 Potato Crop

Acreage & Production:

USDA, NASS estimated the Florida crop production at 28,100 acres harvested, compared to 29,000 acres in 2005 and 30,000 acres in 2004. Yields were also estimated at 278 cwt per acre for the 2006 crop year, compared to 273 cwt in 2005 and 308 cwt in 2004. Thus, production equaled 7,816,000 cwt in 2006, compared to 7,919,000 cwt in 2005 and 9,246,000 cwt in 2004.

Shipments:

Fresh shipments totaled 2.9 million cwt. Florida shipments started week-ending February 18 and continued until week-ending July 1. The Florida potato harvest begins in the Immokalee, Bonita Springs, and Okeechobee areas. Then moves into the Parrish, Lake Wales and Plant City area. Florida's potato harvest finishes around Hastings and Palatka in the north.

Marketing:

Long Whites: 50-lb sack size A, U.S. No. 1 opened at 20.30 per sack on week-ending February 25, then closed at 8.30 on week-ending June 17. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest on the last week. Tote bags approximately 2000 pounds size A per cwt started at $44.60 and finished at 16.60. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest on the last week.

Round Reds: 50-lb sacks size A, U.S. No. 1 opened at $15.95 per sack on week-ending February 18, then closed at 12.30-14.30 on week-ending June 17. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest on week-ending May 20-June 3 at 9.30-10.30.

Transportation Trends:

Trucks hauled 100% of the crop. Trucks were extremely hard to come by.

Marketing the 2006 Idaho Potato Crop

Shipments: Shipments for the 13-month season totaled 31,037,000 cwt. Shipments started early August 2006 and continued through August 2007, overlapping the end of the 2005 crop and the start of the 2007 crop. Total shipments for the season were virtually the same as the 2005 crop. November shipments at 2,749,000 cwt were the peak of the season but closely followed by January and May.

Acreage and Production: Planted acreage was 335,000 acres. This was up 10,000 acres or 3% from the previous 2005 crop. Harvested area for the 2006 crop was 334,000 acres, up 6,000 acres from the January 2007 estimate from NASS, USDA. Yield was a record-high 386 cwt per acre, 12 cwt more than the previous record of 2004. This put the 2006 Idaho crop at 128,915,000 cwt. This was 10.6 million cwt more than the 2005 crop and 7.1 million cwt more than the earlier in-season estimate.

Growing Conditions: Planting was accomplished in late April and early May, slightly earlier than normal.

Harvest: Digging for the fresh market started in August 2006. The general harvest weather in September and early October was very open and allowed harvest to wrap up earlier than normal.

Marketing: The April 2006 find of Potato cyst nematode (PCN) in Idaho was followed by fumigation efforts in May 2007 to eradicate the PCN confined to seven fields. The establishment of regulated area set restrictions on movement of trucks, farm equipment and tare dirt from the regulated area. Initially Canada, Mexico, Korea and Japan cut off importation of Idaho potatoes. Most of those prohibitions were removed at some point during the marketing year. Twenty-five other states were to participate in the 2007 national PCN survey.

<u>Baled 5 10-lb film bags:</u>
Russet Norkotah marketing started in early August 2006 at $6.50-7.00 per bale in the Twin Falls-Burley District and Western Idaho. The number of packing sheds shipping from Western Idaho declined. Before Labor Day prices were down to $5.00-5.50 per bale for the non-size A. Baled poly 10 lb bags prices rose in early September as marketing shifted to include the Upper Valley Norkotahs. Prices peaked at $6.50 per bale in September. Russet Burbank prices by late September were $6.25 per bale and stayed relatively steady until late February 2007. A low of $4.25 per bale was reached in May, as well as June 2007. This low came later in the season than last year's low price of $4.50 per bale in January. The season ended up in August 2007 at a price of $4.50 per bale, below last year's price of $5.50 per bale.

<u>50 lb cartons 70s:</u>
Opening prices for 70 count Russet Norkotahs were $14.00-15.00 per 50-lb carton in August 2006. Before Labor Day prices had fallen to $10.00-12.00 per carton for 70s. Russet Norkotah cartons of 70 counts from the Upper Valley and Twin Falls-Burley District, continued to decline to $7.50 per carton before Russet Burbank marketing got started. Russet Burbank prices remained mostly steady at $8.00 until late December, with a low of $7.25 per carton for 70s reached at the end of the month. The new year brought a slight raise in prices, followed by a dip in March and another wave to late April's

high price for the season of $11.25 per carton. This is significantly lower than last season's high of $15.00 per carton of 70s. Ending price for this season was $9.00 per carton; also well below last year's price of $13.50

Idaho shipments by variety or type, according to the federal Marketing Order Committee were 70% Russet Burbank, 27% Norkotahs, 2% Round Reds & 2% all others for the season. There were 240 acres of certified organic potatoes grown in the state, according to the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industries.

Prices represent open (spot) market sales by first handlers on product of generally good quality and condition unless otherwise stated and may include promotional allowances or other incentives. No consideration is given to after-sale adjustments unless otherwise stated. Brokerage fees paid by the shipper are included in the price reported.

Delivered Sales, Shipping Point Basis – This means that the product is to be delivered by the seller on board the car, truck, at the market in which the buyer is located, or at such other market as is agreed upon, free of any and all charges for transportation or protective service. The seller assumes all risks of loss or damage in transit not caused by the buyer.

Processing:

Processing (or the diversion of potentially fresh market supplies to processing or vice-versa) continued to have a major relationship with the fresh market.

Dehydration companies had difficulty finding an adequate supply of washed process grade potatoes (because of record packouts and other factors) and were sustained and large volume buyers of field-run potatoes during the season. This, in effect, put a floor above $6.00 per cwt on grower's returns much of the season.

During the winter, the United Potato Growers of Idaho unveiled plans to purchase 4 dehydration plants and join with another processor in a joint venture in the dehydrated potato industry, creating the second largest potato dehydrator in the nation. Members had to join a new grower cooperative (called United II). "Members of United II will be the sole potato suppliers for the new company" according to a press release. The joint venture would eventually control production of 6 dehydration plants in Idaho and 1 each in Nevada and North Dakota.

The value of the Idaho potato crop (for all uses) was $760.6 million, according to NASS, USDA. This was an average value of $5.90 per cwt. This compared to $674.2 million and $5.70 per cwt for the 2005 crop.

Processors in Idaho and Malheur County of Oregon used 85.6 million cwt of the 2006 crop. This was up 10.7% from the 2005 crop year and closer to the 84.6 million cwt used for processing in 2004. U.S. (includes ID, CO, NV, ND, OR, WA & WI) dehydrators used 49.4 million cwt. This was up from 41.6 million cwt in 2005 and 47.8 million cwt in 2004.

City Name	UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT IDAHO
Commodity Name	POTATOES
Variety	RUSSET
Sub Variety	BURBANK
Grade	U.S. One 2" or 4-oz Min
Season	2006

		Package Item Size		
		50 lb cartons		baled 5 10-lb film bags
Week Ending on	Data	100S	70S	NONSZA 40P 5OZM
9/30/2006	Low Price	$7.50	$7.50	$6.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.50
10/7/2006	Low Price	$7.50	$7.50	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.50
10/14/2006	Low Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.50
10/21/2006	Low Price	$8.00	$8.00	$5.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.50
10/28/2006	Low Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
11/4/2006	Low Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
11/11/2006	Low Price	$7.50	$7.50	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
11/18/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.00	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
11/25/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.00	$6.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
12/2/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.00	$5.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$6.00
12/9/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.50	$5.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$5.75
12/16/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.00	$5.50
	High Price	$7.50	$7.75	$5.75
12/23/2006	Low Price	$7.00	$7.00	$5.50
	High Price	$7.50	$7.50	$5.75
12/30/2006	Low Price	$7.50	$7.50	$5.50
	High Price	$7.50	$7.50	$5.50
1/6/2007	Low Price	$7.50	$8.00	$5.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.50	$5.50
1/13/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$8.00	$5.50
	High Price	$9.00	$9.00	$5.50
1/20/2007	Low Price	$9.50	$9.50	$5.50
	High Price	$10.00	$10.00	$6.00
1/27/2007	Low Price	$9.50	$9.75	$5.50
	High Price	$10.00	$10.00	$6.00
2/3/2007	Low Price	$8.50	$9.00	$5.50
	High Price	$10.00	$10.00	$6.00
2/10/2007	Low Price	$7.50	$8.00	$5.50
	High Price	$9.00	$9.00	$5.75
2/17/2007	Low Price	$7.50	$8.00	$5.50
	High Price	$8.00	$8.50	$5.50
2/24/2007	Low Price	$7.50	$7.50	$5.00
	High Price	$8.00	$8.00	$5.50
3/3/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$7.50	$5.00
	High Price	$7.50	$7.75	$5.50
3/10/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$7.50	$4.75
	High Price	$7.50	$8.00	$5.25
3/17/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$7.50	$4.50
	High Price	$7.50	$8.00	$4.75
3/24/2007	Low Price	$7.50	$8.00	$4.50
	High Price	$8.00	$9.00	$5.00
3/31/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$9.00	$4.75
	High Price	$9.00	$9.50	$5.00

4/7/2007	Low Price	$8.50	$9.50	$4.75
	High Price	$9.00	$10.00	$5.00
4/14/2007	Low Price	$9.00	$10.00	$4.75
	High Price	$9.00	$10.00	$4.75
4/21/2007	Low Price	$9.00	$10.00	$4.50
	High Price	$9.00	$10.50	$4.75
4/28/2007	Low Price	$9.00	$11.00	$4.50
	High Price	$9.00	$11.50	$4.50
5/5/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$9.00	$11.50	$4.50
5/12/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$9.00	$11.50	$4.50
5/19/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$8.25	$11.50	$4.50
5/26/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$8.25	$11.50	$4.50
6/2/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$8.50	$11.50	$4.50
6/9/2007	Low Price	$8.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$8.50	$11.50	$4.50
6/16/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$11.00	$4.25
	High Price	$8.00	$11.25	$4.50
6/23/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$10.00	$4.00
	High Price	$7.50	$11.25	$4.50
6/30/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.50	$4.00
	High Price	$7.50	$10.50	$4.50
7/7/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.50	$4.25
	High Price	$7.00	$10.00	$4.25
7/14/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
	High Price	$6.75	$9.50	$4.50
7/21/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
	High Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
7/28/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
	High Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
8/4/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
	High Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
8/11/2007	Low Price	$6.50	$9.00	$4.50
	High Price	$7.50	$9.00	$5.00
8/18/2007	Low Price	$7.00	$9.00	$4.00
	High Price	$7.00	$9.00	$5.00

KLAMATH BASIN

(NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHERN OREGON)

GENERAL COMMENTS – 2006

PACKAGING: U.S. #1 size A potatoes are required to meet a 2-inch or 4 ounce minimum. Count sizes were generally packed in 50 lb cartons. Non size A potatoes were generally packed in 50 lb. masters with 10-5 lb. or 5-10 lb. bales, or in 100 lb. sacks.

SHIPMENTS: Fresh market shipments for the 2006 crop for the Klamath Basin totaled 20,895,000 cwt. Shipments out of the Basin began week-ending August 5, 2006 and ended week-ending October 20, 2007. Peak shipments were for Holiday business. Thanksgiving business peaked on week-ending November 18 with 887,000 cwt shipped, then Christmas on week-ending December 18 with 887,000 shipped and Easter on week-ending April 7 with 666,000 cwt shipped.

MARKETING: (All prices per 50 lb. carton for carton 70s) The first FOBs were issued the week-ending October 28 at 9.00-10.00. The carton market tailed off from that point to a season low of 8.50-9.00. The week-ending April 14 saw the beginning of a continual and gradual increase to a season high of 11.00-11.50. The season finished week-ending July 14 at 10.00. baled 10 5-lb film bag baled began the season at 6.00-7.00 per bale and closed at 6.00 with a mid-season high of 7.50 from December 16 to January 20.

Maine Potatoes 2006 Season

Production: According to New England Agricultural Statistics Service, Maine's 2006 potato production was reported at 17.9 million cwt, a 16% jump from the previous season low output total of 15.4 million cwt and 6% smaller than the big 2004 crop (19.0). Harvested acreage totaled 58,000, a jump of 1,800 acres from the previous year, but down 3,500 acres from the 2004 season. Yields were very healthy and one the highest ever harvested in the state at 310 cwt per acre, with the previous year reported at 275 and 310 respectively.

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 42.5% of the total acreage as the previous season, followed by numbered Frito-Lay chipping selections at 17.1% and the Long White Shepody for processing at 5.2%, down from 7.2% the previous season. Round White Superior and Katahdin for the table market finished at 4.5% and 3.1%, both up slightly from the previous season. Acreages by potato type was White (both Long and Round) at 51%, Russet varieties 46% and Reds at 3%.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Frequent shower activity and warm temperatures in July and August provided excellent growing conditions for the potato crop, and also provided suitable conditions for the development of late blight. With aggressive spray programs, the disease was kept from expanding beyond a few locations in the county. Growers began planting early in May, and ahead of the five-year average. Rains mid-month slowed progress but many growers remained ahead of schedule. By the end of May, 80% of the crop had been planted compared to 20% the previous year and the five-year average of 65%. Warm weather continued to enhance growing conditions and planting was generally completed near June 10 with 20% emergence. Severe storms in early June brought heavy rains and up to 3,000 acres were lost to flooding. Warm July weather and timely rains promoted rapid tuber growth and crop specialists rated the crop as good or excellent statewide. Vine desiccation began the latter half of August with limited harvest by the end of the month. Harvest was in full swing late in September with reports of nearly 70% harvested in early October, compared to the five-year average of 55%. Most harvesting was completed by the third week in October.

Shipments: Maine fresh potato shipments totaled 3.08 million cwt through June 2007, compared to 2.64 million cwt for the same time frame the previous season. Movement started briskly by a hand full of grower/shippers in early September and continued at an accelerated pace through the New Year's holiday. Tablestock shipments through October totaled 285,000 cwt compared to 181,000 cwt the year before. By year's end and the holiday season, 1.1 million cwt had been shipped, compared to the previous season to date total of 940,000 cwt, an increase of 18%. This pace generally continued through March when shipments to date were approximately 2.4 million cwt compared to 2.0 million cwt the year prior. Major destinations for the crop included Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maine and Maryland with nearly 1,000 additional loads shipped to all destinations from start of season through May 2007.

Easements: According to the Maine Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service, 288 loads (150,805 cwt) were sent to Canada for processing from start of season through June 2007, compared to 304 and 244 the last two seasons. Some processing loads were sent out of state for fry processing in Mid-West and Western facilities during the spring months as well.

Potato Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2006 totaled 14.7 million cwt, 18% above the 2005 December 1 holdings. Disappearance totaled 3.6 million cwt, compared to 3 million cwt the previous season. Processor usage (excluding chips) was also up 29% from last season's unusually low usage. Sixty percent of the varieties in storage were Russets, 37% Round white and 3% red varieties. The May 1 stocks on hand reported 5.4 million cwt, a big increase of 26% from last year at 4.3 million cwt.

Marketing Season: Shipments were brisk early in the season. Excellent quality and yields created demand for Round Whites along the East Coast. The Delaware season was shortened by reduced acreage and Long Island had some rain delays during harvest and quality issues. Canadian White supplies were tight during the fall months as well. Growers took advantage and jumped on the marketing wagon. Market News issued the first F.O. B. shipping point prices on October 23, 2006 with Round White U.S. One 2 inch minimum ten pound open-window sacks loose from mostly $1.30-1.40 and Russet Norkotah baled 10 5-pound film bags 3 inch or 4 ounce minimum $7.25-7.75. After Thanksgiving, prices slipped on 10-pound Round Whites to mostly $1.15-1.25 and mostly $6.50-7.00 on Russet Norkotah baled 5s. Markets continued to slide slightly through the winter months; by the end of February, Round White loose 10s fell to .90-$1.20, mostly $1.00-1.10 and Russet Norkotah baled 5s mostly $5.00-5.50. Round White demand remained at moderate levels for much of the season, while Russet demand was sluggish. As good Round White supplies dwindled across the County after Easter, prices bounced back to mostly $1.10-1.25. Excess supplies of Russet Burbank found their way into the fresh marketing channel at mostly $5.00-5.50 at this time as well. Consumer demand on Western supplies remained flat for much of the late season, with no price push on bag supplies. The last Market News pricing report was issued May 29th while light shipments continued into the summer months.

Packaging: The major consumer packages for Maine Round Whites remain the 2 inch ten-pound open window sack and baled 10 5-pound film bags and the baled 10-5 sacks for Russet varieties. There are some premium pack sizes such as 2 ¼ inch minimum on Whites for some chain store accounts, and 5-9 ounce packs on Russets.

Transportation: Continued high fuel costs with surcharges from 9-18% added weekly to the base rates to major destination cities. Base rates basically remained stable from the previous season: New York $3.00, Boston $2.40, Philadelphia $3.50 and Baltimore $3.75 cwt. Surcharges reached the 14-18% range during the second half of the season. There were fewer instances of truck shortages this season, in spite of the increased production. A few shortages were noted during peak holiday promotional weeks. Usually in February and March, competition with seed shippers created truck shortages. This season, there were only a few instances when trucks were inadequate to handle the loads.

Maine Chipping Potatoes
2006 Season

Statistics: Maine chipping potato movement totaled slightly over 2.0 million cwt for the 2006 season, up 9 percent from the previous season's total of 1.87 million cwt and practically matching the 2004 and 2003 seasons' totals. Contracts were written similarly to the previous year; however, heavier yields were recorded. Shipments began late August and finished by mid-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.

Marketing: Harvest of out-of-the-field supplies began the latter half of August and kept slightly off the pace of the previous season for most of the season. Movement pulled slightly ahead in early May and finished mid-June with contract supplies. The biggest shipping month was April, just ahead of the new season that was just underway in northern Florida. There were 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 and Wachusett chip companies in Massachusetts and a few buying brokers in the East.

Maine Seed Potatoes 2006 season

Acreage: Acreage continued a downward spiral again this season as the Florida-tested and certified acreage for the 2006-2007 season totaled 10,979 acres down 4% from the 2005 season and 19% and 26% from the 2004 and 2003 seasons respectively. These figures did not include growers own seed plots. The Maine Seed Inspection Department was responsible for inspection and certification of seed shipments by variety and destination for the industry. Certification tags were issued by state Seed Potato Specialists for lots that met official grades for Maine Certified Seed, and after Florida testing, recorded 5 per cent or less virus diseased plants. The top ten seed varieties were: Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections, Russet Burbank, Atlantic (all processing varieties), Superior, Yukon Gold, Reba, Monona, Snowden, Dark Red Norland and Norwis. **Measurable decreases** were noted in the following key varieties: **Superior** (-30%), **Shepody** (-25%), **Yukon Gold** (-21%), **Russet Burbank** (-3%) and **Atlantic** (-2%). The **biggest increases** noted in the major varieties were **Dark Red Norland** (+36%), **Monona** (+18%), **Snowden** (+16%) and **Frito Lay** numbered selections (+13%). The industry noted other increases in newer seed selections such as Marcy, Harley Blackwell, Keuka Gold, Monticello and Eva Round White varieties, while older varieties declined such as Red Pontiac, LaRouge, Goldrush, Red LaSoda and LaChipper.

Shipments: Shipments began in early November to Florida and finished the end of May for the 2006 shipping season. A slight increase was noted as the total for the year was **1,168,136 cwt** compared to **1,065,778 cwt** the previous season, according to the Maine Seed Inspection Service. However, shipments have slid from the decade high 1,453,784 cwt in 2001, a sizeable drop of 20 percent. Major destinations for Maine seed were **Florida** with **241,985 cwt., up 29%** from the previous season's figure of 187,096 cwt; **North Carolina 213,312 cwt** compared to 211,534 cwt, **New York 190,513 cw**t, compared to 202,092 cwt (**down 6%), Pennsylvania at 94,965 cwt** compared to 96,050 cwt and **Canada 67,810 cwt**, up sharply by 45% from last season (46,855 cwt). **Peak volume** was reported **mid-March through April**, when New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and other Mid-Atlantic States received the bulk of their shipments. Destinations included 32 states and/or countries this season. The **major varieties** shipped by Maine seed growers were **Atlantic** (226,859 cwt), **Frito Lay numbered** chipping selections (211,485 cwt), **Superior** (98,877 cwt), **Snowden** (96,239 cwt), **Reba** (76,416 cwt), **Norwis** (63,834 cwt) and **Andover** (55,423 cwt).

Marketing: No open market pricing was reported during the shipping season. Most movement occurred as a result of pre-season sales. There was little spot buying interest after initial seed purchases were made.

Michigan Potatoes
2006 season

Production: Michigan growers harvested 43,000 acres, up 200 acres from the previous season and an increase in production of 14.1 million hundredweight from 13.9 million cwt from the 2005 season. Yields also increased slightly from 325 to 330 cwt per acre. Approximately 87 percent of the crop was Round White varieties, 12% Russets and 1% Red varieties. Unofficial estimates planted for the table market were 30% of the acreage.

Movement: Shipments of the summer Onaway crop began mid-July and ended in early October. In late August and September movement increased as some growers contracted with a firm in PA and sent bulk Russets to repack during this time as well. By the end of September, approximately 947 loads had been shipped, 6% ahead of the previous season with improved reporting methods by the Market News Service.

By the end of December, the pace began to slow; 2,082 loads had been exhausted, compared to 1,972 the previous season. Bulk supplies also slowed sharply. By mid-February, most growers were disappointed with sales and the sluggish demand continued through the Easter holiday and the remaining shipping season weeks. Round white supplies cleaned up by mid-April with most growers. The final total for the season reported by the MNS in early June was approximately 3,922 load equivalents, compared to 3,694 the previous season. This was the largest table stock movement reported in recent years, due primarily to the number of bulk Russet potatoes grown and sold to repackers. One major grower was left to finish the season in later June.

Growing andHarvest Seasons: Planting began the first week in April in Bay County for the summer Round White Onaway crop. The first Russets ever grown in Southwestern Michigan were also planted at this time. Planting was widespread and advanced rapidly the week of April 23rd while growers in the Montcalm area prepared fields for planting. Dry soil conditions were prevalent May 1 and a hard frost was reported mid-state April 25-26. Nevertheless, planting surged ahead at 31 percent, compared to the previous year's 20%. Cool temperatures and rain slowed progress and emergence slightly mid-May; however, by May 29, 84% of the crop was in the ground with emergence 50% compared to 32% the previous year. Hot weather persisted over Memorial Day weekend followed by cooler temperatures in early June, which again slowed development. Planting was completed by mid-June, and emergence ahead of the previous season. Early plantings were in full bloom by the end of the month. Harvest of the summer Onaway crop began slowly the latter half of July. By the end of August, approximately 18% of the crop had been harvested. Harvest accelerated near Labor Day; however, fall rains slowed harvest progress for days on end. By the first week in October, only 47% of the crop had been harvested compared to 58% the previous season. By mid-month, persistent precipitation and cool temperatures thwarted progress. By the end of October, only 82% of the crop had been recovered Harvesting continued into the second week of November.

Onaway Summer Marketing Season: The first pricing report issued by the Market News Service in late July was strong with ten pound open-window sacks loose size A from $1.60-1.65, well above the previous season start of $1.30-1.40 and $1.10-1.20 for the 2004 season. By Labor Day, prices had slipped to $1.20-1.30 and remained at that level for the rest of the shipping season, which concluded in early October. Decreasing local acreage and a tighter supply of summer Round whites aided in moving the crop at a normal pace.

Storage Season: Opening prices for storage supplies began in late September with Russet Norkotah and Goldrush U.S. One ten pound film bags loose size A from $1.30-1.40, slightly higher than the 2005 season start of $1.20-1.30. In early November the Russet price had slipped to $1.25-1.35 and remained at that level well through the season. Storage Whites began where the Onaway finished earlier, $1.20-1.30 and remained at this level through April, when remaining supplies were in too few hands to quote. A few growers commanded higher prices on potatoes specially packed for an in-state retailer as expected. In spite of reduced acreage nationwide and increased processor demand, yields in some regions were higher than expected and consumer usage continued to lag, thus keeping fresh prices flat much of the storage season. Russet prices finished the season with U.S. One ten pound film bags loose size A from $1.45-1.65.

Stocks on Hand: Michigan's potato stocks on hand December 1, 2006 totaled 8.2 million cwt compared to 7.9 million cwt and 4% above the previous year, which represented 58% of the crop year's production.

The May 1 holdings of .9 million cwt accounted for 6% of the year's production; however, this represented an increase of 80% in holdings, most of which was held for chipping.

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.

Transportation: Trucking was easily handled except for a tight supply near Christmas and New Year's promotions. Again rising fuel costs ate at the bottom line for most growers profits. Most of the table stock delivered to nearby or overnight destinations with little problems.

Michigan Chipping Potatoes
2006 season

Production: Michigan growers harvested 43,000 acres, up 200 acres from the previous season with an increase in production at 14.1 million hundredweight from 13.9 '000 cwt for the 2005 season. Yields also increased slightly from 325 to 330 cwt per acre. Approximately 87 percent of the crop was Round White varieties, heavily devoted to chipping acreage. Movement for the 2006 season totaled 8.3 million cwt., 3 percent above the 2005 season and just slightly ahead of the 2004 season. Predominant varieties included Atlantic, Snowden, Pike and FL numbered varieties.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Planting of out-of-the-field early supplies (mostly Atlantic and Pike) began in early April across the southern region of the state, followed shortly by other areas in the Lower Peninsula. By the end of the month, most growers had begun planting. Cool temperatures and some much needed rain slowed progress mid-May; however, by the end of the month, 84% of the crop was in the ground with emergence 50% compared to only 32% the previous year. Hot weather persisted over Memorial Day weekend followed by cooler temperatures in early June, which again slowed development. Planting was completed by mid-June, and emergence ahead of the previous season. Early plantings were in full bloom by the end of the month. Initial harvest of field supplies began in mid-July by a few growers. By the end of August, approximately 18% of the crop had been harvested. Harvest accelerated near Labor Day; however, fall rains slowed harvest progress for days on end. By the first week in October, only 47% of the crop had been harvested compared to 58% the previous season. By mid-month, several days of wet fields and cool temperatures thwarted progress. By the end of October, only 82% of the crop had been recovered Harvesting continued into the second week of November.

Marketing: There was little opportunity for open market sales during the season, as most growers were concerned with filling their contracts due to breakdown in storages from the wet fall and cold temperatures, which affected the frying ability of the tuber. During the wet period in October, some open market loads were released for $4.00 cwt., below the general contracted market. Again in mid-February, a few open blocks of chips were reported in the $8.00-8.50 cwt range and $8.50-9.00 March into mid-April as contracts wrapped up and companies began the switch to new crop supplies in Florida.

Stocks: According to NASS, Michigan's potato stocks on hand December 1, 2006 totaled 8.2 million cwt compared to 7.9 million cwt, 4% above the previous year, which represented 58% of the season's production. The May 1 holdings of .9 million cwt accounted for 6% of production remaining; however, this amount represented an increase of 80% in holdings, most of which was held for the remaining chipping contracts.

MARKETING THE 2006 BIG LAKE & CENTRAL MINNESOTA CROP

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

HARVEST: Light harvest activity of Round Reds started the week-ending July 22. Most growers of Round Reds had finished digging by the last week in September with minimal weather delays during harvest. The peat soil area around Gully, MN finished around week-ending October 25. Some russets were still being harvested into the first day or two of November.

SHIPMENTS: Recorded shipments of Round Reds and Russets for the season totaled 1,951,700 cwt. 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 Reds started in late July, and peaked in August. Shipments of Russets started the second week of September and finished for the most part in early October; a few Russets were stored and marketed in November, December and January.

ACREAGE & PRODUCTION: National Agricultural Statistics Service reported planted acreage for all of Minnesota at 51,000 acres in 2006 with 48,000 acres harvested. Yield per harvested acre equals 380 CWT per acre.

MARKETING: The Big Lake & Central Minnesota marketing of Round Reds and Yellow Type 2006 started in week-ending July 29, a month after Arizona had finished for the season and the California volume of Round Reds had began to stabilize.

Shipping point prices for Round Reds U.S. No. 1 size A in 50-lb paper sacks, started the last week of July at $9.50-11.75 per 50lb unit. During the eight weeks of the Red potato marketing season, prices ranged from the season opening high of to a low of $5.50-6.00 per 50-lb unit the week-ending September 16, which was the last week of the season. Size B in 50-lb paper sacks started the season at $20.00-21.00, dropped to a season low and closing price of $18.00 the week-ending September 16. Yellow Type were priced entirely in the tote bags approximately 2000 pounds size A. They started the season on week-ending August 5 at 25.00-30.00 cwt and closed on week-ending August 26 at 15.00.

The USDA Market News Service did not report Russet Norkotah prices in the 2006 season due to lack of shippers reporting prices

PACKAGING: The major packs for Round Red potatoes were tote bags approximately 2000 pounds size A. This is normally the base used to price other packages. Totes continue to be utilized more and more as more re-packers are able to handle this package

MARKETING THE 2006 RED RIVER VALLEY POTATO CROP

ACREAGE & PRODUCTION: Minnesota – North Dakota production was up a total of 3% compared to the five year average according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. North Dakota growers produced 25,480,000 cwt up from the five year average of 24,729,000 cwt. Minnesota growers produced 20,400,000 cwt. North Dakota planted 100,000 acres and harvested 98,000. Minnesota planted 51,000 acres and harvested 48,000. Over-all yields per acre in North Dakota was 260 cwt per acre. Minnesota over-all yield per acre was 425. Although exact figures aren't available from both North Dakota & Minnesota, chip-stock acreage continued to decline; however, chip-stock acreage, yield, and production were up slightly from 2005 levels. Chip-stock in North Dakota accounted for about 22% of production, with Reds about 15% and Russets 63%.

PLANTING: Planting for 2006 began later than the previous year due to a wet Spring throughout the planting period, progress was delayed by frequent rainfall especially in the Northern Red River Valley area. Planting progress was brought to a halt the first two weeks of May by heavy rains that saturated soils across the region.

GROWING CONDITIONS: Many areas experienced localized drown-outs in parts of the valley from strong storms particularly in East Grand Forks and Grafton areas. Irrigated and dry-land areas suffered with late blight and excess moisture. Growing conditions varied from excellent to poor, depending on the location, with one of the best growing region being North of Grand Forks in the Hoople area.

HARVESTS: Harvest weather was warm in September and frequently interrupted by showers. In October repeated weather fronts further saturated the soil, with a few fields not being harvested this season. Harvest was nearly completed for table-stock by the end of October.

MARKETING: The first report of the season was issued the week of September 9, 2006 and the last report was put out the week of June 16, 2007. Prices for tote bags approx 2000 pounds per cwt size A Round Reds U.S. No. A opened at $9.50-10.00. In December and January prices for 100-lb sacks were $9.00-10.00. Prices for tote bags held steady in the $9.00-9.50 range into mid-March. Only a few of the small sheds were finished by the first of May. Marketing continued even after new-crop Reds were available from spring crop areas. The final week of shipments was July 21, 2007. Tote bags finished the season at $11.50.

The customary trade practice in this district is to use the tote bags approx 2000 pounds per cwt size A for Round Reds U.S. No. 1 as a base price. Baled 10-lb film bags were usually up-charged $3.00 per cwt premium and 5-lb film bags up-charged $4.00 per cwt from the tote price. 50-lb paper sacks were $1.50 per cwt over the tote base price.

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 August 5, 2006 and continued into the week-ending July 21. Fresh shipments totaled 4,460,700 cwt for the season including 204,100 cwt by rail. The Holiday Season showed some increases in shipments from other weeks. The week-ending November 18 was the biggest week of the year, with shipments of 1,587,000 cwt shipped. The week-ending December 16 saw a bump in shipments of 1,397,000 cwt. The Easter bump was week-ending March 31 with 1,286,000 cwt shipped

TRANSPORTATION TRENDS: The Valley often experiences more transportation problems than most other shipping areas because of its location and the lack of back hauls. 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 December. This had a few shippers looking to use rail cars, but trucks hauled 95% of the fresh shipments.

Long Island Potatoes
2006 Season

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, New York growers **harvested 19,000** acres of potatoes for the 2006 season, 1,100 **less acres** than the previous season, and 1,600 less acres than planted. **Production** increased to **5.7 million** hundredweight, a 9% increase from 2005 with yields forecasted at 300 cwt, which tied the 2003 record-breaking yield per acre. Growers on Long Island generally yield slightly more than the state average due to the varieties grown on the island, notably the large profile Norwis. Unofficial sources reported planted **acreage of** potatoes near 2**,500** acres on Long Island, a decrease from the previous season.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Planting started on schedule in late March due to dry conditions and wrapped up easily by the end of April. Rainfall was above normal through the summer months into the fall during the harvest. A few growers began harvest and packing by mid-August to local receivers. Harvest continued well into mid-to-late October as showers stalled progress. Some quality issues and breakdown were reported due to excess moisture during the growing season.

Marketing Season: The first fob shipping point sales was issued by the Market News Service in early September. However **prices were again sharply higher** than the 2005 start with **Round white** U.S.One **50 pound sacks** size A **mostly $8.00** compared to **$6.00 in 2005,** and **large size $10.00** compared to mostly **$8.00** the prior season. However, demand was sluggish for much of the season. By the end of October, **50 pound sacks size A had dropped to mostly $6.75-7.25** and **large size mostly $9.00-9.25** while Round White baled 10 5-pound sacks sold from mostly $8.50-9.00. The market **continued in a downward spiral** by the New Year with size A 50s **mostly $5.75-6.25 and large size $6.00-6.75, nearly $2.00 cwt less than the 2005 season**. The shipping season continued well into April by a few remaining growers. At the time of the last pricing report issued by the MNS in mid-**February, 50s had slipped to mostly $5.50-6.00 and $5.75-6.50 for large size**, while baled 10 5-pound sacks size A dropped to $5.50-6.50, a sharp drop of nearly $6.00-7.00 per cwt on consumer packages from the 2005 season prices. **Yukon Gold** 50s were far more stable during the fall shipping season with early prices in September **at mostly $12.00** and a final price report in early November reported the market at **mostly $10.50-11.00 per 50 pound** sack.

Movement: The MNS reported **shipments** from Long Island of approximately **645,000 cwt** for the 2006 season, a **decrease of 15 percent** from the previous season (756,800 cwt) and 26% below the 2004 crop year (872,300 cwt). Export loads continued their decline and were not broken out from domestic shipments this season to avoid disclosure of individual operations. The last shipment report was issued by the Market News Service mid-April, at least 8 weeks later than the last few seasons, due to the sluggish marketing demand.

Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1 for New York were **2.8 million** hundredweight, down slightly from **the previous season total of 2.9** million cwt**.** By March 1, New York's holdings were 800,000 cwt, sharply lower than the previous season record (1.2 million cwt) in recent years. The remaining holdings were held upstate between table stock and mostly chip potato growers.

Packaging: The major pack on the island is the 50-lb. 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
2006 Season

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 20,600 acres of potatoes for the 2006 season, up 100 acres from 2005. Harvested acres totaled 19,000, 1,600 less acres than planted, and 1,100 less than the previous season, down 5% from the last season and a record low. Production was estimated at 5.7 million cwt, a 9% increase from 2005 with yields forecasted at 300 cwt, which would tie the 2003 record-breaking yield per acre. 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.

Growing and Harvest Season: Planting was underway in late April with favorable weather conditions, with the western 2/3s of the state reporting below normal precipitation. By the end of May, a cool front brought much needed rainfall, and potatoes were 67% planted compared to 59% the previous year.

However, June was plagued with cool, wet conditions due to several tropical storm fronts. Initial harvesting began in late July with cooler, moist conditions. Progress was slow, and in early September, only 45% of the crop was harvested, compared to 49% the previous season. Field conditions remained a problem during the remainder of the harvest, and some acreage was unharvested. The excess moisture did assist in boosting tuber yields though to a record-tying 300 cwt.

Movement: Harvest began the first week of August with out-of-the-field supplies, and peaked mid-September to mid-October, with healthy yields that boosted weekly shipments above the previous year.

According to the Market News Service, movement of nearly 1.87 million cwt was the highest reported since the 2000 season (1.89 million cwt), and a 20% jump over the previous season finish of 1.56 million cwt. The last few weeks of the season were not reported as to avoid disclosure of any one operation. The major chip buyers in New York consisted of Wise Foods, EK Bare, Utz Quality Foods, Pennsylvania Potato Co-op and Stowe Potato Sales.

Stocks on hand: New York Agricultural Statistics Service reported stocks on hand December 1, 2006 totaled 2.8 million cwt, a 3% decrease from the previous year, with 90% of the crop Round white varieties. By April 1, only 400,000 cwt remained in storage, a decrease of 20% from the previous season.

Eastern North Carolina Potatoes 2006 Season

Statistics: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, harvested acreage of potatoes totaled 15,500 acres in 2006 compared to 15,000 acres in 2005 and 13,500 acres in 2004. Production finished at 32,600 hundredweight compared to 28,500 cwt. in 2005 and 27,000 cwt. in 2004. In 2006 yield was 210 cwt. per acre compared to 190 cwt. in 2005 and 200 cwt. in 2004.

Movement: According to the Market News Service, movement totaled 384,000 cwt for table stock and an additional 2,432,000 cwt of chipstock. The season started in early June, slightly ahead of the 2005 season, and wrapped up in late July, also earlier than in the 2005 season, with the remaining supplies in too few hands to establish a market.

Growing and Harvest Season: The months of January and February were unseasonably warm with high temperatures ranging from 61-75 degrees. Precipitation varied throughout the State leaving soil moisture levels rated at 69 percent adequate as of February 28. As a result, potato plantings were able to get underway unlike in 2005 when a wide range of weather conditions hindered crop plantings. The months of March and April were relatively dry and many areas began experiencing drought conditions. Even still, potato planting continued and by the week ending April 09, 98 percent of the crop had been planted compared to 89 percent in 2005 and the five-year average of 93 percent. May and June blew in damaging hail, Tropical Storm Alberto, and below normal temperatures. Harvesting began in June and by the week ending July 02, 54 percent of the potato crop had been harvested. Another tropical storm hit the State in July, Tropical Storm Beryl, but did not seem to hinder harvest. By the week ending July 23, 97 percent of the potato crop had been harvested compared to 95 percent in 2005 and the five-year average of 92 percent.

Marketing Season: Prices this season for Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50 pound sacks were $2-$3 higher than the previous year. The first f.o.b. price report was on June 20. Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50 pound sacks were mostly $8.00-$10.00 compared to $6.00-$7.00 in 2005. The last prices reported were on July 24 and ranged $7.00-$8.00 compared to $5.00-$6.00 in 2005. Round Red U.S. No. One, size A 50 pound sacks trended $1.70-$3 lower in 2006 compared to 2005. The first f.o.b. price reported for Round Reds was on June 20. U.S. No. One, Size A 50 pound sacks were $12.30 compared to $14.00-$15.30 in 2005. The final prices reported were on July 25 at $11.30-$12.00 compared to $14.00 in 2005. Prices for Yellow Type U.S. No. One, size A 50 pound sacks trended $3-$6.70 higher when compared to 2005. The first f.o.b. prices were reported on July 03 at $17.75-$20 compared to $13-$13.30 in 2005. The final prices reported were on July 21 at $16-$18 compared to $13-$13.30. Chip Potatoes are sold bulk per hundredweight and marketed in 2006 generally on a contract basis. The general contract price on Round White Atlantics 85% or better U.S. No. One bulk per cwt. was $6.50-$8.00 compared to $5.50-$6.50 in 2005.

Ohio Chipping Potatoes

2006 Season

Statistics: Ohio harvested 3,100 acres of potatoes, a decrease of 500 acres from the previous two years, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. Yields increased sharply to 325 cwt per acre from 240 cwt the previous season. Production was also higher at just over 1.00 million cwt, compared to 864 million cwt in 2005. Movement of the 2006 chipping potato crop totaled 187,830 cwt, down from 214,143 cwt the previous season and 257,812 cwt in 2003**,** according to the Market News Service. Approximately 1,400 acres were planted with chip stock in the state. The predominant areas were in western Ohio, from Findlay north to Toledo and south of Cleveland, in the Wooster area.

Growing Season: Planting began in early April with above normal temperatures and precipitation levels. By May 1, 40% of the planting was completed, compared to 54% the previous season and the five-year average of 39%. Growers were able to push ahead rapidly due to drier conditions the next two weeks; however, the latter half of the month brought below normal temperatures and wet conditions, which slowed progress. Most planting was completed in mid-June; cool and wet conditions continued through most of June as well. Timely summer rains and moderate temperatures helped bulk up the potato crop.

Harvesting Season: Initial light harvest began in early August. By late in the month, harvest lagged 9 days behind the state average with only 22 percent of the crop harvested compared to 27% the previous season and the five-year average of 39%. Rains slowed harvest slightly but by mid-September 63% of the crop was harvested, compared to the 55% the previous year. Chilly temperatures and wet conditions in October plagued completion of harvest until late in the month. No open market sales were reported by the Market News Service, as most growers struggled to fill contracts with lesser yields.

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

Pennsylvania Chipping Potatoes

2006 Season

Statistics: Pennsylvania **harvested 10,500 acres** of potatoes, 500 less acres as the previous season or down 5%, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Approximately 3,500-4,000 acres were planted in chipping potatoes, with the predominant plantings in the Northwestern, East Central and Central districts of the state. Production of 2.73 million cwt was off slightly from the previous year **(2.75)** but yields improved from 250 to 260 cwt per acre. Predominant chipping varieties grown were Atlantic, Snowden, Pike, Andover and Marcy.

Growing Season: Planting began in early April and by mid-May, 76% of the planting had been completed, compared to 64% the previous season. Favorable conditions and moisture during the planting was favorable to crop development and yet a challenge for planting. Growers finished on schedule, however in early June.

Harvesting Season: Initial harvest of field supplies (Atlantic) began in early August, despite unseasonably hot temperatures across the state. Growers battled problems with leafhoppers during harvest though. August remained on the dry side and allowed harvesting progress to shoot ahead slightly (25%) of the five-year average (22%). Progress in September was thwarted by rains and cool temperatures; however, the end of the month ushered in more co-operative weather and jumped harvest back on schedule with the five-year average at 74% completion. Colder temperatures the latter half of October continued to slow harvest which was generally completed in early November.

Shipments peaked with field supplies in late August through mid-October. The shipping year came to a close in early April, with a total of 663,159 cwt. shipped, a sharp increase of 34% from the 2005 season total of 495,935 cwt, according to the Market News Service. No open market prices were reported this year as most growers planted for contracted sales only.

Stocks on hand: The National Agricultural Statistics Service discontinued monthly stocks holding reports for Pennsylvania after the 2004 season.

MARKETING THE COLUMBIA BASIN WASHINGTON – UMATILLA BASIN OREGON CROP

2006 SEASON

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington planted acreage was 156,000 acres in 2006, a slight increase from 2005s 154,000 acres. Harvested acreage in 2006 was 155,000 acres, also a slight increase in 2005s harvest acreage of 154,000 acres. Washington's yield per acre in 2006 was 580 cwt, a 6 percent decrease from 2005s yield of 620 cwt. Washington's production in 2006 was 89,9000,000 cwt, also a 6 percent decrease from 2005s production of 95,480,000 cwt. Umatilla Basin Oregon planted acreage was 9,000 acres in 2006, a decrease from 2005s 9,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2006 was also 9,000 acres, also a decrease from 2005s harvested acreage of 9,400 acres. Umatilla Basin Oregon's yield in 2006 was 550 cwt per acre, a 19 percent decrease from 2005s yield of 680 cwt per acre. Umatilla Basin Oregon's production in 2006 was 4,950,000 cwt, also a significant decrease from 2005s production of 6,392,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments for the 2006 season for Washington were 9,268,000 cwt, of which 1,286,000 cwt were exports. This was a 14 percent decrease from 2005s shipments of 10,677,000 cwt, of which 1,871,000 cwt were exports. Shipments for the 2006 season for Umatilla Basin Oregon were 1,713,000 cwt, of which 315,000 cwt were exports. This was a 2 percent decrease from 2005s shipments 1,745,000 cwt, of which 337,000 cwt were exports.

Crop & Weather: Planting for potatoes was well underway for growers in the southeastern part of the State by the end of March. Statewide, planting was 3 percent completed. Irrigators were preparing seed beds for upcoming plantings of potatoes in Adam's county. Rain fell during the first week of April delaying field work. Producers in drier counties were able to increase field work and were busy planting potatoes. The crop was 30 percent planted compared to 37 percent in 2005. It was also 2 percent emerged, same as 2005. In Grant County, during the week ending April 17, some morning temperatures were below freezing and more rain was received. Potato planting was in full swing and irrigation season was underway. Potatoes continued to be planted in Franklin County.

Growers continued planting fields in mid-May. They were 93 percent planted compared to 88 percent the past week and 96 percent in 2005. The crop was 60 percent emerged compared to 46 percent the past week and 55 percent in 2005. The crop in Franklin County continued to look good. During the week ending May 21, the weather was unusually hot for most of the week. Potato growers continued planting fields. 97 percent of the crop was planted and 75 percent emerged. There were some reports in Franklin County that potato crops suffered with low tuber development from a frost which occurred a week and a half ago and also the excessive heat of the past week. Hopefully, the extremes of the week will have minimal effect on crops overall since it was still early in the growing season. Potato planting had pretty much ended in Grant County.

By the end of the first week of June, planting had been completed and 95 percent of the crop had emerged. There were some reports that potatoes had been affected by the wind and rain in Benton County during the past several weeks. The cool weather had slowed down crop growth. By mid-June the crop was 98 percent emerged. During the week ending June 25, potatoes were in good condition. The first reported incident of potato blight for the 2006 season had been reported in Franklin County. The entire crop had emerged by the end of June.

During the week ending July 9 a hailstorm in the Southeast region of the State caused some damage to potatoes. 2 percent of the crop had been harvested. In Franklin County, weather had been rather warm. Late blight was found in potatoes in a few fields in Franklin County. In Adam's County, Mother Nature put her own fireworks display on July 4, with a narrow band of hail, lightning, high winds, and hard rain devastating a path from north of Washtucna to the Lincoln County line. Potatoes were among the crops significantly affected. By the week ending July 16, harvest had started and 5 percent of the crop had been dug in Frankiln County. During the week ending July 24, temperatures were 100 degrees plus across the state setting records in some counties. By the end of July, 20 percent of the crop had been harvested.

Harvest continued and by the end of the first week of August, growers found that potato yields were lower than they had originally thought due to the July heat wave. Potatoes were 28 percent harvest, compared to 44 percent in 2005. By mid-August, yields were still being reported as average or below. The crop was 31 percent harvested. In Franklin County, early (fresh market) potato harvest was nearly complete with the processing crop being harvested as well (due to shed shortages).

During the week ending September 3, the harvest was halfway complete. There was expected to be a big push in the Franklin County harvest for the next three weeks. By mid-September the issue on yields had turned around. Growers were now expecting high potato yields.

Harvest continued throughout the rest of September and October and was complete by mid-November.

Marketing: Out of the Lower Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin Washington, the first report of Round Reds was issued July 19, 2006. 50 pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $16.00-18.00. The first report of Yellow Type was issued July 24, 2006. 50 pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $18.00-20.00. The last report of Round Reds was issued on August 28, 2006 at $18.00-20.00. The last report of Yellow Type was issued August 28, 2006 at $14.00-16.00.

Out of the Columbia Basin Washington and Umatilla Basin Oregon, the first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued on August 1, 2006. 50 pound cartons of U.S. One 70 count was $15.00. The last report was issued on August 3, 2007 at $9.00.

NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON

ROUND REDS

(All prices per carton for 50-lb cartons – size A) The first FOB was issued week-ending September 2 at $16.00. The season finished week-ending March 31 at 13.00-14.00. The season high was week-ending September 9-16 at 27.00-28.00.

YELLOW TYPE

(All prices per carton for 50-lb cartons – size A) The first FOB was issued week-ending September 2 at $18.00. The season finished week-ending February 24 at 14.00-16.00. The season high was week-ending September 23-October 14 at 27.00-30.00.

ROUND WHITE

(All prices per carton for 50-lb cartons – size A) The first FOB was issued week-ending September 2 at $20.00. The season finished week-ending October 28 at 26.00-29.00. The season high was week-ending September 23-30 at 31.00-33.00.

REVIEW OF THE 2006 VIRGINIA POTATO SEASON

HARVESTING AND MARKETING: Harvest of the 2006 Virginia potato crop began fairly early with the first loads shipped on June 8 although supplies were light until late June. Virginia Market News Service began reporting shipping point prices on June 19 with the first F.O.B. Eastern Shore price quoted at $8.00 per 50-Lb sack of Round White, US One, Size A potatoes. Demand for Virginia potatoes ranged from fairly good to good at the start of the season. Heavy rainfall curtailed harvesting in late June which led to a situation where demand exceeded supplies. As a result of good demand, prices remained at $8.00 throughout the early part of the season. On July 19, demand fell to moderate and some sales were reported at levels lower than $8.00. By July 21, the price was quoted at $7.00 to $8.00 although most sales were at $7.00. Demand was moderate from July 19 to July 25 before falling to fairly light on July 26. Despite the decrease in demand, the majority of sales were able to hold at the $7.00 level in late July. The final report of the season was on July 31, although light shipments did continue for a short time. Overall, prices were good during the 2006 season. In fact, during the past 10 years, only 2002 had better prices for Round White tablestock potatoes.

Prices for large Round White potatoes were first reported on June 19 at $10.00 per 50-Lb sack. Demand for the large potatoes ranged from fairly good to good for most of the season. Prices remained at $10.00 until the end of July when prices were reported at $9.00 to $10.00.

Russet potatoes continue to be an important crop for some Virginia growers. Russets started the season at $8.00 to $9.00 per 50-Lb sack. As the harvest progressed, prices fell to mostly $8.00 and by the end of the season, prices were $7.00 or less.

Demand for Round Red potatoes was good throughout 2006 and prices were high. Round Red prices were first reported on June 26 at $14.00 for 50-Lb sacks of US One, Size A and mostly $18.00 for Size B. Prices for Size A Red potatoes remained at $14.00 until July 6 when a few sales were reported at $12.00. By July 10, most sales of Size A were at $12.00 and generally remained at that level until the end of the season. Prices for Size B Red potatoes increased to $20.00 on July 3 and remained generally unchanged until the end of the season. Overall, it was a successful year for the marketing of Red potatoes.

Yukon Gold potato prices were first reported on July 3 at $20.00 for 50-Lb sacks of US One, Size A. Prices quickly dropped to $18.00 to $20.00 by July 5 and to $16.00 by July 10. The final price was reported on July 19 at $14.00 to $16.00. Demand for Yukon Gold potatoes was generally moderate throughout the season.

A significant volume of Round White, US One, washed bulk for repack potatoes in totes sold at mostly $15.00 to $16.00 per hundredweight early in the season but later fell to mostly $12.00 to $14.00. Growers tried to keep the Round White tote price near the hundredweight sack price but there were exceptions.

WEATHER: Weather conditions during spring were nearly ideal for Virginia growers, and as a result, the crop progressed well and was generally ahead of schedule. Conditions did start to turn dry as a result of less than normal rainfall during January, February, March and May. Growers were forced to irrigate to counter the dry conditions. As often seems to be the case, conditions went from one extreme to the other. By the middle of June, growers became concerned about excessive rainfall due to the effects of Tropical Depression Alberto. According to data collected at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Center in Painter, June rainfall was measured at 8.76 inches which was more than double the 66-year average of 3.54

inches. Harvesting was curtailed on several days in late June which frustrated growers who were anxious to take advantage of good market conditions. The heavy rainfall slowed harvesting not only in Virginia but also in competing areas in North Carolina which created a shortage and helped keep prices at high levels. Unfortunately, there was some damage as a result of the heavy rainfall. Another problem was the extremely hot temperatures that arrived in late July and August. Temperatures reached 90 degrees or higher for 10 days in a row between July 27 and August 5, including a high of 98 degrees on August 3.

PRODUCTION AND QUALITY: Total Virginia production in 2006 was estimated at 1,680,000 hundredweight (cwt) by the National Agricultural Statistics Service compared 1,029,000 in 2005, 1,200,000 cwt in 2004, 1,550,000 cwt in 2003 and 1,386,000 cwt in 2002. The increase in production can be attributed to high yields and an increase in acreage. Some growers reported the 2006 crop had the highest yields they had ever experienced.

For the most part, quality of the 2006 crop was good. There were a few isolated reports of quality problems due to excessive rainfall. Extremely hot conditions late in the season also took its toll on some of the crop but overall, growers produced a high quality crop with very few problems.

SHIPMENTS: Shipments of Virginia potatoes were up considerably from the previous two years. Approximately 2,008 truck lot equivalents (50,000 Lb) were shipped in 2006, compared to 1,543 in 2005 and 1,486 in 2004. Shipments during 2006 were higher than 2004 and 2005 due to higher yields and a slight increase in acreage.

The fact that the crop was relatively early in 2006 is apparent by the fact that 252 loads were shipped in June 2006 compared to only 50 loads in June 2005 and 117 in June 2003. Shipments in June would have been even higher if not for delays caused by heavy rainfall. In July 2006, 1,437 loads were shipped compared 1,225 loads in July 2005, 1,094 loads in July 2004 and 1,631 loads during July 2003. During August 2006, 319 loads were shipped compared to 268 loads in August 2005, 126 in August 2004 and 377 during August of 2003. During 2006, 71.6% of the crop was shipped during July compared to 15.9% in August and 12.5% in June.

PACKAGING: Potatoes were sold in 50-Lb sacks, baled 5 and 10-Lb bags, loose 10-Lb bags and canvas totes. Both paper and poly bags were utilized. Standard mark-ups for packaging have typically been \$2.50 per cwt for loose 10-Lb bags, \$3.00 per cwt for baled 10-Lb bags and \$5.00 per cwt for baled 5-Lb bags for the past several years. During 2006, many growers increased the price by .50 resulting in mark-ups of \$3.00 per cwt for loose 10-Lb bags, \$3.50 per cwt for baled 10-Lb bags and \$5.50 per cwt for baled 5-Lb bags. Some sales were made using the lower mark-up prices.

Use of canvas totes, each weighing approximately 2,000 Lbs when full, continues to account for a considerable amount of shipments. Selling potatoes in totes allows growers to move the crop at a faster rate but doesn't permit them to earn the mark-ups from the smaller packages. The popularity of the totes did seem to decline due in large part to the opinion that potatoes cool and dry better in 50-Lb sacks than in the canvas totes.

MARKETS AND COMPETITION: The 2006 season presented Virginia potato growers with better market conditions than in most of the previous years. A decrease in acreage and stocks in the western states and Canada helped lead to the improved conditions. Florida dug a large crop and harvested slightly later than normal which caused some concerns. However, when heavy rainfall slowed harvesting in Virginia and North Carolina, it caused supplies to be relatively light which in turn helped to keep prices high. A decrease in acreage in Delaware also helped to decrease competition in areas to the north.

Canada continues to be an important market for Virginia potato growers but, due to Canadian ministerial exemption regulations that often restrict the trade of potatoes shipped in bulk, most Virginia growers chose not to plant chipstock acreage for the Canadian market. Virginia growers did ship approximately 187 loads (50,000 Lb) to Canada in 2006 compared to 124 loads in 2005, 99 loads in 2004, 130 in 2003 and 337 in 2002. Of the loads shipped to Canada in 2006, approximately two-thirds were chipstock.

CHIPSTOCK: Chipstock potatoes continue to be a very important part of Virginia's potato crop, representing nearly 45% of Virginia's 2006 shipments. Growers generally reported high yields and good quality throughout the season. Unfortunately, movement of the chipstock crop was not as good as growers had hoped. The competing areas of Florida and North Carolina took longer to finish harvesting than expected which caused movement in Virginia to be relatively slow. It was frustrating for growers to have a nice crop in the ground and not be able to move it faster.

The vast majority of chipstock sales were preseason contracts and were mostly in the $7.00 to $7.50 per cwt price range. Growers received an increase in the contract price from previous years which was needed to offset higher seed, fertilizer and fuel costs. Open market demand was light with prices generally only in the $4.00 to $4.50 range.

VARIETIES: Of the 125.77 carlots (50,000 Lb) of seed imported and inspected during the 2006 season, Superiors accounted for 24% of the total, once again making it the most popular of all varieties grown in Virginia. For the first time, the Russet variety Norkotah became the second most popular variety at 10.2%. Russet potatoes, including the Norkotah and Gold Rush, accounted for 15.5% of the seed potatoes planted and have ranged from 11% to 15% over the past five years compared to only 2% in 2001. The Andover variety, used for both tablestock and chipstock, was a close third with slightly under 10%. Chipping varieties accounted for the fourth through sixth most popular with Atlantics at nearly 9%, Snowdens at 8.3% and FL-1867, a Frito Lay variety, at 6.3%. Gold Rush at 5.3% and LaChipper at 4.6% were the seventh and eighth most popular varieties. Yukon Gold finished ninth at 4.4% and has generally ranged between 4% and 6% during the past five years after accounting for 9% in 2001. Envol, an early tablestock variety, was tenth at 4.1% after accounting for 4.7% in 2005. Reba, a mid to late season variety, continued to drop in popularity at 3.6% compared to 4.2% in 2005, 6% in 2004 and 12% in 2003. Red Norland and Dark Red Norland were the two most popular Round Red varieties. Red potatoes continue to play an important role for Virginia potato growers and accounted for 7%. Round Red potatoes totaled approximately 8% in 2005, 9% in 2004, 10% in 2003, 14% in 2002 and 12% in 2001.

SEED POTATOES IMPORTS BY ORIGIN:
Maine continued to be the leading supplier of seed potatoes to Virginia, shipping approximately 52% of the seed that was inspected during the 2006 season. Shipments from Maine were down from 60% in 2005 and 64% in 2004, but were up slightly from 48% in 2003 and 51% in 2002. Canada was the second most popular origin at 30%, a large increase from 12% in 2005 and 15% in 2004. Seed from Canada accounted for 27% in 2003 and 17% during 2002. New York was the third most popular origin accounting for 12% compared to 9% in 2005 and 2004, 8% in 2003 and 17% in 2002. Seed from Wisconsin declined to only 5% after accounting for 17% in 2005, 8% in 2004, 16% in 2003 and 12% in 2002. Nebraska was the only other state supplying seed to Eastern Shore of Virginia growers and accounted for approximately 1%.

New Brunswick Potatoes 2006 season

Production: According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick potato production was 17.1 million hundredweight, up 19% from the 2005 season total of 14.4 million cwt. The July 2007 production report placed harvested acreage at 57,000 acres, up 1,500 acres from the previous season. Yields were reported at 300 cwt per acre, 40 cwt. more than the 2005 crop. The report indicated that 1,000 acres were abandoned or culled from planting time to harvest. Total Canadian production of 110 million cwt was reported for the year.

Movement: Early movement (September-December) to the U.S. (673,417 cwt) was down slightly from the 2005 season total of 683,757 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 June 2007 of 2.12 million cwt. jumped ahead of the previous year's movement to the US of 1.88 million cwt. The U.S. was the number one destination for New Brunswick potatoes. Access to the States is made through the major border crossing at Houlton, Maine, with lighter shipments entering through Fort Fairfield and Bridgewater, Maine. Lighter shipments of the 2006 crop continued through August. New Brunswick has predominantly been a processing (french-fry) region, with nearly 60% 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 and Harvest Season: Planting was underway in early May with excellence progress. Warm temperatures and timely rains during the summer months promoted rapid tuber growth and great yields. However, the rapid growth spurt also purported some hollow heart issues in the Russet crop. Initial light harvest of Round white and Yellows was underway in late August, while Russet harvest commenced in mid-September. Harvest moved along at a good clip and finished in late October.

Marketing Season: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News Service issued the first fob shipping report on Russet Norkotah in mid-October with CD One or US One washed 2 inch or 4 inch minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from mostly $7.50-8.00 per bale, slightly lower than the opening price of the 2005 season and mostly $8.00-8.50 for 2 ¼ inch minimum 5s. Prices dipped slightly and in early December baled 5s were reported from mostly $6.50-7.00 with 2 ¼ inch product mostly $7.50-8.00. Weak consumer business drove the bag further down as reports in early February recorded baled 2 inch 5s at mostly $4.75-5.25 with 2 ¼ inch mostly $6.00-6.50. The market recovered only slightly through the summer and in late July the last report for the 2006 season reported baled Russet 5s from mostly $6.00-6.50 for 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum.

Stocks on hand: New Brunswick's potato holdings on December 1, 2006 totaled 14.3 million cwt, up 19% from December 2005 stocks on hand of 12.0 million cwt. On May 1, stocks on hand remained up sharply with holdings of 8.7 million cwt compared to over 2.2 million cwt the previous year and one of the highest reports in the last several crop years. A few fresh shippers continued to pack for the US market through August.

Commodity Name	POTATOES

Sum of 100000lb units	Date												
Origin Name	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Grand Total
ARIZONA									29	353	227		609
CALIFORNIA-CENTRAL	270	178	30	85	228	213	181	84	4	713	1,806	1,657	5,449
CALIFORNIA-IMPERIAL VAL								-	130	122	43		295
CALIFORNIA-NORTH	41	41	83	144	104	88	43	90	116	113	109	56	1,028
CALIFORNIA-SOUTH	121	71	34	10	23	40	33	21	-		5	49	407
CANADA	266	361	504	697	656	941	804	1,004	1,157	1,453	749	298	8,890
COLORADO	290	1,186	1,233	1,720	1,434	1,698	1,366	1,519	1,389	1,441	1,351	1,137	15,764
DELAWARE	284	10										8	302
FLORIDA						15	275	669	398	682	493		2,532
IDAHO	2,433	2,335	2,670	2,749	2,575	2,728	2,465	2,589	2,658	2,719	2,616	2,616	31,153
KANSAS	535	296	145	49								112	1,137
MAINE		98	188	416	444	415	377	486	339	218	116	22	3,119
MICHIGAN	136	254	163	200	163	173	162	189	148	113	27	24	1,752
MINNESOTA	880	561	305	208	221	170	117	140	134	110	79	249	3,174
NEBRASKA	160	435	356	407	419	283	233	331	276	303	289	16	3,508
NEVADA		59	81	81	104	87	79	103	76	73	81	64	888
NEW MEXICO	173	243	94	103	102	87	69	63	11			2	947
NEW YORK	21	115	113	123	116	86	38	26	8				646
NORTH CAROLINA											47	261	308
NORTH DAKOTA	6	193	348	433	399	421	363	415	383	223	76		3,260
OREGON	214	235	229	234	205	281	282	336	312	306	254	172	3,060
TEXAS	320										25	277	622
VIRGINIA	124										40	261	425
WASHINGTON	1,153	853	742	988	993	853	760	802	615	676	429	431	9,295
WISCONSIN	646	862	1,030	944	964	1,003	711	786	710	735	396	301	9,088
WYOMING			2	13	31	33	31	9	2	4			125
Grand Total	8,073	8,386	8,350	9,604	9,181	9,615	8,389	9,662	8,895	10,357	9,258	8,013	107,783