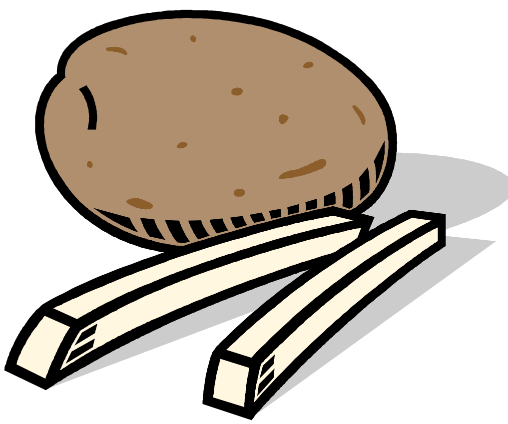
# Marketing U.S. Potatoes

## 2012 Crop



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## Foreword

This abbreviated summary is the result of new technology that allows you to select only the prices and shipments you are interested in. You can access the Fruit and Vegetable Market News Portal at http://www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv. This will be the last Marketing U.S. Potato Summary that will be issued by this office. Budget cuts to the National Agricultural Statistics Service has caused cancellation of reports necessary to the completion of this report.

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

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

**CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS**

***PATRICIA R. WILLKIE***
*Local Representative*
***TONY SORENSON***
*Market Reporter*
***EDWARD IRVINE***
*Market Reporter*
*Idaho Falls, ID*
*(208)525-0166*

***DEBRA FRIDAY***
*Local Representative*
***KEITH MURPHY***
*Market Reporter*
*Benton Harbor, MI*
*(616)925-3270*

***BRETT RICHARDSON***
*Local Representative*
*Richmond, VA*
*(804)371-0319*

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## MARKETING KERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA SPRING POTATOES

## 2012 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 |
| 2010 | 27,000 | 405 | 10,935,000 | $11.80 | 129,033,000 |
| 2011 | 28,000 | 390 | 10,920,000 | $16.90 | 184,548,000 |
| 2012 | 36,600 | 411 | 15,048,000 | $14.60 | 219,223,000 |
| 5 year average | 24,680 | 407 | 10,036,800 | $14.36 | $144,886,600 |
| change from 2011 to 2012 | 131% | 105% | 138% | 86% | 119% |
| change from avg to 2012 | 148% | 101% | 150% | 102% | 151% |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) | | | | | |

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

| Kern County Spring Potato Acreage | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **2008** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **% change** |
| **Lone White** | 1,679 | 1,810 | 1,745 | 1,664 | 1,464 | 88% |
| **Round Red** | 1,960 | 2,398 | 2,344 | 1,846 | 1,975 | 107% |
| **Russet** | 3,292 | 3,516 | 1,987 | 2,723 | 2,493 | 92% |
| **Yellow Type** | 1,431 | 1,421 | 1,399 | 1,233 | 1,404 | 114% |
| **Chipper** | 3,640 | ** | ** | 5,335 | 5,327 | 100% |
| **Total Acreage** | **12,002** | **9145** | **7,484** | **12,801** | **12,663** | 99% |
| *Note: One major Kern County shipper does not release their acreage. | | | | | | |

**Weather and Crop Progress:** January 31… Farmland in Kern County has been stale bedded for potatoes. Planting began in earnest that following week. By February 7, Kern County potatoes were growing well. March 28 brought the harvest equipment out as potatoes for chipping were being harvested in Kern County. The first week of May marked the official start of fresh potatoes harvest in Kern County.

Weather and growing conditions were very much normal for the 2012 potato crop. Growers were able to get into the field in a timely and normal time frame to begin early field work, mark-out, planting cultivating and harvesting. Growing conditions were very much an average of the last several years; including not too much rainfall and plenty of that good old California sunshine and the associated heat units. California is known as the "land of milk and honey" and this season did not disappoint the Kern County potato growers. The Central "Valley" has long been known for its potato crop and this season did not disappoint. Yields were very much average at 411 cwt per acre. As most years, there was a range of yield from the sandy soils to the south and the heavier soil to the north end of the potato growing area. Potato quality was also very average with few problem or major concerns during the shipping season.

**Shipments:** Local Kern county shipments of 2012 crop started week-ending May 1 and continued until week-ending September 15.

## Kern District Potato Truck Shipments By Variety

| | 2010 Spring Crop | | 2011 Spring Crop | | 2012 Spring Crop | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **VARIETY** | CWT | Percentage | CWT | Percentage | CWT | Percentage |
| Purple | 62,899 | 2 | 20,121 | 0.95 | 35,020 | 1% |
| Fingerling | 81,881 | 2 | 36,379 | 1.72 | 49,357 | 1% |
| Yellow Type | 512,808 | 14 | 389,506 | 18.42 | 620,680 | 17% |
| Long White | 743,005 | 21 | 527,594 | 24.96 | 564,079 | 15% |
| Round Red | 842,063 | 23 | 491,383 | 23.24 | 691,105 | 19% |
| Russet | 545,308 | 15 | 649,137 | 30.7 | 738,625 | 20% |
| **TOTAL TRUCK** | **2,787,964** | **77** | **2,114,120** | **66** | 2,698,866 | 74% |
| Rail | 836,850 | 23 | 1,094,400 | 34 | 946,650 | 26% |
| **TOTAL** | **3,624,814** | **100** | **3,208,520** | **100** | **3,645,516** | **100** |

**Marketing:**

The 2012 season was the sixth season the shippers ask for and received an additional handling fee of 45 cents per carton/bale. Long White, Round Red and Yellow Type prices were collected starting weekending May 12, 2012 and ended weekending July 28, 2012.

**Long Whites**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $14.00 per carton on weekending May 12, then closed at $8.00 on week ending July 7. They never traded lower than weekending July 7 and traded highest weekending May 12.00.

**Round Reds**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $10.00-12.00 per carton on weekending May 12, then closed at $7.00-8.00 on weekending July 28. They never traded higher than the first week and lower than last week.

**Yellow Type**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $18.00-20.00 per carton on weekending May 12, then closed at $12.00 on weekending July 21. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest at $10.00-12.00 on weekending July 14.

**Russet Norkotah**: U.S. One size A baled 10 5-lb film bags opened at $6.50 on weekending July 7, and closed at $4.50-5.00 on weekending August 4. U.S. One 50-pound carton 80s opened the season on weekending June 23 at $9.00-10.00 per carton and closed on weekending August 4 at $6.00-7.00 per carton. They never traded lower than the last week and the highest they traded was the first 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 74 percent of the crop; up from 66 percent last year. 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 pleased with the new and additional opportunity for shipping into the lucrative East Coast market.

**Weather and Crop Conditions**: Though heavy snow fell upon the Sierra Mountains and the western foothills California was still short of ample irrigation water. The current political conditions of the State have seen water diverted from farming. Kern county potato growers are fortunate to have some of the State's earliest water rights. Because of those water rights Kern county potato growers have sufficient water to raise a potato crop to maturity; unlike the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that has been force to idle much of their fertile farm land. Ample rain fell at times during the winter growing season but did not delay the Kern County potato grower's access into their fields for spring work. The growing season of late spring and the harvest season of early summer was ideal. It was very mild, with moderate temperatures through the day time and limited rain fall that allowed growers to put just the correct amount of irrigation water on the potato crop.

**Transportation:** Transportation, both truck and rail was extremely difficult in 2012. Trucks were extremely short and rail cars shorter. Cost of trucks was also very high, but for the most part shippers did not have to discount the potato prices to accommodate the transportation costs. In other words, the customer was willing to pay the high price of transportation to get Kern County's fine potato crop.

# MARKETING COLORADO POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Production:**

| San Luis Valley Colorado (Fall Potato Crop) NASS 2011 Summary | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area Planted | | | | Area Harvested | | | |
| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| 5,600 | 55,500 | 45,000 | 55,100 | 55,200 | 55,200 | 44,000 | 54,000 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Yield | | | | Production | | | |
| 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| 400 | 390 | 355 | 370 | 22,080,000 | 21,528,000 | 15,620,00 | 19,980,000 |

**Planting-Growing-Harvesting Conditions: April 1**… Summer potatoes were 10 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 9 percent. **May 5**… Summer potatoes are 75 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 37 percent and 33 percent of the crop is emerged. **June 2**… Summer potatoes are 90 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 78 percent and 45 percent of the crop was emerged. **July 7**… Summer potatoes were rated in mostly good condition at the end of the week. Fall potato emergence in the San Luis Valley reached 99 percent by week's end, ahead of the 5-year average of 92 percent. The fall potato crop is rated in mostly good condition. **August 4**… Summer and fall potatoes were reported in mostly good condition at the end of the week. The harvest of summer potatoes began this week with 19 percent harvested by week's end. **September 1**… Summer potatoes were 65 percent harvested with the crop reported in mostly good condition at the end of the week. Fall potatoes were 22 percent harvested and reported in mostly good to excellent condition. **September 8**… Summer potatoes were 95 percent harvested at the end of the week. Fall potatoes progressed to 72 percent harvested. **September 15**… Fall potatoes progressed to 33 percent harvested, compared with a 5-year average of 11 percent. Summer potatoes were 85 percent harvested at 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:** Russet varieties of count cartons and non-size A bales started weekending September 8. 70 count Russet cartons started out at $8.00 per carton and finished the season $17.00-20.00 per carton. Size A baled 5 10-pound film bags started out at $5.00-5.50 and finished at $12.00-13.00. U.S. Commercial bulk per cwt size A started at $5.00-5.50 and finished at $9.50-10.00.

**Movement:** The Market News Service began reporting light movement of Yellow Type weekending August 18, 2012, Round Red weekending August 25, 2012. Shipments of Russets started shipping out of the San Luis Valley on weekending August 25. Fall potato shipments peaked in mid-November with the Thanksgiving promotions running add business. Weekending November 19 saw the peak at 437,468 cwt, compared to 477,759 cwt in 2011, 439,174 cwt in 2010 and 412,638 cwt 2009. Mid-December saw another bump of Holiday business. Weekending December 19 saw 326,816 cwt shipped compared to 458,340 cwt shipped same week of 2011. The Easter Holiday saw another bump of business with weekending March 23 shipments of 331,407 cwt compared to 340,818 cwt in 2011 crop year. Colorado's total shipments for the crop year through weekending August 31, 2013 equaled 13,685,488 cwt shipped compared to 14,162,952 cwt in 2011, 14,544,247 cwt in 2010, and 15,127,000 cwt in 2009. By variety Round Red of 308,009 cwt compared to 314,033 cwt in 2011, 339,741 cwt in 2010, and 330,114 cwt in 2009. Russet shipments were 11,851,860 cwt compared to 12,615,020 cwt in 2011, 13,229,402 cwt in 2010, 13,655,381 cwt in 2009. Yellow Type shipments were 872,455 cwt compared to 856,172 cwt in 2011, 926,593 cwt in 2010, 830,609 cwt in 2009. Shipped by rail was 436,900 cwt compared to 367,900 cwt in 2011, 621,400 cwt in 2010, and 188,500 cwt in 2009.

**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 2012 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 table stock 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.

**Variety Survey**: This report provides the results of a special Fall Potato Variety Survey of potato growers in the San Luis Valley for the 2012 crop. The survey was funded by the San Luis Valley Research Center and was conducted by the USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office. Data was collected from potato growers by return mail or telephone interviews conducted by enumerators. Responses to this year's survey covered 46 percent of the 54,000 acres planted for the 2012 crop compared with 54 percent coverage in the 2011 survey.

**Russet varieties** accounted for 87.0 percent of the 54,000 acres of all potatoes planted in the San Luis Valley for the 2012 crop compared with 85.0 percent last year. **Yellow Flesh varieties** were planted on 8.0 percent of the total acreage, down two percentage points from 2011. **Red varieties** were planted on 1.0 percent of the total and the remaining 4.0 percent of the total was made up of **White** and **Other varieties**.

**Russet Norkotah** continued its ranking as the most popular variety among producers by being planted on 49.3 percent of the total potato acreage and accounting for 56.7 percent of all russet potatoes. Norkotah Selection 3 was the most popular Russet Norkotah, accounting for 27.1 percent of the total acres planted; Norkotah Standard claimed 7.1 percent; Selection 8 accounted for 4.7 percent; and all other Norkotah selections totaled 10.4 percent. The **Canela Russet** variety ranked second among Russet varieties in 2012 by being planted on 11.5 percent of the total acreage and representing 13.2 percent of all russet varieties. The **Classic Russet** was the third most popular russet variety, representing 6.6 percent of the total acreage and 7.6 percent of all russet varieties. **Rio Grande Russet** ranked fourth among russets with 6.2 percent of the total acreage. **Centennial Russet** was next with 4.0 percent, **Mesa Russet** accounted for 2.1 percent followed by **Blazer Russet** and **Russet Nugget** with 1.9 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively. All **Other Russet** varieties were planted on 3.7 percent of the total acreage.

**Red varieties** accounted for 1 percent of the planted acreage in 2012 including **Cherry Red** and **Sangre**. Individual varietal percents were withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

**Yukon Gold,** a yellow flesh variety, was planted on 2.2 percent of the total acreage and represented 27.5 percent of all yellow flesh varieties. **Other Yellow Flesh** varieties were planted on 5.8 percent of the acreage. **Chipita** was the leading white variety planted, but individual varietal percents were withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

**Other White and Other Varieties** includes other white varieties, research varieties and other specialty type potatoes.

# MARKETING DELAWARE POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** According to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, growers **planted and harvested 1,600 acres** of potatoes during the 2012 season, unchanged from the previous season. Production and yields increased slightly to 408,000 cwt. and 255 cwt. per acre, according to the Annual 2012 Crop Production report released by NASS. The average price for the 2012 calendar year soared to $19.00 per cwt., up sharply from the previous year ($10.40) with the total value of production for 2012 of $7.75 million dollars, compared to $4.16 million dollars the previous year. The grower base remained at 5, despite continued pressures of urban sprawl.

**Movement:** The Market News Service reported movement of approximately 239,400 cwt. or approximately 563 loads of table stock potatoes for the 2012 season, a marked increase over the previous shorter season total of 181,000 cwt. or 426 loads, and nearly the same total for the 2010 season (565 loads). In 2011, one grower did extend his shipping season beyond the Market News reporting period, and those totals were not included in the final 2011 tally, whereas a more complete picture was reported during the 2012 crop year. Shipments by Potato type were: Round Whites accounted for 85% of the total, Round Red 4.5%, Yellow Type 10.5%. There were no Russet varieties reported this crop year. The initial movement began mid-July and concluded in early November during the 2012 season, almost two months longer than the previous reported shipment season.

**Growing and Harvest Season:** Initial planting was underway at the end of March, with drier to adequate soil moisture. By mid-April, planting progress was reported at 58%, compared to the previous season. Planting was slowed by showers the latter half of the month. By mid-May, 95% of the crop was planted, well ahead of the five-year average of 64% with good surface moisture and warm soil conditions. Timely rains aided in tuber development into June. With the advent of hot temperatures the latter half of June, soils began to dry out and vines died. Initial harvest began near July 4th, and by mid-month, 51% of the harvest was completed, with dry soil conditions continuing. Above normal temperatures also continued, well into August. The latter half of the month brought near normal temperatures and welcome showers; harvest was 98% completed at month's end. Heavy rains near Labor Day brought some coastal flooding in southern parts of the state, which curtailed harvest at that time.

**Marketing Season:** Market News Service reported the first F.O.B. shipping prices of the 2012 season on July 19 with light demand. **Prices opened sharply lower** than the previous season **as 50-pound sacks** of U.S. One Size A **Round Whites were** reported at **$7.00** ($15.00), and no chefs were reported until later in the season due to the slow start and smaller profile tubers. U.S. One tote bags (approx. 2000 pounds) per cwt were reported initially at $13.00 and by the last report on September 17 brought $10.00. By mid-August, prices slipped to $6.00 for 50-pound sacks of A size and the first report for chefs were $11.00. The market remained flat for the rest of the pricing period and the last report was issued on September 17 with A size at $6.00 and chefs from $9.00-10.00. On August 1st, the first report for **Round Red** U.S. One Size A brought **$7.00** ($22.00), **while Bs ranged from $13.00-14.00** ($24.00)**.** Supplies for Round Red were in few hands and a pricing report was issued only one week. Again, the Round Red prices were sharply below 2011 levels. **Yellow** supplies were light during the short season; however, prices were again well below the previous season's levels. The first **Yellows** were reported on August 6 with **A size from $11.00-12.00** ($20.00-22.00), and by the **last report** on August 19 ranged from **$10.00-11.00** ($20.00). **Tote bags** (approx. 2000 pounds) per cwt began with a range of $19.00-21.00 and finished at mostly $18.00-19.00. With the many rain delays, there was some later harvesting and shipments from one grower that went well into October.

# MARKETING FLORIDA POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production**: 2012 crop production is listed by the USDA NASS in their September 2013 Potato 2012 annual summary. Growers planted 371,000 acres in 2012; in 2011 planted was 364,000 acres. 2012 yield was244 cwt per acre, in 2011 yield per acre was 256 cwt per acres. In 2012 production was 8,917,000 cwt, in 2011 production was 9,112,000 cwt total.

**Crop & Weather**: Fields were being prepared for planting in late November 2012, low soil moisture delayed many fields. December saw dry conditions reported in every county in the state. Freezing temperatures hit the state during December and January with cool temperatures for the first 3 weeks and major freezing temperature the first and second week of the January. Dry conditions in the Hastings area limited field preparation and irrigation. February planting in northern counties was slightly behind schedule due to a cold snap. Potato digging around Lake Okeechobee and in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas became active during February. March saw the final planting for the northern fields. April saw fields in the Hastings area varied by location with early harvest of chippers starting by weekending April 4. Early May saw good weather for the start of table stock harvest in the Northern counties.

**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 was 3,266,390 in 2012 compared to for the 2011 season were 3,215,000 compared to 2,131,000 total cwt in 2010. Round Red was 2,215,000 cwt in 2012, compared to 2,192,200 cwt in 2011, 1,472,400 cwt in 2010; Round White shipments were 569,523 in 2012 compared to 667,700 cwt in 2011, 452,100 cwt in 2010; Yellow Type shipments in 2012 was 464,034 in 2012 compared to 344,900 cwt in 2011, 182,400 cwt in 2010;. Round Red shipments began the week ending February 4 and finished week ending June 23.

**Marketing**: No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2012 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 18 through June 23. Round Red 50-pound sacks size A started out at $15.75-16.50 per sack, finishing at $11.75-14.75, mostly 13.75-14.75. Round White 50-pound sacks size A started the season at $25.50-25.75 and finished at $10.75-14.75, mostly $11.75-12.75. Yellow Type 50-pound sacks size A started the season at $25.50-25.75 and finished at $21.75-23.75.

# MARKETING IDAHO POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production**: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the in-season estimate for 2012 crop acreage was 345,000 acres planted, an 8 percent increase from the final estimate for the 2011 crop at 320,000 acres. The in-season estimate of 2012 yield was 412 cwt per acre, a 2 percent increase from the final estimate for 2011s yield of 404 cwt per acre. The in-season estimate of 2012 production was 141,820,000 cwt, a 10 percent increase from the final estimate of 2011s production of 128,760 cwt.

**Shipments**: The first 2012 crop shipments were recorded during the weekending August 4, 2012. 1,219,000 cwt of 2011 shipments over-lapped the start of 2012 crop marketed in August 2012. Fresh market shipments were in full volume from August 2011 through August 2012. Shipments from Idaho in 2012 were 36,026,000 cwt, a 7 percent increase from 2011s shipments of 33,396,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was November 2012 at 3,325,000 cwt.

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 2012 crop extended through September of 2013 after 2013 harvest and shipments had started.

**Crop & Weather**: During the last week of March 2012, temperatures across the State ranged from 1 degree below to 11 degrees above normal. The Twin Falls Cooperative Extension reported wet weather had delayed planting. The Southwest had been 5 percent planted compared to 2 percent in 2011 and the South Central had been 2 percent planted. By mid-April, seed potatoes were still being shipped at a rapid pace. The Caribou extension educator reported that farmers were ahead of schedule. Statewide, the planting was 24 percent complete compared to 2 percent in 2011. By the end of April, temperatures across the State ranged from 4-11 degrees above normal. Planting in the Southwest was 98 percent complete compared to 66 percent in 2011; the South Central was 94 percent compared to 19 percent in 2011; the East was 50 percent compared to 11 percent in 2011; and Statewide, planting was 64 percent compared to 16 percent in 2011. Emergence in both the Southwest and South Central was 11 percent compared to no emergence in 2011.

Temperatures across the State during the first week of May ranged from 8 degrees below normal to 2 degrees above normal. The temperature range continued through the rest of May with spotty precipitation throughout the month. Planting was complete by the end of the month. Emergence as 100 percent complete in the Southwest compared to 37 percent in the Southwest; the South Central was 85 percent compared to 15 percent in 2011, the East 21 percent compared to 7 percent in 2011, and Statewide was 41 percent compared to 11 percent in 2011. All emergence was complete by the end of June. Potatoes continued to grow and close middles throughout July.

Vines were dying or being killed the first week of August. During the weekending August 12, temperatures were 3 to 10 degrees above normal. Precipitation was reported mainly in the South Central and East districts. By mid-August, vines that were dying or being killed was 23 percent complete, advancing 13 percentage points from the prior week. Light harvest had begun and was 11 percent complete in the Southwest compared to 6 percent in 2011, in the South Central harvest was 4 percent complete, ahead of 2011 pace. During the weekending August 26, the Butte County extension educator reported that potato vines were starting to be killed. By the end of August, vines dying or being killed Statewide were 40 percent compared to 17 percent in 2011. The condition of the crop was 1 percent poor, 7 percent fair, 71 percent good, and 21 percent excellent. Harvest in the Southwest was 56 percent complete compared to 27 percent in 2011, in the South Central 12 percent compared to 1 percent in 2011, in the East 1 percent which was equal to 2011, and Statewide it was 15 percent compared to 9 percent in 2011.

Harvest continued through September. During the last week of September, the Caribou County extension educator reported good weather helped farmers get most of the potatoes harvested in the County and begin fall field work. Harvest continued, Statewide, through October and was generally complete by the end of October.

**Marketing**: The first report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012 out of the Twin Falls-Burley District and Western Idaho. U.S. One baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $5.50-6.00 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $10.00-11.00. Marketing shifted to include the Upper Valley during the weekending September 1, 2012.

The first report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending September 29, 2012 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. One baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $5.25-6.00 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $5.00-6.00.

The last report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending April 20, 2013 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. one baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $4.00-5.00 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $4.50-5.00.

The last report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending August 17, 2013 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. one baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $10.00 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $17.00-19.00.

No consideration is given to after-sale adjustments unless otherwise stated. Brokerage fees paid by the shipper are included in the price reported.

# MARKETING KLAMATH BASIN POTATOES
# 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production:**

| California Fall Potatoes | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Acres | Acres | CWT | CWT | CWT | Production |
| | Planted | Harvested | Acre | Production | Price | Value |
| **2006** | 8,600 | 8,600 | 450 | 3,870,000 | NA | NA |
| **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** | 8,000 | 8,000 | 495 | 3,960,000 | $8.95 | 37,214,000 |
| **2010** | 6,500 | 6,500 | 435 | 2,828,000 | $10.00 | 28,280,000 |
| **2011** | 8,800 | 8,800 | 490 | 4,312,000 | $8.80 | 37,946,000 |
| **2012** | 8,300 | 8,300 | 470 | 3,901,000 | $7.20 | 28,087,200 |

| Klamath County Oregon Potatoes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Acres | CWT | CWT |
| | Harvested | Acre | Production |
| **2007** | 5,300 | 485 | 2,570,500 |
| **2008** | 5,300 | 430 | 2,279,000 |
| **2009** | 5,400 | 450 | 2,430,000 |
| **2010** | 6,500 | 403 | 2,620,000 |
| **2011** | 6,200 | 410 | 2,542,000 |
| **2012** | 6,350 | 407 | 2,584,450 |

**Shipments**: Klamath Basin fresh potato shipments were 2,221,230 cwt. With the California side of the Basin at 961,904 million cwt and the Oregon side at 1,249,326 million cwt. The shipping period was from weekending September 1, 2012 to weekending August 24, 2013.

**Weather and Crop Conditions:** Cold and wet conditions throughout the Basin persisted most of April. Measurable precipitation was reported most of the month; with some storms measuring more than one inch. Average temperatures were between 38 to 52 or daytime highs. Tillage, planting and other field work was slow or impractical as cold, wet weather persisted. May conditions improved. For the most part, conditions were good for farm work. A glimpse of summer with a few sunny days was welcomed, although average temperatures were still about four degrees cooler than normal. Precipitation was about normal. Potato field activities were behind. Some catch up occurred in Klamath County, but things were delayed. A mix of sun and rain the month of July brought thunderstorms in some areas of the Basin and low temperature dropped into the low 30s forcing growers to start up their solid sets. Early potato varieties were starting to bloom. Warm temperatures and dry conditions continued through most of August. Geese started their migration already. Higher than normal temperatures was reported in September with potato harvest in full swing. Good harvest weather continued into October until harvest of all potato acres was complete.

**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 $4.00-5.25 the weekending October 30, 2012, which was the season low. Season ending prices were $9.00-13.00 weekending July 27, 2013, which was also the season high. 50-pound carton 70s prices opened at $4.50-8.00 per carton, which was the season low. Season ending prices on 70 counts was $17.00-20.00, which was also the season high for 70 counts.

# MARKETING MAINE POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Production:** Maine's planted potato acreage totaled 57,500 acres, 500 acres more than the previous season, and the largest acreage seeded in the State since 2006, according to New England Agricultural Statistics. Harvested acres totaled 57,000, 3,000 additional acres than the 2011 season. **Production increased 10%** to nearly 15.7 million cwt. from the previous year (14.3 million cwt.). **Yields also increased 10 cwt to 275 cwt per acre** from the previous season. Industry sources have estimated between 15-18% of the production moves through fresh table stock channels. Acreage planted to Round White varieties totaled 38%, Russets 55%, Round Red 4% and Yellows 3% for 2012. According to NASS, the average price for the 2012 calendar year **totaled $11.00 per cwt, a .60 increase from the previous year ($10.40)** with the value of production $172 million dollars, a 16% increase from last season ($149).

**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, and comprised 42.7 percent of the total acreage, down slightly from the previous year total of 43.1%. All Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections followed with 11.5% (last season 12.5%), with Russet Norkotah 5.9% (4.9%), Superior with 5.1% (4.1%) and Snowden with 4.7% (5.5%) to round out the top five varieties of the total state acreage. The next three varieties included Goldrush and Norland at 3.4% each and Blazer Russet 3%. Acreages by potato type were Russets 55% (54), Whites (both Long and Round) 38% (38%), Yellows 3% (4%) and Reds 4 percent (4%). Round Whites graded by percentage of No.1 climbed to 83.5% from 80.7% for the 2011 season, while Russets rose soundly from 67% to 83% for the 2012 season.

**Growing and Harvest Seasons:** A warm, dry spring provided optimal planting and growing conditions and got the 2012 crop off to an early May start. Plenty of sunshine and timely rains promoted above average stands at many locations, and development was ahead of normal. By the end of May, 90% of the crop was planted, compared to only 40% one year earlier, and the 5 year average of 70%. Some areas received heavy rains (12 inches) in late June, while other farms only measured 2-3 inches. Dry conditions and above normal temperatures followed in July and August, placing severe stress on the developing tubers. Initial light harvest of Round Whites began around Labor Day, while many growers delayed harvest from 1-2 weeks to improve size. Yields were variable depending on when and if showers were received. A high quality crop was produced though tubers were smaller than average. Harvest finished by the end of October.

**Shipments:** The season got off to the slowest start in recent history: Russet supplies were abundant in the West and low market prices did not entice Maine growers to begin packing early. Maine fresh potato **shipments** through December 2012 were down **11%** (687,050 cwt.) from one year earlier (775,579 cwt.) and 27% from the 2010 season (947,053 cwt.) as reported by the Market News Service. Shipments peaked in December and January with improved demand for Russets after the New Year. An early Easter holiday helped March shipments surpass March 2012 by 16%; however, supplies began to dwindle and were held in few hands in early April. Major destinations along the Eastern Seaboard included Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. **Shipments by type** through June 2013 for the (2012) season were:
Round White 913,495 cwt. (953,223 cwt.)
Round Red 138,811 cwt. (141,457 cwt.)
Yellow type 152,660 cwt. (163,819 cwt.),

and Russets 748,460 cwt. (537,827 cwt.) for a combined total of 1,953,670 cwt. (1,796,326 cwt.). The combined variety total represented a 9 **percent increase in shipments from the previous crop year,** led by a big increase for Russet varieties of 39% and a 4% decrease in Round White varieties. Unofficial industry sources have estimated approximately 15% of the state's acreage moves through fresh market channels.

**Easements:** According to the Maine Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service, 1,367 loads or 780,831 cwt. were **sent to Canada for processing** for the season through July 2013, compared to 533 loads (288,670 cwt.) the previous year.

**Potato Stocks:** Stocks on hand December 1, 2012 totaled 12.2 million cwt., up 15% from the record-low previous season's December 1 holdings (10.6 '000 cwt.), according to New England Agricultural Statistics Service. Disappearance totaled 3.27 million cwt., compared to 3.71 million cwt. the previous season. Maine's processor usage through November (excluding chips) totaled 1.74 million cwt., compared to 1.86 '000 cwt. a year earlier. Storage accounted for 79 percent of the state's total production: 63% Russets, 33% Round White varieties, 2% yellows and 2% red varieties. The February 1 stocks on hand totaled 9.7 million cwt., compared to 7.4 million cwt. on hand one year earlier, and 9.3 million cwt. on hand two years ago. Storage supplies accounted for 62% of total production, compared with the five-year average of 57%. Disappearance to February 1 in the State totaled 5.98 million cwt., compared with 6.91 million cwt. a year earlier. Due to budgetary restraints, NASS discontinued Potato Stocks reports for the remainder of the 2012 season.

**Marketing Season:** Market News issued the **first F.O. B. shipping point prices** in early November with Russet Norkotah U.S. One 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from mostly $6.50-7.00, well below the previous season start of $9.00-10.00. Round White U.S. One 2 inch minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags began slightly stronger from$7.00-7.50, although well below the 2011 season onset at $9.50-10.25. Prices remained dull for the entire Maine shipping season, with a slight bump on Russet Norkotah 5s in each March to mostly $7.00 ($10.00-10.50 one year earlier), while Round Whites varied little and finished at mostly $7.25-7.50 ($10.00). The last pricing report was issued Friday, May 17, 2013 with Russet Norkotah U.S. One baled 10 5-pound film bags 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum mostly $7.00 and Round White 2 inch minimum baled 5s mostly $7.25-7.50. Very light shipments of Russets and Round Whites continued through June.

**Packaging:** The major consumer package for Maine potatoes has been the baled 10 5-pound film bags for Russets and Round Whites. Some Russets are also packed as baled 10s with few cartons being utilized by packing sheds. More potatoes were packed in totes and sent to repackers near metropolitan areas this season. There continued to be a very few 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 higher this season, which drove surcharges up slightly from last season from 20-30% during the year. 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 few instances of truck shortages during the season, and with the smaller tablestock crop, there were only a few instances when shippers scrambled for transportation near the Holidays and peak seed potato movement in February-March.

**Processing:** According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, processor usage for the 2012 season totaled 7.7 million cwt., an increase over the previous two seasons 6.7 and 7.4 million cwt. respectively.

# MAINE CHIPPING POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** Maine **chipping potato movement totaled 2.2 million hundredweight (cwt), an increase of 16%** from the previous season's total of 1.9 million cwt. Total production for the state was 15.6 million cwt., an increase of 10 percent from the previous year (14.3 '000 cwt.). Y**ields increased slightly to 275 cwt. per acre compared to the previous year (265**) on 57,000 harvested acres. Shipments began by 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. Industry sources have estimated that approximately 15-20% of total production in the state has been devoted to chips. According to NASS, the average price for the 2012 calendar year totaled $11.00 per cwt., up .60 cents from the previous year ($10.40) with the value of production $172 million dollars ($148.8 last season). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 56.3 million cwt. in 2012, down 4 percent from the previous year.

**Growing and Harvest Seasons:** A warm, dry spring provided optimal planting and growing conditions and got the 2012 crop off to an early May start. Plenty of sunshine and timely rains promoted above average stands at many locations, and development was ahead of normal. By the end of May, 90% of the crop was planted, compared to only 40% one year earlier, and the 5 year average of 70%. Some areas received heavy rains (12 inches) in late June, while other farms only measured 2-3 inches. Dry conditions and above normal temperatures followed in July and August, placing severe stress on the developing tubers. Initial light harvest of the crop began in mid-August and continued through much of October.

**Marketing:** Harvest of out-of-the-field supplies began in mid-August. Shipments peaked during November through January as retailers prepared for holiday promotions and prime-time snack parties during the NFL play-off games and the Super Bowl. No open market trading was reported to the MNS as growers only planted what they had contracted with buyers. Frito-Lay was the major buyer/contractor in the state with smaller contracts going to Snyder's/Lances, Utz, Wachusetts, and a few additional buying broker/dealers along the East Coast.

**Shipments:** The 2012 season was complete in early June at a total **of 2,206,080 cwt**. for the season, an increase of 16% over the previous year (1,901,921 cwt.), although 11% less than the 2010 crop year (2,470,191 cwt.).

# MAINE SEED POTATOES
# 2012 CROP

**Acreage:** Certified potato seed acreage for the 2012 season increased slightly from the previous season as the Florida-tested and certified acreage for the 2012 season **totaled 11,444.7 acres, compared to 11,161 and 10,848.8** acres the previous two seasons. These figures did not include growers own seed plots. Industry sources estimate that the seed industry comprises between 10-15% of total production. 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 major seed varieties were: Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections, Russet Burbank (all strains), Atlantic (chip), Superior (NY Strain), Snowden (chip), Yukon Gold, Reba, Dark Red Norland, NorWis, and Andover. Within these varieties, the **biggest increases** were noted in Snowden and Superior with an increase of 15% each, Russet Burbank strains with an increase of 8% overall, and Atlantics increased 7%. Other increases noted were Marcy up 24%, Goldrush up 109%, Innovator ahead by 138% with Blazer Russet and Lehigh following with increases of 52% and 51% respectively. Decreases in the major varieties above were Reba with a 21% decline from the previous season, Yukon Gold 7% decline, and Dark Red Norland off 12%. Other noteworthy decreases included Shepody with a decrease of 57%, Kennebec off by 23% and Dark Red Norland down 12%.

**Shipments:** Shipments began in early December to Florida and finished June 1st for the 2012 shipping season. **Movement** totaled 1,064,190 cwt., a decrease of 3 percent compared to the previous season total of 1,099,052 cwt., according to the Maine Seed Inspection Department. Major destinations for Maine seed were: **New York** with **222,730 cwt. (+12%), Florida at 222,122 cwt. (-10%), North Carolina 175,181 cwt.** (-18%), **Pennsylvania 81,144 cwt. (-2%),** and a sharp increase for **Canada to 74,981 cwt. (+64%). Peak volume** was reported from mid-March into early May, when New York, Pennsylvania, and other Mid-Atlantic States received the bulk of their shipments. Destinations included 30 states and/or countries this season. The **major varieties** shipped by Maine seed growers were **Frito Lay numbered** chipping selections with **222,290 cwt**., an **increase of 17%** from one year earlier (190,255 cwt.), **Atlantic 166,148 cwt. (-12%), Snowden increased to 119,882 cwt. (**109,661 cwt.), **Reba** 77,015 cwt. (74,912 cwt.), **Superior strains** decreased to 60,865 cwt. (69,112 cwt.), while **Norwis** surged to 60,602 cwt. (48,350 cwt.) over the previous season. Some seed was delayed due to inclement weather conditions during the first half of the season, and some growers reported some seed contracts were cancelled or cut in volume, leaving some dealers and growers with inventory at the end of the season.

**Growing and Harvest Seasons:** A warm, dry spring provided optimal planting and growing conditions and got the 2012 crop off to an early May start. Plenty of sunshine and timely rains promoted above average stand at many locations, and development was ahead of normal. By the end of May, 90% of the crop was planted, compared to only 40% one year earlier, and the 5 year average of 70%. Some areas received heavy rains (12 inches) in late June, while other farms only measured 2-3 inches. Dry conditions and above normal temperatures followed in July and August, placing severe stress on the developing tubers. Initial light harvest of Round Whites began around Labor Day, while many growers delayed harvest from 1-2 weeks to improve size. Yields were variable depending on when and if showers were received. A high quality crop was produced through tubers were smaller than average. Harvest finished by the end of October.

# MARKETING MICHIGAN POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Production:** Michigan growers **harvested 45,500 acres, 1500 additional acres than the previous season** as production climbed 5% to 15.9 million cwt. (15.2 million cwt. in 2011). Yields increased **5 cwt. to 350 cwt**. per acre compared to the r**ecord yield of 360 cwt.** in 2010. Total production for the state of 15.9 million cwt., was up nearly 5% from the previous season (15.1). Unofficial industry sources have estimated approximately 25% of the state's production has been devoted to fresh market varieties. According to NASS, the state's average price for the 2012 calendar year totaled $11.60 per cwt., the same as the previous year, with the value of production $184.73 million dollars ($176 in 2011). Nationally, the average price received for fresh potatoes totaled $9.16 cwt. with all potatoes $8.65 cwt. Potato acreage by variety was: Russets 12%, Round Whites 86%, and Yellow and Round Red varieties each 1%.

**Movement:** Light shipments to local markets and roadside stands of the summer Round White Onaway crop began the latter of July. Supplies of the summer Onaway crop were in few hands in the Eastern Bay County region, so unofficial F.O.B. Shipping Point Prices were released weekly in the Market News National Shipping Point Trends Report released each Tuesday during the season. Early Round White movement lagged behind the previous season due to the Onaway crop losses and heavy Western supplies. By the end of September, movement was down sharply from the previous season: approximately 237 loads had been shipped compared to 496 loads for the same time frame one year earlier. Peak movement of Russets occurred during the Thanksgiving rush through January, and again in March for Easter and Spring promotions. Round White supplies peaked January-March as supplies in the East cleaned up and, shippers found new customers for their remaining supplies.

The final total for the season reported by the MNS the latter half of June totaled **nearly 1.7 million cwt.**, compared to **1.95 million cwt.** the previous season. Russet varieties accounted for approximately 75 percent of the total, while Round White loads made up nearly 25 percent and Round Red and Yellows only a small fraction of 1% of movement.

**Growing and Harvest Seasons:** Planting was underway in late March in southern counties and Bay County areas as several days of record-setting temperatures (80s) were recorded mid-month. April cooled off and several frost/freezes spanned the month, and slowed progress. Growers in northern Michigan began planting in early May.

Welcome rainfall in early May aided in tuber development. By the end of the month, most planting had been completed, and emergence evident in fields across the state. Soils began to dry in June, as above normal temperatures and dry conditions continued; irrigation was used throughout the summer. Some potato vines collapsed earlier than optimal due to weather stress and there were reports in Southwest Michigan that some potatoes had not set tubers due to the heat. The heat wave continued into August; however, the second week of the month brought heavy rains (6-9 inches) to Bay County and suspended digging for several days. The Onaway crop was devastated between the excess moisture and heat with most of the crop abandoned. By the end of August, some growers in northern were harvesting fall storage fields. By mid-September, movement to storage was active across the state. Some fields needed to be irrigated prior to harvest due to dry soil conditions. Overall, optimal weather conditions in October helped many finish with harvest 1-2 weeks earlier than normal.

**Onaway Summer Marketing Season:** Light shipments of the summer Round White Onaway crop commenced in East Central Michigan the latter half of July under above average temperatures and drier soil conditions. Supplies of Onaway were in few hands in Bay County, so unofficial F.O.B. Shipping Point Prices were released weekly in the Market News National Shipping Point Trends Report released each Tuesday beginning mid-August to mid-October. Early trading was slow with the first unofficial Shipping Point Prices released July 30th with U.S. One size A Round Whites in 10-pound open window sacks loose for mostly $1.80, well above the previous season prices of $2.45-$2.50 per 10. The extended season along the Atlantic Seaboard states, coupled with very low Western Russet prices kept prices low. During the second week of August, 6-9 inches of rain fell in Eastern Central Michigan and curtailed digging for several days. Growers were not able to save the remainder of the summer crop; the high heat and water caused potatoes to “blow-up”. In late August, some supplies were harvested in the north and packed for the table market; Round White 10s ranged from $1.60-$1.75.

**Storage Season:** Early supplies in October were limited; therefore, unofficial F.O.B. Shipping Point prices were reported on the Weekly Trends report October 9, 2012 with U.S. One size A Round White 10-pound open window sacks loose from $1.40-$1.60, and Russet Norkotah 10-pound film bags loose mostly $1.50. The first daily F.O.B. Shipping Point Prices were issued October 29, 2012 by the Market News Service. Russet Norkotah and Goldrush U.S. One size A 10-pound film bags loose sold from $1.35-1.75, an average of $4.00-4.50 cwt. lower than the 2011 season. These prices were steady through the Christmas holidays; at the New Year, the Russet price slipped to $1.35-$1.60 per 10. By March 1, prices eased off to $1.30-$1.50 and remained there indefinitely. The first daily prices for storage Round Whites occurred November 14, 2012 with U.S. One size Round White 10-pound open window sacks loose from $1.40-$1.75, below the previous season's start by $3.50-$4.00 cwt. Prices for Whites also slipped first of the New Year to a high of $1.60, and followed the downward trend of Russets in early March and sold from $1.30-$1.50. Round White demand was very slow for much of the season; Western Russet supplies were plentiful and very inexpensive. It was difficult for White growers to maintain shelf space at major retailers, or buyers expected Round White supplies be discounted. Demand remained sluggish for much of the season. In March, Round White supplies were scarce along the East Coast, so a few growers were able to ship supplies to repackers in the East. By early-April, Round White supplies were in few hands; the Market News Service issued a last report on April18 with prices unchanged with 10-pound open window sacks loose size A $1.30-$1.50, $6.00-$7.00 cwt. less than the previous season's closing prices. Russet pricing continued…..

**Stocks on Hand:** According to NASS, Michigan's stocks on hand December 1, 2012 increased 13% and totaled 9.7 million cwt., compared to 8.6 million cwt. the previous year. This represented 59 percent of the crop year's production. Approximately 86 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, 13 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red varieties. The February 1 holdings of 5.7 million cwt. were up sharply (21%) from the previous year (4.7 million cwt.) and accounted for 36 percent of the year's production. NASS discontinued stocks reports for the remainder of the fiscal year due to budget constraints.

**Packaging:** The 10-pound open-window sack loose paper sack for Round White varieties remained the standard package while the 10-pound film bag loose for Russet varieties (notably Norkotah and Goldrush) was predominant, although a few additional chain stores have moved to eight-pound bags. Tote bags continued to gain in popularity, particularly the latter half of the shipping season, when Round White supplies were fairly light along the Eastern Seaboard, and new crop supplies in Florida were light and priced at high levels. A few growers packed Russet cartons during the season, although prices were at rock-bottom levels due to heavy Western supplies.

**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

## 2012 CROP

**Production:** Michigan growers **harvested 45,500 acres, 1500 additional acres than the previous season** as production climbed 5% to 15.9 million cwt. (15.2 million cwt. in 2011). Yields increased **5 cwt. to 350 cwt**. per acre compared to the r**ecord yield of 360 cwt.** in 2010. Unofficial sources reported some additional chip stock acreage of up to 1,000 acres was planted for the 2012 season, and between 65-70% of the production in the state has been estimated to be chipstock movement. According to NASS, the average price for the 2012 calendar year totaled $11.60 per cwt., the same as the previous year, with the value of production $184.7 million dollars ($176 in 2011). Potato acreage by variety was: Russets 12%, Round Whites 86%, and Round Red 1%. Nationally, potatoes for chips and shoestrings totaled 56.3 million cwt., down 4% from 2011.

**Growing & Harvest Seasons:** Planting was underway the end of March in southern counties and Bay County areas as several days of record-setting temperatures (80s) were recorded mid-month. April cooled off and several frost/freezes spanned the month, and slowed progress. Growers in Montcalm County began planting in late April. Welcome rainfall in early May aided in tuber development. By the end of the month, most planting had been completed, and emergence evident in fields across the state. Soils began to dry in June, as above normal temperatures and dry conditions continued; irrigation was used throughout the summer. Some potato vines collapsed earlier than optimal due to weather stress and there were reports in Southwest Michigan that some potatoes had not set tubers due to the heat. The heat wave continued into August; however, the second week of the month brought heavy rains (6-9 inches) to Bay County and suspended digging for several days. By mid-September, movement to storage was active across the state, and slightly ahead of schedule. Some fields needed to be irrigated prior to harvest due to dry soil conditions. Overall, optimal weather conditions in October helped many growers finish with harvest 1-2 weeks earlier than normal, although a few of the biggest growers continued with harvest into early November.

**Marketing:** There was some open market trading reported during the season. In mid-October, some field offerings sold from $5.00-5.75 cwt. and by the end of the month, the price increased slightly to $5.75 cwt. After harvest was completed, some offerings sold for $8.00 cwt., and additional lots brought $9.25 cwt. by the end of the calendar year. The latter half of January brought another slight increase as offerings sold for $10.25 cwt. The last open market sales reported occurred early-to-mid February and brought $10.25-10.75 cwt. a few growers sold some additional supplies for $10.25 cwt. By early March, some growers experienced break-down in storage tubers, due to the high temperatures during the growing season, and lost a few sizable lots due to accelerated age of the tuber and poor fry color. Predominant varieties included Atlantic, Snowden, Pike and FL numbered varieties.

Shipments began in late July with peak out of the field supplies late August through October; movement to storage was active from mid-September through early November. The early field yields were noted as only average, due to high summer temperatures. The season ended in mid-June with a total of 10.8 million cwt. shipped, compared to 9.9 and 10 million cwt. the two previous crop years.

**Stocks on Hand:** According to NASS, Michigan's stocks on hand December 1, 2012 increased 13% and totaled 9.7 million cwt., compared to 8.6 million cwt. the previous year. This represented 59 percent of the crop year's production. Approximately 86 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, 13 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red varieties. The February 1 holdings of 5.7 million cwt. were up sharply (21%) from the previous year (4.7 million cwt.) and accounted for 36 percent of the year's production. NASS discontinued stocks reports for the remainder of the fiscal year due to budget constraints.

# MARKETING BIG LAKE & CENTRAL MINNESOTA POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production**: National Agricultural Statistics Service reported planted acreage for all of Minnesota at 49,000 acres in 2012, also 49,000 acres in 2011, compared to 45,000 acres in 2010. Yields of cwt per acre jumped to 400 in 2012, up from 355 in 2011 and down from 405 in 2010. Production fell in at 18,800,000 cwt in 2012, 16,685,000 cwt in 2011 and 17,010,000 cwt in 2010.

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

**Weather and Crop Condition:** By the last week of March, abnormally warm temperatures across the State had melted much of the snow cover and triggered flooding in many areas. By weekending May 9, 2012 Minnesota producers exploited a small break in the cold, wet weather pattern and made planting progress. According to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office potatoes were 40 percent planted across the state compared to 78 percent just one year ago.

**Harvest**: Light harvest activity of Round Reds started week ending September 21, 2012. Most growers of Round Reds had finished digging by late-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. Some Russets were put into storage in the Big Lake area for shipping in the Thanksgiving market. Some peat soil Reds are also put into storage and were shipped into early February.

**Shipments**: Recorded shipments of Round Reds and Russets for the season totaled 1,874,501 cwt in 2012, compared to 1,761,371 cwt in 2011, 1,797,750 cwt in 2010, 697,957 cwt in 2009 and 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 weekending July 21, and peaked in August weekending August 25 with 207,920 cwt. Shipments of Russets started weekending July 28 and finished for the most part in mid-October weekending October 20; a few Russets were stored and marketed in November for the Thanksgiving market. Volume shipments continued through weekending October 6, then declined seasonally with light shipments continuing out of the peat soil storage area until the last potato was shipped on weekending February 9, 2013.

**Marketing**: The Big Lake and Central Minnesota marketing of Round Reds started weekending July 26, 2012. Shipping point prices for Round Reds U.S. One size A in 50-pound cartons, at $8.00-8.50. Prices finished at $5.50-7.50 week ending September 17. 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 2012 Summary, reported Average Price Received for Minnesota potatoes including Processing and Fresh was $8.20 per cwt for the 2012 crop, $9.60 in 2011, compared to $7.30 in 2010, and $7.60 in 2009.

**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 tote bags approximately 2000 pound sacks, 10-pound and 5-pound film bags; 50-pound cartons of count size potatoes.

# MARKETING RED RIVER VALLEY POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production**:

| STATE | CROP YEAR | ACRES PLANTED | ACRES HARVESTED | YIELD CWT | PRODUCTION CWT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MINNESOTA | 2008 | 50,000 | 48,000 | 425 | 20,400,000 |
| | 2009 | 47,000 | 45,000 | 460 | 20,700,000 |
| | 2010 | 45,000 | 42,000 | 405 | 17,010,000 |
| | 2011 | 49,000 | 47,000 | 355 | 16,885,000 |
| | 2012 | 49,00 | 47,000 | 400 | 18,800,000 |
| | | | | | |
| NORTH DAKOTA | 2008 | 82,000 | 81,000 | 280 | 22,680,000 |
| | 2009 | 83,000 | 75,000 | 255 | 19,125,000 |
| | 2010 | 84,000 | 80,000 | 275 | 22,000,000 |
| | 2011 | 84,000 | 77,000 | 245 | 18,865,000 |
| | 2012 | 88,000 | 84,000 | 300 | 25,200,000 |

**Weather and Crop Conditions:** By the last week of April the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service reported: The average starting date for fieldwork was expected to be May 5. This date is eighteen days later than last year and fifteen days behind the five-year (2007-2011) average. The expected starting dates across the region ranged from May in the south to May 12 in the north. The wet spring weather continued in the form of scattered rain, freezing rain, and snow. Warmer, dry weather over the weekend brought some relief; however, flooding remained a major concern for many producers. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated 47 percent adequate and 53 surplus while subsoil moisture supplies were rated 53 percent adequate and 47 surplus. Warm dry weather was needed before significant progress could be made planting potatoes.

May 19: potatoes were 3 percent planted, compared to 2 percent just one week prior, 63 percent one year ago, and 47 percent of the (2007-2011) average. As of June 16, potato growers had planted 82 percent of the crop, compared to 100 percent at this point last year and 97 percent average. Potatoes were 25 percent emerged. As of June 23 the 2012 crop was 95 percent planted and 54 percent emerged. By August 21 growers were beginning to kill vine throughout the region. By September 8 potato harvest had begun in earnest, with one percent of the crop harvested. As of September 29 92 percent of potatoes had vines killed and 27 percent were dug. By October 13 82 percent had been harvested. On October 20 95 percent had been dug and harvest was all but over.

**Marketing**: The first report of the season was issued the week ending September 22 and the last report of the season was April 27. Prices for tote bags, approximately 2000 pounds per cwt, size A Round Reds U.S. One opened at $10.00 per cwt, compared to $28.00 per cwt in 2011, $30.00-32.00 per cwt in 2010, $13.00-14.00 in 2009. Tote bags finished the season at $14.50 compared to $10.00-13.00 in 2011, 18.50-19.00 per cwt in 2010, and $15.00-16.00 in 2009.

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 $4.00 per cwt premium and 5-pound film bags up-charged $5.00 per cwt from the tote price. 50-pound paper sacks were $2.00 per cwt over the tote base price and 50-pound cartons $5.00.

**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 8, 2012 and continued into the weekending May 25, 2013. Fresh shipments totaled 3,340,755 cwt compared to 2,997,377cwt in 2011, 3,380,323 cwt in 2010, 3,183,866 cwt in 2009 and 4,084,000 cwt for the 2008 and 3,911,600 cwt for the 2007 season. The Holiday Season showed some increases in shipments from other weeks. The weekending November 17 had shipments totaling 142,825 cwt compared to 132,172 in 2011, 153,261 cwt in 2010, 133,370 cwt in 2009. Three other holidays saw a jump in shipments Christmas with weekending December 22 at 136,075 cwt compared to 107,847 cwt in 2011, 135,108 cwt in 2010.

| (MINNESOTA-NORTH DAKOTA) RED RIVER VALLEY | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CWT | CROP YEAR | Round Red | Yellow Type | Mixed | Red/Yellow | Rail | TOTAL |
| RRV | 2010 | 3,162,245 | 68,303 | 15,933 | 4,242 | 129,600 | 2,829,345 |
| | 2011 | 2,858,566 | 78,511 | 0 | 0 | 60,300 | 2,997,377 |
| | 2012 | 3,194,005 | 79,888 | 0 | 0 | 63,000 | 3,340,755 |

**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 NEW YORK POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, New York growers planted **17,000** acres of potatoes for the 2012 season, **500 more acres** for the previous season. Harvested acreage totaled 16,500 acres, 300 more than one year earlier. Production increased to **4.7 million cwt**., 16% above the record low 4.050 million cwt. from the 2011 season, with an **average lower yield of 285 cwt.**, down from the 2010 seasons' record-breaking yield of 320 cwt., but up 35 cwt. from the 2011 season. Unofficial sources reported estimated planted **acreage** of potatoes of slightly over 2,600 acres on Eastern Long Island. According to NASS, the average price for 2012 in New York totaled $13.60, a decrease of $2.10 over the previous season ($15.70) while the value of production totaled nearly $64 million dollars for the entire state (last year $63.5 million).

**Growing and Harvest Seasons:** Planting got off to an early start in late March and progressed without a hitch, as the bulk of the acreage was planted by the latter half of April. The end of the month brought a good soaking rain (3.5 inches), which helped with plant development. Beneficial rains continued well into June with slightly above normal temperatures. Warmer temperatures were present for much of the growing season, with a slight departure from normal precipitation. Initial harvest began during the latter half of August with deliveries to local markets. By the latter half of September, under cooler and drier conditions, growers began movement to storage on the island. There were some intermittent rain delays during the remainder of the harvest; however, harvest was generally completed by the end of October.

**Marketing Season:** The first F.O.B. Shipping Point prices of the 2012 season were established by the Market News Service on September 10, 2012, a slightly later start than the previous season. **Round White** U.S. One **50-pound sacks** size A sold for only **$6.00**, **sharply lower** than one year earlier when initial offerings brought $13.00**.** **Large size** offerings sold **from $9.50-10.00**, compared to 14.75-15.00 at the onset in 2011. Baled 10 5-pound sacks were also much lower at $9.00, compared to $15.25-15.75 early in the 2011 season. There was a short period of Yellow type movement during September by a few growers with size A 50s at $10.00. By October 1st, Round White prices had slipped slightly by .25-.50 per bale, with 50-pound size A mostly $5.50-5.75 and large size mostly $8.50-9.00. Large size or Chef's continued to weaken in November to mostly $6.50-6.75, and baled 5s fell to mostly $8.00-8.50. Chefs fell another .25-50 cents the early part of January, as slow movement created an artificial demand for large size spuds. Trading was fairly slow for most of the Long Island shipping season due to an extended shipping season in Delaware and Virginia as well as the huge crop of Western Russets. The sheer size of the Russet crop and low prices left Round White growers with fewer outlets and buyers willing to pay any premium for Round White potatoes during the year. The shipping season came to a close the end of January with final prices for size A 50s from mostly $5.50-5.75 and large mostly $6.25-6.50, with baled 5s from mostly $8.00-8.50.

**Movement:** The season got off to a slower start in early August through September, as Delaware was in full swing at that time. In October, the tempo had picked up; however, November into early-December brought peak movement. November volume ended 14% ahead of one year earlier. Peak volume (43% of the season) was shipped during November and December. Moderate movement continued through January, which brought increases of 60% ahead of the previous January. By February, the remaining supplies were held in a few growers' hands. **The final movement report of the 2012 season was issued the end of February 2013 with approximately 1,459 loads shipped, compared to 1,315 loads recorded for the 2011 season.**

**Stocks:** Stocks on hand December 1, 2012 for New York totaled **2.7 million cwt.**, an increase of 16 percent from **the previous season total of 2.1** million cwt. Stocks on hand by variety were: Round White 93%, Round Red 4% and Yellow Type 3%. Total storage accounted for 57 percent of the potato crop, a slight increase from the prior year (52%).

**Packaging:** The major pack on the island remained the 50-pound. sack. Some growers packed baled 10 5-pound film bags for Eastern chain store promotions during the fall months. 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

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, growers **planted 17,000** acres for the 2012 season, up 500 acres from the previous crop year. **Harvested** acres totaled 16,500, just above the record low 16,000 acres harvested in 2010. Yields for 2012 of **285 cwt.** per acre were 14% higher than the previous season total of 250 cwt. per acre, although 11% lower than the **record 320 cwt**. per acre in 2010. Production increased to **4.7 million cwt., 16% above** the 2011 level. 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 2012 season totaled $15.70 per cwt., a $2.00 decrease from the previous season ($15.70) with the value of production $64.4 million dollars ($63.5 million in 2011). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 56.3 million cwt., down 4% from the 2011 season total of 58.6 million cwt.

**Growing and Harvest Season:** Fieldwork and planting got underway in mid-to-late April. Warmer than normal temperatures were reported for much of May, and by the end of the month, potatoes were 75% planted, compared to the previous year at 58% and the 5 year average of 75%. Heavy rains were noted across much of the state in early June; planting progress was slowed. However, most growers had finished by the end of the month. The state experienced above normal temperatures and scattered thunderstorms for much of July; heavy rains at the end of the month were beneficial to some areas that had not seen much precipitation. The heat continued through August with mostly dry conditions. Light harvesting got underway the first full week in August. Scattered showers prevailed in late August with heavy showers in the Eastern regions of the state. By mid-September, harvest was 68% completed, well ahead of the 42% completion rate from the previous year and the 52% 5-year average. The first fall-like air mass of the season with below normal temperatures and dry conditions around September 20 and continued for the most part the remainder of the month, which slowed the harvest pace. Scattered frosts occurred in many areas the first half of October; however, harvest was generally completed in late October, on a normal schedule.

**Movement:** Movement of out-of-the-field supplies began on schedule the week of August 5th at a slower pace and peaked in September. According to the Market News Service**, movement for the 2012** season totaled nearly 2.4 million cwt., an increase of 25% over the previous season. The season ended on schedule the latter half of May. 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, 2012 totaled **2.7 million cwt., up 29 percent** from 2.1 million cwt. the previous year. Storage accounted for 57% of the 2012 crop, up slightly from the previous season at 52%. Stocks on hand February 1, 2013 totaled 1.2 million cwt. of potatoes, an increase of 20% from one year earlier. Due to budget concerns, no potato stocks were issued for the remainder of the 2012 season.

# OHIO CHIPPING POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, total harvested potato acreage totaled 1,400, 300 less than the previous year, and 700 acres less than the 2010 season. Unofficial acreage for chip production was estimated between 500-600 acres for the state. This low figure again set a new record low number of harvested acres in the state since record-keeping began in 1866. Total production for the state was 308,000 cwt., a sharp decrease of 33% from the previous season (459,000 cwt.). Yields were low at 220 cwt. per acre compared to 270 and 290 the previous two seasons. The value of production was also sharply down at $3.6 million ($5.6 million last season). Nationally, chip and shoestring usage was down 4% from the previous year at 56.3 million cwt. The predominant chip growing area in the state was in western Ohio, from Findlay north to Toledo.

**Movement:** The 2012 state's chipping potato movement was reported at 65,440 cwt., compared to 56,114 cwt. for the 2011season, and sharply lower than the 2010 season with 148,434 cwt., according to the Market News Service. The shipping season got underway the end of August and finished in early January. No open market sales were reported during the season as acreage was contracted.

**Growing Season:** Planting got off to an early start the end of March due to unseasonably warm temperatures. By the end of April, after several frost/freezes across much of the state, 48% of the potatoes were planted, sharply ahead of the 5-year average of 21%. Warm temperatures prevailed through much of May: by the end of the month, potato planting was completed. The warm weather continued through July, although soils became dry from the lack of precipitation. Cooler temperatures and scattered showers were prevalent for much of August.

**Harvesting Season:** Initial chip harvest was underway the end of August. Cooler temperatures during September, accompanied by isolated showers slowed the harvest. Chip harvest was completed in early October.

# PENNSYLVANIA CHIPPING POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Statistics:** Pennsylvania **harvested 8,600 acres** of potatoes, 800 more acres than the previous season, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acreage totaled 8,900 acres, 300 and 600 acres less than the previous two seasons. The predominant plantings were in the Northwestern, East Central and Central districts of the state. Total potato production of **2.2 million cwt. increased 10%** (2 million cwt.) from the previous crop year. Yields for 2012 tied the previous season at **260 cwt. per acre** and were up 15 cwt. from the 2010 season, although dropped sharply from the record yield of 310 cwt. per acre in 2009. Predominant chipping varieties grown were Atlantic, Snowden, Pike, Andover and Marcy. According to NASS, the average price received for the 2012 calendar year potato crop was up sharply to $16.80 cwt., compared to $12.10 the previous two seasons, while the value of production totaled $37.5 million dollars for the year, up 53% from the 2011 season total of $24.5 million dollars. Potatoes used for chips and shoestrings nationally totaled 56.3 million cwt. in 2012, down 4% from the previous year (58.7)

**Growing Season:** Due to unseasonably warm temperatures in late March, planting was underway by mid-April. By the end of the month, planting was 53% completed, compared to only 2% the previous year, and the 5-year average of 14%. Scattered showers in mid-May slowed the planting pace momentarily; however, most growers finished in early June, ahead of normal. June and July continued with above normal temperatures and drier conditions.

**Harvesting Season:** Light harvest of field supplies began the end of July. By mid-August, 22% of the crop had been harvested, ahead of last year by 6% and the 5-year average of 9%. Scattered showers did little to slow harvest. By October 1st, 90% of the crop had been harvested, compared to 46% the previous crop year, and the 5 year average of 65%. By the middle of the month, harvest was completed, much earlier than the previous year.

Shipments peaked with field supplies late August through September. Movement to storage became active in mid-September. The shipping season concluded on a normal schedule and was completed in early April with a total of 587,673 cwt., a slight increase over the 2011 season total of 595,937 cwt**.,** according to the Market News Service. There were no open market prices reported this year as most growers planted for contracted sales only.

**MARKETING COLUMBIA BASIN WASHINGTON-UMATILLA BASIN OREGON POTATOES 2012 CROP**

**Acreage & Production**: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington planted acreage was 165,000 acres in 2012, a 3 percent increase from 2011s 160,000 acres. Washington's yield per acre in 2012 was 585 hundredweight (cwt), a 4 percent decrease from 2011s yield of 610 cwt. Washington's production in 2012 was 95,940,000 cwt, a 2 percent decrease from 2011s production of 97,600,000 cwt. Oregon's planted acreage was 42,000 acres in 2012, a 5 percent increase from 2011s planted acreage of 40,000. Oregon's yield in 2012 was 550 cwt per acre, a 6 percent decrease from 2011s yield of 585 cwt per acre. Oregon's production in 2012 was 22,935,000 cwt, a slight decrease from 2011s production of 23,342,000 cwt.

**Shipments**: Shipments for the 2012 season for Columbia Basin Washington were 7,918,000 cwt, of which 3,930,000 cwt were exports. This was a 7 percent decrease from 2011s shipments of 8,540,000 cwt, of which 1,874,000 cwt were exports. Shipments for the 2012 season for Umatilla Basin Oregon were 2,206,000 cwt, of which 360,000 cwt were exports. This was an 11 percent increase from 2011s shipments of 1,979,000 cwt, of which 287,000 cwt were exports. The peak shipping month for Columbia Basin Washington was August 2012 with 1,167,000 cwt shipped and for Umatilla Basin Oregon was July 2012 with 296,000 cwt shipped.

**Crop & Weather**: **For the Columbia Basin, Washington**, in February 2012, total precipitation in Franklin County was around 80 percent of the normal due to several good weekends in the month that saw day-long rain. Around an inch of snow was received earlier in the month. There were high gusty winds for several days in the later part of February. Ground was worked up for the planting of early potatoes. In Kittitas County, temperatures were cool and the area received average moisture for the month. Mountain snowpack looked to be in good shape and reservoirs were mostly above average for the year. Farmers were getting equipment ready and waiting for the ground to dry out before starting to work the fields.

By the end of March, southern Franklin County potato growers were furiously working and planting with about 45 percent of expected acreage completed. Planting in Benton and Adams Counties was well underway. Statewide, planting was 25 percent complete compared to 22 percent in 2011. In Grant County, recent rains greatly improved moisture conditions. Fieldwork was being done in preparation of planting. Irrigation water was expected to be made available by April 9, 2012.

Temperatures for the first week in April in Franklin County were cooler than normal, with several early morning frost days. Nominal precipitation was received countywide and winds were light. Field activity was heavy with potato planting continuing. In the Columbia Basin, planting increased rapidly throughout the month and by the end of April the crop was 77 percent planted compared to 71 percent in 2011 and 16 percent emerged compared to 9 percent in 2011. Crop condition was 61 percent fair and 39 percent good.

In Franklin County the first week of May, temperatures were below normal with cool early mornings. Trace precipitation was received early in the week. Very isolated short interval rains fell in parts of the County Wednesday just north of Pasco with some small area hail reported. No crop damage reports were received and none were expected. Almost all of the remaining potato fields were planted. Planting was finished in Grant County by the first week in May. In Kittitas County, the weather was rather turbulent with strong winds, a little rain, and not very warm temperatures. Potatoes were being planted and expected to continue for the next 10 days. In mid-May, temperatures early in the week for Franklin County were average during the day but colder than normal in the late evenings and early mornings. In Klickitat home gardens, the first potatoes were emerging. By the end of May, 98 percent of the crop had been planted compared to 95 percent in 2011 and 85 percent had emerged compared to 61 percent in 2011. Franklin County temperatures continued to be slightly cooler than normal with a trace of precipitation towards the end of the weeks. Potatoes continued to emerge. In Kittitas County, producers began cultivating potatoes. Local reservoirs were filled to the brim without complete melt off of the snowpack in the Cascades. Temperatures were cooler than normal with heavy winds and precipitation for the year was slightly below average. Conditions had been very dry the last week in May.

Planting was complete by mid-June. Emergence was at 100 percent by the end of the first week of July. Crop condition at that point was 1 percent very poor, 1 percent poor, 30 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 22 percent excellent. In Franklin County, potatoes were being harvested at the south end of the County. Temperatures were near normal with a high of 90 degrees at the end of the week. Humidity was above normal and there was no precipitation. By the end of July, harvest in the Columbia Basin was 8 percent complete.

Mid-August brought normal temperatures in Franklin County, no precipitation and light breezes. Open-market and processing potatoes were being harvested with little going into storage. Weather was very hot in Kittitas County which produced excellent potatoes. Harvest was 24 percent complete compared to 21 percent in 2011.

By the weekending September 9, nearly all the open-market potatoes were harvested in Franklin County while the majority of the storage potatoes (large Russets) were in the ground. Some of these fields received vine kill applications. Harvest was underway in Grant County. Harvest continued throughout the Columbia Basin the rest of

September at which time 61 percent of the State's potatoes had been harvested.

The first week in October brought cool to cold temperatures to Franklin County from the early evenings through 9:00-10:00 in the morning with heavy dews. There were several evenings and morning that dipped below freezing. Harvest continued in Grant County. By the end of October, temperatures were a little warmer than normal in Franklin County. This was based on a precipitation front that moved in early in the week according to the Hanford Meteorological reports. The area received .65 inches of rain. Harvest continued but intermittently for the rain and sloppy fields. Harvest was complete in the State by mid-November.

**For the Umatilla Basin, Oregon,** warm temperatures and sunshine in mid-May brought growth to crops in the region. Potato fields were beginning to cover the rows. The last week of May was a cooler, wetter week helping many field crops in Umatilla County.

June brought warmer temperatures bringing additional growth to field crops and potato circles were doing well. During the rest of the month of June and then continuing on through July, the weather continued to be dry and warm. The crop was growing well and was expected to produce high yields. Thunderstorms during the weekending July 22 caused damage in Umatilla and Union Counties. The storms caused flash flooding and started small fires burning between 30-200 acres in areas in Umatilla County. In Union County, rain and golf ball sized hail caused significant damage to the commercial potato crop.

Mid-August was hot and dry. Early potatoes were being dug and quality appeared to be good. Harvest started in earnest the first of September. The warm, dry weather continued through September and October, making harvest conditions ideal. By mid-October, temperatures were beginning to cool down and the first rain of Fall fell. Harvest was generally complete by the end of October.

**Marketing**: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the weekending July 21, 2012. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $8.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012 at $6.00-8.00.

The first report of Yellow Type was issued during weekending July 21, 2012. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $12.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 11, 2012 at $10.00-12.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $8.00-9.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 27, 2013 at $ 16.00.

# MARKETING NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Production:** Due to lack of cooperation NASS was unable to compile statistics for Skagit County potato production for the crop year 2012.

| Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, & Production, By Counties, Washington, 2010-2011 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| County and District | 2010 | | | | 2011 | | | |
| | Planted | Harvested | Yield | Production | Planted | Harvested | Yield | Production |
| | Acres | | Cwt | | Acres | | Cwt | |
| **COU NTY** | | | | | | | | |
| Adams | | | | | | | | |
| Benton | | | | | | | | |
| Franklin | 32,700 | 32,600 | 712 | 23,204,000 | | | | |
| Grant | 34,000 | 33,900 | 690 | 23,391,000 | 43,000 | 43,000 | 580 | 24,933,000 |
| Lincoln | | | | | | | | |
| Skagit | 8,100 | 7,300 | 390 | 2,845,000 | 9,500 | 9,500 | 352 | 3,343,000 |
| Walla Walla | | | | | | | | |
| Whatcom | | | | | | | | |
| Yakima | | | | | | | | |
| Other Counties | 60,200 | 60,200 | 648 | 39,000,000 | 107,500 | 107,500 | 645 | 69,324,000 |
| **DISTRICT** | | | | | | | | |
| West | 10,600 | 9,800 | 388 | 3,800,000 | 12,500 | 12,500 | 355 | 4,438,000 |
| Central | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | |
| East Central | 92,000 | 91,800 | 675 | 62,000,000 | 105,500 | 105,500 | 601 | 63,359,000 |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | |
| Other Districts | 32,400 | 32,400 | 699 | 22,640,000 | 42,000 | 42,000 | 710 | 29,803,000 |
| **STATE** | | | | | | | | |
| **STATE TOTAL** | **135,000** | **134,000** | **660** | **88,440,000** | **160,000** | **160,000** | **610** | **97,600,000** |

**Weather and Crop Conditions**: By the end of May…with more rain on the way, it was shaping up to be the worst year for the Skagit Valley. The by the end of June conditions were hot and dry and rain was needed in order to keep the irrigators in the barn for another week. Then late July rolled in and crops are looking really good right now considering the spring and non-summer we have been having. Crops were 3 weeks behind schedule. By late August a timely rain was received and heavy dew in the mornings helped to add much needed moisture to the dry conditions. By late September temperatures climbed back up into the 80s during the week, along with some fog and dew. Cool temperatures and heavy rainfall over the weekend convinced potato producers that fall had arrived. By late October potato harvest was around 95 percent complete across all regions of the state including the Skagit Valley. Then November rolled in with unseasonably warm temperatures in the latter part of the month, which was welcomed by potato growers who took advantage of the sunny days with no rain to complete fall work and prep fields for next year

**Shipments:** Round Red is king in Skagit County with 1,185,990 cwt shipped out of the total 1,963,101 cwt shipped. Long White accounted for 316,311 and Yellow Type 392,435 cwt. Mount Vernon shippers started shipping on weekending September 1, 2012 and finished on weekending June 1, 2013. The weekending November 19 just prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday saw the biggest volume shipped at 113,010 cwt.

**Marketing:** Long White, Round Red and Yellow Type prices were collected starting weekending September 22, 2012. Yellow Type ended weekending February 02, 2013; Round Red ended weekending April 27, 2013; and Long White ended weekending December 22, 2012.

**Long Whites**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $16.00 per carton and closed at $14.00-16.00. Long White is a short season crop in Skagit County. Long Whites are run strictly out of the field; none go into storage. The season ran from week ending September 22-December 22.

**Round Reds**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $12.00-14.00 per carton then closed at $16.00. They never traded lower than $10.00-12.00 in February-March.

**Yellow Type**: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $14.00-16.00 per carton closed at $14.00-16.00. They never traded higher than $16.00 or lower than $14.00.

**Transportation Trends:** Piggy-back continues to be an alternate method of transportation because of the limited availability of trucks and rail cars. However, piggy-back account for slightly less than 5 percent of total shipments. Another transportation opportunity for Skagit County shippers is Railex with Corporate Headquarters in Riverhead, New York. The shipping facility is located in Pasco, Washington. Railex delivers potatoes/produce weekly, coast to coast in four days, from Pasco 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. Mount Vernon shippers are indeed pleased with the additional opportunity for shipping into the lucrative East Coast market. However, Market News is unable to report the rail shipments out of Skagit County. Transportation by truck was extremely difficult again in 2012. Trucks were extremely short and the cost of trucks was also very high, but for the most part shippers did not have to discount the potato prices to accommodate the transportation costs. In other words, the customer was willing to pay the high price of transportation to get "America's finest potato crop".

# MARKETING CENTRAL WISCONSIN POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Acreage & Production**: According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wisconsin potato planted acreage in 2012 was 64,500 acres, more than 2011s 63,000 acres. In 2012, Wisconsin continued to be the third largest State producer of potatoes in the United States. Harvested acreage in 2012 was 64,000 acres, more than 2011s 62,500 acres. Yield per acre was 460 hundredweight (cwt) in 2012, an increase from 2011s yield of 415 cwt. Production in 2012 was 29,400,000 cwt, a 14 percent increase from 2011s production of 25,200,000 cwt.

**Shipments**: Shipments from Central Wisconsin in 2012 were 7,354,616, a twelve percent increase from 2011 shipments of 6,458,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was November at 1,054,735 cwt. All of the potatoes were shipped by truck. There are no rail shipments out of Wisconsin.

**Crop & Weather**: In the month of March, Wisconsin recorded the warmest temperatures in recorded history. Most locations in the State were between 15 and 30 degrees above normal. Precipitation during the March was well below normal. No snow was recorded in the State after March 8th. The early warm spring and absence of precipitation allowed for early planting.

Most of the potatoes had been planted in Central and Southern areas of Wisconsin by the middle of April. Some of the earlier planted fields started to emerge by the middle of April. This prompted additional plant maintenance needs including fertilizer side dressing and hilling. . At this point, there was a fear among growers that the early crop could be subjected and vulnerable to a late freeze.

On May 2nd and 3rd, heavy rainfall averaged 2 to 4 inches in many areas across the State. During this same period of time, some areas in Central Wisconsin had flooding, hail and flooding conditions. By the middle of May planting was in progress in Northern Wisconsin. Another storm system pounded Central Wisconsin on May 24th with wind gusts between 60 and 85 mph. By late May even the late fields were planted in the Antigo area.

By June 18th to 20th a heat wave was starting to take shape in southeastern Wisconsin. During this period the heat index reached 96 degrees. From July 1st to July 7th a heat wave affected a large part of

Wisconsin with temperatures reaching up to 106 degrees in the southern half of the State. July ended up being the 4th warmest in recorded history.

The drought conditions persisted into the fall months across a majority of Wisconsin. By the end of August much of the southern two-thirds of the State was in a severe to extreme drought situation. Had it not been for some irrigation of the potatoes, yields would have been depressed even further.

The first new crop round red potatoes was harvested starting the last week of July. By mid-August Yellow Type potato harvest had started and by late August the Russet Norkotahs harvest had started. The harvest continued into late September with a majority of the crop being harvested by then. Some late blight affected some latter planted fields in Ten Wisconsin Counties. The late blight was of the US-23 clonal lineage.
The longer growing season during 2012 allowed for extending tuber bulking and thereby larger yields where irrigation was available

**Marketing**: The first report of Round Reds was issued July 25, 2012. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $7.00-8.50. The last report was issue on January 15, 2012 at mostly $8.50.

The first report for Yellow Types was issued during the week ending August 11, 2012. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A were $11.00-13.00. The last report was issued during the week ending November 3, 2012 at mostly $10.00-10.50.

No report was issued for Round Whites during the 2012 shipping season.
The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the week ending August 24, 2012. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $7.00-7.50. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s were mostly $11.50-12.00. The last report was issued during the week ending June 15, 2013 with 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s at $10.00-12.00, mostly $11.00. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were mostly $8.00.

No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2012 season as most movement was contracted or open sales were in the hands of too few growers, with too few prices reported to establish a market.

# MARKETING VIRGINA POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Harvesting & Marketing:**

**Round White Potatoes:** Harvest of the 2012 Virginia potato crop began slightly earlier than normal due to a mild winter and warmer than normal spring. Virginia Market News Service began reporting shipping point prices on June 18, 2012 with the first F.O.B. Eastern Shore price quoted at $9.00-10.00 per 50-pound sack of Round White, US One, Size A potatoes. From the very beginning of the harvest, demand for Virginia potatoes was down from previous years due to an increase in supplies in competing areas. Unfortunately, prices began to fall almost immediately and by the end of the month were reported at $8.00. Demand was generally fairly light. On July 5, Round White prices had dropped to $7.00 and by the middle of the month were quoted as a range of $6.00-7.00. By the end of July, demand for Round White Size A potatoes was light and prices were $5.00-6.00. The last reported price was on August 3 although light shipments continued until the middle of the month.

Prices for the large 2¾ to 4½ inch "Chef" Round White potatoes were first reported on June 18 at $12.00-13.00 per 50-pound sack. Prices increased to $13.00 on June 21 as supplies of the larger size potatoes were fairly light. Chef prices improved to $14.00 on July 16 before returning to the $13.00 level at the end of the month. By early August, supplies of the "Chef" potatoes had increased and prices began to drop. The final reported price was $12.00-13.00 per 50-pound sack on August 3.

**Russet Potatoes:** Russet potatoes continue to be an important crop for many Virginia growers although fewer were planted in 2012 than 2011. As is typically the case, harvesting of Russets did not start until early July. 50-pound cartons of Russets started the season at $10.00. Later in the month, prices for 40 to 80 count cartons decreased to $8.00-9.00 with a few sales lower. Prices for Russets in tote bags began July at mostly $13.00 per hundredweight (cwt) but began to fall later in the month. Throughout most of the month of July, Russet tote prices were mostly $10.00-12.00 per cwt compared to $24.00 per cwt in 2011, $16.00 per cwt in 2010 and $10.00-14.00 per cwt in 2009.

**Round Red Potatoes:** Round Red prices were first reported on June 25 at $10.00 for 50-pound sacks of US One, Size A and $18.00 for Size B. Demand was moderate for Red potatoes early in the season. Round Red prices began to decrease in early July and by mid-July had fallen to $8.00 for Size A and $14.00 for Size B. By the end of the season, demand was fairly light and prices decreased to $7.00 for Size A and $12.00 for Size B. Market conditions were disappointing compared to 2011 when demand was good and prices were as high as $20.00 for Size A and $22.00 for Size B.

**Yellow Flesh Potatoes:** Yellow flesh potato prices were first reported on July 5 at $15.00 for 50-pound sacks of US One, Size A. Demand for Yellow potatoes started out the season as moderate but later decreased to fairly light. As a result of the decreased demand, prices began to decline fairly quickly. By July 12, prices were reported at $13.00-14.00 per sack. Later in the month, prices dropped to $10.00-12.00. Movement of Yellow flesh potatoes was fairly slow for much of the year and prices were a disappointment compared to 2011 when they ranged from $20.00-25.00 per 50-pound sack.

**Production & Quality:** Total Virginia production in 2012 was estimated at 1,225,000 hundredweight (cwt) by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to 1,180,000 cwt in 2011, 952,000 cwt in 2010, 1,656,000 cwt in 2009 and 1,254,000 cwt in 2008. Yields in 2012 were up considerably from the previous two years. Dry conditions in 2011 and especially 2010 caused yields to be lower than average and significantly lowered the overall production during those years.

A mild winter and warmer than normal spring allowed the crop to develop faster than normal although at times conditions were dry. By irrigating during the dry conditions, Virginia growers were able to reduce crop losses, improve yields and produce a good quality crop. Record heat during the first week of July did cause concerns and there were some crop losses later in the year attributed to the extremely hot conditions.

**Shipments:** Despite slower movement of the crop, shipments of Virginia potatoes increased compared to 2011 and especially 2010 when extremely dry weather conditions led to very low yields and significant crop losses. Approximately 2,210 truck lot equivalents (50,000 pounds) were shipped in 2012 compared to 1,732 in 2011. The increase in shipments was the result of improved yields which led to higher production.

Shipments during June 2012 accounted for 13% of the crop compared to 17% in 2011 and 9% in 2010. July 2012 shipments represented nearly 66% of the crop compared to 80% in 2011 and 90% in 2010. Over 21% of the crop was shipped in August compared to only 3% in 2011 and less than 1% in 2010. The significantly higher percentage of August shipments can be attributed to the slower movement of the crop which led to more potatoes being left to market late in the season.

**Markets & Competition:** Market conditions for Virginia potatoes were disappointing in 2012, especially when compared to the high prices and good demand of 2011. The major reason for the poor market conditions was a significant increase in supplies of new crop summer potatoes not only in Virginia but also in competing areas. Production in the spring growing areas increased over 8% while production in the summer growing areas increased by 35%. Much of the summer production increase was in the Midwest which had suffered severe production losses in 2011 due to heavy rain and flooding. Other competing areas with significant production increases in 2012 included North Carolina at 25%, California at 7% and Florida at 4%. Overall, the combined spring and summer production increased over 17% from 2011. As can be expected, such a large increase in production had a significant impact on market conditions and caused a decrease in demand and prices for Virginia potatoes. Another factor that had a negative impact was that warmer than normal temperatures allowed northern areas to start harvesting earlier than usual which led to an increase in available supplies during Virginia's marketing season. For much of July, Virginia growers were competing not only with the remaining storage potatoes and new crop California potatoes in the West, but just about every potato producing area in the East, Midwest and North as well. It was a stark contrast to 2011 when crop losses and harvest delays in many spring and summer growing areas led to a shortage of potatoes during Virginia's marketing season.

Canada has typically been an important market for Virginia potato growers but shipments to Canada have been relatively low during many of the past years. Fortunately, for the second consecutive year demand from Canada did improve. Virginia potato growers shipped 242 loads (50,000 pounds) to Canada in 2012, compared to 170 loads in 2011, 60 loads in 2010, 108 loads in 2009 and 61 loads in 2008. It was the highest total shipped to Canada since 2002 when 337 loads were exported. Over the past ten years, Virginia growers have shipped an average of 128 loads per year to Canada so the nearly 250 loads in 2012 represented a nice improvement. A significant decrease in Canadian storage potatoes, especially in the Eastern Provinces of New Brunswick, Ontario and Prince Edward Island, led to the increase in shipments to Canada in 2012.

**Varieties:** Of the 167.1 loads (50,000 pounds) of seed imported and inspected during the 2012 season, Superiors accounted for nearly 30% of the total, once again making it the most popular of all varieties grown in Virginia. The next most planted tablestock potato was the Envol, an early maturing variety that has become increasingly popular with buyers. Envols accounted for over 8% of the potatoes planted in 2012 and was the third most popular.

Chipping varieties accounted for the second, fourth and seventh most popular with Atlantic at 10.2%, Snowden at 7.6% and FL-1867, a Frito Lay variety, at 3.7%. A variety that saw a big increase in 2011 was the Beacon Chipper but it fell from nearly 3% to 1.7% in 2012. The Beacon Chipper variety seems to hold up better in hot conditions than Atlantics but the specific gravity may be a little lower than chippers prefer.

Use of Russet potatoes decreased in 2012 following an increase in 2011. Russet varieties accounted for nearly 12% of the potatoes planted in 2012 compared to over 15% in 2011, 12% in 2010, 21% in 2009 and 20% in 2008. The top Russet varieties included the fifth ranked Norkotah at 6% and twelfth ranked Gold Rush at 2%.

Red potatoes continue to play an important role for Virginia potato growers with the Red Norland the ninth most popular at 3.5% and the Dark Red Norland ranked eleventh at 2.8%. All Red varieties accounted for nearly 8% in 2012, down from 9.4% in 2011 and 9.7% in 2010. Red potatoes have ranged between 7% and 10% since 2003 after accounting for a high of 14% in 2002.

*The Yellow flesh Yukon Gold was the sixth most popular at 4.8%, up from 3.4% in 2011, 4.2% in 2010 and 2% in 2009. Yellow flesh varieties accounted for 6.3% of the potatoes grown in both 2012 and 2011 compared to nearly 8% in 2010. Between 2002 and 2009, Yellow potatoes ranged between 4% and 6% after accounting for a high of 9% in 2001*

# VIRGINA CHIPPING POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Chipstock Potatoes:** Chipstock potatoes continue to be a very important part of Virginia's potato crop and in 2012 they represented over 40% of the total shipments. Harvesting of chipstock potatoes began the first week of July with peak shipments occurring in mid to late July. Chipstock potatoes were sold primarily based on preseason contracts and were mostly $12.75 to $13.00 per hundredweight (cwt). An increase in supplies of chipstock potatoes, due primarily to higher acreage in competing areas as well as improved yields and crop conditions, led to lower demand for Virginia chipstock potatoes. As a result, movement of the crop was disappointing and harvesting continued into late August. It was a significant difference from 2011 when low storage supplies, crop failures in the Midwest, low yields due to dry conditions in new crop growing areas and harvest delays in areas to the north all combined to cause shortages of chipstock potatoes.

As a result of the increase of chipstock potatoes, there were very few open market sales in 2012. A few early open market sales were made at $6.50-7.50 per cwt but as it became apparent that there were abundant supplies in competing new crop areas like North Carolina and New Jersey, the open market price began to drop. Most open market sales for Virginia chipstock potatoes were in the $5.00-6.00 per cwt range. It was a huge contrast from 2011 when open market prices were as high as $20.00 per cwt.

# VIRGINA SEED POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Seed Potato Imports by Origin:** Canada replaced Maine as the leading supplier of seed potatoes to Virginia in 2012. Seed shipments from Canada increased to nearly 43% of the seed that was inspected during the 2012 season, an increase from 33% in 2011. In 2010, approximately 29% of the seed originated from Canada compared to 40% in 2009 and 24% in 2008. Of the Canadian seed shipped in 2012, 52.7% came from New Brunswick with 23.8% from Quebec and 23.5% from Prince Edward Island. Maine shipped slightly over 33% of the seed that was inspected during the 2012 season which was a decrease from 50% in 2011. Shipments from Maine accounted for 48% in 2010, 40% in 2009 and 57% in 2008. Wisconsin was the third most popular origin at nearly 10%, compared to 10% in 2011, 13% in 2010, 9% in 2009 and 12% in 2008. Seed from New York accounted for slightly over 6% in 2012, compared to nearly 5% in 2011, 10% in 2010, 9% in 2009 and 7% in 2008. Other states that shipped seed potatoes to Eastern Shore of Virginia growers included Colorado, North Dakota and Michigan.

# MARKETING NEW BRUNSWICK POTATOES

## 2012 CROP

**Production:** According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick potato **production increased to 13.9 million cwt**., an increase of 17% over the previous season total of 11.9 million cwt. Harvested acreage of **52,500 acres, increased 8%** over the 48,500 acres the previous crop year**. Yields increased** (20 cwt.) to **265 cwt. per acre** over the 2011 crop final report. Total **Canadian production topped 100 million cwt., 9%** above the 2011 season finish of nearly 92 million cwt., and was the smallest crop since the 1991 season.

**Movement:** Disappearance to U.S. markets (399,869 cwt.) through December 2012 dropped sharply from the previous two seasons: 32% (588,651 cwt.) and 47% (754,040 cwt.) respectively. These figures were compiled with data issued from the U.S. Commerce Department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and finalized by Statistics Canada. Mid-season shipments improved slightly and by the end of March 2013, movement of 864, 290 cwt. was reported; this was 21% off the pace of the previous season and 45% below the 2010 crop year. The season total through **July 2013 of 1.2 million cwt**. decreased sharply (21%) from the 2011 season (1.5 million cwt.) and 55% from the 2010 season shipments to the United States through the same time period (2.7 million cwt.). Access to the States is made through the major border crossing at Houlton, Maine, with lighter shipments entering through Fort Fairfield and Bridgewater, Maine. New Brunswick has predominantly been a processing (french-fry) region, with nearly 60% of production devoted to this market.

**Growing and Harvest Season:** A warm, dry spring provided excellent planting and growing conditions, similar to those found by growers in Aroostook County, Maine. Timely showers and plenty of sunshine promoted above average stands in most locations across the province. Much of the crop was planted by early June, well ahead of the norm. Some heavy rains were reported in late June, but dry and above normal temperatures followed in July and August, with some stands stressed. Some early harvest of Round Whites for domestic use began in September, while Russet growers delayed harvest as long as possible in hopes of bulking the crop due to the hot and dry conditions. Most harvesting was completed by the end of October.

**Marketing Season:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News Service issued the first fob shipping report on Russet Norkotah mid-November with US One or Canada No. One washed 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $6.50-7.00, sharply lower than the 2011 season start when baled 5s brought $9.25-9.50. Consumer packs remained flat throughout the season, as additional acreage and strong yields in the Western U.S. left markets with an oversupply, particularly for the bag market. Tote bags continued their popularity as Russet Norkotah US One or Canada No. One tote bags (approximately 2000 lbs) were shipped to the States 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum 2" or 4 ounce minimum from $9.00-9.50 cwt., at least $3.00 cwt. below the 2011 season onset, and 5-9 ounce tote began the season at $11.00-11.50 cwt.. By the end of March, the 2" of 4 ounce minimum tote bags slipped to $8.00-9.00 cwt., sharply lower than one year earlier when tote bags had climbed to $17.00-17.50 cwt.

By mid-May. Prices began to ease upward on tote bags, with prices that ranged from $10.00-12.00 cwt. for the 4-9 ounce; however, baled 5s remained in the $6.50-7.00 range. Strong demand for cartons (bakers) in the Western States kept consumer spuds at low margins, as sheds continued to run extra potatoes to fill the larger carton orders. Thus, the floors remained jammed with consumers in need of a home. After Memorial Day, the U.S. potato market began to climb out of the rock bottom market prices, and demand and prices improved. The last pricing report was issued June 14 with U.S. No.1 or Canada No. 1 tote bags approx. 2000 pounds per cwt. 4-9 ounce ranged from $12.00-15.00.

**Stocks on Hand:** New Brunswick's potato **holdings on December 1, 2012** totaled **10.277 ('000) cwt.**, **up 26%** from the previous holdings of 8.125 ('000) cwt. one year earlier. However, the December 2011 holdings were the lowest reported in 20 years. By June 1, stocks on hand in the province were still at much higher levels than the previous season at 2.3 million cwt. (.6 million cwt.). Total Canada stocks at the same time of 14.8 million cwt. also increased over one year earlier by 32% (11.1 million cwt.). However, by the middle of June, remaining table supplies rested in few hands; light packing continued through July and were sent to the States.