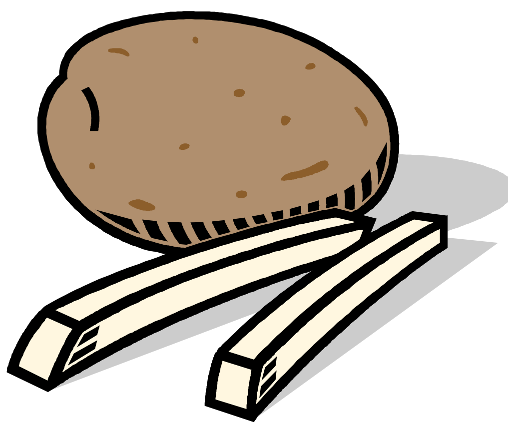
Marketing U.S. Potatoes

2011 Crop



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Fruit & Vegetable Programs

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Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MARKETING KERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA SPRING POTATOES

2011 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					
5 year average	17,920	405	7,255,600	$12.50	91,129,000
change from 2010 to 2011	154%	99%	152%	67%	71%
change from avg to 2010	151%	100%	151%	94%	142%
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					

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

Kern County Spring Potato Acreage						
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% change
Lone White	1,826	1,679	1,810	1,745	1,464	-16%
Round Red	2,047	1,960	2,398	2,344	1,975	-16%
Russet	4,030	3,292	3,516	1,987	2,493	+26%
Yellow Type	1,365	1,431	1,421	1,399	1,404	+1%
Chipper	3,745	3,640	**	**	5,327	
Total Acreage	**13,013**	**12,002**	**9145**	**7,484**	**12,663**	
*Note: One major Kern County shipper does not release their acreage.						
**Kern County Dept of Ag no longer tracks potato acreage. Acreage is compiled by local shippers.						

Weather and Crop Conditions: Heavy snow fell upon the Sierra Mountains and the western foothills followed by ample rain fall delaying the Kern County potato grower's access into their fields for spring work. The delays continued through mark-out, planting, cultivating and eventually harvest. By the time all delays were included the potato harvest was delayed anywhere from 7-14 days. This was one of the latest winters on record and rainfall records in the spring were shattered in and around Kern County. However, 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. The results of this wonderful season was a "once in a lifetime" potato crop. Yields were absolutely phenomenal ranging from 550-600 cwt per acre in fields that normally yield 375-400 cwt per acre. Tuber quality was the best shippers had ever seen in Kern County leaving little off grade to deal with and a extremely satisfied customer. Delivery problem were few as the quality held up in shipment, throughout the season. The 2011 crop was an ideal situation; good crop, great yield, high price and satisfied customers.

KERN DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA POTATO SHIPMENTS

	2009 Spring Crop	2010 Spring Crop	2011 Spring Crop
Purple Type	78,141	62,899 cwt	30,537
Fingerling	92,129	81,881 cwt	55,211
Yellow Type	412,708	512,808 cwt	591,139
Long White	607,073	743,005 cwt	800,709
Round Red	618,467	842,063 cwt	745,753
Russet	846,953	545,308 cwt	985,171
Rail/piggy-back	965,200	836,850 cwt	1,094,400
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	**3,620,671**	**3,624,814 cwt**	**3,208,520**

Shipments: Local Kern county shipments of 2011crop started week-ending May 1 and continued until week-ending August 7.

Kern District Potato Truck Shipments By Variety

	2010 Spring Crop		2011 Spring Crop	
VARIETY	CWT	Percentage	CWT	Percentage
Purple	62,899	2	20,121	.95
Fingerling	81,881	2	36,379	1.72
Yellow Type	512,808	14	389,506	18.42
Long White	743,005	21	527,594	24.96
Round Red	842,063	23	491,383	23.24
Russet	545,308	15	649,137	30.70
Mixed Varieties	0	0		
TOTAL TRUCK	**2,787,964**	**77**	**2,114,120**	**66**
Rail	836,850	23	1,094,400	34
TOTAL	**3,624,814**	**100**	**3,208,520**	**100**

Marketing: The 2011 season was the fifth 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 week ending May 14, 2011 and ended week ending July 16, 2011.

Long Whites: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $14.45-16.45 per carton on week ending May 14, then closed at $14.45-16.45 on week ending July 16. They never traded lower than week ending July 18 & 25 at $10.45-14.45 and traded highest week ending May 21 at $16.45.

Round Reds: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $14.45-16.45 per carton on week ending May 14, then closed at $16.45-18.45 on week ending July 16. They never traded higher than the last two weeks and traded lowest on week ending May 28-June 11 at $14.45.

Yellow Type: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $24.45-26.45 per carton on week ending May 14, then closed at $18.45-22.45 on week ending July 16. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest at $18.45 on week ending July 11.

Russet Norkotah: U.S. One size A baled 10 5-lb film bags opened at $9.45-10.45 on week ending June 18, and closed at $10.45-11.45 on week ending July 30. U.S. One 50-pound carton 80s opened the season on weekending June 18 at $16.45 per carton and closed on weekending July 30 at $15.45-16.45 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 66 percent of the crop; down from 77 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 indeed pleased with the new and additional opportunity for shipping into the lucrative East Coast market.

Transportation: Transportation, both truck and rail was extremely difficult in 2011. 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

2011 CROP

Production:

San Luis Valley Colorado (Fall Potato Crop) NASS 2011 Summary							
Area Planted				Area Harvested			
2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
5,700	5,600	55,500	45,000	56,900	55,200	55,200	44,000
Yield				Production			
2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
385	400	390	355	21,907,000	22,080,000	21,528,000	15,620,00

MARKETING YEAR AVERAGE PRICES PAID TO GROWER					
	Unit	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
Potatoes (all)	cwt	$11.80	$6.05	$12.70	$10.70
Potatoes (summer)	cwt	$13.50	$6.90	$11.20	$11.10
Potatoes (fall)	cwt	$11.60	$6.00	$12.80	$10.70

Planting-Growing-Harvesting Conditions: **April 1**… Summer potatoes were 10 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 9 percent. **May 6**… Summer potatoes are 75 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 37 percent and 33 percent of the crop is emerged. **June 3**… Summer potatoes are 90 percent planted compared with a 5-year average of 78 percent and 45 percent of the crop was emerged. **July 2**… 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 5**… 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 4**… 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 9**… Summer potatoes were 95 percent harvested at the end of the week. Fall potatoes progressed to 72 percent harvested. **September 10**… 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 week ending September 3, 2011. 70 count Russet cartons started out at $20.00-21.00 per carton and finished the season $11.00 per carton. Size A baled 5 10-pound film bags started out at $15.00-17.300 and finished at $11.00-11.50. U.S. Commercial bulk per cwt size A started at $12.00-14.50 and finished at $8.50-10.50.

Movement: The Market News Service began reporting light movement of Yellow Type Week ending August 20, 2011, Round Red week ending September 3, 2011. Shipments of Russets started shipping out of the San Luis Valley on weekending August 20. Fall potato shipments peaked in mid-November with the Thanksgiving promotions running add business. Week ending November 19 saw the peak at 477,759 cwt compared to 439,174 cwt in 2010 and 412,638 cwt 2009. Mid-December saw another bump of Holiday business. Weeks ending December 17 saw 458,340 cwt shipped. The Easter Holiday saw another bump of business with week ending March 17 shipments of 340,818 cwt. Colorado's total shipments for the crop year through week-ending September 1, 2012 equaled 14,162,952 cwt, compared to 14,544,247 cwt in 2010, and 15,127,000 cwt in 2009. Shipments by variety: Round Red 314,033 cwt in 2011, 339,741 cwt in 2010, and 330,114 cwt in 2009; Russet 12,615,020 cwt in 2011, 13,229,402 cwt in 2010, 13,655,381 cwt in 2009; Yellow Type 856,172 cwt in 2011, 926,593 cwt in 2010, 830,609 cwt in 2009. Shipments by rail were 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 2011 cut into growers' profits. There were a few incidents early in the new calendar year, such as the Holiday season when trucks tend to haul the high paying Christmas tree loads. Also, spring time creates additional problems when trucks are tied up hauling nursery stock that also pays a premium.

Most of the Colorado's tablestock crop ships out of State, including major distribution centers such as: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, California; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and because of Colorado's tie to and close proximity to Texas, Amarillo, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Houston, TX.

Variety Survey: This report provides the results of a special Fall Potato Variety Survey of potato growers in the San Luis Valley for the 2011 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 2011 crop compared with 54 percent coverage in the 2010 survey.

Russet varieties accounted for 87.0 percent of the 54,000 acres of all potatoes planted in the San Luis Valley for the 2011 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 2010. **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 2011 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 2011 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 DELEWARE POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: According to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, growers **planted and harvested 1,600 acres** of potatoes during the 2011 season, unchanged from the previous season. Production and yields dropped slightly to 400,000 cwt. and 250 cwt. per acre, according to the September 2012 Crop Production report released by NASS. The average price for the 2011 calendar Year totaled $10.40 per cwt., up .50 cents from the previous year ($9.90) with the total value of production for 2011 of $4.16 million dollars. The grower base remained at 5, despite continued pressures of urban sprawl.

Movement: The Market News Service reported movement of approximately 181,000 cwt. of table stock potatoes for the 2011 season, down 25 percent from the 2010 season (240,400 cwt). One grower did extend the shipping season beyond the Market News reporting period, and those totals were not included in the final tally. Shipments by Potato type were: Round Whites accounted for 74 percent of the total, Round Red 17 percent, Yellow Type 8 percent and Russet 1 percent. The initial movement during the 2011 growing season began in late July with Market News shipments completed by the end of September.

Growing and Harvest Season: Initial planting was underway at the end of March, with adequate to surplus soil moisture and cooler temperatures. By mid-month, planting progress was reported at 41 percent with continued moist field conditions reported through the month. Early May brought drier conditions which accelerated planting. By May 9, 72 percent of the potato crop was planted compared to the 5-year average of 95 percent. By Memorial Day, the crop had been planted and soils remained adequate. Drier conditions were observed during June as temperatures climbed. Hot and dry conditions stressed the crop during July with record heat the first half of the month. Harvest of Round Red and Round White varieties was underway by mid-month and by the end of July, 55 percent of the crop had been harvested, compared to the five-year average of 32 percent. Although scattered showers were reported in early August, fields remained stresses without irrigation. By mid-month, 70 percent of the fields had been harvested. Hurricane Irene dumped several inches of rain on the area in late August, which halted harvest for several days, and made some tubers unmarketable. Harvest was completed by mid-September.

Marketing Season: Market News Service reported the first F.O.B. shipping prices of the 2011 season the third week of July with good demand. **Prices opened sharply higher** than the previous season **as 50-pound sacks** of U.S. One Size A **Round Reds were** reported at **$22.00** ($16.00), **and B size $24.00** ($20.00). **Round White** U.S. One size A 50-pound sacks also were **much higher at $15.00** ($8.00) while C**hef size were reported at $17.00** ($12.00). A strong spring market led prices upward prior to the Delaware harvest, and with the hot, dry weather ahead of the harvest, tuber size suffered slightly. The red crop was marketed quickly with good demand and prices remained steady. Round White were unchanged until mid-August, when demand slipped slightly and 50-pound sacks of size A dropped $1.00 to $14.00 and Chefs were unchanged at $17.00. During mid-August, rain delays curtailed harvest for several days. In late August, sluggish movement saw another $1.00 per 50-pound sack to both size A and chefs, where they ended the season at $13.00 and $16.00 respectfully, much above the previous season's finish at mostly $7.00 and $12.00. During the latter half of August a few Yellows were reported with prices on 50-pound sacks size A at $20.00, sharply above the 2010 season price of $12.00. One grower continued with shipments well into October which were not recorded.

MARKETING FLORIDA POTATOES

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production: 2011 crop production is listed by the USDA NASS in their January 2012 Crop Production-Annual Report for the 2011 crop summary. Area planted was 364,000 acres total, with Hastings as 234,000 acres and other as 130,000 acres. Area harvested was 356,000 acre total, with Hastings as 231,000 acres, and other as 125,000 acres. Yield per acre was 256 cwt per acres state wide. Production was 9,112,000 cwt total, with Hastings at 6,237,000 cwt and all other areas at 2,875,000 cwt.

Crop & Weather: Fields were being prepared for planting in late November 2010, but low soil moisture delayed many fields. Week ending December 12 saw drought conditions reported in every county in the State. Freezing temperatures hit the state during mid-December. January saw cool temperatures for the first 3 weeks with major freezing temperature the first and second week of the month. Drought 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 for the 2011 season were 3,215,000 compared to 2,131,000 total cwt in 2010. Round Red was 2,192,200 cwt in 2011, 1,472,400 cwt in 2010; Round White 667,700 cwt in 2011, 452,100 cwt in 2010; Yellow Type 344,900 cwt in 2011, 182,400 cwt in 2010; Russet Norkotahs 5,500 in 2010, 2,500 in 2010; fingerling 420 cwt in 2011 compared to 400 cwt in 2010; and purple of 60 cwt in 2011. Round Red shipments began the weekending January 22 and finished weekending June 18. The Round Red crop had one week, April 23, that stood out with 2,513,000 cwt shipped. Round White shipments started on weekending February 12 and finished weekending June 18. May and June were the biggest shipping months for Round Whites. Yellow Type shipments began weekending February 12 and finishing the last week of the season of June 18. April was the biggest shipping months for Yellow Type. Shipments of chipper potatoes totaled 37,581,000 cwt in 2011; 9,506,000 cwt in 2010 season. Chipper shipments began the weekending February 5 and finished week ending July 2. Chipper shipments peaked from weekending May 21 through June 11. There is an area in north Florida shipping chipper potatoes earlier than those recorded. This early deal is not reported by the USDA.

Marketing: No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2011 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 March 7 through June 11 on Round Red. 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 weekending March 7 at $25.50-25.75 and finished weekending June 4 at $10.75-14.75, mostly $11.75-12.75. Yellow Type 50-pound sacks size A started the season week ending March 7 at $25.50-25.75 and finished weekending May 21 at $21.75-23.75.

MARKETING IDAHO POTATOES

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the in-season estimate for 2011 crop acreage was 320,000 acres planted, an 8 percent increase from the final estimate for the 2010 crop at 295,000 acres. The in-season estimate of 2011 yield was 404 cwt per acre, a 5 percent increase from the final estimate for 2010s yield of 384 cwt per acre. The in-season estimate of 2011 production was 128,760 cwt, a 14 percent increase from the final estimate of 2010s production of 112,970 cwt.

Shipments: The first 2011 crop shipments were recorded during the weekending August 20, 2011. 535,000 cwt of 2010 shipments over-lapped the start of 2011 crop marketed in August 2011. Fresh market shipments were in full volume from August 2011 through August 2012. Shipments from Idaho in 2011 were 33,396,000 cwt, a slight increase from 2010s shipments of 33,031,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was March 2012 at 3,131,000 cwt.

Shipments were 96 percent Russet, 2 percent were Round Reds (including red skin/yellow flesh), and 2 percent were Yellows.

The crop year is the calendar year when harvest occurred. Seasons are not fixed dates. Shipments are reported by the crop year (season) so overlapping shipments (generally in August) do occur as marketing from storage of the 2011 crop extended through September of 2012 after 2012 harvest and shipments had started.

Crop & Weather: During the month of April, 2011, temperatures varied from 10 degrees below to 7 degrees above normal. Precipitation was received all month at nearly every station. However, growers were able to plant and by the end of the month planting was 77 percent complete in the Southwest growing region of the State, compared to 95 percent in 2010. The South Central region was 21 percent, compared to 36 percent in 2010, the East was 14 percent compared to 9 percent, and Statewide it was 19 percent, compared to 20 percent in 2010.

Temperatures across the State ranged from 9 degrees above to 3 degrees below normal in mid-May. Potatoes were starting to emerge in the Southwest. Planting Statewide was 72 percent complete, compared to 71 percent in 2010. During the last week of May, temperatures across the State ranged 6-13 degrees below normal with above normal precipitation for the week. Irrigation water supply was at 99 percent in good to excellent condition. Planting was generally complete by the end of the first week of June. Emergence was 14 percent compared to 13 percent in 2010.

Temperatures throughout most of June were as much as 12 degrees below normal. The weekending June 26 brought warmer and drier weather which helped advance crop progress. Statewide emergence was 96 percent compared to 90 percent in 2010.

The crop was in mostly good to excellent condition by the 4th of July. Potatoes that were 12 inches high were 54 percent compared to 35 percent in 2010. Rows closing middles were 15 percent compared to 12 percent in 2010. During weekending July 10, 49 percent of rows had closed their middles, slightly ahead of the five year average. Ninety-three percent of the crop was 12 inches high, compared to 55 percent in 2010. By the end of July, Statewide potato condition declined slightly but remained in mostly good to excellent condition. All rows had closed their middles.

During the first week of August, one percent of vines had died or been killed suggesting that harvest would start soon. However, light harvest didn't begin in the Southwest growing region of Idaho until the third week of August.

By Labor Day, the percentage of the potato crop with vines dying or killed trailed 2010 and the 5 year average by 11 and 25 percentage points respectively. Harvest in the Southwest was 31 percent complete compared to 32 percent in 2010, 2 percent complete in the South Central compared to 6 percent in 2010, and had just barely started in the East. Statewide, harvest was 3 percent complete. During the weekending September 11, farm operators in Twin Falls County reported that early potatoes were small and yields of some varieties were lower than average, according to University of Idaho Extension Education. Temperatures across Idaho ranged 3-11 degrees above normal for the weekending September 25. Harvest was 20 percent complete, slightly behind the 5 year average of 24 percent.

The weekending October 2 saw temperatures that ranged from 4 to 13 degrees above normal. Vine dying or killed stage was 95 percent and harvest was 38 percent complete for the entire State. Harvest was generally complete by the end of October.

Marketing: The first report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 20, 2011 out of the Twin Falls-Burley District and Western Idaho. U.S. One baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $7.50-8.00 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $21.00-22.00. Marketing shifted to include the Upper Valley during the weekending September 03, 2011.

The first report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending October 1, 2011 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. One baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $5.50-6.25 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $10.00-12.00.

The last report on Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending May 15, 2012 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. one baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $6.00-6.50 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $9.00-10.50.

The last report on Russet Burbanks was issued during the weekending August 11, 2012 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. U.S. one baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $4.50 and the 50-pound cartons of 70s were $10.00.

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

2011 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

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

Shipments: Klamath Basin fresh potato shipments were 2,227,026 cwt. With the California side of the Basin at 873,553 million cwt and the Oregon side at 1,353,473 million cwt. The shipping period was from weekending August 24, 2011 to week ending September 29, 2012. The week ending November 19 was the peak of shipments with 89,735 cwt for that week.

SHIPMENTS			
	KLAMATH BASIN DISTRICT		NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
	ORGANIC	CONVENTIONAL	
FINGERLING	20,628	***	
MIXED	4,768	4	
PURPLE	4,184	4,534	
ROUND RED	71,082	49,359	
ROUND WHITE	593	***	
YELLOW TYPE	27,738	37,946	
RUSSET	94,337	1,038,300	873,553
TOTAL	**223,330**	**1,130,143**	**873,553**
OREGON	**1,353,473**		
DISTRICT	**2,227,026**		

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 were reported in September with potato harvest in full swing. Good harvest weather continued into October until the 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 $5.00-5.50 the week ending October 1, 2011. Season ending prices were $4.00 week ending July 21, 2011, which was also the season low. The season high was $7.00. 50-pound carton 70s prices opened at $10.00-13.00 per carton, which was the season high. Season ending prices on 70 counts was $9.00, which was also the season low for 70 counts.

MARKETING MAINE POTATOES

2011 CROP

Production: Maine's planted potato acreage totaled 57,000 acres, 2,000 additional acres than the previous season, and the first acreage increase in the past five seasons, according to New England Agricultural Statistics. Harvested acres totaled 54,000, 800 less acres than the 2010 season though. **Production** decreased 10 percent to 14.3 million cwt. from the previous year (15.8 million cwt.). **Yields decreased to 265 cwt. per acre,** when compared to the previous two seasons' totals of 275 and 290 cwt. per acre, and the five year average of 279. According to NASS, the average price for the 2011 calendar year **totaled $10.40 per cwt, a .40 increase from the previous year ($10.00)** with the value of production nearly $149 million dollars, a 6 percent decrease from last season ($159).

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 43 percent of the total acreage, up from the previous year total of 38 percent. All Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections followed with 12.5 percent (last season 38 percent), the Snowden chipper accounted for 5.5 percent (5.8 percent) and followed by Russet Norkotah with 4.1 percent (5.2 percent) and Shepody with 4.1 percent (5.2 percent) of the total state acreage. The next three varieties included Superior, Norland and Reba, which all showed increases in acreages with 4.1 percent, 3.9 percent and 2.7 percent respectively for 2011. Acreages by potato type were Russets 55 percent (51), Whites (both Long and Round) 38 percent (39 percent), Yellows 4 percent (5 percent) and Reds 4 percent (5 percent). Round Whites graded by percentage of No.1 climbed to 81 percent from 70 percent for the 2010 season, while Russets slid slightly from 69 percent to 67 percent for the year.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Less than optimal planting and growing conditions got the 2011 crop off to a slow start across the state. Heavy and prolonged rains slowed progress. Although the crop was 100 percent seeded by the middle of June only 50 percent emergence was visible at that time. Both planting and emergence was 1-2 weeks behind a normal schedule. Heavy rains in late June and early July caused serious wash outs in many fields, and wet conditions place growers on a 5 – day spray schedule to combat late blight. Rains continued, making July the wettest month on record in northern Maine. Wet conditions prevailed in August as well, with some locations in the County receiving over 10 inches of rain. In September, dodging rain showers, growers worked long days and nights to complete harvest. Some tubers went into storages wet, and breakdown in the storages was above average.

Shipments: Many growers began packing later than normal due to the condition of tubers. Maine fresh potato **shipments** through December 2011 were down **sharply (18 percent)** at 775,579 cwt, compared to 947,053 cwt the previous season as reported by the Market News Service. Early Round White movement declined sharply by 27 percent, Round Red and Yellows decreased 19 percent and 16 percent while Russet movement remained nearly the same as the previous year (257,581 cwt). By early March, supplies dwindled and were held in fewer hands. Major destinations along the Eastern Seaboard included Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, and Virginia. **Shipments by type** through

June 2012 season were: Round White 953,223 cwt (1,250,500 cwt), Round Red 141,457 cwt (174,781 cwt), Yellow type 163,819 cwt (252,256 cwt), and Russets 537,827 cwt (620,179 cwt) for a combined total of 1,796,326 cwt (2,297,649 cwt). The combined variety total represented a **22 percent decline in shipments from the previous crop year,** led by a sharp decrease for Yellows of 35 percent, and followed by Round White varieties, which were down 24 percent. Round Reds declined by 19 percent while Russet varieties were off by 13 percent from the previous season.

Easements: According to the Maine Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service, 491 loads (263,470 cwt) were **sent to Canada for processing** for the season through June 2012, compared to 614 loads (326,281 cwt) the previous year.

Potato Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2011 totaled 10.6 million cwt, down 14 percent from the previous season's December 1 holdings (12.3 '000 cwt) and was the lowest stocks on hand recorded in the state since estimates began in 1971, according to New England Agricultural Statistics Service. Disappearance totaled 3.57 million cwt, compared to 3.59 million cwt the previous season. Maine's processor usage (excluding chips) totaled 1.90 million cwt, compared to 1.86 '000 cwt a year earlier. Storage accounted for 75 percent of the State's total production: 55 percent Russets, 39 percent Round White varieties, 2 percent yellows and 3 percent red varieties. The April 1 stocks on hand was the lowest on hand at this time since 1992 reported 4.40 million cwt, 25 percent less than the previous year of 5.9 million cwt and represented 31 percent of total production in storage, 6 percent less than last year and below the previous 5-year average of 39 percent.

Marketing Season: Market News issued the **first F.O. B. shipping point prices** slightly later than normal in early November with Russet Norkotah U.S. One 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $9.00-10.00 and Round White U.S. One 2 inch minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $9.50-10.25, a strong $2.00 above the 2010 initial market prices. Prices remained relatively flat for much of the shipping season, with a slight bump on Russet Norkotah 5s in each March to $10.00-10.50, while Round Whites varied little and finished at mostly $10.00. The last pricing report was issued at the end of April with remaining supplies in few hands, due to the early season losses. The end of the season prices varied little from the previous year, with a slight increase in Russets and a slight decrease in the Round White market. 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. Some potatoes were packed in totes and sent to repackers near metropolitan areas this season. There continued to be some premium pack sizes such as 2 ¼ inch minimum on Round Whites for some chain store accounts and 5-9 ounce packs on Russets packed in bales as well.

Transportation: Fuel costs were higher this season, which drove surcharges skyrocketing from 15-30 percent during the shipping season. Base rates remained unchanged from the previous season: New York $3.00, Boston $2.40, Philadelphia $3.50 and Baltimore $3.75 cwt. There were 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.

MAINE CHIPPING POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: Maine **chipping potato movement totaled 1.9 million hundredweight, down 23 percent** from the previous season's total of over 2.4 million cwt. Total production for the State was 14.3 million cwt, a decrease of 10 percent from the previous year (15.8 '000 cwt). **Yields fell to 265 cwt per acre compared to the previous year (290**), and was the lowest yield reported since the 2003 season. Shipments began mid-August and finished in early June. Most of the chipping production is located in Central and Southern Aroostook County with two major growers in the northern part of the county. According to NASS, the average price for the 2011 calendar year totaled $10.40 per cwt., up .40 cents from the previous year ($10.00) although the value of production decreased to nearly $149 million dollars ($158.9 million last season). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 58.6 million cwt in 2011, up 8 percent from the previous year total of 54.5 million cwt.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Less than optimal planting and growing conditions got the 2011 crop off to a slow start across the state. Heavy and prolonged rains slowed progress. Although the crop was 100 percent seeded by the middle of June, only 50 percent emergence was visible at that time. Both planting and emergence was 1-2 weeks behind a normal schedule. Heavy rains in late June and early July caused serious wash outs in many fields, and wet conditions place growers on a 5 – day spray schedule to combat late blight. Rains continued, making July the wettest month on record in northern Maine. Wet conditions prevailed in August as well, with some locations in the County receiving over 10 inches of rain. In September, dodging rain showers, growers worked long days and nights to complete harvest. Some tubers went into storages wet, and breakdown in the storages was above average.

Marketing: Harvest of out-of-the-field supplies began in mid-August. Growers suffered losses in chip acreage, due to poor weather conditions and some late blight. Shipments peaked in December-January as retailers prepared for NFL play-off games and the Super Bowl. By the end of March, weekly movement slowed and fell behind the previous year's pace. The final movement report of the 2011 season was issued for the week ending June 2nd. There was no open market trading 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.

MAINE SEED POTATOES

2011 CROP

Acreage: Certified potato seed acreage for the 2011 season increased slightly from the previous season as the Florida-tested and certified acreage for the 2011 season **totaled 11,161 acres, compared to 10,849 and 10,775** acres the previous two seasons, and again was the largest acreage since the 2006 crop year. These figures did not include growers own seed plots. The Maine Seed Inspection Department was responsible for inspection and certification of seed shipments by variety and destination for the industry. Certification tags were issued by state Seed Potato Specialists for lots that met official grades for Maine Certified Seed, and after Florida testing, recorded 5 per cent or less virus diseased plants. The major seed varieties were: Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections, Russet Burbank (all strains), Atlantic (chip), Superior (NY Strain), Reba, Snowden (chip), Yukon Gold, Dark Red Norland, NorWis, and Andover. Within these varieties, the **biggest increases** were noted in Russet Burbank strains with an increase of 37 percent overall (notably Montana strain with 260 percent increase), Dark Red Norland up 17 percent from the previous year, Snowden ahead by 8 percent and Reba and Yukon Gold varieties tied with an increase of 7 percent, followed by the Frito-Lay chipping varieties which increased 6 percent, and Superior (NY Strain) with a 4 percent gain. The only decreases in the major varieties above were Atlantics with a 7 percent decrease and Norwis with a 3 percent decline.

Shipments: Shipments began the end of November to Florida and finished the end of May for the 2011 shipping season. **Movement** totaled 1,099,052 cwt, a decrease of 14 percent compared to the previous season total of 1,274, 453 cwt, according to the Maine Seed Inspection Department. Major destinations for Maine seed were: **Florida** with **245,491 cwt** (292,415 cwt), **North Carolina 213,026 cwt** (210,625 cwt), **New York 198,447 cwt** (213,933 cwt), **Pennsylvania 83,107 cwt** (107,923 cwt), and a sharp drop for **Canada with 45,850 cwt** (71,820 cwt). **Peak volume** was reported between March-mid-April, 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 190, 255 cwt (221,270 cwt) **Atlantic 188,542** cwt (226,323) **Snowden** 109,661 cwt (121,569), **Reba** 74,912 cwt (101,975), **Superior strains** 69,112 cwt (72,864), **Norwis** 48,350 cwt (56,727), and **Kennebec** 44,866 cwt (50,949).

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Less than optimal planting and growing conditions got the 2011 crop off to a slow start across the State. Heavy and prolonged rains slowed progress. Although the crop was 100 percent seeded by the middle of June, only 50 percent emergence was visible at that time. Both planting and emergence was 1-2 weeks behind a normal schedule. Heavy rains in late June and early July caused serious wash outs in many fields, and wet conditions place growers on a 5 – day spray schedule to combat late blight. Rains continued, making July the wettest month on record in northern Maine. Wet conditions prevailed in August as well, with some locations in the County receiving over 10 inches of rain. In September, dodging rain showers, growers worked long days and nights to complete harvest. Some tubers went into storages wet, and breakdown in the storages was above average.

Marketing: No open market pricing was reported during the shipping season. Most movement occurred as a result of pre-season sales. Prices were strong due to seed losses from the challenging 2011 growing season.

MARKETING MICHIGAN POTATOES

2011 CROP

Production: Michigan growers **harvested 44,000 acres, 500 additional acres than the previous season** while production slipped 3 percent to nearly 15.2 million cwt (15.6 million cwt in 2010). Yield was **reduced 15 cwt to 345 cwt** per acre compared to the r**ecord yields of 360 cwt** the previous two seasons. According to NASS, the average price for the 2011 calendar year totaled $11.60 per cwt, a .70 cent increase from the previous year ($10.90), with the value of production nearly $176 million dollars ($170.7 in 2010). Potato acreage by variety was: Russets 13 percent, Round Whites 85 percent, and Round Red 2 percent.

Movement: Light shipments of the summer Round White Onaway crop began the end of July, as demand was slowed by record-breaking heat and light demand for potatoes. 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 light demand and low prices of competing supplies of Russets. Peak movement of Russets occurred during the Thanksgiving rush through mid-January, and again in March and April for Easter and spring promotions. As White supplies cleaned up in the East, 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 1.95 million cwt**, compared to **1.96 million cwt** the previous season. Russet varieties accounted for nearly 76 percent of the total, while Round White loads made up 23 percent, and Round Red and Yellows only 1 percent of the total.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Cool and wet conditions delayed planting until early May. Unsettled weather with scattered showers resulted in prolonged delays for most of the month. By the end of the month, 82 percent of the crop was planted, although there were concerns that some of the crop would be lost due to excessive moisture. Emergence was very slow; only 21 percent compared to 62 percent the previous season and the 5 year average of 48 percent at the end of the month. Most of the planting had been completed by the middle of June. Soils began to dry by mid-June, and the mean temperatures across the state during July were 3.7 degrees above normal, which was the warmest July on record since 1955. High temperatures reached or exceeded 90 degrees on as many as 15 days in some southerly locations. Total precipitation averaged statewide for the month was 2.99 inches. August continued to be generally warmer than normal with rainfall totals less than 1 inch over portions of upper Central Michigan, to more than 5 inches in locations on the Central Lower Peninsula. Following a brief heat wave in early September, frosts and freezing temperatures arrived in portions of the State mid-month. Another extended period of warm, dry weather was prevalent the first half of October; however, the last week of October brought rainy days and hard freezes across much of the state. Daily harvest and drying hours were greatly reduced, although table stock growers were finished by Halloween.

Onaway Summer Marketing Season: Light shipments of the summer Round White Onaway crop commenced in East Central Michigan a little later than normal due to unseasonably hot and humid conditions for much of July. 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. Demand was sluggish with U.S. One size A 10-pound open window sacks loose reported by the Market News Service from $2.45-2.50 per ten-pound sack, up sharply from the previous season by an average of $6.00 cwt. By Labor Day, prices had slipped to $1.90-1.95 per 10-pound open-window sacks loose and baled 10 5-pound paper sacks mostly 11.00. Heavy rains along the East Coast spurred some temporary demand the first half of September. Prices continued to slip however, and as the Onaway crop cleaned up by mid-October, White prices finished the summer season at mostly $1.75 per ten and baled 5s at $10.25.

Storage Season: The first daily F.O.B. Shipping Point Prices were issued October 31, 2011 by the Market News Service. Russet Norkotah and Goldrush U.S. One size A ten pound film bags loose brought mostly $1.80-2.15, an average of $3.00 cwt higher than the 2010 season. The Russet market gradually climbed and ended the shipping season mid-May at $2.00-2.25. At the same time, the first F.O.B. Shipping Point Prices for storage Round White U.S. One size A 10-pound open-window sacks loose ranged from $1.80-2.00. It continued to be difficult for Round White growers to receive nearly the same returns for Russet varieties, and maintain reasonable shelf space at the retailers. Some new outlets were discovered during the latter winter months as Eastern White supplies were shorter than normal. By mid-March, Round White supplies were in few hands with the last reported prices from $2.00-2.15 for size A 10-pound open window sacks, compared to last season's final prices of mostly $2.15-2.25 per ten.

Stocks on Hand: According to NASS, Michigan's stocks on hand December 1, 2011 totaled 8.9 million cwt, compared to 9.3 million cwt the previous year. This represented 57 percent of the crop year's production, and was at the lowest level in many years. Approximately 88 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, 11 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red varieties. The April 1 holdings of 1.6 million cwt were down sharply (-30 percent) from the previous year (2.3 million cwt) and accounted for 11 percent of the year's production.

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 chain stores have moved to 8-pound bags. Tote bags gained popularity this season, particularly the latter half of the shipping season. A few growers shipped Round White varieties to eastern and southern destinations during the latter half of the season, as White varieties were scarce due to shortages from eastern growing regions of the country. A few growers packed Russet cartons during the entire season to help fill demand for larger sizes.

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

2011 CROP

Production: Michigan growers **harvested 44,000 acres, 500 additional acres above the past two seasons,** while production slipped 3 percent to nearly 15.2 million cwt (15.7 million cwt the previous two seasons). **Yields also declined to 345 cwt per acre from the record-setting 360 cwt per acre the past 2 years.** Contracted chip acreage across the State was reported by industry officials as slightly higher than the previous season. Industry contacts estimated that approximately 30,000 acres were devoted to chip stock. According to NASS, 90 percent of the December 1 stocks on hands were Round White varieties, heavily devoted to chipping acreage. The average price for the season totaled $11.60 per cwt, a .70 cent increase from the previous year ($10.90) with the value of production of $176 million dollars ($170 million dollars in 2010). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 58.6 million cwt in 2011, an 8 percent increase from the 2010 total of 54.5 million cwt.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Cool and wet conditions delayed most planting until early May. Unsettled weather with scattered showers resulted in prolonged delays for most of the month. By the end of the month, 82 percent of the crop was planted, although there were concerns that some of the crop would be lost due to excessive moisture. Emergence was very slow; only 21 percent compared to 62 percent the previous season and the 5 year average of 48 percent at the end of the month. Most of the planting had been completed by the middle of June. Soils began to dry by mid-June, and the mean temperatures across the state during July were 3.7 degrees above normal, which was the warmest July on record since 1955. High temperatures reached or exceeded 90 degrees on as many as 15 days in some southerly locations. Total precipitation averaged Statewide for the month was 2.99 inches. August continued to be generally warmer than normal with rainfall totals less than 1 inch over portions of upper Central Michigan, to more than 5 inches in locations in the Central Lower Peninsula. Following a brief heat wave in early September, frosts and freezing temperatures arrived in portions of the state mid-month. Another extended period of warm, dry weather was prevalent the first half of October; however, the last week of October brought rainy days and hard freezes across much of the state. Daily harvest and drying hours were sharply reduced, and the remaining chip acreage was harvested into the first half of November.

Marketing: There was little open market trading during the 2011 season. Chip contracts were generally stable around the State, with field and storage contracts up .50 cents from the previous season with most companies. Some companies offered higher volume to growers; however, most were unable or unwilling to find additional seed or ground for more acreage. There was only a slight increase in State acreage devoted to chipping varieties in 2011. Predominant varieties included Atlantic, Snowden, Pike and FL numbered varieties. Shipments began the end of July, with peak out of the field supplies mid-August through mid-September.

Movement to storage was active from mid-September through early November, with the biggest shipping months October-December and March 2012. The season ended a few weeks earlier than usual on June 1 with 9.9 million cwt shipped for the 2011 season, slightly behind the previous year's finish of 10 million cwt. There was little open market trading as some growers fell slightly short of expected yields.

Stocks on Hand: According to NASS, Michigan's stocks on hand December 1, 2011 totaled 8.9 million cwt, compared to 9.3 million cwt the previous year. This represented 57 percent of the crop year's production, and was at the lowest level in many years. Approximately 88 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, 11 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red varieties. The April 1 holdings of 1.6 million cwt. were down sharply (-30%) from the previous year (2.3 million cwt.) and accounted for 11 percent of the year's production.

MARKETING BIG LAKE & CENTRAL MINNESOTA POTATO

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production: National Agricultural Statistics Service reported planted acreage for all of Minnesota at 49,000 acres in 2011, compared to 45,000 acres in 2010, 47,000 acres in 2009; and 42,000 acres compared to 45,000 acres harvested in 2009.

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 week ending May 9, 2011 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 30, 2011. Most growers of Round Reds had finished digging by mid-September with minimal weather delays during harvest. The peat soil area around Gully, MN finished harvesting Round Reds around mid-October. A few Russets were still being harvested and put into storage for shipping in the Thanksgiving market into late October. Peat soil Reds were also put into storage and shipped into early February.

Shipments: Recorded shipments of Round Reds and Russets for the season totaled 1,761,371 cwt in 2011 compared to 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 week ending July 30, and peaked in August during week ending August 13 with 197,930 cwt. Shipments of Russets started week ending August 6 and finished for the most part in mid-October week ending October 15; a few Russets were stored and marketed in November for the Thanksgiving market. Volume shipments continued through week ending October 15, then declined seasonally with light shipments continuing out of the peat soil storage area until the last potato was shipped on week-ending February 11, 2012 compared to March 19, 2011 and February 27, 2010.

Marketing: The Big Lake and Central Minnesota marketing of Round Reds started week ending August 6, 2011 compared to July 31, 2010. Shipping point prices for Round Reds U.S. One size A in 50-pound cartons, at $17.50. Prices finished at $26.00-27.50 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 2011 Summary, reported Average Price Received for Minnesota potatoes including Processing and Fresh was $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

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production:

STATE	CROP YEAR	ACRES PLANTED	ACRES HARVESTED	YIELD CWT	PRODUCTION CWT
MINNESOTA	2007	52,000	49,000	440	21,560,000
	2008	50,000	48,000	425	20,400,000
	2009	47,000	45,000	460	20,700,000
	2010	45,000	42,000	405	17,010,000
	2011	49,000	47,000	355	16,885,000
NORTH DAKOTA	2007	97,000	91,000	260	23,660,000
	2008	82,000	81,000	280	22,680,000
	2009	83,000	75,000	255	19,125,000
	2010	84,000	80,000	275	22,000,000
	2011	84,000	77,000	245	18,865,000

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 6. This date is eighteen days later than last year and fifteen days behind the five-year (2006-2010) average. The expected starting dates across the region ranged from May 2 in the south to May 9 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 16: potatoes were 3 percent planted, compared to 2 percent just one week prior, 63 percent one year ago, and 47 percent of the (2006-2010) average. As of June 12, 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 19, the 2011 crop was 95 percent planted and 54 percent emerged. By August 22, growers were beginning to kill vine throughout the region. By September 6, potato harvest had begun in earnest, with one percent of the crop harvested. As of September 25, 92 percent of potatoes had vines killed and 27 percent were dug. By October 9, 82 percent had been harvested. On October 17, 95 percent had been dug and harvest was all but over.

Marketing: The first report of the season was issued the week ending September 17, 2011 and the last report of the season was May 5, 2012. Prices for tote bags, approximately 2000 pounds per cwt, size A Round Reds U.S. One opened at $28.00 per cwt compared to $30.00-32.00 per cwt in 2010, $13.00-14.00 in 2009. Tote bags finished the season at $10.00-13.00

compared to 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.

AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO GROWER						
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Minnesota	All	$6.10	$8.25	$7.70	$7.30	$9.60
North Dakota	All	$6.90	$8.30	$9.45	$8.75	$9.20
	Fresh	$8.70	$14.90	$10.10	$13.00	$15.80
	Processing	$6.40	$6.80	$9.25	$7.35	$7.40

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 3, 2011 compared to August 14, 2010 and continued into the week ending June 30, 2012 compared to June 25, 2011 last season. Fresh shipments totaled 2,997,377cwt for the 2011 crop compared to 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 week ending November 19 had shipments totaling 132,172 in 2011 compared to 153,261 cwt in 2010, 133,370 cwt in 2009. Three other holidays saw a jump in shipments Christmas with week ending December 17 at 107,847 cwt compared to 135,108 cwt in 2010. Martin Luther King's Birthday January 14 at 96,661 cwt compared to 143,573 cwt in 2010, and Easter week ending March 10 at 124,106 compared to 131,135 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

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

MARKETING LONG ISLAND POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, New York growers planted **16,500** acres of potatoes for the 2011 season, **300 more acres** for the previous season. Harvested acreage totaled 16,200 acres, 200 more than the record low 2010 season. However, production decreased to **a record low 4.050 million cwt, 21 percent below** the 2010 crop (5.120), **with an average lower yield of 250 cwt**, down from the previous seasons' record-breaking yield of 320 cwt for the 2010 season. Unofficial sources reported estimated planted **acreage** of potatoes of near 2,500 acres on Eastern Long Island. According to NASS, the average price for 2011 in New York totaled $15.70, an increase of $2.20 over the previous season ($13.50) while the value of production totaled $63.5 million dollars for the entire State (last year $69.1 million).

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Planting got underway the latter half of April due to cool temperatures and wet conditions. Scattered spring rains continued throughout the planting time, and continued through June with plenty of moisture and cloudy days reported. Oppressive heat occurred during the latter half of July, while a series of low pressure systems moved through the region during August, which triggered seasonable temperatures and scattered showers. A slow moving low pressure system brought heavy rainfall to the Island along with numerous power outages in late August, and the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Depression Lee affected harvest well into September. A few growers began light harvest for local deliveries in early August as frequent rain delays during the harvest of the nearby Delaware crop opened a window of opportunity to move some potatoes early. Frequent rain delays during harvest slowed progress and most growers finished near the end of October.

Marketing Season: The first F.O.B. Shipping Point prices of the 2011 season were established by the Market News Service during the last week of August. **Round White** U.S. One **50-pound sacks** size A sold for **$13.00**, much higher than the previous two seasons' start when 50s were reported from mostly **$7.00-7.50. Large size** offerings sold from $14.75-15.00 at the onset, **also much higher than the 2010**

later start of $9.50-10.00 in mid-September. Baled 10 5-pound sacks were much stronger early in the season with prices ranging from $15.25-15.75, compared to $9.25-9.50 the previous season start. By October 1st, prices had dropped $5.00 cwt. November prices slipped again as 50-pound sacks size A were reported from mostly $9.00-9.50 ($18-19 cwt) and large size $10.00-11.00 ($20-22 cwt), while baled 5s sold from mostly $11.00-12.00 ($22-24 cwt). Nevertheless, market prices had maintained a slight increase above the 2010 season prices, when size A 50s brought mostly $7.25 ($14.50 cwt.) and baled 5s sold from $8.75-9.50 per unit. Trading was fairly slow for most of the Long Island shipping season. Mid-November brought an uptick in demand due to the Thanksgiving holiday, but demand dropped quickly after the promotional rush. Prices remained fairly stable the rest of the shipping season in mid-to-late January 2012. The final prices of the season finished with size A 50s from $8.50-9.00 and large mostly $9.50-10.00, with baled 5s from mostly $11.00-12.00.

Movement: Although a few growers began packing earlier than normal, initial movement in August and September was only moderate, in contrast with the previous crop year, which began at a record pace. Peak volume (43 percent of the season) was shipped during November and December. Supplies began to tighten in December and by January, the remaining spuds were held in a few growers' hands. **The final movement report of the 2011 season was issued the end of February 2012 with nearly 1,315 loads recorded**. The final total for the 2010 season was issued at the end of January 2011 with approximately 1,400 loads shipped.

Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2011 for New York totaled **2.1 million cwt.**, down 16 percent from **the previous season total of 2.5** million cwt. Stocks on hand by variety were: Round White 93 percent, Round Red 5 percent and Yellow Type 2 percent. Total storage accounted for 52 percent of the potato crop, a slight increase from the prior year (49 percent).

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

2011 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, growers **planted 16,500** acres for the 2011 season, up 300 acres from the previous crop year. **Harvested** acres totaled 16,200, just above the record low 16,000 acres harvested one year earlier. Yields for 2011 of **250 cwt** per acre were lower than the **record 320 cwt** per acre in 2010. Consequently, **record low production** decreased sharply to **4,050 million cwt, 21 percent below** the 2010 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. Growers commented that their yields came up short to fulfill field contracts, with the Andover variety way below normal, only averaging 100-120 cwt per acre. According to NASS, the average price for the 2011 season totaled $15.70 per cwt, a healthy increase from the previous season ($13.50) with the value of production $63.5 million dollars ($69 million in 2010). Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 58.6 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 2010 season total of 54.5 million cwt.

Growing and Harvest Season: Planting was underway at the end of April. Cool, wet conditions prevailed for much of the planting season, with excessive rains delaying planting progress. By the end of May, only 58 percent of the crop had been planted, compared to the previous season's 81 percent and the 5-year average of 80 percent. Below normal temperatures were recorded throughout most of June in the planting regions, although planting was completed by July 4. Warmer temperatures and drier conditions during July spurred growth, although by the latter half of the month, dry soils and record heat slowed tuber development. Light harvesting got underway around August 1. Scattered showers prevailed in late August with heavy showers in the Eastern regions of the State. By Labor Day, harvest was 34 percent completed, behind the 5-year average of 44 percent. Much of September saw scattered thunderstorms and additional rainfall, including some hail and tornado turbulence. Tropical Storm Lee dropped heavy showers in the central region September 7-8. By October 1, harvest was only 59 percent completed compared to the five-year average of 72 percent. Harvest continued into early November.

Movement: Movement of out-of-the-field supplies began on schedule the week of August 7 and peaked mid-September to mid-October with less than expected yields. By the end of October, 45 percent of the total crop had been moved. According to the Market News Service**, movement for the 2011** season decreased from the previous 4 years and **totaled 1.9 million cwt, 21 percent below** the previous year's BIG yield (2.4 '000 cwt.) and largest reporting crop year in recent history. The season ended the end of April, 4-5 weeks earlier than past season. 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, 2011 totaled **2.1 million cwt, down 16 percent** from 2.5 million cwt the previous year. Storage accounted for 52 percent of the 2011 crop, up slightly from the previous season at 49 percent. By April 1, 500,000 cwt remained in storage, down slightly from the previous season's stocks on hand of 600,000 cwt. This figure represented 12 percent of storage potatoes for the past two seasons.

MARKETING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: Potatoes are generally grown in the Coastal Region of North Carolina from the Beaufort area north to the Elizabeth City area. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, harvested acreage of potatoes totaled 16,500 acres in 2011 compared to 15,000 acres in 2010 and 15,000 acres in 2009. Production finished at 2.81 million pounds compared to 2.92 million pounds in 2010 and 3.38 million pounds in 2009. In 2011 yield was 170 cwt per acre compared to 195 cwt in 2010 and 225 cwt in 2009.

Movement: According to the Market News Service, movement totaled 29.6 million pounds of table stock and an additional 222.0 million pounds of chip potatoes. The 2011 season started in mid-June, slightly earlier than the 2010 season, and wrapped up in late July, about the same as the previous year.

Growing and Harvest Season: During the months of February and January North Carolina received below normal precipitation. Average temperatures were below normal during January, but by the final week of February temperatures were above normal, ranging from 45-56 degrees. Overall, field work was limited due to continued cold, dry weather and winds. Spring planting preparations for Irish potatoes were not able to get underway until the month of March. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated at 4 percent very short, 18 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus. Planting wrapped up the week ending April 10 with 97 percent of the crop planted compared to 98 percent in 2010 and 97 percent for the five year average. Throughout much of the growing season the State experienced below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures causing stress to most crops. The week ending May 29 Irish potato crop conditions were rated as 1 percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 79 percent good, and 2 percent excellent by the USDA, NASS North Carolina Field Office. Harvest began in late June. By the week ending June 26, 54 percent of the crop had been harvested compared to 37 percent in 2010. By July 24, 100 percent of the Irish potato crop had been harvested compared to 99 percent in 2010 and 96 percent for the five year average.

Marketing Season: Prices this season for Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks were higher than the previous year. The first F.O.B. price report was on June 20, 2011. Round White U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks were $12.00 compared to the first price report of $7.00-8.00 in 2010. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $10.00-11.00 compared to $6.00-8.00 in 2010. The first F.O.B. price report for Round White U.S. No. One, size A tote bags approximately 2,000 pounds per hundredweight was on June 21, 2011 and ranged $20.00-22.00 compared to $14.00-18.00 in 2010. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $20.00-22.00. This compared to $12.00-14.00 in 2010. The first F.O.B. prices this season for Round Red U.S. No. One, size A and size B, 50-pound sacks were reported on June 28, 2011. Round Red U.S. No. One, size A 50-pound sacks were $16.00-20.00; size B were $17.00. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $16.00-20.00; size B $17.00. The first F.O.B. price report for Round Red U.S. No. One, size A tote bags approximately 2,000 pounds per hundredweight was on June 28, 2011 and ranged $30.00-34.00 compared to $26.00-30.00 in 2010. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $30.00-34.00. This compared to $30.00 in 2010. The first F.O.B. prices this season for 50-pound sacks of Yellow Type U.S. No. One, size A, were reported on July 1, 2011; size B were reported on July 7, 2011. Yellow Type, U.S. No. One, size A, 50-pound sacks were $21.00-24.00; size B were $12.00. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $21.00-24.00; size B $12.00. The first F.O.B. price report for Yellow Type U.S. No. One, size A tote bags approximately 2,000 pounds per hundredweight was on July 1, 2011 and ranged $42.00-46.00. The last prices reported were on July 14, 2011 at $36.00-42.00. Chip Potatoes are sold bulk per hundredweight and were marketed in 2011 generally on a contract basis. The contract price on Round White Atlantics 85% or better U.S. No. One bulk per cwt was $9.50-10.25 compared to $9.50-10.00 in 2010. No open market prices were reported to the Market News Service.

OHIO CHIPPING POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: Ohio growers **planted 2,000 acres** in 2011, 200 less than 2010 and 300 less than in 2009. **Harvested** potato acreage dropped to **1,700 acres, down 400 acres** the last two seasons, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. This low figure again set a new record low **number of harvested acres in the State** since record-keeping began in 1866. **Yield decreased and** was recorded at **250 cwt per acre**, down from 290 cwt per acre one year earlier, and a 25 percent drop from the record-setting high in 2009 (335 cwt per acre). **Production fell** 25 percent to **459,000 cwt** from last season's 609,000 cwt. The predominant growing areas in the State were western Ohio, from Findlay north to Toledo and south of Cleveland and in the Wooster area. According to NASS, the average price for the 2011 calendar year remained the same as the previous year at $12.30 per cwt, with the value of production of $5.6 million dollars ($7.5 million dollars in 2010).

Movement: The 2011 State's chipping potato movement dropped sharply to only 56,114 cwt. for the season, down 62 percent from the previous season total of **148,434 cwt,** according to the Market News Service. Contracts were only for field supplies, with few supplies meant for storage. The season got underway in early August and was completed by the end of December 2011, several weeks ahead of the normal finishing time in mid-March. No open market sales were reported during the season as growers grew only previously contracted volume.

Growing Season: Planting got a later than normal start mid-April, due to cool temperatures and wet field conditions. By the end of the month, only 4 per cent of the crop had been planted, compared to 47 percent the previous year and 37 percent for the five-year average. Warmer temperatures slowly arrived in mid-May, although excess moisture continued to slow field activity. Continued wet conditions plagued planting progress the rest of the month; only 40 percent of potatoes had been planted at month's end, compared to 78 percent the previous year and the five-year average of 83 percent. Planting continued the rest of June with adequate moisture and average temperatures, several days later than a normal season. A prolonged heat wave occurred much of July, and a few growers began early harvest towards the end of the month.

Harvesting Season: Initial harvest was underway the latter half of July, under a prolonged heat wave. Scattered showers during the latter half of August brought some welcome relief to warm temperatures. Potatoes harvested rose to 39 percent, compared to 59 percent the previous year and the 5-year average of 33 percent. September and October showers again slowed the harvest. By mid-October, 95 percent of the harvest was completed.

PENNSYLVANIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2011 CROP

Statistics: Pennsylvania **harvested 7,800 acres** of potatoes, 1,200 acres less than the previous season and another record for the lowest harvested acreage on record, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Planted acreage totaled 9,200 acres, 300 and 800 acres less than the previous two seasons. Approximately 3,000 acres were planted in chipping potatoes, with the predominant plantings in the Northwestern, East Central and Central districts of the state. Production of 2 **million cwt** dropped 9 percent (2.2 million cwt) from the previous crop year and 39 percent (2.9 million cwt) from the 2009 season**.** Yields for 2011 of **260 cwt per acre** were also down 15 cwt from the previous season and 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 2011 calendar year potato crop was $12.10 cwt, the same as the previous year, while the value of production totaled $24.5 million dollars for the year, down 8 percent from the 2010 season total of $26.6 million dollars.

Growing Season: Planting was underway by near the end of April; however, heavy Spring rains slowed progress. By mid-May, only 30 percent of planting had been completed, compared to 84 percent the previous year and the 5-year average of 72 percent. Showers continued through the month. Planting continued into the latter half of June, well behind a normal schedule. Drier weather and warm temperatures boosted tuber development. Hot, dry conditions prevailed during July, while August brought scattered showers, warm temperatures and hail storms. The impact of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm late in August brought record-breaking flooding that destroyed some potato fields and significantly reduced the crop.

Harvesting Season: Light harvest of field supplies began the first week of August. By the week ending September 11, 29 percent of the crop had been harvested, behind a year ago (25 percent) and the five-year average of 37 percent. Little progress was made the rest of the month due to wet fields, as between 20-30 inches was recorded for the month. Flash flooding occurred in early October in major production areas along the Susquehanna River Valley. Harvest slowed due to wet fields, scattered frosts well into early November. Some of the crop was left in the fields.

Shipments peaked with field supplies late August through mid-October. The shipping season concluded earlier than normal and was completed mid-March with a total of **595,937 cwt, a steep decline of 35 percent** from the previous year (909,930 cwt) according to the Market News Service. This was the State's smallest potato crop on record. 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

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington planted acreage was 160,000 acres in 2011, a 19 percent increase from 2010s 135,000 acres. Washington's yield per acre in 2011 was 610 hundredweight (cwt), an 8 percent decrease from 2010s yield of 660 cwt. Washington's production in 2011 was 97,600,000 cwt, a 10 percent increase from 2010s production of 88,440,000 cwt. Umatilla Basin Oregon planted & harvested acreage was 10,600 acres in 2011, a 6 percent increase from 2010s planted and harvested acreage of 10,000. Umatilla Basin Oregon's yield in 2011 was 619 cwt per acre, a 5 percent decrease from 2010s yield of 650 cwt per acre. Umatilla Basin Oregon's production in 2011 was 6,561,000 cwt, a slight increase from 2010s production of 6,500,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments for the 2011 season for Columbia Basin Washington were 8,540,000 cwt, of which 1,874,000 cwt were exports. This was an 8 percent increase from 2010s shipments of 7,871,000 cwt, of which 1,506,000 cwt were exports. Shipments for the 2010 season for Umatilla Basin Oregon were 1,979,000 cwt, of which 287,000 cwt were exports. This was a 7 percent increase from 2010s shipments of 1,854,000 cwt, of which 322,000 cwt were exports.
The peak shipping month was August 2011 with 1,389,000 cwt shipped for the Columbia Basin Washington, and July 2012 with 215,000 cwt shipped for Umatilla Basin Oregon.

Crop & Weather: In the Columbia Basin, typical January weather prevailed with night-time temperatures below freezing and thawing during the days. Temperatures for the month of February in Franklin County were at times normal, above normal, with a record high on February 12, 2011 of 66 degrees, and a few days the end of the month at below normal. There was some tractor and implement readying at the far south-end of the County for early potatoes. Planting got underway in March in several eastern counties. Thirteen percent of the crop was planted compared to 14 percent in 2010. Farming activity in Franklin County began feverishly, with the ground being worked up for potatoes. In Grant County, planting was expected to begin in the southern portions of the County.

During the weekending April 3, planting was delayed due to unseasonable cool and wet conditions throughout the State. The average daily temperatures the first full week of April was 4-5 degrees below normal Statewide. Planting was halfway complete in Benton and Franklin Counties. In mid-April, the crop began to emerge slightly ahead of last year's pace. Weather in Franklin County was another week of below normal temperatures and light showers. Several mornings the temperatures dipped into the upper 20s. Normal fieldwork and crop planting continued throughout the week. In Grant County, planting was underway. Walla Walla County saw lots of wind accompanied by on and off rains. A little drying on the surface allowed fieldwork to begin. Temperatures were very mild to cooler than normal for the week. Planting was late for the year and crop's growth was well behind schedule. During the weekending April 24, Franklin County temperatures were cooler than normal all week with every morning below freezing. There was only a trace of precipitation with several strong gusty days. Potatoes were slowly emerging, due to the cold temperatures. Walla Walla County saw dry, windy weather which brought on a flurry of fieldwork. However, many places were still too wet to get much planted. There were a couple days that were below freezing and growers worried that it could affect some crops. By the end of April, potatoes were 75 percent planted compared to 79 percent in 2010. There was 9 percent emergence compared to 14 percent in 2010.

By mid-May, planting in the central counties was very close to completion. During weekending May 22, potatoes were really starting to come up in Franklin County. In Klickitat County, a late frost came early in the week when the low dipped into the upper 20s. Some home gardeners saw early potatoes burned by the frost. By the end of the month, 94 percent of the crop had been planted and 50 percent had emerged.

Planting was generally complete in the Columbia Basin in mid-June. By the end of June, potato rows were hilled in Klickitat County home gardens.

Light harvest began during the weekending July 10. In Franklin County, some of the acreage was killed in preparation for digging. In Klickitat County, rows were blooming in home gardens. Mid-July saw harvest begin in Benton and Franklin Counties. By the end of July, Columbia Basin harvest was 9 percent complete compared to 14 percent in 2010.

Harvest made progress the first week of August in Franklin and Benton Counties at about 15 percent harvested. In Franklin County, the area received no rain and generally all sunshine with warm to hot days. The crop looked good in Walla Walla County. Weather in the Columbia Basin remained hot and dry throughout August which was ideal for harvest. By the end of the month, harvest was 31 percent complete compared to 28 percent in 2010.

The hot, dry conditions continued into September. During the weekending September 11, Franklin County harvest was about 40 percent complete. In mid-September, Klickitat County had an abundance of root crops, including potatoes that were ready for harvest and storage. The weekending September 25 saw the biggest jump in harvest in several weeks (15 percent) and 56 percent of the crop was harvested. The last week of September found harvest at 63 percent complete. In Franklin County, potatoes were harvested with exceptional weather to do so. Harvest was in full-swing in Grant County. In Kittitas County, potatoes were still being harvested but growers wanted to finish up fairly soon as the weather pattern was expected to change with a fairly significant low pressure system moving in with measurable rain.

Harvest progressed nicely and was nearly 80 percent complete the first part of October. It continued through the month and into November. It was generally complete mid-November.

In the Umatilla Basin in Oregon, warm, wet weather prevailed the end of March, but it was nothing too out of the ordinary. Cool, wet conditions continued through April with a few warmer, drier days appearing the end of the month and the first of May. Weather finally started to warm up mid-May. However, wet, cold, and rainy condition returned during the weekending May 22. Planting and maturity for spring planted crops were still behind schedule.

The area started to get warmer weather mid-June. Even though the temperatures were warming up, the rain still plagued growers. Finally by the end of June, conditions were both warmer and drier.

Early harvest began the first of July. Potatoes were in good condition in mid-August. Hot weather with almost no precipitation the third week of August announce the very late arrival of summer to the Umatilla Basin. Harvest continued with average yields. Harvest continued through September and into the very beginning of October with summer-like conditions. Fall conditions prevailed during the weekending October 9 with cooler temperatures and rain throughout the week. Harvest continued through October with cool, fall-like temperatures and rain. Harvest was generally complete by the end of October.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the weekending July 23, 2011. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $16.00-18.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 20, 2011 at $16.00-18.00.

The first report of Yellow Type was issued during weekending July 23, 2011. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $18.00. The last report was issued the weekending August 20, 2011 at $18.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 6, 2011. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $20.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 21, 2012 at $ 7.00.

MARKETING NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON POTATOES

2011 CROP

Production:

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 961,441 cwt shipped out of the total 1,629,109 cwt shipped. Long White accounted for 292,776 and Yellow Type 297,835 cwt. Mount Vernon shippers started shipping on week ending September 17, 2011 and finished on week ending June 30, 2012. The week ending November 19 just prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday saw the biggest volume shipped at 92,551 cwt.

Marketing: Long White, Round Red and Yellow Type prices were collected starting week ending September 24, 2011. Yellow Type ended week ending February 11, 2012; Round Red ended week ending May 19, 2012; and Long White ended week ending December 17, 2011.

Long Whites: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $24.00 per carton and closed at $20.00-22.00. They never traded lower than week ending November 12-December 17 at $20.00-22.00 and traded highest week ending September 24-October 29.

Round Reds: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $22.00-24.00 per carton then closed at $10.00. They never traded higher than the first three weeks and traded lowest on the last week.

Yellow Type: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $22.00-24.00 per carton closed at $16.00-20.00. They never traded higher September 24-December 31 and traded lowest at the last week.

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 in 2011. 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

2011 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wisconsin potato planted acreage in 2011 was 63,000 acres, more than 2010s 62,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2011 was 62,000 acres, more than 2010s 61,500 acres. Yield per acres was 400 hundredweight (cwt) in 2011, an increase from 2010s yield of 395 cwt. Production in 2011 was 25,200,000 cwt, a four percent increase from 2010s production of 24,293,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments from Central Wisconsin in 2011 were 6,458,000, a five percent increase from 2010 shipments of 6,129,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was November at 865,000 cwt. All of the potatoes were shipped by truck. There are no rail shipments out of Wisconsin.

Crop & Weather: Wet fields greeted producers during the week ending April 11th when planting began. Average temperatures were 10 degrees below to normal with 1-2 inches of snow weekending April 18th. Sandy soils in the central part of the state allowed some planting to continue, but winter weather was around through the end of the month. Potato planting was reported to be late in most areas at the end of April.

During the first week of May rainfall arrived, about 2 inches in many parts of the state. Average high temperatures ranged from 54-57 degrees by weekending May 2nd. Potato planting continues to progress during the week ending May 9th across the northern parts of the state. Warmer conditions during the week ending May 23 allowed for the first signs of emergence with planting in northern areas continuing at a good pace.

The beginning of June saw summer like weather and above average temperatures helping some producers. By the week ending June 20th rainfall covered most of the state with some areas getting over 5 inches this week. The rain brought cooler temperatures throughout the state. The week ending June 27 saw cooler temperatures again across the state. By the end of June, potatoes were blooming and showing good, if slow, growth.

By mid-July, potatoes were doing well with a late arriving bloom in most of the central part of the state. The wet, cool spring made for later than average harvest of all varieties. Most of July saw above average high temperatures ranged from 79 to 84 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 63 to 66 degrees during weekending July 18th.

Fresh potato harvest began in earnest in the middle of August. Weekending August 1st saw rain throughout the state with central areas getting 4-6 inches. It wasn't until weekending August 15th that the heat wave finally broke a cooler than normal temperatures arrived. Harvest continued throughout the month of August and into September. By weekending September 11th, harvest was just starting in two west-central Wisconsin counties, while late harvest was underway in the central part of the state. Harvest continued through weekending October 11th.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the week-ending August 20, 2011. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $16.00-17.50. The last report was issue during the week ending February 18, 2012 at $12.50-14.00-10.00.

The first report of Round Whites was issued during the week ending August 20, 2011. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $11.00-11.50. The last report was issued during the week ending September 8, 2011 at $11.00-13.00 with a mostly $11.00-11.50.

No reports for Yellow Types were issued during the 2011 shipping season.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the week ending August 20, 2011. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $23.00-24.00. The last report was issued during the week ending July 7, 2012 with 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s at $10.00-11.00, mostly $11.00.

No prices were issued for chipper potatoes in the 2011 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 VIRGINIA POTATOES

2011 CROP

Harvesting & Marketing: Harvest of the 2011 Virginia potato crop began in mid-June although supplies were very light until later in the month. Virginia Market News Service began reporting shipping point prices on June 22, 2011 with the first F.O.B. Eastern Shore price quoted at $12.00 per 50-pound sack of Round White, U.S. One, Size A potatoes. From the very beginning of the harvest, demand was good for Round White potatoes due to lighter than normal supplies in competing areas. On June 28, 2011 prices increased to $13.00 and by the end of the month, sales were reported in a range of $13.00-14.00. Throughout early July, the price was $14.00 before increasing again in the middle of the month. On July 18, 2011 the price increased to $15.00 per 50-pound sack. The last reported price was on July 25, 2011. By July 26, supplies were light and in too few hands to report as practically all growers had finished harvesting. Market conditions for Virginia Round White potatoes were excellent in 2011. The major reason for the improved market conditions for Virginia potatoes was a significant decrease in supplies of storage potatoes combined with problems and harvest delays in many competing spring and summer growing areas.

Prices for the large 2¾ to 4½ inch "Chef" Round White potatoes were first reported on June 22, 2011 at $15.00 per 50-pound sack. Prices increased to $16.00 on June 28, 2011 as demand was good. Chef prices remained at $16.00 until mid-July when they increased to $17.00. The final reported price was $17.00 per 50-pound sack on July 25, 2011.

Russet potatoes continue to be an important crop for many Virginia growers. Demand for Virginia Russets was generally good throughout 2011. 50-pound sacks of Size A Russets started the season at $12.00 compared to mostly $8.00 in 2010 and $6.00-8.00 in 2009. Later in the season, prices for 50-pound sacks of Size A Russets were as high as $15.00. Prices for tote bags began the season at $24.00 per hundredweight compared to $16.00 per hundredweight in 2010 and $10.00-14.00 per hundredweight in 2009. Throughout most of the month of July, Russet tote prices were mostly $25.00-27.00 per hundredweight before ending the season as high as $28.00-30.00.

Round Red prices were first reported in 2011 on June 24, 2011 at $16.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One Size A and $17.00 for Size B. Demand was good for Red potatoes throughout the season. Round Red prices increased to $17.00 for Size A and $19.00-20.00 for Size B on June 28. By June 30, prices increased to $20.00 for Size A and $22.00 for Size B. Throughout the rest of Virginia's 2011 season, prices remained at $20.00 for Size A and $22.00 for Size B. Demand for Round Red potatoes exceeded supplies throughout the summer of 2011 and the result was high prices and good movement.

Yellow flesh potato prices were first reported on July 5, 2011 at $24.00-25.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One Size A. Demand for Yellow flesh potatoes was not as good as for Round White and Round Red and as a result, prices began to fall. Prices were $23.00-24.00 on July 7 and dropped to mostly $22.00 on July 11. By July 12, the price was mostly $20.00 and remained at that level for the rest of the season. Demand for Yellow flesh potatoes was generally moderate throughout the season.

Weather: Weather conditions created some challenges for Virginia potato growers during 2011. Extremely dry conditions during spring forced growers to irrigate heavily to keep the crop in good condition. The combined rainfall recorded at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Center in Painter during April and May was only 3.21 inches which was less than half of the 71-year average. Although growers irrigated as much as possible, the dry conditions lowered yields for the crop. Yields in irrigated fields were decent although in some areas, yields were significantly lower than average.

After facing dry weather during spring, many growers on the Eastern Shore, particularly in Northampton County, later experienced extremely wet conditions. Rainfall recorded at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Center in Painter during June totaled 10.28 inches which was nearly three times the 71-year average. In fact, it was the highest recorded June rainfall since records were available in 1940. The heavy rainfall slowed the harvest of potatoes and many growers were unable to harvest the crop for extended periods of time due to the wet conditions. While growers in Northampton County received excessive rainfall, conditions remained dry in much of Accomack County.

<u>Production & Quality</u>: Total Virginia production in 2011 was estimated at 1,180,000 hundredweight (cwt) by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to 952,000 cwt in 2010, 1,656,000 cwt in 2009, 1,254,000 cwt in 2008 and 1,134,000 cwt in 2007. Although dry conditions in 2011 caused yields to be lower than average, they were an improvement from the drought conditions of 2010.

Despite challenging weather conditions, Virginia growers were able to produce a good quality crop. By irrigating during the dry conditions, growers were able to reduce crop losses. Later in the year, heavy rainfall did cause problems in some areas. Growers were fortunate that temperatures remained moderate following the rainfall as extremely hot conditions combined with wet fields could have led to more serious quality issues. Heat did become an issue later in the year but most of the crop was harvested by that time.

<u>Shipments</u>: Shipments of Virginia potatoes were up significantly in 2011 when compared to 2010. Approximately 1,732 truck lot equivalents (50,000 pound) were shipped in 2011 compared to 1,169 in 2010. The increase in shipments was a result of excellent movement and a decrease in crop losses compared to 2010. Weather conditions were so severe in 2010 that there were significant crop losses whereas fast movement of the crop helped growers reduce losses in 2011.

Shipments during June 2011 accounted for nearly 17 percent of the crop compared to 9 percent in 2010. July 2011 shipments represented nearly 80 percent of the crop compared to 90 percent in 2010. Approximately 3 percent of the crop was shipped in August 2011 compared to less than 1 percent in 2010.

<u>Markets & Competition</u>: Virginia potato growers were helped by the fact that supplies of potatoes in competing areas were down significantly during the summer of 2011. Supplies of storage potatoes in June were down approximately 35 percent which led to decreased competition from the western states. The decrease in storage potatoes led to good movement for new crop potatoes in Florida which allowed them to finish harvesting in a timely manner. In addition, cold weather delayed planting in most northern growing areas and caused harvesting in those areas to start later than normal. The result was a longer than normal marketing window for Virginia potatoes. Additionally, North Carolina faced extremely dry conditions which limited supplies from one of Virginia's main competitors. Finally, areas in the Midwest suffered heavy rain and flooding which significantly reduced supplies in those areas. The decrease of supplies in many competing areas improved demand for Virginia potatoes and led to an excellent marketing year.

Canada has typically been an important market for Virginia potato growers in the past but unfortunately, shipments to Canada have been relatively low during the previous few years. Fortunately, demand from Canada did improve in 2011. Virginia potato growers shipped 170 loads (50,000 pounds) to Canada in 2011, compared to only 60 loads in 2010, 108 loads in 2009, 61 loads in 2008 and 94 loads in 2007. It was the highest total shipped to Canada since 2006 when 187 loads were exported. Over the past five years, Virginia growers have shipped an average of nearly 100 loads per year to Canada. Planting and harvest delays in Canada as well as an overall decrease in storage potatoes led to the increase in shipments to Canada in 2011.

VIGINIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2011 CROP

Chipstock potatoes continue to be a very important part of Virginia's potato crop and in 2011 they represented nearly 45 percent of the total shipments. Chipstock potatoes were sold primarily based on preseason contracts and were mostly $10.50-11.00 per hundredweight (cwt). The same supply shortages that helped the tablestock market also influenced the chipstock market. Reduced supplies of storage potatoes, heavy losses due to flooding in major chipstock areas in the Midwest, decreased 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 shortage of chipstock potatoes, a few early open market sales were made as high as $20.00 per cwt. As supplies began to increase, open market prices dropped to near contract levels at $11.00 per cwt. Later, as supplies in North Carolina and Virginia began to decline and it became apparent that the northern areas of New Jersey and Michigan weren't ready to harvest, growers tried to get the price back up to $20.00 per cwt level. Chippers balked at paying $20.00 and some sales were made at $16.00 per cwt. A few sales late in the season were as high as $17.00-17.50 per cwt. Demand was very good for chipstock potatoes in 2011. One grower stated it was the best movement for chipstock potatoes that he could remember.

Varieties: Of the 135.9 loads (50,000 pound) of seed imported and inspected during the 2011 season, Superiors accounted for over 18 percent of the total, once again making it the most popular of all varieties grown in Virginia. The next most popular Round White tablestock potato was the Envol, an early maturing variety. Envols accounted for over 7 percent of potatoes planted in 2011 and it was the fifth most popular of all varieties grown.

Chipping varieties accounted for the second, third and sixth most popular with Atlantic at 12 percent, Snowden at percent% and FL-1867, a Frito Lay variety, at 5 percent. A variety that saw a big increase in 2011 was the Beacon Chipper and was ranked twelfth at nearly 3 percent.

Use of Russet potatoes increased slightly in 2011 following a significant decrease in 2010. Russet varieties accounted for over 15 percent of the potatoes planted in 2011 compared to 12 percent in 2010, 21 percent in 2009, 20 percent in 2008 and 13 percent in 2007. The top Russet varieties included the fourth ranked Norkotah at nearly 8 percent and ninth ranked Gold Rush at 4.5 percent.

Red potatoes continue to play an important role for Virginia potato growers with the Dark Red Norland the eleventh most popular at 3.1 percent, the Red Norland ranked thirteenth at 2.7 percent and the Red Lasoda fourteenth at 2.2 percent. All Red varieties accounted for 9.4 percent in 2011 compared to 9.7 percent in 2010. Red potatoes have ranged between 7 percent and 10 percent since 2003 after accounting for a high of 14 percent in 2002.

The Yellow flesh Yukon Gold was the tenth most popular at 3.4 percent, down from 4.2 percent in 2010 but up from approximately 2 percent in 2009. The Satina variety accounted for 1.3 percent in 2011 compared to 1.7 percent in 2010. Yellow flesh varieties accounted for 6.3 percent of the potatoes grown in 2011 compared to nearly 8 percent in 2010. Between 2002 and 2009, Yellow potatoes ranged between 4 and 6 percent after accounting for a high of 9 percent in 2001.

VIRGINIA SEED POTATOES
2011 CROP

Virginia Seed Potato Import Record: Receipts of seed potatoes by varieties for Accomack and Northampton Counties. Amounts are 50,000 pound units.

	2011	2010	2009	2008
Superior	25.03	34.64	29.40	20.95
Atlantic	16.18	16.48	9.24	10.70
Snowden	10.97	10.57	8.12	6.07
Norkotah	10.50	6.95	17.55	10.50
Envol	9.99	13.15	15.61	10.49
FL-1867	7.00	9.00	10.00	11.10
LaChipper	7.00	-----	-----	-----
Andover	6.88	3.39	6.93	6.61
Gold Rush	6.16	7.08	8.01	7.25
Yukon Gold	4.64	5.75	2.54	4.14
Dark Red Norland	4.14	1.98	0.50	3.29
Beacon Chipper	3.80	0.72	0.94	-----
Red Norland	3.62	5.18	4.74	5.13
Red Lasoda	2.96	2.60	1.60	0.88
Silverton	2.61	2.60	0.88	1.58
FL-2053	1.90	1.00	-----	-----
Satina	1.80	2.32	3.03	1.76
Peribonka	1.65	-----	0.85	0.84
Eva	1.57	3.08	0.86	-----
Marcy	1.53	-----	-----	-----
Vivaldi	1.37	0.56	-----	-----
Villetta Rose	1.12	1.62	1.80	0.73
FL-2126	1.00	-----	-----	-----
Nordonna	0.88	-----	0.52	-----
Augusta	0.77	-----	-----	-----
Classic Russet	0.41	-----	-----	-----
Langlade	0.40	-----	-----	-----
Sylvana	0.04	-----	-----	-----
Reba	-----	1.87	-----	2.01
Modoc	-----	1.70	1.88	0.04
Norwis	-----	0.94	6.39	-----
Keuka Gold	-----	0.94	0.51	-----
Lehigh	-----	0.90	0.55	-----
Dakota Crisp	-----	0.48	0.86	-----
Innovator	-----	-----	0.86	-----
Rio Grande	-----	-----	0.83	-----
Gala	-----	-----	0.16	0.03
Blazer Russet	-----	-----	-----	1.06
Total	**135.9**	**135.5**	**135.2**	**105.2**

Seed Potatoes Imports by Origin: Maine continued to be the leading supplier of seed potatoes to Virginia in 2011. Maine shipped slightly over 50 percent of the seed that was inspected during the 2011 season which was an increase from 2009 and 2010 but was still lower than most of the previous years. Shipments from Maine accounted for 48 percent in 2010, 40 percent in 2009, 57 percent in 2008, 57 percent in 2007 and 52 percent in 2006. Seed shipments from Canada increased in 2011 to over 33 percent making it was the second most popular origin. In 2010, approximately 29 percent of the seed originated from Canada compared to 40 percent in 2009, 24 percent in 2008, 25 percent in 2007 and 30 percent in 2006. Of the Canadian seed shipped in 2011, 59 percent came from New Brunswick with 24 percent from Quebec and 17 percent from Prince Edward Island. Wisconsin was the third most popular origin at approximately 10 percent compared to 13 percent in 2010, 9 percent in 2009, 12 percent in 2008, 8 percent in 2007 and 5 percent in 2006. Seed from New York accounted for less than 5 percent in 2011, compared to 10 percent in 2010, 9 percent in 2009, 7 percent in 2008, 10 percent in 2007 and 12 percent in 2006. Other states that shipped seed potatoes to the growers on the Eastern Shore included North Dakota and Michigan.

MARKETING NEW BRUNSWICK POTATOES

2011 CROP

Production: According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick potato production decreased sharply to **11.9 million hundredweight**, **down 21 percent** from the 2010 season total of 15.1 million cwt and 14.7 million cwt from the 2009 season. The July 2012 production report placed harvested acreage **at 48,500 acres,** 2.800 acres below 2010 levels and 6,000 acres under 2009 statistics. **Yields decreased** (50 cwt) to **245 cwt per acre** from the previous crop year and 25 cwt less than the 2009 season (270 cwt). Total **Canadian production of nearly 92** million cwt was **down 5 percent and 9 percent** respectively from the previous two crop years. This was the smallest crop since the 1991 season.

Movement: Disappearance through November 2011 was 34 percent behind the 2010 crop year pace. Early fresh movement (September-December) to the U.S. **(588,651 cwt.**) was down 22 percent from the same time frame as the previous season total (754,040 cwt.) These figures were compiled with data issued from the U.S. Commerce Department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and finalized by Statistics Canada. The season total through **July 2012 of 1.5 million cwt**. decreased sharply (43 percent) from the 2010 season through the same date (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 percent of production devoted to this market.

Growing and Harvest Season: Initial planting was off to a usual start the end of April; however, cool and wet conditions delayed major planting progress for about two weeks. Planting was completed by early June. Much of the growing season was plagued with cooler than normal temperatures and wetter than normal conditions. Emergence was slower than normal as well, running up to two weeks behind a normal schedule. A hail storm on July 12, 2011 occurred across the northern potato belt, causing severe damage to over 40 growers' potato fields. Late blight, rot and other water-related issues were prevalent in the crop. Initial light harvest of Round white and Yellows was underway in early September for domestic usage, while Russet harvest commenced mid-month. Additional rainfall occurred as a result of

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in September, which delayed harvest further due to saturated soils. October brought cooler temperatures, some frost and a massive storm by the end of the month.

Marketing Season: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Market News Service issued the first F.O.B. shipping report on Russet Norkotah mid-November with U.S. One or Canada No. One washed 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum baled 10 5-pound film bags from $9.25-9.50, well above the previous season's start in late-October 2011 with prices from $7.50-8.00. Baled 5 10-pound film bags trailed the 5s price by .50-1.00 cents for much of the season. Prices were fairly flat until early March, when the market allowed a slightly bump to $9.50-10.00 mostly $10.00. Another market increase was felt the end of April when other local and East Coast supplies cleaned up; baled 5s rose to $10.50-10.75 to finish the season in early May. A few growers continued to pack light supplies through July for the U.S. and the Canadian market. Tote bags continued their popularity as Russet Norkotah U.S. One or Canada No. One tote bags (approximately 2000 pounds) were shipped to the States 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum at mostly $12.50 cwt at the onset. By the first of the New Year, tote prices firmed to $13.50 cwt. with moderate demand. Sales slowed for much of February and prices slipped .50 cents. In late February, 4-9 ounce totes brought $14.50-14.75 and continued to climb to $17.00-17.50 in late March, where the market remained stable through the last report issued by the Market News Service in early May, which was earlier than a normal season. A few growers held supplies and packed light volume for the fresh market through July. Carton demand was sluggish for most of the season, with only a few shippers packing for the U.S. market. No F.O.B. shipping point prices were reported. Many growers and packers were disappointed with the weak marketing opportunities in the U.S. market and the smaller provincial crop due to weather related growing conditions.

Stocks on hand: New Brunswick's potato **holdings on December 1, 2011** totaled **11.392 million cwt**, down nearly **9 percent** from December 2010 holdings of 12.479 million cwt**. The December holdings were the lowest reported in 20 years.** By June 1, **stocks** on hand for the province fell sharply to 653,000 cwt, compared to 4 million cwt for the previous year. Total Canada stocks at the same time of 11 million cwt were down sharply (30 percent) from the previous year's total of nearly 15.8 million cwt. A few fresh shippers continued to pack very lightly for the U.S. market through July.

Commodity Name	POTATOES

Sum of 100000lb units	Column Labels													
Row Labels	**Aug-11**	**Sep-11**	**Oct-11**	**Nov-11**	**Dec-11**	**Jan-12**	**Feb-12**	**Mar-12**	**Apr-12**	**May-12**	**Jun-12**	**Jul-12**	**Aug-12**	**Grand Total**
ARIZONA	7									288	104	28		427
CALIFORNIA-CENTRAL	335	223	42	32	113	160	179	77		620	1506	1452	470	5209
CALIFORNIA-IMPERIAL VAL								81	283	194	47			605
CALIFORNIA-NORTH	27	4	69	94	87	80	78	105	69	76	66	59	56	870
CALIFORNIA-SOUTH	137	85	52	15	52	58	42	38				21	112	612
CANADA	248	38	647	598	562	557	506	505	454	418	182	104	3	4822
COLORADO	609	1345	1313	1689	1653	1264	1341	1435	1195	1328	1123	791	462	15548
DELAWARE	90	50										40	96	276
FLORIDA							253	713	854	1033	412			3265
IDAHO	2098	2642	2805	3093	3092	2966	2747	3131	2684	2948	3020	2801	2382	36409
KANSAS	549	71	35	30								216	304	1205
MAINE	12	48	90	276	353	275	278	250	144	52	21	10	6	1815
MICHIGAN	28	181	173	273	269	248	233	250	167	85	38	5	8	1958
MINNESOTA	759	596	198	172	154	143	57	72	58	36	14	110	642	3011
NEBRASKA	102	365	278	258	154	141	92	204	182	188	138		349	2451
NEVADA		54	98	97	106	98	92	106	88	96	105	74	87	1101
NEW MEXICO		48	163	101	101	91	71	132	132	58	1		1	899
NEW YORK	44	107	97	147	102	48	14						19	578
NORTH CAROLINA											158	129		287
NORTH DAKOTA		99	262	334	345	309	326	366	222	139	80			2482
OREGON	198	158	252	347	355	319	303	339	269	278	279	266	306	3669
PERU									0					0
TEXAS	465	337	279	173	198	182	170	0			52	265	482	2603
VIRGINIA	3										145	411	78	637
WASHINGTON	1452	1307	972	909	887	746	631	773	664	713	649	562	1167	11432
WISCONSIN	389	628	608	866	704	639	580	560	432	423	298	235	445	6807
Grand Total	**7552**	**8386**	**8433**	**9504**	**9287**	**8324**	**7993**	**9137**	**7897**	**8973**	**8438**	**7579**	**7475**	**108978**