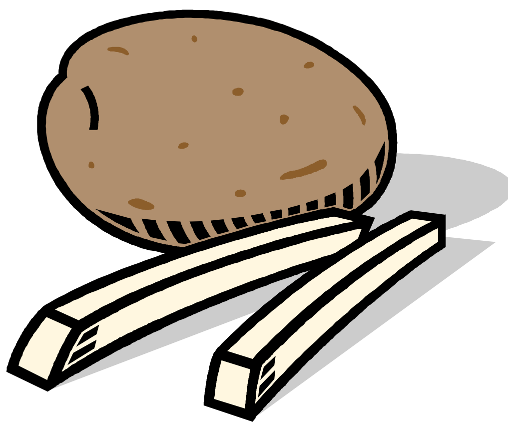
Marketing U.S. Potatoes

2008 Crop



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Market News Service

Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Cooperating with

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

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Foreword

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

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

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

The U.S. Potato Monthly Shipments 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 subscription for mail or fax service. To subscribe to this report call 208-525-0166. It is also available on the Web at http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/idop.pdf

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

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MARKETING KERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA SPRING POTATOES

2008 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
5 year average	15,540	418	6,520,400	$11.92	78,390,200
change from 2007 to 2008	92%	106%	98%	108%	106%
change from ave to 2008	92%	101%	92%	92%	84%
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					

***Includes Chip Stock

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

Kern County Spring Potato Acreage				
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**% change**
Lone White	1,932	1,826	1,679	92%
Round Red	1,686	2,047	1,960	98%
Russet	3,968	4,030	3,292	82%
Yellow Type	1,068	1,365	1,431	105%
Chipper	3,402	3,745	3,640	97%
Total Acreage	12,056	13,013	12,002	92%
*Please note: One major Kern County Packing Shed does not publicly release their acreage, therefore, it is not included in these totals.				

KERN DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA POTATO SHIPMENTS

	2007 Spring Crop	2008 Spring Crop
Purple Type	50,400 cwt	47,600 cwt
Yellow Type	384,300 cwt	446,300 cwt
Long White	606,600 cwt	643,300 cwt
Round Red	559,300 cwt	718,700 cwt
Russet	1,005,800 cwt	882,000 cwt
Rail/piggy-back	1,232,000 cwt	1,105,400 cwt
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	**3,838,400 cwt**	**3,897,800 cwt**

Shipments: Local Kern county shipments started weekending May 26 and continued until weekending July 26.

Kern District Potato Shipments
2008 Spring Crop

		CWT	percentage
Truck Shipments	Purple/fingerling	93,300	3%
	Yellow Type	446,300	16%
	Long White	643,300	23%
	Round Red	718,700	26%
	Russet	882,000	32%
	Round Red/Yellow Flesh	2,200	
	Mixed Varieties	6,600	
	TOTAL TRUCK	**2,792,400**	
	Rail	1,105,400	28%
	TOTAL	**3,897,800**	

Marketing:

The 2008 season was the second the shippers ask for and received an additional handling fee of 45 cents per carton/bale.

Long Whites: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $12.45-14.45 per carton on weekending May 10, then closed at $16.45-18.45 on weekending July 12. They never traded lower than weekending May 31 and traded highest on the last week of the season.

Round Reds: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $12.45-14.45 per carton on weekending May 10, then closed at $16.45-18.45 on weekending July 12. They never traded higher than the last week and traded lowest on weekending June 7 through June 21 at $10.45.

Yellow Type: 50-pound carton size A, U.S. One opened at $18.45-20.55 per carton on weekending May 10, then closed at $16.45 on weekending July 12. They never traded higher than the first week and traded lowest at $15.45-16.45 on week ending June 7.

Russet Norkotah: U.S. One size A baled 5 10-pound film bags opened at $10.30 on weekending June 14, and closed at $10.30-11.30 on weekending July 19. They never traded higher than $10.30-12.30 on the last week of the season and never traded lower than $10.30. U.S. One 50-pound carton 80s opened the season on weekending June 14 at $22.30-24.30 per carton and closed on weekending July 19 at $24.30 per carton. They never traded lower than the first week and the highest they traded was the last 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 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.

<u>Transportation Trends</u>: Trucks hauled 68 percent of the crop. Trucks were extremely hard to come by, but rail was even more of a shortage. Most shippers must rely on the customer to find a truck. Buyers had limited luck finding a truck that was going to California. Finding a truck already in-state that was empty was extremely difficult. Piggy-back continues to be an alternate method of transportation because of the limited availability of trucks and rail cars. Most rail cars are captured by a large re-packer with a growing operation in the Bakersfield area. Another transportation opportunity for Kern County shippers has announced its intentions. Railex, with Corporate Headquarters in Riverhead, New York has announced they'll build an additional facility in Delano, California (outside of Bakersfield). Railex anticipates the California facility will be operational for September 2008. Railex indicates they'll be able to deliver 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 excited for the new and additional opportunity for shipping into the lucrative East Coast market.

<u>Summary</u>: Phenomenal yields! Some Long White fields had yields of 595 cwt per acre with a 92 percent pack out. Some yellow fields went 400 cwt per acre.

MARKETING COLORADO POTATOES

2008 CROP

Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Colorado growers planted 61,600 acres (57,000 Fall acres/4,600 Summer acres) and harvested 61,300 acres (56,900 Fall acres/4,400 Summer acres) in 2008, down 200 acres harvested from the previous season. However, potato yields increased 27 cwt per acre from 357 cwt in 2007 to 384 in 2008. Production decreases slightly to 23,535,000 cwt (21,907,000 cwt fall/1,628,000 cwt summer) from the previous year's 21,926,000 cwt.

Growing and Harvest Season: By weekending June 1, 2008: Summer potatoes were 66 percent planted compared to 5-year average of 85 percent; 34 percent emerged compared to 5-year average of 54 percent. The crop was rated in good to excellent condition on that date. Fall potatoes were 99 percent planted compared to 5-year average of 91 percent and 2 percent emerged compared to 5-year average of 10 percent. The fall crop was rated in mostly good condition on same date. By weekending August 10 fall potatoes were rated in good to fair condition, while summer potatoes were rated in fair to good condition. By that date harvest of summer potatoes was underway with 3 percent harvested compared to the 5-year average of 6 percent. Weekending September 8 saw fall and summer potatoes both rated in good to fair condition. Summer potatoes were 26 percent harvested compared to the five-year average of 41 percent. Harvest of fall potatoes had begun with 8 percent of the acreage dug compared to the five-year average of 7 percent. Weekending October 11 summer potatoes were 93 percent harvested compared to the five year average of 90 percent on this day, fall potatoes were 85 percent harvested compared to 78 percent on this day. Growing conditions were excellent for most of the summer months. Highs in the upper 70s to the lower 80s, with lows in the 40s was the norm in the San Luis Valley. Two bad hail storms hit the San Luis Valley on August 16 and 17, 2008. Reports of 5 inches of hail which forced the States Transportation Department to get out the snow plows to clear the roads. One farmer reported every window in every vehicle broken by the golf ball size hail west of Center. Three tornados were also sighted near Mosca. The hail storm was a strip four miles wide by 12 to 14 miles long. Estimates of 10,000 acres of potatoes were hit with the hail damage ranging from heavy losses to minor losses. Growers reported that Norkotah fields could have used another ten growing days to reach full maturity. The Nugget variety fields only had a 5 ounce top and size was definitely affected.

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

Fall Marketing Season: The USDA Market News Service began reporting prices for Yellow Type and Round Red weekending October 25, Russet varieties of count cartons and non-size A bales started weekending September 13, dry-bulk September 20. 70 count Russet cartons started out at $22.00 per carton and finished the season $13.00 per carton. Size A baled 5 10-pound film bags started out at $12.00 and finished at $5.00. U.S. Commercial bulk per cwt size A started at $17.50-18.50 and finished at $6.00-8.00. Round Red size A 50-pound cartons of 2 ½-3 ½ inch (premiums) started the season at $18.00; size A baled 5 10-lb film bags started at $15.00 and finished at $13.00-15.00; and size B 50-lb sacks started out at $19.00 and finished $16.00-19.00. Yellow Type size A baled 10 5-lb film bags started out at $14.50-16.00 and finished $12.50-15.00.

Movement: The Market News Service began reporting light movement of Round Reds, Yellow Type and Russet varieties out of the Northern portion of Colorado on weekending August 9, 2008. Shipments of Round Red, Yellow Type and Russets started shipping out of the San Luis Valley on weekending September 6. Fall potato shipments peaked in mid-November with the Thanksgiving promotions running add business. Weekending November 22 saw the peak at 435,600 cwt shipped. Mid-December saw another bump of Holiday business. Weekending December 20 saw 383,100 cwt shipped. The Easter Holiday saw another bump of business with weekending March 28 shipments of 361,300 cwt. Colorado's total shipments for the crop year through week-ending September 5, 2009 equaled 15,020,000.

Stocks: Colorado's fall potato stocks on hand December 1, 2008 totaled 16,400,000 cwt. Down slightly from the 2007 December 1 holdings of 15,200,000, and represented 77 percent of the year's production. The June 1 potato holdings were 3,400,000 cwt down by nearly 26 percent from the previous season holdings of 2,500,000 cwt.

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 Centennial, Nugget and Rio Grande). 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 2008 cut into growers' profits. There were a few incidents early in the new calendar year, such as the Holiday season when trucks tend to haul the high paying Christmas tree loads. Also, spring time creates additional problems when trucks are tied up hauling nursery stock that also pays a premium. Most of the Colorado's tablestock crop ships out of state, including major distribution centers such as: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; Los Angeles, California; Miami, FL; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; and because of Colorado's tie to and close proximity to Texas, Amarillo, TX; San Antonio, TX; and Houston, TX.

MARKETING DELAWARE POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 1,700 acres of potatoes, down 300 acres from the 2007 season and 1,300 acres from the 2006 season. Production dropped to 425,000 cwt, down 21 percent from last season (540,000 cwt). Yields also slipped to 250 cwt per acre, compared to 270 cwt last year. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $13.50 per cwt, up sharply from the previous year ($8.30) and the value of production $5.7 million dollars.

Movement: The Market News Service reported movement of approximately 269,000 cwt of tablestock for the 2008 season, up slightly from the year before (250,000 cwt). During the season, the Market News Service did report shipments of Russets from the area, which had not been reported in previous seasons and increased the total production reported. No chipstock was reported as supplies were held by one grower in the state. The grower base has shrunk to only five potato growers in the state.

Growing and Harvest Season: Initial planting was underway the latter half of March with lower soil moisture than desired. April brought showers and cooler temperatures that helped replenish the soil. By late April, 83 percent of the potato crop was planted compared to the 5-year average of 70 percent. Heavy rains in mid-May slowed late planting progress as growers finished mid-month. Above normal temperatures and scattered showers continued through June, and some fields showed stress due to dry soil conditions. Harvest of Round Reds began after the 4th of July and warm but dry conditions continued throughout the summer. Tropical Storm Hanna caused heavy rains around Labor Day, although soil moisture remained short through September. Harvest was generally completed by mid-month.

Marketing Season: The Market News Service reported the first F.O.B. shipping prices of the 2008 season in mid-July, nearly two weeks earlier than the previous season. Prices skyrocketed above the 2007 season as 50-pound sacks of U.S. One Size A Round Reds were reported for $16.00, well above the mostly $7.00 reported previously while B size started at mostly $18.00, well above the $10.00-11.00 from 2007. Red supplies were light and finished by the end of July at higher prices of $18.00 and $20.00 respectively. Round White U.S. One size A 50-pound sacks started the season in late July with sharply higher F.O.B. shipping point prices of $14.00 ($7.00) and chefs at $16 ($8-9), while tote bags approximately 2,000 pounds size A brought mostly $28.00 cwt for much of the season. Prices slipped slightly by mid-August to $12.00-13.00 for 50-pound A size with chefs $15.00-16.00 and totes $24.00-26.00 cwt. The season was completed by the end of August, much earlier than the 2007 season due to improved demand and less acreage.

MARKETING FLORIDA POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: 2007 crop production is listed by the USDA NASS in their January 2008 Crop Production-Annual Report for the 2007 crop summary. Area planted was 278,000 acres total, with Hastings as 165,000 acres and other as 113,000 acres. Area harvested was 272,000 acre total, with Hastings as 162,000 acres, and other as 110,000 acres. Yield per acre was 287 cwt per acres state wide, 285 cwt per acre in Hastings, and 290 cwt per acre in other areas. Production was 7,806,000 cwt total, with Hastings at 4,617,000 cwt and all other areas at 3,190,000 cwt.

Crop & Weather: December started with showers in the Immokalee and Hastings area slowing down planting. Adverse weather significantly slowed the planting of the potato crop around Lake Okeechobee area. Potato field preparations became active in central and southern Peninsula areas in December. Cool temperatures slowed some plant development at the end of December as growers paused to observe the holidays. Dry conditions allowed planting and growing to progress on schedule for most of January and February. However, mostly cool temperatures during the two months slowed crop growth. Most acreage showed no significant damage although the cold singed a few acres. Potato growers reported no significant damage from this cold snap. Potato digging around Lake Okeechobee and in the Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin areas became active during February. One Florida potato buyer summed the growing season up by saying: “Tough growing season. Lots of rain, froze in January, stress. Yields were low, replanted some acreage, finished replanting in March (not much time to make a crop).”

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 2008 season were 2,638,600 compared to 2,528,100 total cwt in 2007. Round Red was 1,906,000 cwt in 2008, 1,831,100 cwt in 2007; Round White 555,200 cwt in 2008, 530,200 cwt in 2007; Yellow Type 175,600 cwt in 2008, 157,600 cwt in 2007; no Russet Norkotahs were shipped in 2008, 9,200 cwt in 2007; and fingerling 1,800 cwt. in 2008, and none in 2007. Round Red shipments began the weekending February 2 and finished weekending June 14. The Round Red crop had one week, March 15, that stood out with 1,510,000 cwt shipped. Round White shipments started on weekending February 9 and finished weekending June 14. Round White shipments were somewhat sporadic, with the one week, May 17, standing out in the season. Yellow Type shipments began weekending February 23 and finishing the last week of the season of June 14. May and June were the biggest shipping months for Yellow Type, with sporadic shipments otherwise. Shipments of chipper potatoes totaled 3,446,900 cwt in 2008; 2,803,600 cwt for the 2007 season. Chipper shipments began the weekending April 5 and finished week ending June 21. Chipper shipments peaked from weekending May 24 through June 6. 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 2008 season as most movement was contracted or open sales were in the hands of a few growers, with too few prices reported to establish a market. The USDA, AMS, Fruit &Vegetable Market News reported prices out of Florida from weekending February 9 through June 7 on Round Red and Round White. Round Red 50-pound sacks size A started out at $12.55 per sack, finishing at $9.55-10.55. Round White 50-pound sacks size A started at $20.50-20.55 and finished at $8.55-10.55. Yellow Type 50-pound sacks size A started the season week ending March 22 at $20.50-20.55 and finished weekending May 24 at $21.55-24.55.

MARKETING IDAHO POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the in-season estimate for 2008 crop acreage was 305,000 acres planted, a decrease from the final estimate for the 2007 crop at 350,000 acres. The in-season estimate of 2008 yield was 383 cwt per acre for 2008, a three percent increase from the final estimate for 2007s yield of 373 cwt per acre. The in-season estimate of 2008 production was 116,475,000 cwt, a ten percent decrease from the final estimate of 2007s production of 130,010 cwt.

Shipments: The first 2008 crop shipments were recorded August 12, 2008. 714,000 cwt of 2007 crop shipments over-lapped the start of the 2008 crop marketing in August, 2008. It was September 1, 2008 before Idaho (as well as other areas) marketing was not competing with storage supplies. Fresh market shipments were in full volume from September, 2008 onward. Shipments from Idaho in 2008 were 30,429, a four percent decrease from 2007s shipments of 31,785 cwt. The peak shipping month was March 2009 at 2,872 cwt.

At the request of industry representatives, the Market News Service has been reporting shipments by variety since late February 2008. Shipments were ninety-six percent Russet, two percent were Round Reds (including red skin/yellow flesh), and two percent Yellows.

The crop year is the calendar year when harvest occurred. Seasons are not fixed dates. Shipments are reported by the crop year (season) so overlapping shipments (generally in August) do occur as marketing from storage of the 2008 crop extended through August of 2009 after 2009 harvest and shipments had started.

Crop & Weather: Farming began in some lower elevation areas of Idaho the first week of April, but many fields in Eastern Idaho remained covered in snow. Many crops are behind last year's schedule due to the current weather conditions. The Jefferson County extension educator reported no fieldwork done due to late winter like conditions. Planting of early variety Norkotah potatoes had begun in Southwest Idaho. Eastern Idaho reported more snow during the weekending April 20. Cold weather had delayed growth and development of the planted crops. By the end of the following week, 26 percent of the crop had been planted statewide, which was the same as 2007.

By the end of the first week of May, temperatures across the State ranged from normal to 6 degrees below normal. Eastern and Northern Idaho received adequate precipitation while Southwest Idaho received only a trace. By mid-May, temperatures across the State ranged from normal to 8 degrees above normal. Across the State, 85 percent of the crop had been planted, still at the same pace as 2007 and emergence was 6 percent, compared to 15 percent in 2007. In the Southwest, planting was 100 percent complete and emergence was 59 percent, compared to 99 percent planted and 71 percent emerged in 2007. South Central was 93 percent planted and 9 percent emerged, compared to 98 percent planted and 28 percent emerged in 2007. The East was 81 percent planted, compared to 79 percent planted and 5 percent emerged in 2007. Temperatures across the State by the end of June ranged from five degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal for the week. Another great week for precipitation with most weather stations reporting above normal. Planting across the state was complete. Emergence in the Southwest was 99 percent, compared to 100 percent in 2007; 71 percent in South Central, compared to 84 percent in 2007; and 30 percent in the East, 59 percent in 2007.

By mid-June, temperatures across the State ranged from 11 degrees to 5 degrees below normal. In South Central Idaho, reports of strong and cold winds had slowed crop progress. In Bonneville County, there was some frost damage on emerging potatoes. By the end of June, Statewide emergence was 95 percent, compared to 99 percent in 2007.

By mid-July 86 percent of the potatoes were 12 inches high, compared to 99 percent in 2007. Thirty-five percent of the crop was closing middles, compared to 75 percent in 2007. During the weekending July 27, many counties in South Central and East Idaho reported hail and wind damage early in the week. The Power County extension educator reported that potatoes were damaged. Ninety-six percent of the potatoes were 12 inches high, compared to 100 percent in 2007. Eighty percent of the crop was closing middles, compared to 99 percent in 2007.

By the weekending August 3, closing middles for potatoes was essentially finished at 95 percent complete. Potato vines had just begun dying at one percent complete statewide, compared to 6 percent in 2007. During the next week, Verticillium Wilt was beginning to show up in potato fields in Bonneville County. Potato harvest had begun in Norkotah fields in mid-August, but total harvest was still below one percent statewide.

During the weekending September 7, in South Central Idaho, the Cassia County extension educator reported that some farmers were rolling their potatoes and getting ready for harvest. By the third week in September, the Power County potato harvest was underway. Many farmers were planting winter wheat behind their potatoes. Potato harvest was in full swing by the end of the month. The Power County extension educator reported excellent harvest weather for the week.

During the first week of October, over a quarter of the State's potatoes were harvested. The Power County extension educator reported that harvest proceeded with excellent harvest weather. Most of the rain occurred over the weekend, after most of the weekly harvest was complete. During the weekending October 12, temperatures across the state ranged from 4 to 13 degrees below normal. Most areas in the State reported precipitation, with some reports of snow near the end of the week. Freemont County reported that some farmers reported their potatoes were frozen. All the vines were either dead or dying. The Power County extension educator reported during the weekending October 19, that much needed moisture arrived the prior week but it slowed down the potato harvest. The Idaho potato harvest was virtually complete by the end of October.

Marketing: The first report on **Russet Norkotahs** was issued during the weekending August 23, 2008 out of the Twin Falls-Burley District and Western Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $11.00 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $25.00. Marketing shifted to include the Upper Valley in mid-September. The baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $10.50-11.50 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $22.00-25.00.

The first report on **Russet Burbanks** was issued during the weekending October 4, 2008 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $10.00-11.00 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $14.00-16.00.

The last report on **Russet Norkotahs** was issued during the weekending March 28, 2009 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $4.50-5.00 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $10.00 The last report on **Russet Burbanks** was issued during the weekending August 15, 2009 out of the Upper Valley, Twin Falls-Burley District Idaho. Baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A were $3.25-3.50 and the 50 pound cartons of 70s were $13.50-14.00

Prices represent open (spot) market sales by first handlers, on product packed to U.S. Grade standards, as shown. No consideration is given to after-sale adjustments unless otherwise stated. Brokerage fees paid by the shipper are included in the price reported.

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

Proccessing: The 2008 crop in general was one of the best crops Idaho farmers had ever grown. The Russet Burbanks could have used more size out of some areas but generally the Russet Norkotahs were adequate. The gravities seemed to be average for this crop. There was some concern about potatoes that were dug later in the harvesting season due to heavy frosts the areas received in October 2008 before harvest was complete. All-in-all it was a smooth crop with higher packout percentages which created less off-grade potatoes for the dehydrators.

MARKETING KLAMATH BASIN POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: Oregon's Klamath County 2008 fall acreage was 5,300 acres planted compared to 5,300 in 2007. Yields of Klamath's fall crop was 430 cwt per acre compared to 485 in 2008. That put production at 2,279,000 cwt, compared to 2,570,500 in 2007.

Shipments: Klamath Basin fresh potato shipments were 2,178,400 million cwt; with the California side of the Basin at 1,000,100 million cwt and the Oregon side at 1,178,300 million cwt. The shipping period was from weekending August 30, 2008 to weekending August 22, 2009. The weekending November 22 was the peak of shipments with 92,200 cwt shipped. Following that pre-Thanksgiving week a decline in shipments was seen, with a slight bump prior to the Easter Holiday when 66,800 cwt was shipped on week-ending April 11. For the first time (2008 crop) Market News Service tracked shipments by variety, organic and non-organic (although not every Organic shipper cooperated). Non-Organic by variety (10,000 lb units): Fingerling 11, Purple 9, Round Red 622, Round White 75, Russet 10,492, and Yellow Type 276. Organic by variety (10,000 lb units): Fingerling 64, Purple 7, Round Red 69, Round White 65, Russet 37, and Yellow Type 56; for total Organic shipments of 29,800 cwt.

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 $8.00-9.00 the weekending November 1, 2008. Season ending prices were $4.00 weekending August 1, 2009, which was also the season low. 50-pound carton 70s prices opened at $15.00-16.00 per carton. Season ending prices on 70 count was $11.00-12.00. The season low for 70 count was $10.00-11.00, which held for the first 8 weeks, through much of May and June.

MARKETING MAINE POTATOES

2008 CROP

Production: Maine's 2008 potato production was reported at 14.77 million cwt, down 11 percent from 16.6 million cwt in 2007 due to reductions in acreage and yields. Harvested acreage totaled 54,700, a decrease of 2,300 acres from the previous year. Planted acreage (56,000) decreased by 1,100 acres from 2007. Yields of 270 cwt per acre decreased after two previous exceptional yield years. Maine's 2008 potato crop was the state's smallest in more than 60 years. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $9.75 per cwt, an increase from the previous year ($7.90) with the value of production near $144 million dollars.

Objective Yield Survey: Results from the annual Potato Objective Yield Survey conducted by NASS officials indicated the Russet Burbank again as the leading (fry processing) variety planted in the State, comprising 42.6 percent of the total acreage, followed by numbered Frito-Lay chipping selections at 13.8 percent, the Long White Shepody for processing at 4.6 percent and Russet Norkotah for the table market 4.2 percent. Yukon Gold and Goldrush each captured 3.7 percent, while table varieties Norwis and Superior finished with 3.6 percent and 3.5 percent respectively. Acreages by potato type was White (both Long and Round) at 35 percent (from 46 percent), Russet varieties 52 percent (from 45 percent), Yellows 8 percent (5 percent) and Reds 5 percent (4 percent). Round Whites graded by percentage of No. One dropped from 89 to 76 percent for the 2008 season, while Russets shed 4 percent (66 and 70 percent) while Yellows remained the same as the previous year (82 percent).

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Cool, wet soil conditions forced growers to stall planting until the middle of May. Warmer, drier conditions followed and the crop was all planted by early June, slightly ahead of schedule. Showers during the latter half of June promoted excellent crop growth, but wet conditions continued into July and forced farmers to a 5-day spray cycle to prevent disease. Late blight was discovered in mid-July but confined to a few locations. Dry conditions in late August and into September provided excellent harvest conditions. By the end of the month, over 50 percent of harvest was completed. However, showers returned, slowing movement from the field into storage. The harvest was generally finished on schedule by late October.

Shipments: Maine fresh potato shipments through June 2009 were down sharply (29 percent) at 2.22 million cwt compared to 3.14 million cwt for the 2007 season as reported by the Market News Service. Early Round White movement started slightly later and at a slower pace compared to the previous season. Early shipments fell 11 percent behind last season (through November) and continued to lag throughout the remainder of the crop year. Tablestock shipments through February totaled 1.63 million cwt compared to 2.0 million cwt the year before. Round White demand remained fairly good with strong pricing and many growers cleaned up earlier than normal. Russet movement was slow for most of the season with intense competition from Idaho and Colorado late in the season. Major destinations for the crop included Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maine and Virginia. This was the first full season that movement was reported by potato type. Shipments by type through July for the 2008 season were: Round White 1,355,901 cwt, Round Red 64,394 cwt, Yellow type 192,890 cwt, Russets 720,211 cwt, and Other 47 cwt.

Easements: According to the Maine Department of Agriculture's Inspection Service, 521 loads (295,425 cwt) were sent to Canada for processing for the season through July 2009, compared to the final of only 141 loads (78,207 cwt) the previous year, and 177,031 cwt (349 loads) for the 2006 crop. This was a huge increase than the last few years.

Potato Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2008 totaled 11.3 million cwt, 12 percent below the 2007 December 1 holdings. Disappearance totaled 3.7 million cwt, compared to 3.9 million cwt the previous season. Processor usage (excluding chips) was down 4 percent. Storage accounted for 75 percent of the State's total production: 52 percent Russets, 43 percent Round White varieties, 3 percent yellows and 2 percent red varieties. The May 1 stocks on hand reported 3.7 million cwt, 14 percent less than the previous season of 4.3 million cwt.

Marketing Season: Market News issued the first F.O. B. shipping point prices the last week of October with Round White U.S. One 2 inch minimum baled 10 5-pound filmbags from $10.00-11.00, sharply higher than the previous season's start of $6.50-7.00, while 10-pound open-window sacks loose ranged from $2.00-2.10 compared to $1.00-1.20. Demand was moderate to fairly good for Round Whites during the season due to reductions in Prince Edward Island and an early season start by growers in Long Island which cleaned up regional supplies earlier than normal. Russet Norkotah shipping point prices were reported in mid-November with baled 10 5-pound filmbags 2 inch or 4 ounce minimum from $10.00-11.00, compared to last season's early prices of $6.00-6.50. Early movement (through Thanksgiving) lagged 10 percent behind the 2007 movement, and never gained momentum. By the end of the year, shipments-to-date were 17 percent behind the previous year. By December prices slid to $10.50-11.50 on 2 inch baled 5s with Russet Norkotah fairly stable at mostly $10-10.50. Round White prices remained steady through the holidays and started to climb by the end of January. Baled 5s were reported higher from $10.50-11.00 with loose 10s from $2.05-2.15. By mid-March, supplies were light and in few hands as prices shot to $12.00 on baled 2 inch 5s. The last report for Round Whites was issued the end of March. Russet prices began a descent in early March with ample supplies and sluggish movement from Western states. Maine Russet prices on baled 5s ranged from $9.50-10.00 for Easter promotions, but finished the season in early May from $8.50-9.00. Movement to date on April 1 was down sharply by 25 percent (1.9 versus 2.5 million cwt). Shipments were only a trickle by mid-May with remaining supplies in very few hands.

Packaging: The major consumer packages for Maine Round Whites has been the baled 10 5-pound film bags and 10-pound open window sack loose and baled 5s and 10s sacks for Russet varieties. There are 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 more stable during the season with surcharges that averaged 8-17 percent early in the crop year to springtime rates in the 5-9 percent range compared to last year's rates that added 18-30 percent to base rates to major destination cities, primarily along the East Coast. 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 a few instances of truck shortages this season, and seed deliveries did not seem to hamper tablestock movement on given weeks. A few shortages were noted during peak holiday promotional weeks, which was expected.

MAINE CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Statistics: Maine chipping potato movement totaled 2.13 million cwt in 2008, 10 percent less than the previous season total (2.37), which had increased 16 percent from the 2006 crop year. The 2007 crop was the largest chipping potato crop in the last decade. Contracts were written similarly to the previous year; however, yields were reported at a 5-year low of 270 cwt per acre. Shipments began mid-August and finished mid- June. Most of the chipping production is located in Central and Southern Aroostook County with two major growers in the northern part of the county. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $9.75 per cwt, an increase from the previous crop year ($7.90) with the value of production $144 million dollars. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.7 million cwt in 2008, down 7 percent from the previous year.

Marketing: Harvest of out-of-the-field supplies began mid-August and was ahead of the pace of the previous season until mid-November. Key shipping periods in December through mid-January complemented heavy sales promotion dates geared for Super Bowl activities. Maine shipments peaked again in late-March-May as storages in the mid-Atlantic States finished for the season and before the southern growing regions could provide ample supplies. There were little or no instances of open market trading reported by the Market News Service as growers tended to plant only acreage contracted. Frito-Lay was the major buyer/contractor in the state with smaller contracts going to Cape Cod, Lances and Wachusett chip companies in Massachusetts and a few buying brokers in the East.

MAINE SEED POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage: Acreage for 2008 continued on a downward trend from the previous season as the Florida-tested and certified acreage for the 2008-09 season totaled 10,028 acres compared to 10,808 acres the previous season, and decreased 26 percent from the 2004-05 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 percent or less virus diseased plants. The top ten seed varieties were: Frito-Lay numbered chipping selections, Atlantic (chip), Yukon Gold, Reba, Snowden (chip), Superior (table), NorWis, Dark Red Norland, Andover (chip) and Monona (chip). Measurable decreases were noted in the following key varieties: Russet Burbank (-55 percent), Superior (-42 percent), Atlantic (-20 percent), Andover (-22 percent), Dark Red Norland (-14 percent) and Snowden (-11 percent). The biggest increases noted in the major varieties were NorWis (+9 percent) and Monona (+3 percent).

Shipments: Shipments began in late October to Florida and finished the first week in June for the 2008 shipping season. Movement was 1.17 million cwt, 5 percent below the 2007 season, according to the Maine Seed Inspection Service. Major destinations for Maine seed were Florida with 272,245 cwt, a decrease of 22 percent from the previous season's figure of 293,018 cwt; New York 189,630 cwt, down 16 percent (225,922 cwt), North Carolina 173,781 cwt, down 21 percent (219,495 cwt), Pennsylvania 90,346 cwt, off by 2 percent (92,199 cwt) and Canada 77,285 cwt, up 21 percent from last season (63,976 cwt). Peak volume was reported in April, when New York, Pennsylvania, and other Mid-Atlantic States received the bulk of their shipments. Destinations included 33 states and/or countries this season. The major varieties shipped by Maine seed growers were Atlantic (226,122 cwt), Frito Lay numbered chipping selections (216,991 cwt), Snowden (95,260 cwt), Reba (79,641 cwt) and Superior (58,369 cwt).

Marketing: No open market pricing was reported during the shipping season. Most movement occurred as a result of pre-season sales. Supplies of many varieties remained limited during the shipping season with unofficial reports of seed trading in the $15.00-20.00 cwt range.

MARKETING MICHIGAN POTATOES

2008 CROP

Production: Michigan growers harvested 42,500 acres, up 500 acres from the previous season and production increased slightly at nearly 14.9 million cwt (14.7 million cwt in 2007). Yields tied the state record again at 350 cwt as reported also in 2007.
Approximately 83 percent of the December 1 Stocks on Hand were Round White varieties, 15 percent Russets, and 1 percent Red and Yellow varieties.
According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.10 per cwt, an increase from the previous year ($8.45) and the value of production $150 million dollars.

Movement: Light shipments of the summer Onaway crop commenced in late July and continued into early October. Summer season trading was fairly active as old crop supplies were relatively light and new crop Round White supplies along the Atlantic Seaboard moved at a steady pace and finished in a timely fashion. Some chip acreage was lost to cold temperatures in the southern states and forced one major buyer to purchase Round White Superiors as high as $18.00 cwt (contract prices $7.00-8.00) from table suppliers. Round White availability was limited also to additional acreage of Russet varieties in Virginia this season. Through September, approximately 1,000 loads had been shipped (both Round White and Russet), an increase of 34 percent over the 2007 season and 4 percent above the 2006 crop year. By late October, there was a Round White supply gap as growers finished with storage. Movement picked up in November as storage supplies became available and Thanksgiving promotions were booked. The Market News Service did include shipments of Russets from the Upper Peninsula that were sold through Wisconsin potato dealers during the season. Peak shipping months for Round Whites occurred in August through December as good demand continued into the fall and holiday season. Russet demand peaked in November through January and again in March through May as Round White supplies dried up. Round White supplies were depleted by early April, although Russet demand remained at slower levels for the rest of the season, with ample supplies at low prices from Western growers in Idaho and Colorado. There were light supplies of Russets available in the State through July from a few growers.

The final total for the season reported by the Market News Service the end of June was nearly 2.2 million cwt or approximately 4,974 load equivalents, compared to1.78 million cwt or 3,950 load equivalents for the 2007 season and 1.77 million cwt or 3,932 loads for the 2006 season, again due primarily to the number of bulk Russet potatoes grown and sold to repackers. Round White loads accounted for 24 percent, with the remainder (76 percent) Russet varieties.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Planting was off to a normal start in early April. There were two frosts during May that slowed tuber development. By mid-May, 47 percent of the crop was planted, compared to 60 percent the previous year. Emergence was reported at 25 percent, compared to 3 percent last year. By June 1, 88 percent was planted, although frost was reported on May 28. Growers hoped for warmer temperatures and some moisture to aid in tuber development. Warmer weather in early June pushed emergence and by mid-month, planting was completed and emergence was reported at

88 percent, compared to 81 percent the previous year. Harvest of the summer Onaway crop began a little later than growers hoped due to slower maturity. By mid-August, harvest was 17 percent completed, compared to 5 percent the previous year, with much of the month drier than desired. September appeared to be wetter than desired as growers waited for fields to dry during harvest. The first frost occurred across the State in early October, although near ideal conditions prevailed mid-month. As the harvest wound down in early November, scattered snow showers appeared.

Onaway Summer Marketing Season: The first pricing report issued by the Market News Service began in early August with fairly active demand. Prices on Round White Onaway U.S. One 10-pound open-window sacks loose size A opened at nearly $1.00 above the 2007 start of the season. By mid-September, prices leveled off to a respectable range of $2.00-2.15 for the rest of the Onaway season, and kept their $1.00 surplus from the 2007 season.

Storage Season: The first F.O.B. shipping point prices for storage supplies began late October with Russet Norkotah and Goldrush U.S. One 10-pound film bags loose size A at sharply higher prices than the previous season, $2.25-2.60 versus the 2007 season opening prices of $1.30-1.40. However, as the season progressed, market prices continued to decline rather than firm as is usually expected later in the crop year. Greater than anticipated supplies in Colorado and Idaho put too much pressure to stabilize marketing conditions. By the end of January, Russet Norkotah 10-pound film bags slipped to $1.90-2.25 ($3.50 cwt), while at this time during the 2007 season, prices had inched upward slightly ($1.00 cwt) to $1.25-1.40. In early April, prices had dropped to their lowest level of the season and finished the shipping season from $1.55-1.80 in mid-May. The F.O.B. shipping point prices for storage Round Whites began very strong and continued a trend from the summer crop as the Market News Service reported 10- pound open window sacks loose size A from $2.20-2.60, compared to the 2007 starting range of $1.20-1.25. Despite tighter supplies of Round Whites by late winter, prices followed Russets downward. White supplies cleaned up earlier than normal in the State and the last report was issued in early March with prices from $1.90-2.10.

Stocks on Hand: Michigan's potato Stocks on Hand December 1, 2008 totaled 8.3 million cwt compared to 8.8 million cwt and represented 56 percent of the crop year's production. The May 1 holdings of 700,000 cwt were down sharply from the previous year (1.6 million cwt) and accounted for 5 percent of the year's production.

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

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

MICHIGAN CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Production: Michigan growers harvested 42,500 acres, up 500 acres from the previous season and production increased slightly to nearly 14.9 million cwt (14.7 million cwt in 2007). Yields tied the state record again at 350 cwt per acre, as reported in 2007, and Michigan's largest crop since 2003. Approximately 83 percent of the December 1 stocks on hand were Round White varieties, heavily devoted to chipping acreage. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $10.10 per cwt, an increase from the previous year ($8.45) with the value of production $150 million dollars. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.7 million cwt in 2008, down 7 percent from the previous year.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Planting for out-of-the-field early supplies began in early to mid-April across the southern region of the state, followed shortly by other areas in the Lower Peninsula. By mid-May, 47 percent of the crop was in the ground, compared to 60 percent the previous year. Emergence was reported by NASS at 25 percent, compared to 3 percent the previous year. However, there were two frosts during May that slowed tuber development. By June 1, 88 percent of the crop was planted, in spite of frost reported on May 28. Early June ushered warmer temperatures and by mid-month, planting was completed and emergence was reported at 88 percent, compared to 81 percent the previous year. Harvest began in southern Michigan in late July, as supplies were tight, which forced some growers to sacrifice yields on their early fields. Movement to storage was active during the latter half of September and was generally complete by the end of October.

Marketing: There was some open market trading in late August due to supply shortages that brought good returns to growers ($14.00-15.00 cwt). However, high prices were short-lived and in mid-October, prices brought only $6.50-7.00 for some field supplies. Some additional buying took place in January as growers sold for mostly $10.00 cwt. By mid-March, open market pricing stabilized in the $12.00-12.25 cwt range and remained at that level through the remainder of the open market season which ended mid-April. These prices were $2.00 cwt higher than the same time last season. The shipping season finished a few weeks earlier than normal in mid-May. Chipping potato movement for the 2008 season was down slightly from the 2007 season, and totaled 8.2 million cwt., 4 percent below the previous year. Some fields suffered early yield sacrifices as chip companies were short on supplies and forced a few growers to harvest earlier than expected. Predominant varieties included Atlantic, Snowden, Pike and FL numbered varieties.

Stocks: According to NASS, Michigan's potato stocks on hand December 1, 2008 totaled 8.3 million cwt compared to 8.8 million cwt, which represented 56 percent of the crop year's production. The May 1 holdings of 700,000 cwt. were down sharply from the previous season (1.6 million cwt) and accounted for 5 percent of the season's production.

MARKETING BIG LAKE & CENTRAL MINNESOTA POTATO

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: National Agricultural Statistics Service reported planted acreage for all of Minnesota at 50,000 acres and 48,000 acres harvested in 2008; compared to 52,000 acres planted with 49,000 acres harvested in 2007.

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

Harvest: Light harvest activity of Round Reds started weekending August 2, 2008. Most growers of Round Reds had finished digging by mid-September with minimal weather delays during harvest. The peat soil area around Gully, MN finished harvesting Round Reds around mid-October. Some Russets were still being harvested into late October.

Shipments: Recorded shipments of Round Reds and Russets for the season totaled 2,159,500 cwt. The Idaho Falls, Idaho, USDA Market News Service collected shipments through the voluntary cooperation of individual shippers. All shipments were transported by truck. Shipments of Round Reds started in late July weekending August 2, and peaked in August weekending August 16. Shipments of Russets started weekending August 9 and finished for the most part in mid-October; a few Russets were stored and marketed in November for the Thanksgiving market. Volume shipments continued through weekending October 4, then declined seasonally with light shipments continuing out of the peat soil storage area until the last potato was shipped on week-ending April 25, 2009.

Marketing: The Big Lake and Central Minnesota marketing of Round Reds started weekending August 9, 2008.

Shipping point prices for Round Reds U.S. One size A in 50-pound paper sacks, started the weekending August 9 at $16.00 per 50-pound unit. During the eight weeks of the Round Red potato marketing season, prices ranged from a season opening high of $16.00 per 50-pound unit for the Size A 50-pound paper sacks to a low of $9.00 per 50-pound unit the week of October 4 when sales for the season finished. Russet Norkotah were not reported by the Idaho Falls, Idaho, USDA Market News Service. The Big Lake area has few Russets and a short window when they are all running. Not enough shippers were running at any one time to establish a market.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service, in their 2008 Summary, reported Average Price Received for Minnesota potatoes including Processing and Fresh was $8.25 in 2008 compared to $6.10 in 2007.

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

MARKETING RED RIVER VALLEY POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: Minnesota – North Dakota production was down a total of 4 percent compared to the three year average according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. North Dakota growers produced 22,680,000 cwt down from the three-year average of 23,940,000 cwt. Minnesota growers produced 20,400,000 cwt down from the three-year average of 21,070,000 cwt. North Dakota planted 82,000 acres in 2008 compared to 97,000 acres in 2007; and harvested 81,000 acres in 2008 compared to 91,000 acres in 2007. Minnesota planted 50,000 acres in 2008 compared to 52,000 acres in 2007 and harvested 48,000 in 2008 compared to 49,000 acres in 2007. Over-all, yields per acre in North Dakota were 280 cwt per acre in 2008 compared to 260 cwt per acre in 2007. Minnesota over-all yields per acre were 425 cwt per acre in 2008, compared to 440 cwt per acre in 2007. Although exact figures aren't available from North Dakota & Minnesota, chip-stock acreage continued to decline. Minnesota leading potato growing counties for the 2007 crop year was Sherburne (Big Lake) at 6,200 acres in 2008 compared to 5,600 acres in 2007 and 2,400,000 cwt in 2008 compared to 2,352,000 cwt in 2007; Polk (East Grand Forks) 4,500 acres in 2008 compared to 5,400 acres in 2007 and 1,008,000 cwt in 2008 compared to 1,506,600 cwt in 2007. North Dakota's leading non irrigated potato growing counties were Walsh (Grafton) 26,300 acres in 2008 compared to 31,600 acres in 2007; 4,590,000 cwt in 2008 compared to 5,180,000 cwt in 2007. Grand Forks (Grand Forks) 11,100 acres in 2008 compared to 13,800 acres in 2007; 4,070,000 cwt in 2008 compared to 4,845,000 cwt in 2007; Pembina (Crystal) 21,600 acres in 2008 compared to 22,800 acres in 2007; 4,590,000 cwt in 2008 compared to 3,840,000 cwt in 2007.

Planting: For weekending May 4, 2008 planting progress was behind the average for potatoes, with only 10 percent planted compared to 23 percent last year and 22 percent on average. Though much of the Valley had been wet through the planting season; weekending May 18 found planting progress ahead of the average. Potatoes were 63 percent planted, compared with 73 percent last year and 59 percent on average. Weekending June 8 saw the potato crop 97 percent planted and virtually all of the planting equipment put away for the season and cultivating equipment in the fields as the seasons changed.

Growing Conditions: As of March 2, average snow cover in the Red River Valley was 12.0 inches. By weekending June 29 the potato crop was reported to be 100 percent emerged. Much of June had been cool with frequent showers, but crop condition was rated as 55 percent good and 14 percent excellent on June 29. July came to an end with the potato crop running behind as frequent showers, isolated hail storms and cool temperatures abounded. Rows filled were 44 percent by July 27 compared to 71 percent on the same day in 2007 and 72 percent of average and potato farmers were starting to kill vines. By weekending August 1 vine kill was 36 percent complete and harvest had started with 3 percent of the crop dug. Vine kill was not complete until the second week of October.

Harvest: Potato harvest began in North Dakota weekending August 31 with chipper and process varieties being harvested. Harvest was listed at 3 percent, compared to 5 percent in 2007 and 4 percent of the average. Weekending September 28 showed potatoes dug at 60 percent complete, compared with 68 percent last year and 61 percent on average. Potatoes made the most harvest progress during weekending October 5 advancing to 80 percent dug, compared to 82 percent last year and 79 percent of average. Weekending October 26 saw the potato harvest come to 97 percent dug compared to 97 percent last year and 98 percent of average.

Marketing: The first report of the season was issued the week ending October 4, 2008 and the last report was put out weekending June 27. Prices for tote bags, approximately 2000 pounds per cwt, size A Round Reds U.S. One opened at $16.00. Marketing continued even after new-crop Round Reds were available from spring crop areas. The final week of shipments was July 11, 2008. Tote bags finished the season at $14.00.

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

The National Agricultural Statistics Service, in their 2008 Summary, reported North Dakota growers received $14.90 per cwt for their potatoes in 2008; compared to $8.70 in 2007

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 weekending September 6, 2008 and continued into the weekending July 11. Fresh shipments totaled 4,084,000 cwt for the 2008 crop compared to 3,911,600 cwt for the 2007 season. The Holiday Season showed some increases in shipments from other weeks. The weekending November 15 was the biggest week of the year, with shipments of 1,695,000 compared to 1,566,000 cwt shipped the same week in 2007.

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

MARKETING NEW YORK LONG ISLAND POTATOES

2008 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, New York growers planted 18,000 acres of potatoes for the 2008 season, 1,000 less acres than the previous season, and according to NASS estimates, another record low for the state. Harvested acreage totaled 17,800 acres, 500 less than the previous year and another record low. However, production jumped to nearly 5.7 million hundredweight, a 9 percent increase from 2007 with yields of 320 cwt, up from 285 cwt per acre the year prior and topping the 2006 record-breaking State yield of 300 cwt per acre. Growers on Long Island generally yield slightly more than the state average due to the varieties grown on the island, notably the large profile Norwis. Unofficial sources reported planted acreage of potatoes near 2,400 acres on Eastern Long Island. According to NASS, the average price for the season totaled $16.20, up sharply from the previous season ($11.80) and the value of production $92.2 million dollars for the State.

Growing and Harvest Seasons: Initial planting was underway on schedule in late March and there were minimal delays. Most growers finished handily by the end of April. Timely rains and moderate temperatures during the summer months helped with good tuber development and excellent growth. Little irrigation was needed during the growing stage. Harvest got underway earlier than usual as Delaware had a smaller crop and prices were high. Harvest continued into late-October. Yields and tubers were large.

Marketing Season: The first F.O.B. shipping point prices was issued by the Market News Service in late August. Prices more than doubled from the 2007 start with Round White U.S. One 50-pound sacks size A $12.00-13.00, compared to $6.00 in 2007 and $8.00 in 2006. Large size 50-pound sacks in early September brought $14.50-15.00 compared to $7.00 the year prior and $10.00 in 2006. Growers were eager to begin harvesting with these high prices and the shorter Delaware crop. After Labor Day, prices slipped slightly; 50-pound sacks Size A sold from $11.00-12.00. In early October, 50-pound sacks size A brought mostly $11.00 and held at that level through Thanksgiving. Large size remained fairly stable at $13.00-14.00 through the month. Baled 5s started the season at strong levels of $15.00-16.00, compared to $8.50-9.00 the previous season. In mid-November, those prices slipped to $12.00-13.50 and remained stable through the rest of the season in early January. Large size potatoes initially had a $2.00-2.50 premium over Size A; however, by mid-October, only a $1.00 premium was reported. Demand for large size was sluggish due to heavier supplies of big tubers on the island and brisk movement of size A during the season. There were also reports of hollow heart in the larger tubers due to rapid growth. Near the end of the reporting season, size A only carried a $0.50-1.00 premium over large ($10.50-11.00 versus $11.50-12.00).

Movement: The Market News Service reported shipments from Long Island of approximately 642,000 cwt for the 2008 season, compared to 721,000 cwt the previous year, an 11 percent decrease, primarily due to reduction in acreage. The last shipment report was issued by the Market News Service the end of January, some weeks earlier than previous years.

Stocks: Stocks on hand December 1, 2008 for New York totaled 2.6 million hundredweight, down 10 percent from the previous season total of 2.9 million cwt. By April 1, New York's holdings were 450,000 cwt, 10 percent lower than the previous season (500,000 cwt). The remaining holdings were held upstate with mostly chip growers.

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

NEW YORK CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Statistics: According to the New York Agricultural Statistics Service, growers planted 18,000 acres for the 2008 season, down 1,000 acres from the 2007 season and the lowest level since the National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates began in 1929. Harvested acres totaled 17,800, 500 less than the previous year and another record low. However, production climbed to nearly 5.7 million cwt, a 9 percent increase from 2007 with record yields of 320 cwt, up from 285 per cwt and topping the 2006 record-breaking yield of 300 cwt per acre. Chipping acreage is located generally in Western and Central New York, in Steuben, Wyoming, Wayne and Livingston counties. Approximately 5,000 acres were devoted to chip stock, with primary varieties grown Atlantic, Snowden, Andover and Marcy. According to NASS, the average price for the 2008 season totaled $16.20 per cwt, a sharp increase from the previous season ($11.80) with the value of production $92.2 million dollars. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.7 million cwt, down 7 percent from the 2007 season.

Growing and Harvest Season: Planting was underway in late April with generally cool, dry weather. By early May, planting was on schedule with 43 percent completed, compared to 40 percent the previous year and the 5 year average of 43 percent. Scattered showers and below normal temperatures were prevalent during the month as by Memorial Day 68 percent of planting was completed compared to 78 percent the year before. By mid-June, planting was finished. Much of June and July brought ideal growing conditions with ample rainfall and moderate temperatures, which was apparent in the strong yields. Initial light harvest was underway at the end of July, amid some heavy rains and above normal temperatures. However, most of August brought cooler temperatures and intermittent showers across the State. By Labor Day, 46 percent of the crop was harvested, compared to 54 percent last season and the 5 year average of 51 percent. Near ideal conditions the end of September pushed harvest schedules to 75 percent, slightly ahead of the 5 year average (73 percent). Harvesting was completed near mid-October.

Movement: Movement of out-of-the-field supplies began on schedule in early August and peaked mid-September to mid-October with strong yields. Some growers were faced with inadequate storage space for the huge crop. The fall months did not bring much opportunity for extra sales beyond contract levels as well. According to the Market News Service, movement for the 2008 season totaled 2.36 million cwt, a sizable increase (29 percent) from the previous season (1.83 million cwt) and the largest chip season reported by Market News in recent years. The shipping season stretched into mid-June, weeks longer than previous seasons also. The major chip buyers in New York consisted of Wise Foods, EK Bare, Utz Quality Foods, Pennsylvania Potato Co-op and Stowe Potato Sales.

Stocks on hand: New York Agricultural Statistics Service reported stocks on hand December 1, 2008 totaled 2.6 million cwt, down 10 percent from 2.9 million cwt. the previous year and an increase in Round White varieties (86 percent versus 69 percent the previous year). By April 1, only 450,000 cwt remained in storage, a decrease of 10 percent from the previous season and 8 percent of storage potatoes.

MARKETING EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES

2008 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 14,000 acres in 2008 compared to 14,500 acres in 2007 and 15,500 acres in 2006. Production finished at 25,200 hundredweight compared to 27,000 cwt in 2007 and 32,550 cwt in 2006. In 2008 yield was 180 cwt per acre compared to 186 cwt in 2007 and 210 cwt in 2006.

Growing and Harvest Season: North Carolina received some rain throughout the months of January and February, but the majority of the State was still classified as exceptional drought. Temperatures were slightly above normal for both months with averages ranging from 26 to 53 degrees Fahrenheit. By the end of February soil moisture levels were rated at 68 percent adequate allowing for spring planting preparations for Irish potatoes to begin. During the first weeks of March, temperatures were above normal and rainfall was adequate enough to provide some relief to area surface water supplies. By the week ending March 30, however, rain had become scattered and temperatures dipped below normal. Soil moisture levels were rated at 77 percent adequate and Irish potato planting continued with 96 percent of the crop planted compared to 89 percent planted last year. The State received rain nearly every week during April. Temperatures ranged from mild to unseasonably cold. By the weekending April 27, soil moisture levels were rated at 67 percent adequate. Irish potato plantings wrapped up during the weekending April 13 and crop conditions were rated at mostly good. The Coastal Region of the State received rain throughout much of May. By the weekending June 01, statewide soil moisture levels were rated 4 percent very short, 21 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. These conditions did not last long, however, as June received very little rainfall, providing little relief to the drought conditions in the State. This along with above average temperatures, prompted some growers to begin worrying about crop damage. Irish potato harvest got underway and by June 29 approximately 54 percent of the crop had been harvested. Much like June, July experienced scattered showers throughout the State, but the month was generally dry. The only exception was for the weekending July 20 when Tropical Storm Cristobal provided the Coastal Region with over six inches of rain in some areas. By the weekending July 27 there were reports of crops suffering and Irish potato harvest wrapped up with 100 percent of the crop harvested compared to 96 percent in 2007 and 93 percent for the five year average.

Movement: According to the Market News Service, movement totaled 314,000 cwt for table stock and an additional 1,946,000 cwt of chipstock. The season started in mid June, slightly ahead of the 2007 season, and wrapped up in late July, much earlier than the previous season, which finished with shipments in mid August of 2007. Remaining supplies were in too few hands to establish a market.

Marketing Season: Prices this season for Round White U.S. One, size A 50-pound sacks were slightly higher than the previous year. The first F.O.B. price report was on June 18. Round White U.S. One, size A 50-pound sacks were $11.25-$12.00 compared to the first price report of $10.00-$10.75 in 2007. The last prices reported were on July 11 at $12.00 compared to $7.00-$9.00 in 2007. Round Red U.S. One, size A 50-pound sacks also trended slightly higher in 2008 compared to 2007. The first F.O.B. price reported for Round Reds was on June 23. U.S. One, Size A 50-pound sacks were $12.50-$12.75 compared to $10.50-$12.00 in 2007. The final prices reported were on July 11 at $13.00-$14.00 compared to $10.00-$11.00 in 2007. There were no prices reported for Yellow Type U.S. One, size A 50-pound sacks due to supplies being in too few hands to establish a market. Chip Potatoes are sold bulk per hundredweight and were marketed in 2008 generally on a contract basis. The general contract price on Round White Atlantics 85 percent or better U.S. One bulk per cwt was $7.00-$8.00 compared to $6.00-$8.00 in 2007. There was a small amount marketed on an open market basis with Round White Atlantics 85 percent or better U.S. One bulk per cwt. at $17.50-$18.50 compared to $6.00-$8.25 in 2007.

OHIO CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Harvesting Season: Initial harvest began in early August with moderate normal temperatures. By Labor Day, 49 percent of the crop was harvested compared to the previous season's 33 percent and the 5-year average of 49 percent. Hurricane Ike disturbed harvest mid-September as a cool, windy front moved through the State. By the end of the month, 85 percent of the harvesting was completed, compared to the 5-year average of 80 percent. Most growers finished harvest by mid-month.

Statistics: Ohio harvested 2,100 acres of potatoes, a decrease of 900 acres from the previous year, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service. This was the lowest number of harvested acres in the State since record-keeping began in 1866. Yields were off slightly at 325 cwt per acre (330 cwt last season and a record high). Production dropped sharply (31 percent) to 683,000 cwt from the 2007 total of 990,000 cwt. The State's chipping acreage was estimated between 900-1,000 acres. The predominant areas were western Ohio, from Findlay north to Toledo and south of Cleveland and in the Wooster area. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the average price for the crop year totaled $16.60 per cwt, a sharp climb from the previous season ($9.65) with the value of production $11.3 million dollars. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.7 million cwt, down 7 percent from the 2007 season.

Movement: The 2008 State's chipping potato crop totaled 134,154 cwt, ahead (30 percent) of last season's total of 105,491 cwt**,** according to the Market News Service. No open market sales were reported during the season as growers grew only previously contracted volume.

Growing Season: Planting was underway by mid-April and progressed slowly due to below normal temperatures and wet conditions. By month's end, only 27 percent of the planting was completed, compared to the five-year average of 36 percent. May weather showed little improvement as cooler, wet weather continued. Growers finished early in June with improved conditions.

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

PENNSLYVANIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Statistics: Pennsylvania harvested 9,500 acres of potatoes, 500 less acres from the previous season and once again, the lowest harvested acreage on record, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service. Approximately 3,000-3,400 acres were planted in chipping potatoes, with the predominant plantings in the Northwestern, East Central and Central districts of the state. Production of 2.5 million cwt increased above the previous low crop year (2.2 million cwt) with yields of 265 cwt per acre compared to 220 cwt per acre the previous season, and the largest yield since the 2003 crop. Predominant chipping varieties grown were Atlantic, Snowden, Pike, Andover and Marcy. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the average price received for the 2008 crop was $13.30 cwt, up from $10.10 in 2007. The value of production totaled $33.4 million dollars for the crop year. Nationally, potatoes used for chips and shoestrings totaled 50.7 million cwt, down 7 percent from the 2007 season.

Growing Season: Planting was underway the first half of April with moderate temperatures and few delays. However, by mid-May, 32 percent of planting was completed, compared to 59 percent the previous year but slightly behind the 5 year average. Scattered showers and cooler temperatures slowed progress through the rest of the month. By Memorial Day, only 58 percent of planting had been completed, 24 points behind the average. June brought hot and dry conditions which allowed growers to heel the crop in by mid-June. Summer showers kept top soil moisture at a steady level.

Harvesting Season: Initial harvest of field supplies (Atlantic) began the end of July in spite of scattered showers and cooler temperatures. By mid-August, 17 percent of the crop had been harvested, ahead of the 5 year average and last year (8 percent). Harvest continued at a good pace and by Labor Day, 37 percent was completed, far ahead of the previous season. A week of heavy rain slowed progress in mid-September. By October 4, 81 percent of the harvest was completed, compared to the 5-year average of 77 percent. The harvest was virtually complete before the end of the month.

Shipments peaked with field supplies in August. The shipping season was completed on schedule in early April with a total of 791,753 cwt, a 4 percent decrease from the previous year (824,954) according to the Market News Service. No open market prices were reported this year as most growers planted for contracted sales only.

MARKETING TEXAS-KANSAS-NEBRASKA POTATO

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production:

NASS Crop Production 2008 Summary (January 2009)

PLANTED ACRES	2006	2007	2008
Texas	10,500	11,200	7,000
Kansas	6,000	5,000	5,000
Nebraska	19,500	21,000	19,500

HARVESTED ACRES	2006	2007	2008
Texas	9,700	9,800	6,500
Kansas	5,700	4,900	4,800
Nebraska	19,400	19,800	19,400

YIELD	2006	2007	2008
Texas	440	395	420
Kansas	320	365	320
Nebraska	450	415	430

PRODUCTION	2006	2007	2008
Texas	4,268,000	3,871,000	2,730,000
Kansas	1,824,000	1,789,000	1,536,000
Nebraska	8,730,000	8,217,000	8,342,000

Crop & Weather: Hereford Hi Plains Texas-Eastern New Mexico started planting the 2008 crop February 27. Kansas started planting potatoes weekending March 8. The Dalhart, Texas area increased table stock acres by approximately 1000 acres. Growers were switching potato acreage from chippers to table stock. This is the largest chip-to-fresh switch in the country but not the only one expected. Other potato growing areas in North America were expected to follow the lead from this Prairie Region.

Harvesting: Much of these three states table stock harvests are carried by night fall, after potato tubers pulp temperature have dropped below eighty degrees. Pulp temperatures are not as critical in chipper varieties as the time the potatoes go from harvest to a bag is a short time. Most of Nebraska crop is put into storage for packing and shipping throughout the coming months. The Kansas crop is shipped at harvest either to Colorado and Nebraska packing operation or in bulk lots to table stock re-packers or potato salad processors.

Shipments: Shipments of fresh-table stock potatoes out of Hereford Hi Plains Texas-Eastern New Mexico for the 2008 season were 1,294,800 cwt. Round Red accounted for 258,700 cwt; Yellow Type 12,300 cwt; Russet Norkotah 897,800. In addition to the truck shipments 126,000 was shipped by rail. Round Red shipments began in Texas the weekending June 28 and finished weekending August 16. Nebraska had one Round Red grower-shipper that shipped their last potato crop prior to retirement, for 34,600 cwt. Those Cornhusker Reds were shipped in the two weeks of August 9 & 16. Yellow Type shipments out of the Hereford Hi Plains Texas-Eastern New Mexico District began weekending Aug 23 and finished weekending September 6. Russet harvest in the Hereford Hi Plains Texas-Eastern New Mexico District started weekending June 21 and finished week ending September 27. Shipments continued through May 16 out of Texas as one grower stored their 2008 crop. Russet harvest and shipments out of Kansas started weekending August 8 and finished October 4. Russet harvest and shipments out of Nebraska started weekending August 16 on Russet and continued through August. Round Red harvest began weekending August 9 finishing weekending August 16.

Marketing: No F.O.B. prices were issued for potatoes out of any of these three reporting Districts in the 2008 season. 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 separates these three states into separate Reporting Districts for each. Nebraska District, Kansas District and Hereford Hi Plains Texas-Eastern New Mexico are the three districts.

MARKETING COLUMBIA BASIN WASHINGTON – UMATILLA BASIN OREGON POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington planted acreage was 155,000 acres in 2008, a decrease from 2007s 165,000 acres. Harvested acreage in 2008 was also 155,000 acres, a decrease from 2007s 165,000 acres. Washington's yield per acre in 2008 was 600 hundredweight (cwt), a three percent decrease from 2007s yield of 620 cwt. Washington's production in 2008 was 93,000,000 cwt, a nine percent decrease from 2007s production of 102,300,000 cwt. Umatilla Basin Oregon planted acreage was 10,000 acres in 2008, a decrease of 2007s acreage of 11,000 acres. Harvested acreage in 2008 was also 10,000 acres, an increase of 2007s acreage of 9,000 acres. Umatilla Basin Oregon's yield in 2008 was 550 cwt per acre, an eight percent decrease from 2007s yield of 595 cwt per acre. Umatilla Basin Oregon's production in 2008 was 5,500,000 cwt, a decrease from 2007s production of 6,545,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments for the 2008 season for Washington were 7,919,000 cwt, of which 1,155,000 cwt were exports. This was a twenty-one percent decrease from 2007s shipments of 10,045,000 cwt, of which 1,203,000 were exports. Shipments for the 2008 season for Umatilla Basin Oregon were 1,938,000 cwt, of which 154,000 cwt were exports. This was a fifteen percent decrease from 2007s shipments of 2,292,000 cwt, of which 274,000 cwt were exports.

Crop & Weather: One percent of **Columbia Basin Washington** potatoes had been planted in Franklin County by the weekending March 23. During the last week of March, several inches of snow fell and temperatures were cold. Planting continued in Franklin County the first week of April. Temperatures were rather cool and quite unusual. It was windy several days, especially at the end of the week. Potatoes started to emerge during the weekending April 20. Temperatures at the beginning of the week were up into the high 60s & 70s in Franklin County and then moved back down toward the end of the week into 50s and 60s for the daytime high and night and early-morning temperatures reaching the freezing mark. By the end of April, 50 percent of the crop had been planted compared to 58 percent in 2007. Ten percent of the crop had emerged compared to 20 percent in 2007.

During the weekending May 11, moisture conditions in the dry land areas of Grant County were low. Precipitation levels were 45 percent of normal. In the irrigated areas of the county, planting was underway. The crop was 85 percent planted compared to 80 percent in 2007. There was 29 percent emergence, compared to 50 percent in 2007. The condition of the crop was 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, and 69 percent good. The last of the potato crop was planted in Franklin County by mid-May. Irrigators were irrigating full time to keep up with the heat. Potato planting continued in Grant County. By the end of May, temperatures seemed to be near normal in Franklin County. Fields at the south end of the county were finally beginning to bloom. The crop was 95 percent planted compared to 97 percent in 2007. There was 82 percent emergence, compared to 87 percent in 2007. The condition of the crop was 3 percent poor, 34 percent fair, and 63 percent good.

Conditions were cool and wet the first week of June, but the rains were scattered, leaving some areas lacking. Potatoes were blooming in Franklin County. Temperatures for the weekending June 15 were below normal with intermittent rain showers in Franklin County. Potatoes, particularly at the south end of the county, were in bloom and looking good. Planting was generally complete by the end of June, and nearly completely emerged.

Harvest began mid-July. By the end of July the crop was 20 percent harvested, compared to 25 percent in 2007. Harvest continued through August. During the weekending August 24, temperatures were cooler than normal and rain was received during the week. Harvest continued and was 40 percent complete by the end of the first week of September. Home gardeners were digging potatoes in Klickitat County by mid-September. During the weekending October 19, with no measurable precipitation received in Adams County, the weather had been cooperative for wrapping up harvest. Harvest was progressing well in Walla Walla County. By the end of October, the harvest in Walla Walla County neared completion and harvest in the Columbia Basin was complete by mid-November.

Recent cool weather brought precipitation to the **Oregon's Umatilla Basin** the first week in April. Overnight light frost kept soil temperatures cool and out of the optimal range for crop emergence. This had also kept area producers from planting and spraying crops. Periods of light rain had been followed by light to moderate dry wind which had a "wick-effect" pulling moisture off the ground. Cool weather persisted throughout the region during the weekending April 13. Precipitation had still been below normal for the time period. A wet weather pattern was forecasted for the beginning for the week. Periods of warmer weather had provided better growing conditions. Mountain snow was at average or above average in some places. Extended outlook forecasts had no heavy rain events in the mountain regions, which had eased flood tensions. Mid-April, cool weather persisted throughout the county. Windy conditions had also taken some of the moisture off the top soil. Cool over night weather had still kept soil below optimal crop growing temperatures. The cold weather had put early planted potatoes behind. Warmer weather during the end of the month had allowed for better growing conditions. Low soil moisture conditions were still in effect. Possible showers were forecasted for the upcoming week. Moderate rains were needed to help east current dry conditions. Early potato yields were expected to be low unless the weather changed dramatically.

During the weekending May 11, the weather had warmed up from the previous week, but cool and dry conditions continued to be a factor in crop conditions with delayed crop development and signs of water stress were starting to show in shallow soils. Soil moisture conditions were becoming critical. If forecasted temperatures reached the mid-80s by the end of the next week as predicted, crop condition were likely to rapidly decline. During the weekending May 18, precipitation was still below normal. However, temperatures were warmer than they had been. The potatoes were still behind. Cooler weather the following week with intermittent showers throughout the area, helped improve crop conditions in some areas. Cool weather and precipitation persisted through the end of the month which continued to help stressed crops, but the effects of the late precipitation couldn't be determined at that time.

By the end of the first week of June, the cool weather pattern had kept daytime temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Moisture was still a concern as growers looked forward to the next several weeks. Cool, wet weather mid-month added more precipitation that the crops on the ground needed. During the weekending June 22, temperature had increased to more optimal growing levels.

By the first week of July, the crop was still more than 10 days behind in maturity. By mid-August, yield prospects had rebounded considerably from poor to average after the cold spring. By the end of August, the Norkotah potato crop had matured in central Oregon.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the week-ending July 19, 2008. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $16.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 9, 2008 at $18.00.

The first report of Yellow Type was issued during the week-ending August 2, 2008. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One size A was $16.00-18.00. The last report was issued the next week, weekending August 9 at $16.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 9, 2008. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $24.00-26.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 25, 2009 at $11.00.

MARKETING NORTHWEST WASHINGTON POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Washington planted acreage was 155,000 acres in 2008, a decrease from 2007s 165,000 acres. Harvested acreage in 2008 was also 155,000 acres, a decrease from 2007s 165,000 acres. Washington's yield per acre in 2008 was 600 hundredweight (cwt), a three percent decrease from 2007s yield of 620 cwt. Washington's production in 2008 was 93,000,000 cwt, a nine percent decrease from 2007s production of 102,300,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments of fresh-table stock potatoes out of Northwestern Washington for the 2008 crop was 1,662,022 cwt total which includes 44,550 cwt shipped by piggyback,1,442,489 domestic by truck, and 174,983 export by truck. The USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Market News Service began tracking shipments by variety mid-way through the 2007 Crop's packing season. The 2008 crop shipments by variety are: Round Red 954,578 cwt domestic, 69,300 export; Yellow Type 240,948 domestic, 46,236 export; Long White 234,465 domestic, 58,215 export; Russet 9,515 domestic, 365 cwt export; and Mixed Varieties 2,983 domestic, 867 export. These variety shipments do not include anything shipped by Piggyback. 2008 saw shipments peak seasonally for the Holidays, the weeks ending November 15 and 22. The majority of the potato crop out of this District is of the Round Red variety. Also grown, packed and shipped are Yellow Type, Long White, a small amount of Russet, Fingerling, Purple and etc. The first shipments for the 2008 season were moved on the weekending September 6, 2008 and the last shipments of the season were on weekending July 13, 2009. The Round Reds shipped throughout the season. The Long Whites were not moved this season until mid-February, and Yellow Type by early May. The week-ending November 15 was the biggest shipping week of the season with 97,505 cwt shipped.

Crop & Weather: Weekending April 20, 2008 the area experienced wet (approximately 1.48 inches of precipitation) and cold weather, snowing an inch on Saturday, April 19. High temperatures averaged 54 degrees which slowed new growth. With a good rain on Tuesday, April 23, and overcast most of the week, the weather really put the breaks on planting. However, rainy days turned into sunshine over the weekend and many farmers decided to get to work while the weather was good. Potato farmers in the

Valley had about ten percent of this year's crop in the ground by the end of April.

Weekending June 29 saw high temperatures for the week averaging 83 degrees and there was .41 of rain recorded. Potato farmers in the Valley had a very productive week with about 80 percent of the crop planted by week's end.

Weekending August 31 had high temperatures for the week averaging 70 degrees. Potato vines were being mowed down and harvest was expected to begin soon.

By weekending September 28 potato harvest continued after drying out from a wet weekend.

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

Marketing: The USDA, AMS, Fruit and Vegetable Market News reported prices out of Northwestern Washington from weekending September 13, 2008 through April 4, 2009 on Round Red; September 13, 2008 through November 29, 2008 on Long White; and Yellow Type ran from September 13, 2008 through the week of February 7, 2009. Round Red 50-pound cartons started out at $18.00-20.00 per carton, finishing at $14.00-16.00, with the high price peaking from September 27-November 15, 2008 at $20.00. The seasonal low was the weekending March 21, 2009 at $14.00-15.00 per carton. Long White 50- pound cartons started at $30.00 weekending September 13, 2008 and finished at $30.00 weekending November 29, 2008. The Long White price never deviated from the $20.00 throughout the season. Yellow Type 50-pound cartons started out at $26.00 per carton, which for the first six weeks of the season was the high price. The season finished at $20.00-24.00, which was also the seasonal low. Supplies of Russet Norkotah and Fingerling were in too few hands to establish a market.

MARKETING CENTRAL WISCONSIN POTATOES

2008 CROP

Acreage & Production: According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Wisconsin potato planted acreage in 2008 was 63,500 acres, down slightly from 2007s 64,500 acres. Harvested acreage in 2008 was 62,000 acres, down from 2007s 64,000 acres. Yield per acres was 415 hundredweight (cwt) in 2008, a decrease from 2007s yield of 440 cwt. Production in 2008 was 25,730,000 cwt, an eight percent decrease from 2007s production of 28,160,000 cwt.

Shipments: Shipments from Central Wisconsin in 2008 were 7,466,000, an eleven percent decrease from 2007s shipments of 8,346,000 cwt. The peak shipping month was October at 913,000 cwt. All of the potatoes were shipped by truck. There are no rail shipments out of Wisconsin.

Crop & Weather: Wet fields were still delaying spring fieldwork during the weekending April 21, with reports of 4 inches of snow in one area and continuous unneeded rain in many other areas. There were reports of some fields being worked up for potato planting in a couple of central counties. Average temperatures were close to normal with average highs from the mid 50s to 60 degrees and average lows ranging across the 30s. During the last week of April, most areas of the State saw some sort of precipitation with reports of snow-covered fields in some northern Wisconsin Counties and water-logged fields in many additional counties, statewide. Potato planting was reported to be off to a slow start in one area due to wet conditions, while another area reported the potatoes going in fast.

Rain and cooler conditions continued to delay fieldwork across Wisconsin during the first week of May. The central part of the State saw snow the prior week. Most areas reported that fields which were clear of standing water were once again flooded. Average high temperatures ranged from 33-39 degrees. There were only a few reports of planting. Some progress was made in tillage and planting during the weekending May 12. Rainfall was minimal, average high temperatures were in the mid to high 60s, average lows were in the high 30s to the mid 40s. Ground temperatures have been slow to rise in many areas, as average temperatures were 2 degrees below normal. Potato planting continues to progress. Cooler temperatures and some areas of frost slowed crop emergence during the weekending May 27. Temperatures continued to remain below normal. Potato planting was in full swing. By the end of May, several areas of Wisconsin were still reporting frost, although planting was nearly finished.

During the weekending June 16, a steady succession of severe storms characterized by several inches of rain, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding prevented fieldwork and resulted in standing water in fields of many southern counties across Wisconsin. Soil erosion had become a concern. Many fields that were planted, and some that were due to be planted may lay idle this year. The Governor declared a state of emergency for 29 Wisconsin counties, while President Bush issued a major disaster declaration authorizing FEMA assistance. Some planted potatoes had yet to emerge. During the weekending June 23, a total of 22 Wisconsin counties had been declared a state of disaster, with 30 counties under the Governor's state of emergency. There were still fields with standing water throughout Wisconsin, and the extent of crop damage is still unknown. Many comparisons have been made between the floods of 1993 and 2008. On the upside, warmer days with sun and mild to moderate winds helped dry up some areas affected by flood waters. Average high temperatures were in the upper 70s to 80 degrees with average low temperatures ranging from 50-51 degrees. By the end of June, potatoes were blooming and showing good growth, despite the prior wet conditions.

By mid-July, potatoes were doing well but believe it or not they were in need of rain. By the weekending July 21 the crop was in full bloom. During the weekending July 28, warm weather and scattered showers helped crops progress. Average high temperatures ranged from 79 to 83 degrees, with average low temperatures ranging from 60 to 63 degrees.

Fresh potato harvest began the beginning of August. By the weekending August 11, harvest continued with potatoes looking and producing good yields and quality. Harvest continued throughout the month of August and into September. By mid-September, harvest was just starting in one west-central Wisconsin county, while late harvest was underway in the central part of the state.
Harvest continued through September.
Frost hit parts of Wisconsin the first week of October, although for many of the State's farmers it was not a killing frost. Harvest continued. Harvest was complete in Vilas County with an average crop reported by mid-October. By the weekending October 20, harvest in Portage County was complete with good yields reported.

Marketing: The first report of Round Reds was issued during the week-ending August 2, 2008. 50 pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $20.00-21.00. The last report was issued during the weekending March 14, 2009 at $9.00-9.50.

The first report of Round Whites was issued during the weekending August 2, 2008. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $13.00. The last report was issued during the weekending August 16, 2008 at $11.00.

The first report of Yellow Types was issued during the weekending August 9, 2008. 50-pound sacks of U.S. One size A was $19.00. The last report was issued during the weekending September 13, 2008 at $17.00-18.00.

The first report of Russet Norkotahs was issued during the weekending August 23, 2008. 50-pound cartons of U.S. One 70s was $27.00-28.00. The last report was issued during the weekending July 11, 2009 at $12.00-12.50.

MARKETING VIRGINIA POTATOES

2008 CROP

Harvesting & Marketing: Harvest of the 2008 Virginia potato crop began in mid-June although supplies were light until the end of the month. Virginia Market News Service began reporting shipping point prices on June 18 with the first F.O.B. Eastern Shore price quoted at $12.00 per 50-pound sack of Round White, US One, Size A potatoes. From the very start of the harvest, demand was good and prices remained at $12.00 until July 9. In a typical year, prices often decline as the harvest continues but in 2008, prices actually increased. On July 9, continued good demand caused prices to increase to $14.00 per 50-pound sack. On July 21, the price increased again with most sales at $15.00 per 50-pound sack. By July 28, some sales were recorded as high as $16.00 per 50-pound sack. By the end of July, supplies were in too few hands to establish the market as practically all growers had finished harvesting. Market conditions for tablestock potatoes were outstanding in June and July as lighter than normal supplies in competing areas and good demand led to high prices for Virginia potatoes. By early August, demand began to decrease but for the most part the Virginia harvest was already finished.

Prices for the large 2¾ to 4½ inch "Chef" Round White potatoes were first reported on June 18 at $15.00-16.00 per 50-pound sack. Demand was reported as good. For the rest of June, prices were generally $14.00-15.00 per 50-pound sack. During July, demand continued to be good and prices increased to $16.00 on July 9. Prices rose again on July 21 when Chef potatoes were reported at $17.00. The final reported price was on July 28 with some sales as high as $18.00 per 50-pound sack.

Russet potatoes continue to be a very important crop for many Virginia growers. The first reported F.O.B. Eastern Shore price was on July 15 with 50-pound sacks of size A Russets at $13.00-14.00. Prices for sacks remained unchanged for the entire harvest while tote bags generally ranged between $23.00 and $28.00 per hundredweight. Good demand and movement allowed growers to finish harvesting and marketing Russet potatoes by late July.

Round Red prices were first reported on June 30 at $14.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One, size A and $16.00 for size B. Demand was good for Red potatoes throughout July and, as was the case with Round White potatoes, prices increased as the harvest progressed. By July 9, most sales of size A were at $16.00 with size B at $18.00 and prices increased to mostly $18.00 for size A and $20.00 for size B on July 18. The final reported price was on July 28 with size A as high as $20.00 and size B as high as $22.00. Virginia growers finished harvesting Reds at nearly the perfect time as supplies from Wisconsin began to enter the market at the end of July causing an increase in competition.

Yukon Gold potato prices were first reported on July 1 at $20.00 for 50-pound sacks of U.S. One, size A. Prices dropped to $18.00-20.00 on July 14 due to an increase in supplies of the yellow flesh potatoes. Unlike some years when Yukon Gold prices drop significantly as the harvest progresses, prices remained at mostly $18.00-20.00 per sack throughout the harvest. The final reported price was on July 25 at $20.00.

Weather: Weather conditions early in the year were fairly good for Virginia potato growers and the crop was generally reported to be in good condition during the spring. Many competing areas were not as fortunate. Freezing temperatures and heavy rainfall damaged much of the chipstock crop in Arkansas, Missouri and Indiana. As a result, there was a significant shortage of chipstock potatoes which helped to improve demand for Virginia potatoes. Harvesting also began later than normal in many areas to the North. In addition, North Carolina's crop, which was originally reported to be in very good condition early in the year, was hurt in June by extremely dry conditions.

Virginia growers did not escape the adverse weather conditions other areas of the country experienced. On April 15, temperatures as low as 31 degrees were reported on the Eastern Shore. Fortunately, damage to the crop was minimal and the plants made a nice recovery. Later, the dry conditions that much of the country faced in 2007 and 2008 began to affect Virginia's crop. Even though rainfall totals recorded at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research Center in Painter for April through June were higher than the 68 year average, many areas of the Shore, particularly Accomack County, suffered from very dry conditions. As a result, yields did not reach their full potential.

Production & Quality: Total Virginia production in 2008 was estimated at 1,482,000 hundredweight (cwt) by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, compared to 1,134,000 cwt in 2007, 1,512,000 cwt in 2006, 1,029,000 cwt in 2005, and 1,200,000 cwt in 2004. The increase in production during 2008 can be attributed to an improvement in yields. Virginia's potato crop in 2007 had very low yields due to extremely dry conditions.

For the most part, quality of the 2008 crop was good. Late in the season, there were a few isolated reports of quality problems due to heat. Overall, growers produced a high quality crop with very few problems.

Shipments: Shipments of Virginia potatoes were up slightly from 2007. Approximately 1,470 truck lot equivalents (50,000-pounds) were shipped in 2008. Shipments were down significantly from 2006 but were very close to the totals of 2005 and 2004.

Shipments during June totaled 201 loads, compared to only 93 loads in June 2007. The increase in early shipments can be attributed to very good demand for Virginia potatoes. During July 2008, 1,263 loads were shipped compared to only 972 loads in July 2007. In 2008, 99 percent of the crop was shipped by the end of July, compared to only 73 percent in 2007 and 84 percent in 2006. The reason that very few potatoes were shipped during August in 2008 was a reflection of the very good demand and movement that allowed Virginia growers to finish harvesting earlier than normal.

Packaging: Potatoes were sold in 50-pound sacks, baled 5 and 10-pound bags, loose 10-pound bags and canvas totes. Both paper and poly bags were utilized. In the past few years, growers have seen a decline in demand for the smaller consumer packages. During the 2008 season, only 10 percent of inspected potatoes were sold in 5-pound or 10-pound bags. Standard mark-ups for packaging were typically $3.00 per cwt for loose 10-pound bags, $3.50 per cwt for baled 10-pound bags and $5.50 per cwt for baled 5-pound bags.

Potatoes sold in 50-pound sacks totaled nearly 40 percent of inspected potatoes while potatoes shipped in bulk accounted for approximately 50 percent. Use of canvas totes, each weighing approximately 2,000 pound when full, continues to account for a significant amount of shipments. Selling potatoes in totes allows growers to move the crop at a faster rate but doesn't permit them to earn the mark-ups from the smaller packages.

Markets & Competition: During 2008, shortages of potatoes in competing areas improved market conditions for Virginia potatoes tremendously. Midwest growers suffered major losses due to freezing temperatures and heavy rainfall which resulted in shortages of chipstock potatoes. Buyers were forced to purchase large amounts of Florida and North Carolina tablestock potatoes for chipstock use. As a result, there were fewer tablestock potatoes available in competing markets during the Virginia marketing season which improved demand and prices significantly. Delayed harvests in competing areas to the North also benefited Virginia growers. By early August, supplies in competing areas began to increase so it was fortunate that the Virginia harvest finished earlier than normal.

In the past, Canada has been an important market for Virginia potato growers. Unfortunately, shipments to Canada continued to be very low in 2008. Virginia potato growers only shipped 61 loads (50,000-pound) to Canada in 2008 compared to 94 loads in 2007, 187 loads in 2006, 124 loads in 2005, and 99 loads in 2004. Unlike 2007 when approximately 45 percent of the loads shipped to Canada in 2007 were chipstock, all of the loads shipped in 2008 were for the tablestock market.

VIRGINIA CHIPPING POTATOES

2008 CROP

Chipstock: Chipstock potatoes are a very important part of Virginia's potato crop and in 2008 they represented slightly over 40 percent of the total shipments. Demand was good for chipstock potatoes due to shortages in many competing areas and as a result, the pace of shipments was well ahead of previous years.

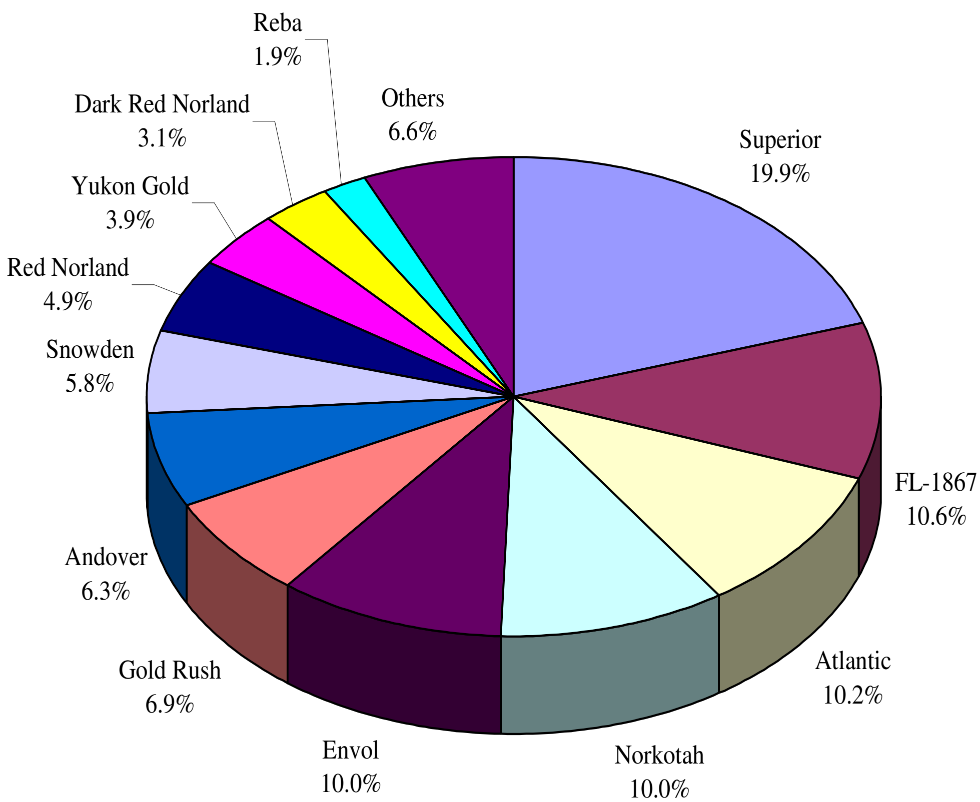
The vast majority of chipstock sales were preseason contracts and were mostly in the $7.50-8.00 per cwt price range. Open market demand was good and prices for open market potatoes were mostly $20.00 per cwt. Prices in 2008 were a big improvement from $5.25-5.50 in 2007 and $4.00-4.50 in 2006. Unfortunately, many growers reported that yields were hurt by dry conditions so they were unable to fully take advantage of the increased demand and higher prices.

Varieties: Of the 105.16 carlots (50,000-pound) of seed imported and inspected during the 2008 season, Superiors accounted for approximately 20 percent of the total, once again making it the most popular of all varieties grown in Virginia. Chipping varieties accounted for the second and third most popular with FL-1867, a Frito Lay variety, at 10.6 percent and Atlantic at 10.2 percent. Another chipstock potato, Snowden, was eighth most popular at 5.8 percent, declining from approximately 8 percent in both 2006 and 2007. Use of the Envol, an early tablestock variety, increased from 4.2 percent in 2007 to 10.0 percent in 2008 and it became the fifth most popular. The Andover variety, used for both tablestock and chipstock, dropped to seventh at 6.3 percent, down from 9.3 percent in 2007.

Russet potatoes, including the fourth ranked Norkotah, sixth ranked Gold Rush as well as Silverton, Blazer and Peribonka, accounted for slightly over 20 percent of the seed in 2008, compared to 13 percent in 2007 and 15.5 percent in 2006. It was the highest total ever for Russet varieties which have generally ranged between 11 percent to 15 percent in previous years.

Red potatoes continue to play an important role for Virginia potato growers with the Red Norland the ninth most popular at 4.9 percent and Dark Red Norland placing eleventh at 3.1 percent. All Red varieties accounted for approximately 10 percent in 2008. Red potatoes have generally ranged between 7 percent and 10 percent since 2003 after accounting for 14 percent in 2002.

Yukon Gold was tenth most popular at 3.9 percent, almost identical to the 3.8 percent in 2007 but a decrease from 4.4 percent in 2006. The Yukon Gold variety has generally ranged between 4 percent and 6 percent during the past seven years after accounting for 9 percent in 2001.


Reba
1.9%
Others
6.6%
Dark Red Norland
3.1%
Superior
19.9%
Yukon Gold
3.9%
Red Norland
4.9%
Snowden
5.8%
FL-1867
10.6%
Andover
6.3%
Atlantic
10.2%
Gold Rush
6.9%
Envol
10.0%
Norkotah
10.0%

VIRGINIA SEED POTATOES

2008 CROP

VIRGINIA SEED POTATO IMPORT RECORD

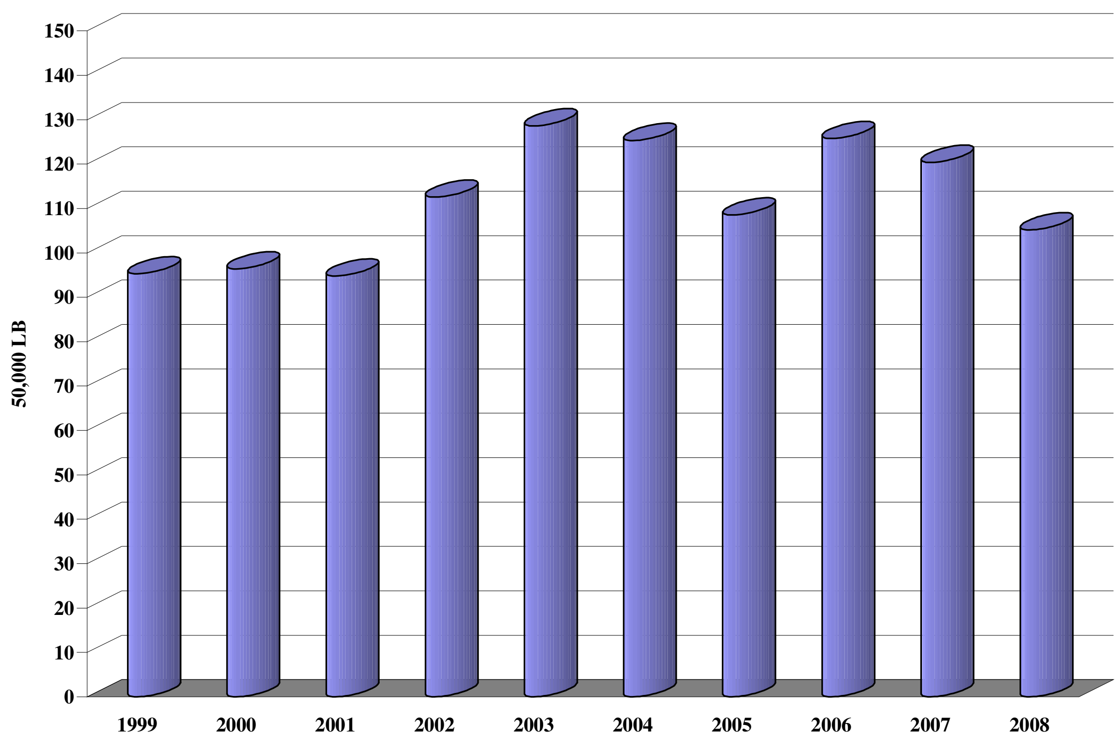
VIRGINIA MARKET NEWS SERVICE - ONLEY, VA

Receipts of seed potatoes by varieties for Accomack and Northampton Counties. Amounts are carlots equivalent to 500 cwt.

	2008	2007	2006	2005
Superior	20.95	28.15	30.17	25.44
FL-1867	11.10	9.12	7.96	8.89
Atlantic	10.70	11.72	11.14	10.66
Norkotah	10.50	9.18	12.78	8.34
Envol	10.49	5.08	5.14	5.15
Gold Rush	7.25	6.57	6.72	7.88
Andover	6.61	11.20	12.34	10.23
Snowden	6.07	9.08	10.49	8.35
Red Norland	5.13	3.56	4.52	3.13
Yukon Gold	4.14	4.54	5.47	5.30
Dark Red Norland	3.29	6.57	2.91	2.37
Reba	2.01	6.30	4.54	4.57
Satina	1.76	1.72	0.40	-----
Silverton	1.58	-----	-----	-----
Blazer Russet	1.06	-----	-----	-----
Red Lasoda	0.88	0.84	0.95	0.86
Peribonka	0.84	-----	0.84	0.77
Villetta Rose	0.73	0.20	-----	-----
Modoc	0.04	-----	-----	-----
Gala	0.03	-----	-----	-----
LaChipper	-----	3.45	5.81	1.82
Red Scarlet	-----	1.05	-----	-----
Marcy	-----	0.87	1.40	0.96
Eramosa	-----	0.84	-----	-----
Nordonna	-----	0.40	0.46	2.00
Harley Blackwell	-----	-----	0.87	-----
Norwis	-----	-----	0.86	-----
Adora	-----	-----	-----	1.83
Others	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	**105.16**	**120.43**	**125.77**	**108.54**

VIRGINIA SEED POTATO IMPORT TOTALS

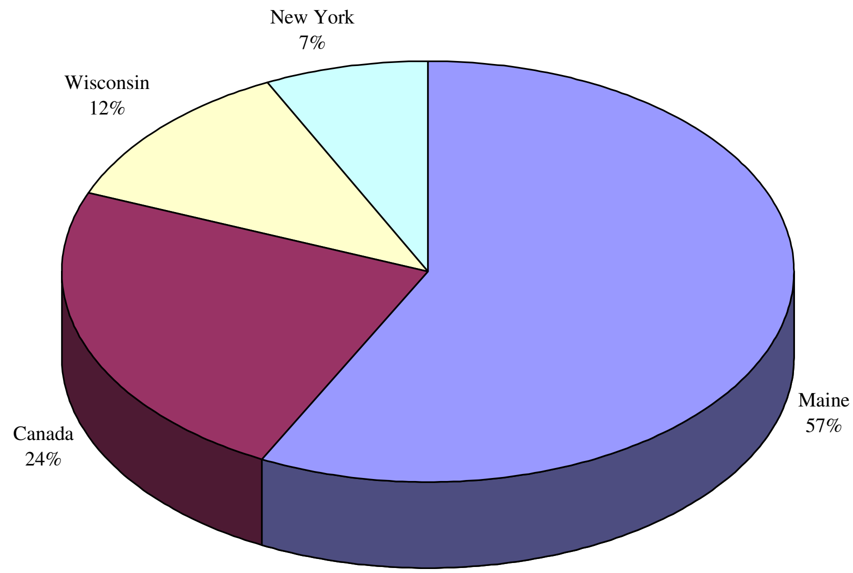
CARLOT TOTALS – 50,000 LB UNITS



YEAR	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TOTAL	95.3	96.4	94.8	112.6	128.6	125.3	108.5	125.8	120.4	105.2

SEED POTATOES IMPORTS BY ORIGIN

Maine continued to be the leading supplier of seed potatoes to Virginia, shipping approximately 57% of the seed that was inspected during the 2008 season. Shipments from Maine accounted for 57% in 2007, 52% in 2006, 60% in 2005 and 64% in 2004. Canada was the second most popular origin at 24%, a slight decrease from 25% in 2007. Shipments from Canada accounted for 30% in 2006, 12% in 2005 and 15% in 2004. Wisconsin replaced New York as the third most popular origin accounting for 12% of the seed during 2008. Seed from Wisconsin totaled 8% during 2007, 5% in 2006, 17% in 2005 and 8% in 2004. Seed from New York accounted for 7% in 2008, compared to 10% in 2007, 12% in 2006 and 9% in both 2005 and 2004.



ORIGIN	SHIPMENTS (50,000 LB UNITS)
Maine	60.41
Canada	24.90
Wisconsin	12.15
New York	7.70

MARKETING NEW BRUNSWICK POTATOES

2008 CROP

Production: According to Statistics Canada, New Brunswick potato production totaled 14.17 million hundredweight, down 16 percent from the 2007 season total of 16.9 million cwt and 20 percent (17.7 million cwt) from the 2006 season. The July 2009 production report placed harvested acreage at 54,500 acres, down 4,000 acres and 4,500 acres from the previous two seasons. Yields were also down in 2008 at 260 cwt per acre compared to 290 and 300 the previous years. Total Canadian production of 104.1 million cwt was reported for the year, down 5 percent and 7 percent respectively.

Movement: Early movement (September-December) to the U.S**.** (838,190 cwt) was down (14 percent) from the 2007 season total of 974,400 cwt. However, shipping increased by the end of the calendar year, as peak movement was reported January – June. These figures were compiled with data issued from the U.S. Commerce Department, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and finalized by Statistics Canada. The season total through June 2009 of 2.26 million cwt fell sharply from the previous year's movement to the US of 3.03 million cwt. The U.S. was the number one destination for much of New Brunswick potatoes, namely Russet varieties. Access to the States is made through the major border crossing at Houlton, Maine, with lighter shipments entering through Fort Fairfield and Bridgewater, Maine. Lighter shipments of the 2007 crop continued into August. New Brunswick has predominantly been a processing (french-fry) region, with nearly 60 percent of production devoted to this market. It is also the original home of McCain Foods, one of the giants in the fry industry. There are two McCain processing plants in the province, Grand Falls and Florenceville.

Growing and Harvest Season: Planting was off to a slightly later start in May due to some flooding in the Fredericton and northwest regions of the province. Heavy snow melt from winter precipitation in excess of 85-150 percent of the average snowfall was recorded. However, soil conditions changed as springs rains were sparse and below (40-60 percent) the average by July 1. The lack of moisture hampered tuber growth and development during June and July. Heavy rains in Late August brought some concern of disease pressure; however, the latter part of the month into September had good harvest conditions. Initial light harvest of Round White and Yellows was underway around September 1 for domestic usage, while Russet harvest commenced in mid-September.

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

Stocks on hand: New Brunswick's potato holdings on December 1, 2008 totaled 8.7 million cwt, down 19 percent from December 2007 holdings of 10.8 million cwt**.** On May 1, stocks on hand were 3.6 million cwt compared to 5.48 million cwt, a sharp drop of 34 percent. A few fresh shippers continued to pack lightly for the U.S. market well into August.

Sum of 100000lb units	Column Labels													
Row Labels	**Aug-09**	**Sep-09**	**Oct-09**	**Nov-09**	**Dec-09**	**Jan-09**	**Feb-09**	**Mar-09**	**Apr-09**	**May-09**	**Jun-09**	**Jul-09**	**Aug-09**	**Grand Total**
ARIZONA									27	281	130	79	7	524
CALIFORNIA-CENTRAL	427	32	2	39	89	187	158	58		798	1,509	1,503	430	5,232
CALIFORNIA-IMPERIAL VAL								82	313	148	9			552
CALIFORNIA-NORTH	43	1	57	114	117	89	91	84	100	99	99	100	54	1,048
CALIFORNIA-SOUTH	121	56	39	10	48	43	36	39			1	67	126	586
CANADA	486	479	658	834	909	918	873	447	391	328	269	136	79	6,807
COLORADO	323	911	1,298	1,518	1,490	1,694	1,174	1,467	1,448	1,610	1,719	1,324	540	16,516
DELAWARE	151	17										56	155	379
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-
FLORIDA							186	780	749	695	377			2,787
IDAHO	1,785	1,970	2,480	2,460	2,753	2,829	2,565	2,872	2,808	2,470	2,806	2,838	2,249	32,885
KANSAS	492	157	20									9	637	1,315
MAINE	11	75	174	363	366	397	278	270	188	122	60	25	5	2,334
MICHIGAN	179	259	222	408	279	250	174	133	130	103	87	22	54	2,300
MINNESOTA	947	811	237	221	209	195	126	95	73	55	83	84	914	4,050
NEBRASKA	424	526	319	424	300	294	213	272	177	125	97	86	304	3,561
NEVADA	49	64	103	105	56	93	92	100	107	100	70	96	79	1,114
NEW MEXICO	74	134	114	152	122	51	46	58	26				50	827
NEW YORK	59	156	182	123	88	34							27	669
NORTH CAROLINA											157	230	7	394
NORTH DAKOTA		97	399	485	429	442	320	349	325	211	123	5		3,185
OREGON	238	239	214	335	322	273	249	319	315	287	230	108	201	3,330
TEXAS	395	201	62	75	61	68	50	52	51	38	49	306	544	1,952
VIRGINIA	4										58	346	133	541
WASHINGTON	1,094	1,341	1,044	887	690	763	615	666	616	701	599	570	1,186	10,772
WISCONSIN	522	825	913	827	812	731	582	616	585	457	425	186	486	7,967
WYOMING				12	7	11								30
Grand Total	**7,824**	**8,351**	**8,537**	**9,392**	**9,147**	**9,362**	**7,828**	**8,759**	**8,429**	**8,628**	**8,957**	**8,176**	**8,267**	**111,657**

NATIONAL CROP PRODUCTION INFORMATION

	Area Planted (acres)			Area Harvested (acres)		
	Fall					
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
California	8,600	7,900	7,800	8,600	7,900	7,800
Colorado	59,900	59,200	57,000	59,700	59,100	56,900
Idaho	335,000	350,000	305,000	334,000	349,000	304,000
10 SW County	21,000	21,000	15,000	21,000	21,000	15,000
Other Idaho	314,000	329,000	290,000	313,000	328,000	289,000
Maine	58,500	57,100	56,000	57,000	56,500	54,700
Maryland	3,100	2,700	2,800	3,100	2,600	2,400
Michigan	43,500	42,500	43,000	43,000	42,000	42,500
Minnesota	53,000	52,000	50,000	50,000	49,000	48,000
Montana	10,600	11,300	10,900	10,500	11,200	10,500
Nebraska	19,500	21,000	19,500	19,400	19,800	19,400
Nevada	6,600	7,300	5,800	6,600	7,300	5,800
New Mexico	5,000	5,500	5,900	5,000	5,400	5,900
New York	20,600	19,000	18,000	19,000	18,300	17,800
North Dakota	100,000	97,000	82,000	98,000	91,000	81,000
Ohio	3,300	3,200	2,500	3,100	3,000	2,100
Oregon	35,000	36,500	35,300	35,000	36,500	35,300
Malheur County	3,500	3,000	2,800	3,500	3,000	2,800
Other Oregon	31,500	33,500	32,500	31,500	33,500	32,500
Pennsylvania	11,000	10,500	10,000	10,500	10,000	9,500
Rhode Island	500	600	500	500	600	500
Washington	156,000	160,000	155,000	155,000	160,000	155,000
Wisconsin	66,000	64,500	63,500	66,000	64,000	62,000
Total	**995,700**	**1,007,800**	**930,500**	**984,000**	**993,200**	**921,100**

Source: Potatoes 2008 Summary, National Agricultural Statistics Service, September 2009

NATIONAL CROP PRODUCTION INFORMATION

	Yield (cwt)			Production (cwt)		
	Fall					
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
California	450	480	505	3,870,000	3,792,000	3,939,000
Colorado	380	355	375	22,686,000	20,981,000	21,338,000
Idaho	386	373	378	128,915,000	130,010,000	114,885,000
10 SW County	475	490	525	9,975,000	10,290,000	7,875,000
Other Idaho	380	365	370	118,940,000	119,720,000	106,930,000
Maine	305	295	270	17,385,000	16,668,000	14,769,000
Maryland	240	320	270	7,444,000	832,000	648,000
Michigan	330	350	350	14,190,000	14,700,000	14,875,000
Minnesota	425	440	425	21,250,000	21,560,000	20,400,000
Montana	335	330	330	3,518,000	3,696,000	3,465,000
Nebraska	450	415	430	8,730,000	8,217,000	8,342,000
Nevada	445	390	410	2,937,000	2,847,000	2,378,000
New Mexico	420	370	390	2,100,000	1,998,000	2,301,000
New York	300	285	320	5,700,000	5,216,000	5,696,000
North Dakota	260	260	280	25,480,000	23,660,000	22,680,000
Ohio	325	330	325	1,008,000	990,000	683,000
Oregon	530	556	529	18,533,000	20,293,000	18,676,000
Malheur County	435	455	460	1,523,000	1,365,000	1,288,000
Other Oregon	540	565	535	17,010,000	18,928,000	17,388,000
Pennsylvania	260	220	265	2,730,000	2,200,000	2,518,000
Rhode Island	260	300	285	130,000	180,000	143,000
Washington	580	630	600	89,900,000	100,800,000	93,000,000
Wisconsin	445	440	415	29,370,000	28,160,000	2,573,000
Total	**393**	**396**	**395**	**440,698,000**	**444,875,000**	**412,580,000**

Source: Potatoes 2008 Summary, National Agricultural Statistics Service, September 2009

NATIONAL CROP PRODUCTION INFORMATION

2008 Fall Crop

National 2008 Fall Crop Statistical Overview from NASS						
	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production CWT Per Acre	Price Per CWT	Value of Production
2008	930,000.5	921,000.1	409	376,386,000	$8.90	$3,350,927,000
2007	1,007,000.8	993,000.2	410	406,800,000	$7.04	$2,871,686,000
2006	995,000.7	984,000.0	406	399,176,000	$6.67	$2,668,984,000
2005	969,000.7	951,000.0	403	383,563,000	$6.53	$2,510,740

National 2008 Crop Statistical Overview from NASS		
State Rank	State	Value of Production
1	Idaho	$815,116,000
2	Washington	$739,350,000
3	Colorado	$309,401,000
4	Wisconsin	$293,322,000
5	Oregon	$211,039,000

2008 All Seasons

National 2008 (All Seasons) Crop Statistical Overview from NASS						
	Planted Acres	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre	Production CWT Per Acre	Price Per CWT	Value of Production
2008	1,058.8	1,045.7	395	412,742	$9.46	$3,899,136,000
2007	1,141.9	1,122.2	396	444,875	$7.51	$3,339,710,000
2006	1,139.4	1,120.2	393	440,698	$7.31	$3,208,632,000
2005	1,108.4	1,086.2	390	423,788	$7.04	$2,981,754,000
2004	1,192.4	1,166.0	391	455,806	$5.65	$2,565,260,000

National 2008 Crop Statistical Overview from NASS		
State Rank	State	Value of Production
1	Idaho	$815,116,000
2	Washington	$739,350,000
3	Colorado	$327,977,000
4	Wisconsin	$293,322,000
5	California	$216,949,000

Source: Potatoes 2008 Summary, National Agricultural Statistics Service, September 2009