

IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Idaho Potatoes

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Idaho Potato Production Lowest Since 1989

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 114 million cwt, unchanged from the November forecast and down 14 percent from last year's 133 million cwt. If realized, this would be the least production in Idaho since 1989. Planted acres of 295,000 and harvested acres of 294,000 are down 25,000 acres from 2009. Harvested acreage is at the lowest level since 1980. Statewide, yield is 389 cwt (field-run basis), down 26 cwt from last year's record high yield per acre. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 550 cwt, increased 50 cwt from 2009 and is a record high for this area. Acreage for the 10 Southwest counties, at 16,000 acres planted and harvested, decreased 3,000 acres from last year. Because of the acreage decrease, total production in the area is down 7 percent from last year at 8.80 million cwt. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 380 cwt, compared to a record 410 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 278,000 harvested acres is expected to total 106 million cwt, 14 percent below last year's 123 million cwt.

United States Highlights

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2010 is forecast at 361 million cwt, down slightly from the November 1 forecast and down 8 percent from 2009. Area harvested, at 882,800 acres, is slightly above the November 1 forecast but 4 percent below the 2009 estimate. The average yield forecast, at 409 cwt per acre, is down 1 cwt per acre from the November 1 forecast and 20 cwt per acre below last year's record high yield.

Western States: In Idaho, a cool, wet spring hindered emergence and shortened the growing season. In eastern Washington, below normal temperatures aided plant growth. In the western area, crop progress slowed due to surplus rainfall. In Colorado, growing conditions were generally favorable in the San Luis Valley. Oregon's crop was delayed due to wet conditions. Yields were adversely affected in California by a cool spring and fall rains.

Central States: In North Dakota, crop condition was rated mostly good to excellent throughout the growing season. Harvest progressed ahead of normal and was virtually complete by mid-October. Wisconsin growers reported average crop conditions and below normal crop size.

Eastern States: In Maine, potato development was ahead of schedule by mid-June. Field conditions were reported to be excellent, with many growers beginning harvest in early September.

Total U.S. potato production in 2010 from all seasons is forecast at 399 million cwt, down slightly from the November 1 forecast and 8 percent below 2009. Harvested area, at 1.01 million acres, is virtually unchanged from last month but down 3 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at 395 cwt per acre, 1 cwt below the previous month and down 19 cwt per acre from the previous year record high yield of 414 cwt per acre.

**Potatoes: Planted, Harvested, Yield and Production
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2009 – 2010**

States	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>				<u>Cwt</u>		<u>1,000 Cwt</u>	
WINTER 1/	9.0	(NA)	8.7	(NA)	245	(NA)	2,132	(NA)
SPRING 2/	79.2	91.9	73.7	89.6	289	291	21,321	26,060
SUMMER 2/	43.2	38.3	41.7	37.1	343	317	14,321	11,779
FALL								
California	8.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	495	380	3,960	2,280
Colorado	56.0	55.5	55.2	55.2	400	390	22,080	21,528
IDAHO, ALL	320.0	295.0	319.0	294.0	415	389	132,500	114,440
- 10 SW Counties	19.0	16.0	19.0	16.0	500	550	9,500	8,800
- Other Areas	301.0	279.0	300.0	278.0	410	380	123,000	105,640
Maine	56.0	55.3	55.5	55.2	275	285	15,263	15,732
Massachusetts	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.8	260	285	884	1,083
Michigan	45.0	44.0	43.5	43.5	360	360	15,660	15,660
Minnesota	47.0	45.0	45.0	42.0	460	405	20,700	17,010
Montana	11.2	11.5	9.7	11.3	340	320	3,298	3,616
Nebraska	20.0	19.0	19.9	18.6	440	415	8,756	7,719
Nevada	5.1	7.2	5.1	7.2	470	385	2,397	2,772
New Mexico	6.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	400	400	2,560	2,480
New York	17.1	16.2	16.5	16.1	300	300	4,950	4,830
North Dakota	83.0	84.0	75.0	80.0	255	275	19,125	22,000
Ohio	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	335	290	704	609
Oregon	37.0	35.5	37.0	35.5	580	565	21,460	20,058
Pennsylvania	10.0	10.0	9.5	9.5	310	245	2,945	2,328
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.6	230	275	92	165
Washington	145.0	135.0	143.0	134.0	610	610	87,230	81,740
Wisconsin	63.5	62.5	63.0	62.0	460	400	28,980	24,800
TOTAL FALL	936.7	894.5	917.2	882.8	429	409	393,544	360,850
UNITED STATES	1,068.1	1,024.7	1,041.3	1,009.5	414	395	431,318	398,689

(NA) Not Available.

1/ Beginning in 2010, winter estimates included in spring total.

2/ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.