

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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Website: [www.idahopotato.com](http://www.idahopotato.com)

## **Tom Cooper is retiring.**

A long standing industry icon, Tom Cooper, will be retiring from his position with USDA. Tom has worked with the industry for 42 years. An Open House is being organized for those who wish to give Tom a nice send off and best wishes on December 10, 2011. For information and details, contact Patty Wilkie ([Patty.Wilkie@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Patty.Wilkie@ams.usda.gov)) or Mick Davie ([Mick.Davie@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Mick.Davie@ams.usda.gov)). If you'd like to send a letter/card for inclusion in a gift book, please mail same to Patty Willkie, 1820 E 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100; Idaho Falls, ID 83604 by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Idaho Potatoes

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
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### Idaho Potato Production Up 12 Percent

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 127 million cwt, up 12 percent from last year's 113 million cwt, but 4 percent below the 2009 crop. Planted acres of 370,000 and harvested acres of 319,000 are up 25,000 acres from 2010. Statewide, yield is 398 cwt (field-run basis), up 14 cwt from last year. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 510 cwt, decreased 15 cwt from last year's record high for this area. Acreage for the 10 Southwest counties, at 19,000 acres planted and harvested, increased 3,000 acres from last year. Because of the acreage increase, total production in the area is up 15 percent from last year at 10.1 million cwt. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 390 cwt, compared to a 375 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 300,000 harvested acres is expected to total 117 million cwt, 12 percent above last year's 104 million cwt.

### United States Highlights

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2011 is forecast at 385 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 938,500 acres, is 6 percent above the 2010 estimate. The average yield forecast, at 410 cwt per acre, is down 6 cwt per acre from last year's yield.

In Idaho, yields are good despite a cool, wet spring that delayed emergence. If realized, the yield will be the second highest on record. In Washington, harvesting conditions were favorable, however yields from early digs were lower than last year due to immaturity. In Maine, growers were challenged by persistent wet conditions that delayed planting, washed out fields, and delayed harvest.

Total United States potato production in 2011 from all seasons is forecast at 424 million cwt, 5 percent above 2010. Harvested area, at 1.07 million acres, is up 7 percent from last year. Average yield is forecast at 395 cwt per acre, down 6 cwt per acre from the previous year.

### **Acreage By Variety**

Data from the Potato Objective Yield Survey show that the Russet Burbank variety accounts for 57.8 percent of the potato acreage planted in Idaho. Russet Norkotah accounts for 16.2 percent of plantings, and Ranger Russet is 14.2 percent of the total. Frito Lay varieties, at 1.3 percent, and Umatilla Russet, at 1.2 percent, complete the top five varieties planted in Idaho for the 2011 crop. Other published varieties include Western Russet, at 1.1 percent, and Red Norlands, at 1.1 percent.

In addition to Idaho, planted acreage by variety is published for seven other states: Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin. Colorado conducts an independent survey and is not included in the seven state total. Russet Burbank accounts for 44.0 percent of the planted acreage in the seven states. Russet Burbank is the top variety in five of the eight states. Russet Norkotah is the leading variety in Colorado and Oregon, while Frito Lay varieties account for the greatest percentage of acreage in Wisconsin. Russet Norkotah is second among varieties planted in the seven states and accounts for 12.7 percent of the acreage in the seven state total. Ranger Russet follows with 9.9 percent of the planted acreage in the seven state total. Umatilla Russet is next with 5.5 percent of the acreage planted in the seven states. Frito Lay varieties are fifth with 4.7 percent of the planted acreage, and Norland is sixth with 3.9 percent of the planted acreage in the seven states.

Point Objective Yield Survey:

Fall Potatoes: Percent of Major Varieties Planted, Selected States and 7 State Total, 2010 Crop and 2011 Crop

| State and Varieties | 2010 Percent of Planted Acres | 2011 Percent of Planted Acres | State and Varieties        | 2010 Percent of Planted Acres | 2011 Percent of Planted Acres |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Idaho</b>        |                               |                               | <b>Total (7 States) 1/</b> |                               |                               |
| Russet Burbank      | 59.3                          | 57.8                          | Russet Burbank             | 44.3                          | 44.0                          |
| Russet Norkotah     | 14.0                          | 16.2                          | Russet Norkotah            | 11.4                          | 12.7                          |
| Ranger Russet       | 12.8                          | 14.2                          | Ranger Russet              | 9.0                           | 9.9                           |
| Frito-Lay Varieties | 1.8                           | 1.5                           | Umatilla Russet            | 4.8                           | 5.5                           |
| Umatilla Russet     | 1.1                           | 1.2                           | Frito-Lay Varieties        | 5.8                           | 4.7                           |
| Western Russet      | 1.5                           | 1.1                           | Norland                    | 3.2                           | 3.9                           |
| Norland             | 1.1                           | 1.1                           | Almas                      | 2.7                           | 2.2                           |
| Other Varieties     | 8.5                           | 7.1                           | Shepody                    | 2.5                           | 1.7                           |
|                     |                               |                               | Goldrush                   | 1.1                           | 1.1                           |
| <b>Colorado 2/</b>  |                               |                               | Snowden                    | 1.0                           | 1.0                           |
| Russet Norkotah     | 45.9                          | 48.3                          | Premier Russet             | 1.2                           | 0.8                           |
| Canola Russet       | 13.4                          | 11.5                          | Chieftain                  | 1.0                           | 0.8                           |
| Classic Russet      | *                             | 6.6                           | Yukon Gold                 | 1.0                           | 0.8                           |
| Rio Grande Russet   | 6.8                           | 6.2                           | Dannock                    | 0.5                           | 0.7                           |
| Centennial Russet   | 4.2                           | 4.0                           | Prospect                   | 0.7                           | 0.6                           |
| Yukon Gold          | 4.0                           | 2.2                           | Cal White                  | *                             | 0.6                           |
| Mesa Russet         | *                             | 2.1                           | Atlantic                   | 0.6                           | 0.5                           |
| Blazer Russet       | 4.8                           | 1.9                           | Silverton Russet           | 0.6                           | 0.5                           |
| Russet Nugget       | 2.7                           | 1.7                           | Sagehen                    | 0.5                           | 0.5                           |
| Other Varieties     | 18.2                          | 14.5                          | Dakota Pearl               | 0.7                           | 0.5                           |
|                     |                               |                               | Western Russet             | 0.6                           | 0.5                           |
| <b>Oregon</b>       |                               |                               | Modoc                      | 0.1                           | 0.4                           |
| Russet Norkotah     | 27.9                          | 22.3                          | Innovator                  | 0.3                           | 0.3                           |
| Ranger Russet       | 17.8                          | 17.9                          | Alpine                     | 0.2                           | 0.3                           |
| Russet Burbank      | 17.2                          | 16.5                          | Pike                       | 0.3                           | 0.3                           |
| Umatilla Russet     | 9.1                           | 5.5                           | Ivory Crisp                | 0.2                           | 0.3                           |
| Shepody             | 5.8                           | 6.8                           | Red LaSoda                 | 0.6                           | 0.2                           |
| Frito-Lay Varieties | 10.7                          | 6.5                           | Reba                       | 0.2                           | 0.2                           |
| Almas               | 3.1                           | 5.8                           | Blazer Russet              | *                             | 0.2                           |
| Premier Russet      | 1.1                           | 2.5                           | Dakota Crisp               | *                             | 0.2                           |
| Modoc               | 1.9                           | 1.9                           | Cascade                    | 0.3                           | 0.2                           |
| Atlantic            | *                             | 1.9                           | Classic Russet             | 0.2                           | 0.2                           |
| Yukon Gold          | 1.5                           | 1.7                           | Laratic                    | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Pike                | 1.2                           | 1.3                           | Klondike Rose              | 0.1                           | 0.1                           |
| Other Varieties     | 2.5                           | 5.3                           | Sangre                     | 0.1                           | 0.1                           |
|                     |                               |                               | Dakota Rose                | 0.1                           | 0.1                           |
| <b>Washington</b>   |                               |                               | Rio Grande Russet          | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Russet Burbank      | 30.6                          | 30.5                          | Dintje                     | 0.2                           | 0.1                           |
| Umatilla Russet     | 15.8                          | 16.7                          | Mega Chip                  | 0.1                           | 0.1                           |
| Russet Norkotah     | 14.2                          | 14.1                          | Wisconsin                  | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Ranger Russet       | 9.8                           | 11.1                          | Monona                     | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Almas               | 9.0                           | 8.8                           | Orbita                     | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Frito-Lay Varieties | 2.5                           | 3.2                           | Katshdin                   | 0.1                           | 0.1                           |
| Chieftain           | 4.0                           | 3.1                           | Yukon Gem                  | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Shepody             | 2.5                           | 3.1                           | Red Pontiac                | 0.2                           | 0.1                           |
| Premier Russet      | 3.3                           | 2.4                           | Keuka Gold                 | *                             | 0.1                           |
| Cal White           | *                             | 1.0                           | Mazama                     | 0.2                           | 0.1                           |
| Other Varieties     | 8.2                           | 6.0                           | Norwis                     | *                             | 0.1                           |
|                     |                               |                               | All Dine                   | *                             | 0.1                           |
|                     |                               |                               | Other Varieties            | 3.3                           | 2.0                           |

\* Data not published in 2010. Included in Other Varieties.

1/ The seven state total includes ID, MT, NE, ND, OR, WA, and WI

2/ Colorado conducts an independent variety survey and is not included in the 7 state total.

**Potatoes: Planted, Harvested, Yield and Production  
by Seasonal Group, State, and United States, 2010 – 2011**

| States               | Area Planted   |                | Area Harvested |                | Yield Per Acre |            | Production     |                |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
|                      | 2010           | 2011           | 2010           | 2011           | 2010           | 2011       | 2010           | 2011           |
|                      | 1,000 Cwt      |                |                |                | Cwt            |            | 1,000 Cwt      |                |
| SPRING 1/            | 89.3           | 93.1           | 85.8           | 90.5           | 289            | 285        | 24,997         | 25,640         |
| SUMMER 1/            | 47.1           | 45.2           | 40.4           | 44.2           | 331            | 303        | 12,971         | 13,366         |
| <b>FALL</b>          |                |                |                |                |                |            |                |                |
| California           | 6.2            | 8.6            | 6.2            | 8.6            | 430            | 480        | 2,828          | 4,128          |
| Colorado             | 55.5           | 51.0           | 55.2           | 51.0           | 350            | 395        | 21,528         | 21,201         |
| <b>IDAHO, ALL</b>    | <b>295.0</b>   | <b>320.9</b>   | <b>294.8</b>   | <b>319.0</b>   | <b>384</b>     | <b>398</b> | <b>112,979</b> | <b>127,070</b> |
| - 10 SW Counties     | 16.0           | 19.9           | 16.0           | 19.0           | 545            | 530        | 8,729          | 10,070         |
| Other Areas          | 279.0          | 301.0          | 278.8          | 300.0          | 375            | 390        | 104,250        | 117,000        |
| Maine                | 55.0           | 57.0           | 54.8           | 54.0           | 200            | 260        | 15,892         | 14,040         |
| Massachusetts        | 3.0            | (D)            | 3.8            | (D)            | 285            | (D)        | 1,083          | (D)            |
| Michigan             | 44.0           | 45.0           | 43.2           | 44.0           | 360            | 330        | 13,660         | 12,400         |
| Minnesota            | 45.0           | 49.0           | 42.0           | 46.0           | 405            | 345        | 17,010         | 15,870         |
| Montana              | 11.5           | 11.7           | 11.1           | 11.4           | 325            | 340        | 3,673          | 3,876          |
| Nebraska             | 19.0           | 20.9           | 18.0           | 19.0           | 412            | 400        | 7,719          | 7,840          |
| Nevada               | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)        | (D)            | (D)            |
| New Mexico           | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)            | (D)        | (D)            | (D)            |
| New York             | 16.2           | 16.5           | 16.0           | 16.2           | 320            | 355        | 5,170          | 4,131          |
| North Dakota         | 84.0           | 94.0           | 83.0           | 77.0           | 270            | 230        | 22,090         | 18,090         |
| Ohio                 | 2.2            | 2.0            | 2.1            | 1.7            | 250            | 230        | 609            | 420            |
| Oregon               | 15.5           | 40.0           | 15.5           | 30.0           | 565            | 585        | 20,058         | 33,342         |
| Pennsylvania         | 9.2            | 9.2            | 9.0            | 8.5            | 240            | 250        | 2,202          | 1,950          |
| Rhode Island         | 0.0            | (D)            | 0.0            | (D)            | 270            | (D)        | 100            | (D)            |
| Washington           | 135.0          | 160.0          | 131.0          | 160.0          | 600            | 620        | 88,410         | 99,200         |
| Wisconsin            | 67.5           | 63.0           | 61.5           | 63.0           | 305            | 360        | 34,393         | 33,330         |
| Other States 2/      | 13.4           | 17.3           | 13.4           | 16.7           | 300            | 367        | 5,352          | 6,116          |
| <b>TOTAL FALL</b>    | <b>894.3</b>   | <b>957.3</b>   | <b>881.8</b>   | <b>938.5</b>   | <b>416</b>     | <b>410</b> | <b>366,502</b> | <b>380,112</b> |
| <b>UNITED STATES</b> | <b>1,025.7</b> | <b>1,095.6</b> | <b>1,008.0</b> | <b>1,073.2</b> | <b>401</b>     | <b>395</b> | <b>404,273</b> | <b>424,139</b> |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from another forecast.

2/ Includes data withheld above.