
Idaho Pacific, potato flake plant, is in need of potatoes. Call the plant or Dwight for more information.

Excerpts from the UNITED of America Report to the Membership 2005-2006

Now with the 2006 growing and harvesting season completed, our potato crop safely in storage or sold and delivered for a profit, I wonder what our current attitude as potato growers is toward the future. Perhaps it is time to think again about where we have been and where we are going in our future as potato growers.

United's economic analysis of the reported 2006 crop clearly indicates a very manageable crop. The extra production in the west is already consumed by processor demand for full production in their plants. There is a very high probability that processors will draw down raw supplies normally intended for the fresh market. Much of Canada's reported production will be severely affected by extraordinarily high cullage rates. Even without considering the European crop shortfall, it is projected by United analysts and other industry observers that grower average pricing for the 2006 crop should be at or above 2005 crop pricing.

Let's use the common sense and wisdom we as farmers are often said to have, and apply this common sense to understanding that our world is changing and that we need to change with it. Let's realize that we do not want to ever go back to the way it was, and re-commit to responsible, coordinated acreage and supply management. Let's work together to secure the mission we have started, whether it is through the United cooperatives, through other cooperative efforts also provided to growers through the Capper-Volstead Act, or even in your individual business management decisions. We have the combined power if we funnel it together; let's continue to work together to use this power wisely.

***"Remember that the six most expensive words in business are, 'We've always done it that way.'"* Catherine DeVrye**

Sincerely,

Albert Wada, Chairman, Board of Directors

One of the factors in this price improvement was the implementation of acreage reduction and bid buy-down programs. We removed more than 40,000 U.S. acres and more than 10,000 Canadian acres in 2005. The USDA reported that 2005 represented the lowest number of acres planted since 1866. Our programs led the way to continue reductions or maintaining acres for the 2006 crop year. Acreage management as well as our other programs and services, contributed to a more stable industry, and improved the economic environment for grower returns.