

July 7, 2020

European Update

The North Western European (NEPG) area estimate excluding seed and starch potatoes shows that the total planted area is estimated to be up 0.5%, over last year, which translates into an increase of 7,700 acres. The largest increases are in Germany at 2%, France at 1.4%, and Belgium at .9%. There are decreases in the Netherlands of -2.4% and Great Britain at -1.6% respectively.

Total acreage in the big five producing countries is up 7.6% over the five-year average, an additional 109,500 acres.

	5yr-Avg. Ac	2019 Ac	2020 Ac	% Change
Germany	426,897	459,606	468,749	+2.0%
France	335,977	377,322	382,758	+1.4%
Great Britain	251,056	255,254	251,056	-1.6%
Belgium	226,346	239,942	242,027	+0.9%
Netherlands	196,091	194,962	190,267	-2.4%
NEPG Area Total	1,426,367	1,527,135	1,534,857	+0.5%

Source: NEPG July 7, 2020

Despite the increase in planted area, the actual production will be more dependent on yields. The first part of the growing season was too dry and may have already limited the available potential.

According to the North Western European Growers Association, it seems that even with the COVID-19 restrictions this spring, many growers had already ordered their seed and rented ground and were unable to reduce their area planted in potatoes.