

# POTATO STOCKS



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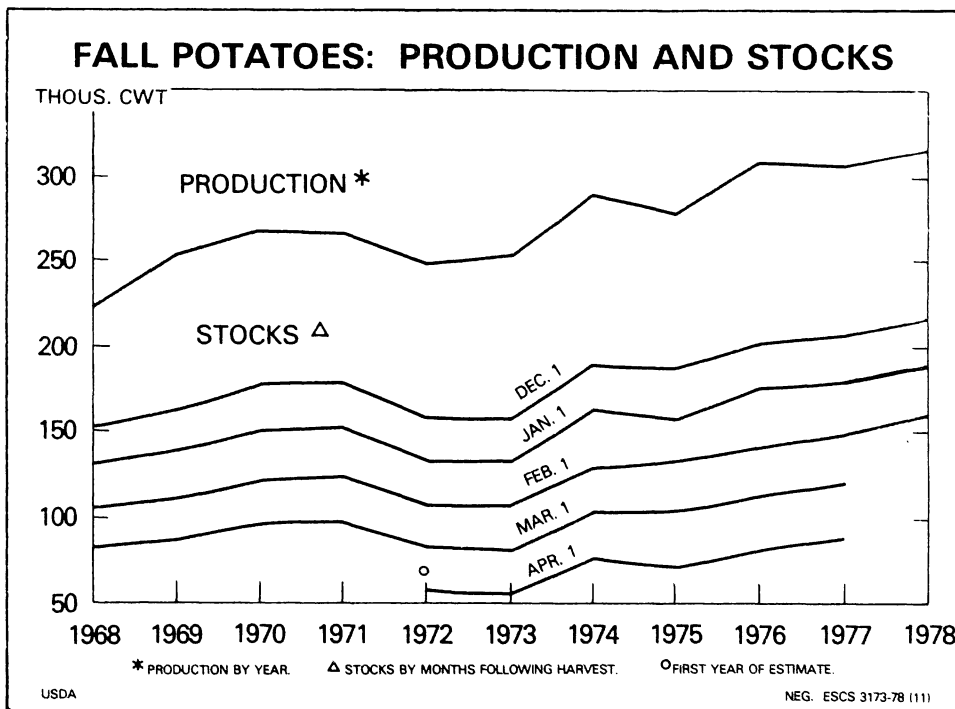
## SIX PERCENT MORE POTATO STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1979

An estimated 159 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on February 1, 1979. This was 6 percent above a year earlier, and 11 percent more than 1977.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States have 21.1 million cwt. in storage, down 10 percent from a year earlier but 1 percent above 1977. Stocks in Maine amounted to 14.9 million cwt., 14 percent less than last year. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 32.8 million cwt., 10 percent above last year. The eight Western States had 105 million cwt. in storage, up 9 percent from 1978 due mostly to larger holdings in Idaho and Washington.

Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop to February 1, 1979 was 154 million cwt. (excluding Nevada) which includes potatoes diverted to February 1, 1979 under the USDA's potato diversion program. The total disappearance includes 22.6 million cwt. of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

The quantity of potatoes processed to February 1, 1979 in the seven major States amounted to 56.0 million cwt., 4 percent less than last year.



Note: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1968-78 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
		JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1		
		1,000 CWT					
1968	234,832	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940		
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620		
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780		
1971 <sup>1/</sup>	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485		
1972 <sup>2/</sup>	249,320	158,565	134,420	107,310	83,380	58,250	
1973	254,379	157,837	133,665	106,615	81,165	55,870	
1974	289,342	187,935	163,095	133,425	104,116	75,905	
1975	278,391	185,965	159,140	131,685	104,050	71,640	
1976	307,427	201,980	174,775	143,925	114,140	81,875	
1977	307,064	206,690	178,205	149,690	120,970	89,215	
1978	318,702	218,685	190,480	159,141			

<sup>1/</sup> BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y-L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.  
<sup>2/</sup> APR 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING, <sup>1/</sup>, SEVEN STATES 1977 AND 1978 CROP

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	ENTIRE SEASON
		1,000 CWT					
IDAHO AND MAL- HEUR CO, OREG:	1977-78 1978-79	16,761 15,660	22,217 21,215	27,360 26,045	32,913	39,070	61,261
MAINE <sup>2/</sup>	1977-78 1978-79	2,500 2,280	3,290 2,800	4,185 3,670	4,980	5,960	8,040
WASH AND OTHER: AREAS, OREG	1977-78 1978-79	14,205 14,758	17,745 18,060	21,620 21,910	26,160	30,280	44,460
OTH STS <sup>3/</sup>	1977-78 1978-79	3,380 2,625	4,255 3,520	5,405 4,420	6,230	7,385	9,855
TOTAL	1977-78 1978-79	36,846 35,323	47,507 45,595	58,570 56,045	70,283	82,695	123,616

<sup>1/</sup> TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH OR MINN.

<sup>2/</sup> INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

<sup>3/</sup> MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES  
HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON  
FEBRUARY 1, 1978 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1979

STATE	CROP OF 1977			CROP OF 1978		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	5,950	2,400	40	6,055	2,470	41
COLO	9,490	4,450	47	9,750	4,150	43
CONN	466	100		3/	3/	
IDAHO	88,200	53,500	61	96,980	59,500	61
IND	1,128	95	8	936	130	14
MAINE	28,320	17,400	61	26,180	14,900	57
MASS	888	160	18	810	235	29
MICH	8,800	3,600	41	8,670	3,800	44
MINN	12,960	7,400	57	14,910	9,400	63
MONT	2,016	1,800	89	2,088	1,830	88
NEBR	1,440	680	47	1,680	950	57
N H 1/	71	30	42			
N Y - L I	7,182	1,400	19	6,175	1,200	19
- UPSTATE	5,356	1,700	32	6,500	1,800	28
N DAK	21,600	11,200	52	22,400	12,200	54
OHIO	2,744	550	20	2,215	470	21
OREG	25,550	12,500	49	28,488	12,500	44
PA	6,375	2,550	40	6,250	2,900	46
R I	943	2/		3/	3/	
S DAK	1,062	375	35	1,190	350	29
UTAH	1,416	450	32	1,127	520	46
VT	235	100	43	3/	3/	
WASH	50,600	20,800	41	50,685	24,000	47
WIS	18,038	6,000	33	17,325	5,500	32
WYO	1,474	450	31	1,360	250	18
OTH STS 3/				1,488	86	6
23-STATE TOTAL 4/	302,304	149,690	50	313,262	159,141	51

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1977 CROP. 2/ R I INCLUDED IN CONN. 3/ CONN, R I, AND VT INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES. 4/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1977 PRODUCTION 4,760,000 CWT. AND 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1, 1979 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the February 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1959-78 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimates.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1979 potato stocks estimate is 2.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 159 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.9 percent or approximately 4.62 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.0 percent or approximately 7.96 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.1 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.3 and the smallest was .4 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate each year during the past 10 years.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY  
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. Sample bags of potatoes selected on a random basis were placed in storage at harvest time. Reports are issued each month during the 1978-79 storage season showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for potatoes at the time of removal from storage. At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected only for processing potatoes.

Samples recovered before February 1, 1979 indicate that the quality of the white varieties at harvest and after storage was higher than for the comparable date a year earlier. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for white varieties while in storage was 9 percent (8 points) for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with an 11 percent decline (10 points) during the same period a year earlier.

The percent graded as culls at harvest and after storage for white varieties is below a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 5 percent.

This report does not include information for Russet potatoes as an insufficient number of samples were recovered by February 1, 1979.

The cooperation of the many potato growers and storage operators who assisted on this project is greatly appreciated.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1978-79  
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S 1/		WEIGHT LOSS
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1979 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	89	81	7	8	4	11	6	7	5
RUSSET <u>3/</u>									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1978 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	87	77	8	10	5	13	5	6	4
RUSSET	87	78	5	11	8	11	3	5	3
ALL SAMPLES 1977-78 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	86	72	7	11	7	17	6	7	6
RUSSET	85	69	7	16	8	15	4	5	6

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U S NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - 1 1/2-2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

2/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

3/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO THE REPORT.