

# POTATO STOCKS



Released: April 10, 1979  
3:00 P.M. ET

Economics, Statistics, &  
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.  
20250

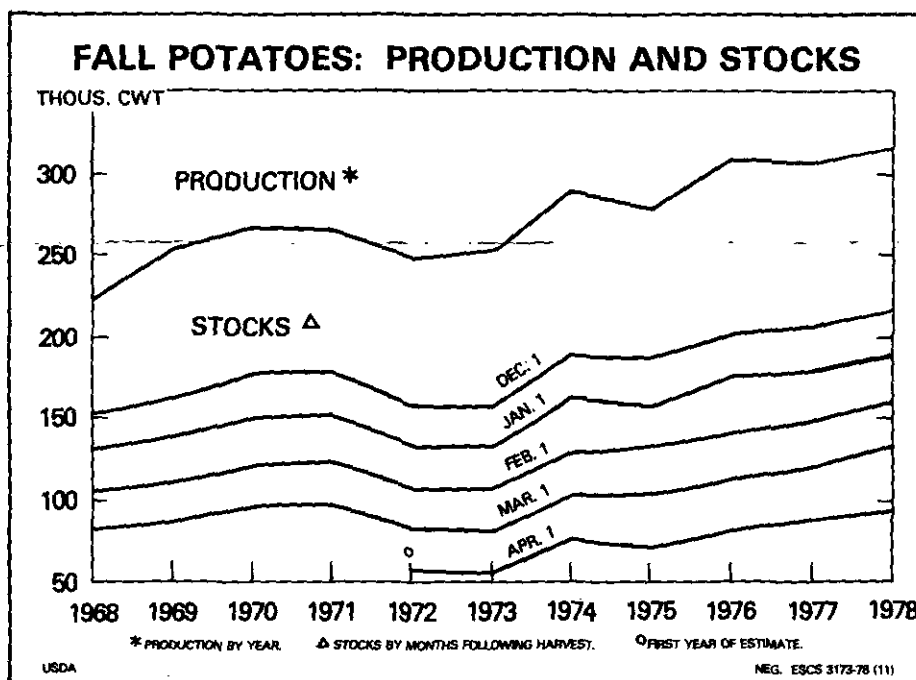
## APRIL 1 STOCKS SEVEN PERCENT HIGHER

An estimated 95.3 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on April 1, 1979. This was 7 percent above a year earlier and 16 percent more than 1977.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States have 11.4 million cwt. in storage, down 9 percent from a year earlier but 8 percent above 1977. Stocks in Maine amounted to 9.00 million cwt., 14 percent less than last year. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 16.1 million cwt., 12 percent above last year. The eight Western States had 67.7 million cwt. in storage, up 9 percent from 1978 due mostly to larger holdings in Idaho and Washington.

(Continued on page 3)

The USDA potato stocks program of reports will be extended one month to include holdings as of May 1. This year's report will be issued on May 10, 1979.



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, AND DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1968-78 IN THE FALL STATES

| CROP 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 | 128,524 | 95,263 |

<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> APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

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

| STATE                       | STORAGE SEASON | TO DEC 1 | TO JAN 1 | TO FEB 1 | TO MAR 1 | TO APR 1 | ENTIRE SEASON |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|
|                             |                |          |          |          |          |          |               |
| IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG | 1977-78        | 16,761   | 22,217   | 27,360   | 32,913   | 39,070   | 61,261        |
|                             | 1978-79        | 15,660   | 21,215   | 26,045   | 31,115   | 37,080   |               |
| MAINE <sup>2/</sup>         | 1977-78        | 2,500    | 3,290    | 4,185    | 4,980    | 5,960    | 8,040         |
|                             | 1978-79        | 2,280    | 2,800    | 3,670    | 4,390    | 5,355    |               |
| WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG  | 1977-78        | 14,205   | 17,745   | 21,620   | 26,160   | 30,280   | 44,460        |
|                             | 1978-79        | 14,758   | 18,060   | 21,910   | 25,720   | 29,645   |               |
| OTHER STATES <sup>3/</sup>  | 1977-78        | 3,380    | 4,255    | 5,405    | 6,230    | 7,385    | 9,855         |
|                             | 1978-79        | 2,625    | 3,520    | 4,420    | 5,290    | 6,255    |               |
| TOTAL                       | 1977-78        | 36,846   | 47,507   | 58,570   | 70,283   | 82,695   | 123,616       |
|                             | 1978-79        | 35,323   | 45,595   | 56,045   | 66,515   | 78,335   |               |

<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 APRIL 1, 1978 AND APRIL 1, 1979

| STATE             | CROP OF 1977 |              |                    | CROP OF 1978 |              |                    |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
|                   | PRODUCTION   | TOTAL STOCKS | APR 1 STOCKS       | PRODUCTION   | TOTAL STOCKS | APR 1 STOCKS       |
|                   | 1,000 CWT    | APR 1, 1978  | AS % OF PRODUCTION | 1,000 CWT    | APR 1, 1979  | AS % OF PRODUCTION |
| CALIF             | 5,950        | 1,200        | 20                 | 6,055        | 1,410        | 23                 |
| COLO              | 9,490        | 2,300        | 24                 | 9,750        | 1,800        | 18                 |
| CONN              | 2/           | 2/           |                    | 2/           | 2/           |                    |
| IDAHO             | 88,200       | 37,500       | 43                 | 96,980       | 41,000       | 42                 |
| IND               | 1,128        | 60           | 5                  | 2/           | 2/           |                    |
| MAINE             | 28,320       | 10,500       | 37                 | 26,180       | 9,000        | 34                 |
| MASS              | 2/           | 2/           |                    | 2/           | 2/           |                    |
| MICH              | 8,800        | 1,500        | 17                 | 8,670        | 2,700        | 24                 |
| MINN              | 12,960       | 3,600        | 28                 | 14,910       | 4,800        | 32                 |
| MONT              | 2,016        | 1,400        | 69                 | 2,088        | 1,100        | 53                 |
| NEBR              | 1,440        | 280          | 19                 | 1,680        | 500          | 30                 |
| N H 1/            | 2/           | 2/           |                    |              |              |                    |
| N Y - L I         | 7,182        | 300          | 4                  | 6,175        | 200          | 3                  |
| - UPSTATE         | 5,356        | 650          | 12                 | 6,500        | 700          | 11                 |
| N DAK             | 21,600       | 6,100        | 28                 | 22,400       | 6,100        | 27                 |
| OHIO              | 2,744        | 150          | 5                  | 2,215        | 120          | 5                  |
| OREG              | 25,550       | 8,400        | 33                 | 28,488       | 7,700        | 27                 |
| PA                | 6,375        | 1,000        | 16                 | 6,250        | 1,450        | 23                 |
| R I               | 2/           | 2/           |                    | 2/           | 2/           |                    |
| S DAK             | 1,062        | 155          | 15                 | 1,190        | 150          | 13                 |
| UTAH              | 1,416        | 140          | 10                 | 1,127        | 150          | 13                 |
| VT                | 2/           | 2/           |                    | 2/           | 2/           |                    |
| WASH              | 50,600       | 11,300       | 22                 | 50,685       | 14,500       | 29                 |
| WIS               | 18,038       | 2,500        | 14                 | 17,325       | 2,300        | 13                 |
| WYO               | 1,474        | 80           | 5                  | 1,360        | 75           | 6                  |
| OTH STS           | 2,603        | 100          | 4                  | 3,234        | 108          | 3                  |
| 23 STATE TOTAL 3/ | 302,304      | 89,215       | 30                 | 313,262      | 95,263       | 30                 |

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

(Continued from page 1)

Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop to April 1, 1979 was 218 million cwt. (excluding Nevada). This includes potatoes diverted to April 1, 1979 under the USDA's potato diversion program. The total disappearance included 27.9 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 April 1, 1979 in the seven major States amounted to 78.3 million cwt., 5 percent less than last year.

During the past 6 years, the difference between the preliminary April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimate averaged 2.39 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 4.39 million hundredweight and the smallest was 250 thousand hundredweight. The preliminary April 1 estimate was below the final estimate each year during the last six 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 have been 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 April 1, 1979 continue to indicate that the quality of white varieties both at harvest and after storage was higher than for the comparable period a year ago. For Russet varieties, however, a significant reduction in quality was reflected both at harvest and after storage compared with April 1, 1978. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for white varieties while in storage was 11 points as of April 1, 1979 compared with a 12 point decline a year earlier. Russet samples removed from storage to date indicate a 12 point decline in No. 1's compared with a 10 point decline a year ago.

The percent of white varieties graded as culls at harvest was the same as a year ago, but after storage culls, at 13 percent, were 1 point below April 1, 1978. Samples recovered to date indicate that the percent of Russet culls at harvest was equal to last season but was 2 points higher for after storage potatoes. The total weight loss while in storage this year was comparable to April 1, 1978 for white varieties but 1 point lower than a year ago for Russets.

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<br>INCLUDING B'S |         | NO. 2   |         | CULLS   |         | NO. 1<br>B'S 1/ |         | WEIGHT<br>LOSS |
|--|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
|  | AT                     | AFTER   | AT      | AFTER   | AT      | AFTER   | AT              | AFTER   |                |
|  | HARVEST                | STORAGE | HARVEST | STORAGE | HARVEST | STORAGE | HARVEST         | STORAGE |                |
| PERCENT  |                        |         |         |         |         |         |                 |         |                |
| SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1979 <sup>2/</sup>     |                        |         |         |         |         |         |                 |         |                |
| WHITE  | 88                     | 77      | 6       | 10      | 6       | 13      | 6               | 6       | 5              |
| RUSSET   | 80                     | 68      | 12      | 17      | 8       | 15      | 2               | 4       | 3              |
| SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1978 <sup>2/</sup>     |                        |         |         |         |         |         |                 |         |                |
| WHITE  | 87                     | 75      | 7       | 11      | 6       | 14      | 6               | 6       | 5              |
| RUSSET   | 86                     | 76      | 6       | 11      | 8       | 13      | 4               | 7       | 4              |
| ALL SAMPLES 1977-78 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL <sup>2/</sup> |                        |         |         |         |         |         |                 |         |                |
| WHITE  | 86                     | 72      | 7       | 11      | 7       | 17      | 6               | 7       | 6              |
| RUSSET   | 85                     | 69      | 7       | 16      | 8       | 15      | 4               | 5       | 6              |

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

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