

POTATO STOCKS



Released: May 14, 1980
3:00 P.M. ET

Economics, Statistics, &
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

STOCKS TWO PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

An estimated 63.5 million cwt of fall potatoes for all uses were held by growers, processors, and dealers on May 1, 1980. This was 2 percent below the inventory on May 1, 1979, the first year for which May 1 stocks estimates were available.

The regional totals are as follows: the seven Eastern States had 8.78 million cwt on hand, 53 percent above a year ago. Maine's holdings, at 8.0 million cwt, accounted for the bulk of the region's total and remained sharply above last season. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 6.81 million cwt, a 19 percent reduction from the May 1, 1979 level. North Dakota trimmed inventories by 37 percent while Minnesota holdings were 4 percent below last May 1. The eight Western States held 47.9 million cwt in storage, off 6 percent from May 1, 1979. Idaho's stocks, at 29.5 million cwt, comprised well over half of the region's total and were 9 percent less than last year. Washington's holdings, below year-earlier levels for all prior months, are now 11 percent above last year's May 1 total. In Oregon, stocks were 17 percent below a year ago.

Disappearance of the 1979 fall crop to May 1, 1980 was 233 million cwt (excluding Nevada), down 8 percent from the comparable period last season. The total disappearance includes 28.5 million cwt of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on farms where grown, discarded without grading, and lost due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

The quantity of potatoes processed to May 1, 1980 in the seven major processing States totaled 86.4 million cwt, 6 percent less than the 91.4 million cwt processed during the comparable period last season.

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, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1969-79 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
		1,000 CWT					
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620		
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780		
1971 ^{1/}	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485		
1972	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	89,205	
1978	323,498	223,290	196,080	164,666	133,247	99,808	65,116
1979	301,628	209,180	182,755	154,005	126,530	96,821	63,532

^{1/} BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - LI, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING ^{1/}, SEVEN STATES, 1978 AND 1979 CROP ^{2/}

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1978-79	15,720	21,215	26,055	31,130	37,095	43,305	61,290
	1979-80	14,210	18,680	23,980	28,840	34,440	40,010	
MAINE ^{3/}	1978-79	2,280	2,800	3,670	4,390	5,355	6,205	8,140
	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,470	4,245	5,200	6,200	
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1978-79	15,075	18,380	22,230	26,035	30,125	34,770	44,295
	1979-80	13,510	16,995	20,725	24,915	29,395	33,360	
OTHER STATES ^{4/}	1978-79	2,625	3,520	4,420	5,290	6,255	7,155	10,540
	1979-80	2,625	3,365	4,215	5,055	6,005	6,825	
TOTAL	1978-79	35,700	45,915	56,375	66,845	78,830	91,435	124,265
	1979-80	32,355	41,695	52,390	63,055	75,040	86,395	

^{1/} 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. ^{2/} 1978-79 REVISED. ^{3/} INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. ^{4/} MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

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 issued each month during the 1979-80 storage season have shown the cumulative average grade and weight loss for these 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 of white varieties recovered before May 1, 1980 continue to indicate a significantly lower quality both at harvest and after storage than samples recovered by the comparable date a year earlier. The decline while in storage of white varieties grading No. 1 (including B's) was 10 percentage points for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with a 12 point decline during the same period a year earlier. The percent of white varieties graded as culls at harvest and after storage for samples recovered by May 1 is well above a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 5 percent, the same as last season.

Based on samples of russet varieties recovered by May 1, 1980, the quality at harvest is also indicated well below a year earlier, but after storage quality is now 1 percentage point higher than last May 1. The percentage of russet samples grading No. 1 (including B's) declined 6 points between harvest and May 1, 1980, compared with a 15 point decline during the comparable period last season. The percent of russet varieties graded as culls both at harvest and after storage is much higher this season than for samples recovered by May 1, 1979. The total weight loss while in storage this year was 6 percent to May 1, compared with a 4 percent weight loss during the comparable period last season.

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, 1979-80
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S <u>1/</u>		WEIGHT LOSS
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MAY 1, 1980 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	82	72	8	9	10	19	4	4	5
RUSSET	73	67	7	7	20	26	6	8	6
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MAY 1, 1979 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	88	76	6	10	6	14	6	6	5
RUSSET	81	66	11	18	8	16	2	3	4
ALL SAMPLES 1978-79 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	88	76	6	10	6	14	6	6	6
RUSSET	81	70	11	16	8	14	2	5	4

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET THE MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - 1 1/2-2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER; RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES. 2/ MATCHED SAMPLES; QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.