

Potato Stocks



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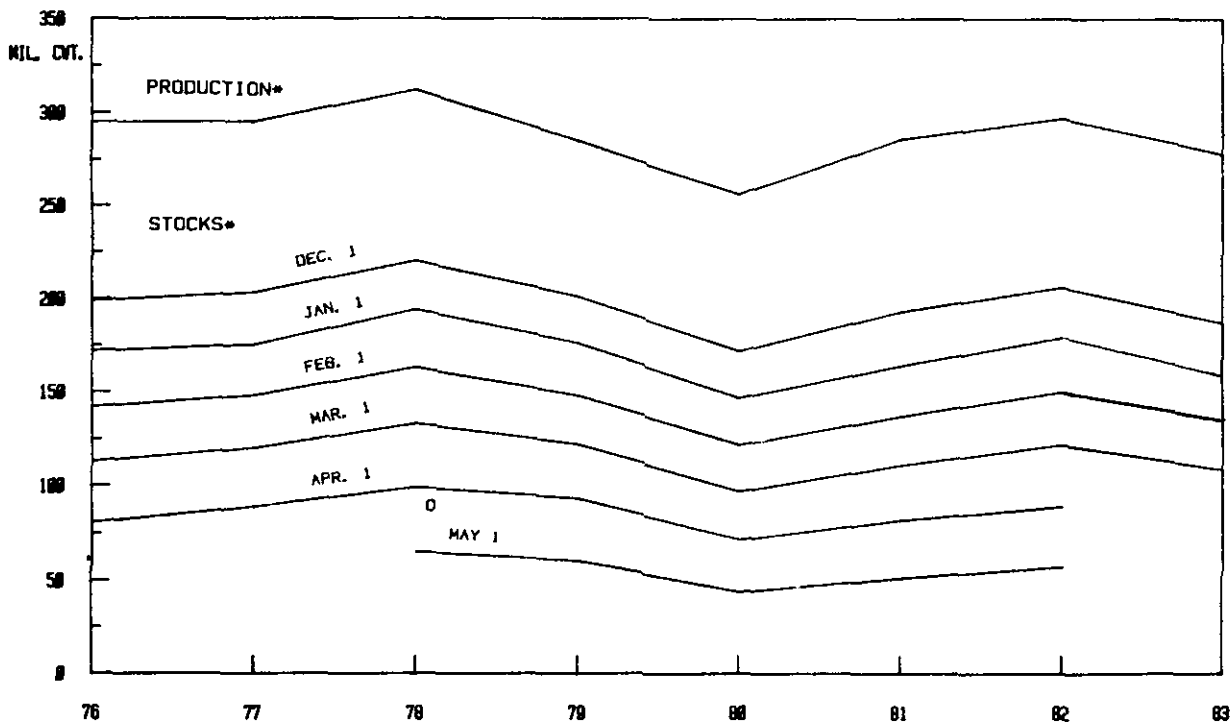
For subscribers of "POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES"

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 11 PERCENT

March 1, 1984, potato stocks for the 15 major States are estimated at 108 million cwt (4.92 million metric tons). This is down 11 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. The March 1 stocks accounted for 39 percent of fall production in the 15 States compared with 41 percent a year ago.

continued on page 4.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

1978 FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

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To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1, 1984 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 March 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1964-83 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 March 1, 1984 potato stocks estimate is 3.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 108 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.7 percent or approximately 4.01 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.4 percent or approximately 6.94 million cwt.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.62 million cwt. The largest deviation was 6.13 million cwt and the smallest was 0.16 million cwt. The preliminary March 1 estimate was below the final estimate 8 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 3. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1982 AND 1983 CROPS

| 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 | 1982-83 | 14,330 | 18,645 | 23,395 | 28,535 | 34,480 | 39,715 | 53,395 |
| | 1983-84 | 15,755 | 20,445 | 24,785 | 29,540 | | | |
| MAINE 2/ | 1982-83 | 1,915 | 2,800 | 3,640 | 4,400 | 5,230 | 6,010 | 7,450 |
| | 1983-84 | 1,120 | 1,515 | 2,170 | 2,730 | | | |
| WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG | 1982-83 | 16,840 | 20,130 | 23,685 | 27,870 | 32,100 | 36,365 | 45,500 |
| | 1983-84 | 16,245 | 19,920 | 23,690 | 28,250 | | | |
| OTHER STATES 3/ | 1982-83 | 5,655 | 7,135 | 8,625 | 10,220 | 12,170 | 13,820 | 16,405 |
| | 1983-84 | 4,305 | 6,005 | 7,755 | 9,600 | | | |
| TOTAL | 1982-83 | 38,740 | 48,710 | 59,345 | 71,025 | 83,980 | 95,910 | 122,750 |
| | 1983-84 | 37,425 | 47,885 | 58,400 | 70,120 | | | |

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, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS.

Holdings in the three Eastern States (Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania) totaled 13.9 million cwt, down 22 percent from a year ago and 10 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks at 10.6 million cwt were off 21 percent from last year; New York at 1.90 million cwt was down 19 percent and Pennsylvania, with stocks of 1.35 million cwt, was down 36 percent.

Potato stocks in the six Central States, at 21.3 million cwt, were down 5 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks of 7.80 million cwt remain 1 percent above last year after heavy movement during February. In Minnesota, potato stocks totaled 5.30 million cwt the same as a year ago. Stocks were below last year in Wisconsin and Michigan, down 8 percent and 20 percent respectively.

In the Six Western States, potato stocks totaled 73.2 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks, at 39.5 million cwt, were off 13 percent from last year. Washington holdings, at 16.5 million cwt, were down 4 percent. Oregon and Colorado potato stocks were both down 12 percent from last year with 8.30 and 4.85 million cwt respectively. California stocks of 2.52 million cwt were up 15 percent.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 stock States to March 1st totaled 169 million cwt, a decline of 3 percent from last year. February disappearance was 26.3 million cwt, 6 percent less than last February's 28.0 million cwt. Disappearance to date includes 19.5 million cwt of shrink and loss this season, close to one-fourth less than the 25.7 million cwt lost during the 1982-83 season.

Processing to March 1 totaled 70.1 million cwt in the 8 major processing States, 1 percent below last year's pace. February processing of 11.7 million cwt was up fractionally from a year ago.

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