

Potato Stocks



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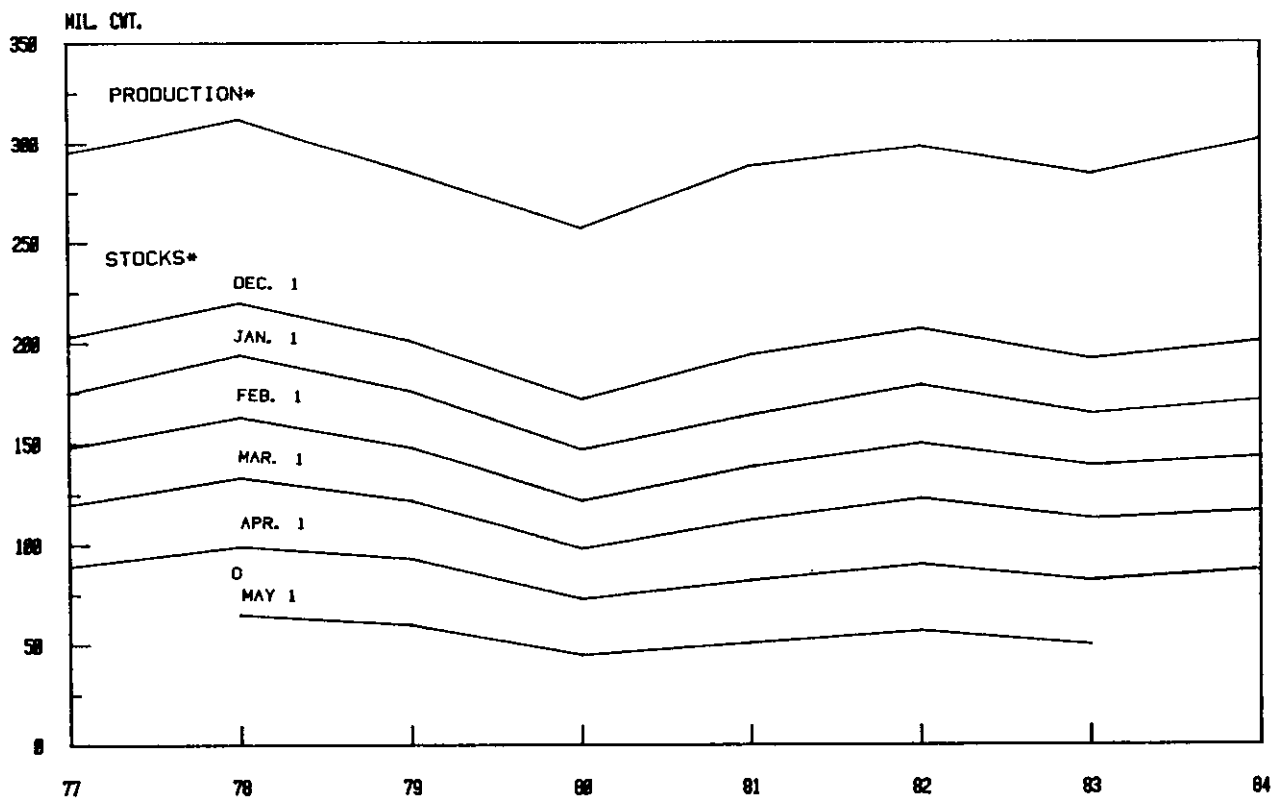
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For subscribers of "POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES"

POTATO STOCKS UP 5 PERCENT

April 1, 1985 stocks of potatoes in the 15 major States are estimated at 85.4 million cwt (3.87 million metric tons), up 5 percent from last year, but 5 percent below April 1983. The remaining stocks account for 28 percent of Fall potato production compared with 29 percent on hand this time last year. (Comments 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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 * 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 per- *
 * cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
 * use account for the remaining 10 percent. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION:	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
	1,000 CWT						
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	302,495	201,335	172,860	142,990	116,655	85,425	

TABLE 2. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON APRIL 1, 1984 AND APRIL 1, 1985

STATE	CROP OF 1983			CROP OF 1984		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1984	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1985	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
		1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT
CALIF	7,790	1,950	25	7,280	1,600	22
COLO	13,950	4,200	30	17,225	5,550	32
IDAHO	85,990	33,500	39	86,600	34,000	39
MAINE	22,560	8,200	36	21,360	7,300	34
MICH	9,840	2,100	21	12,540	2,600	21
MINN	10,313	3,300	32	13,775	4,200	30
MONT	1,800	1,050	58	1,924	1,180	61
NEBR	2,025	350	17	2,240	570	25
N Y - L I	4,075	250	6	3,726	100	3
- UPSTATE	5,635	700	12	6,630	650	10
N DAK	20,480	4,800	23	20,615	5,100	25
OHIO	1,886	40	2	2,465	35	1
OREG	20,710	6,500	31	22,680	6,400	28
PA	4,300	900	21	5,160	940	18
WASH	54,080	11,200	21	56,925	11,300	20
WIS	18,910	2,700	14	21,350	3,900	18
15 STATE TOTAL	284,344	81,740	29	302,495	85,425	28

TABLE 3. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1983 AND 1984 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	1983-84	15,755	20,445	24,785	29,540	35,155	40,640	53,810
	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010	39,510		
MAINE 2/	1983-84	1,160	1,745	2,260	2,780	3,370	3,970	5,125
	1984-85	1,630	2,290	2,995	3,505	4,310		
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1983-84	16,245	19,920	23,690	28,250	33,280	37,455	45,800
	1984-85	20,745	24,690	29,345	33,555	38,745		
OTHER STATES 3/	1983-84	4,305	6,005	7,755	9,600	11,615	13,400	16,320
	1984-85	5,695	7,510	9,210	10,930	12,745		
TOTAL	1983-84	37,465	48,115	58,490	70,170	83,420	95,465	121,055
	1984-85	47,070	58,800	70,750	82,000	95,310		

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.

RELIABILITY OF APRIL 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 4.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 85.4 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.6 percent or approximately 3.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.0 percent or approximately 6.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1975-84) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.71 million cwt, ranging from 0.24 million to 5.26 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

In the three Eastern States, stocks totaled 8.99 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year and 24 percent below two years ago. Maine holdings were down 11 percent; New York, down 21 percent; while Pennsylvania storages held 4 percent more than last year.

The six Central States stored 16.4 million cwt on April 1, 1985, a gain of 23 percent from the previous year and 9 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks were up 6 percent; Minnesota storages held 27 percent more; Wisconsin cellars stored 44 percent more and Michigan stocks were 24 percent greater than a year ago.

Stocks in the six Western States totaled 60.0 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Washington stocks were each about 1 percent above 1984 levels; Oregon holdings were down 2 percent. Colorado stocks were up 32 percent, while California storages held 18 percent less than a year ago. Montana potatoes (mostly for seed) started moving, but present stocks are 12 percent above last year.

Disappearance from harvest to April 1, 1985, totaled 217 million cwt, up 7 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago. March disappearance at 31.2 million cwt, was up 1 percent from 1984. Shrink and loss totaled 25.4 million cwt so far this season compared with 21.0 million cwt a year ago.

Processing in the eight major States stands at 95.3 million cwt this season, up 14 percent from a year earlier. During March, processing plants used 13.3 million cwt of potatoes, fractionally above last March.

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