

Potato Stocks



Crop Reporting Board

Statistical Reporting Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

RELEASED: May 13, 1985
3:00 P.M. ET

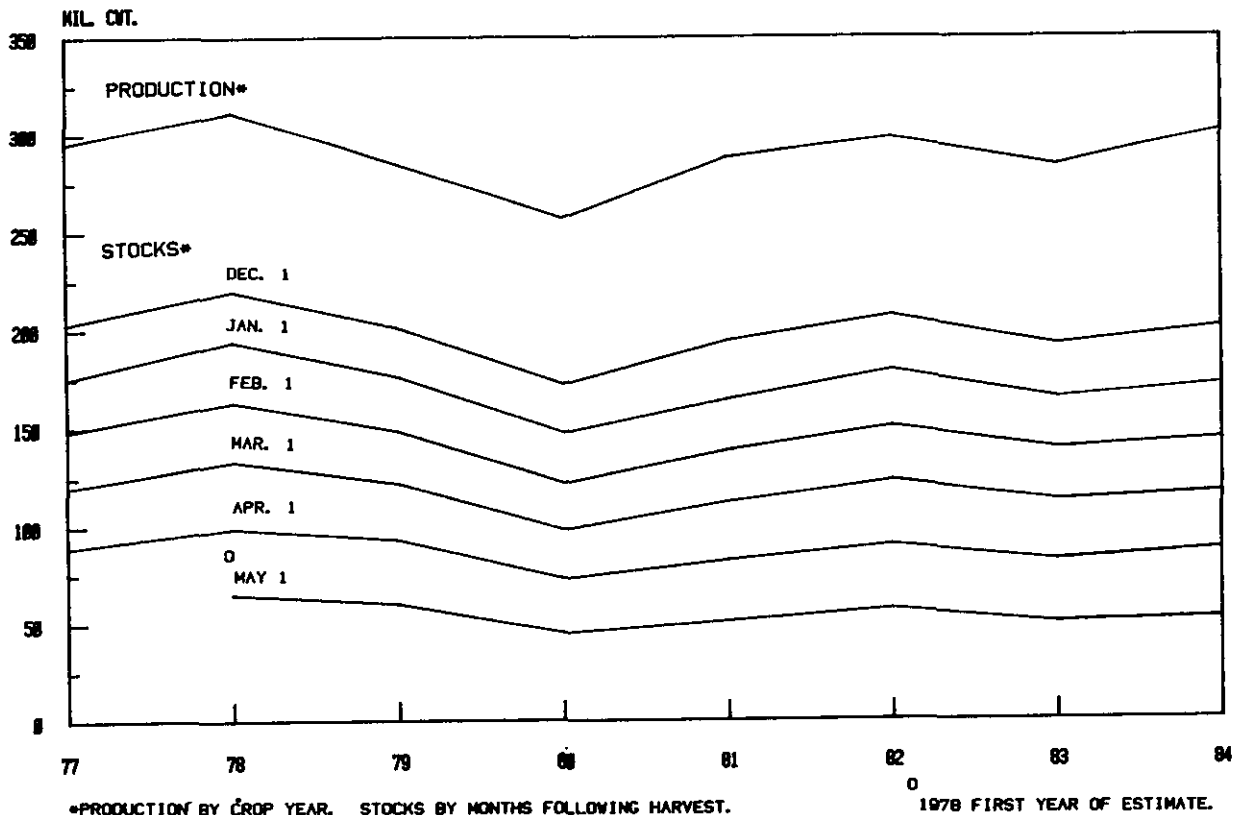
For subscribers of "POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES"

POTATO STOCKS UP 2 PERCENT

May 1, 1985 potato stocks totaled an estimated 51.6 million cwt. (2.34 million metric tons) in the 15 major States, a gain of 2 percent over last year, but 10 percent short of May 1983 stocks. Current stocks account for 17 percent of fall potato production compared with 18 percent last year.

(Comments continued on page 4)

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



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In the 3 Eastern States, potato storage totaled 5.13 million cwt, down 18 percent from last year and 30 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks are down 18 percent and New York down 16 percent. Pennsylvania storages are down nearly one-quarter from a year earlier.

The 6 Central States, potato stocks totaled 8.20 million cwt, up 23 percent from last May and 6 percent above two years ago. Each of the major storage States carried more potatoes this year than last. Michigan stocks are 50 percent above last year while Wisconsin stocks are up 35 percent. Minnesota and North Dakota show increases of 21 and 4 percent compared with last year.

In the 6 Western States, May 1 potato stocks totaled 38.3 million cwt, a gain of 2 percent over last year, but down 9 percent from 1983. Idaho stocks are up 2 percent; while Washington and Oregon are off 1 and 4 percent respectively. Colorado storages contain 37 percent more potatoes this year than last but California stocks are down 33 percent.

Disappearance from harvest to May 1 accounted for 251 million cwt of potatoes from the 15 major States. This is up 7 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. April disappearance at 33.9 million cwt was up 8 percent from last year. Shrink and loss was also higher, totaling 27.4 million cwt this year compared with 22.3 million cwt last year.

Processing in the eight major States came to 108 million cwt this season, up 13 percent from a year earlier. April processing was 12.5 million cwt, up 4 percent from last April.

* U.S. Government Printing Office : 1985 - 460-937/20151

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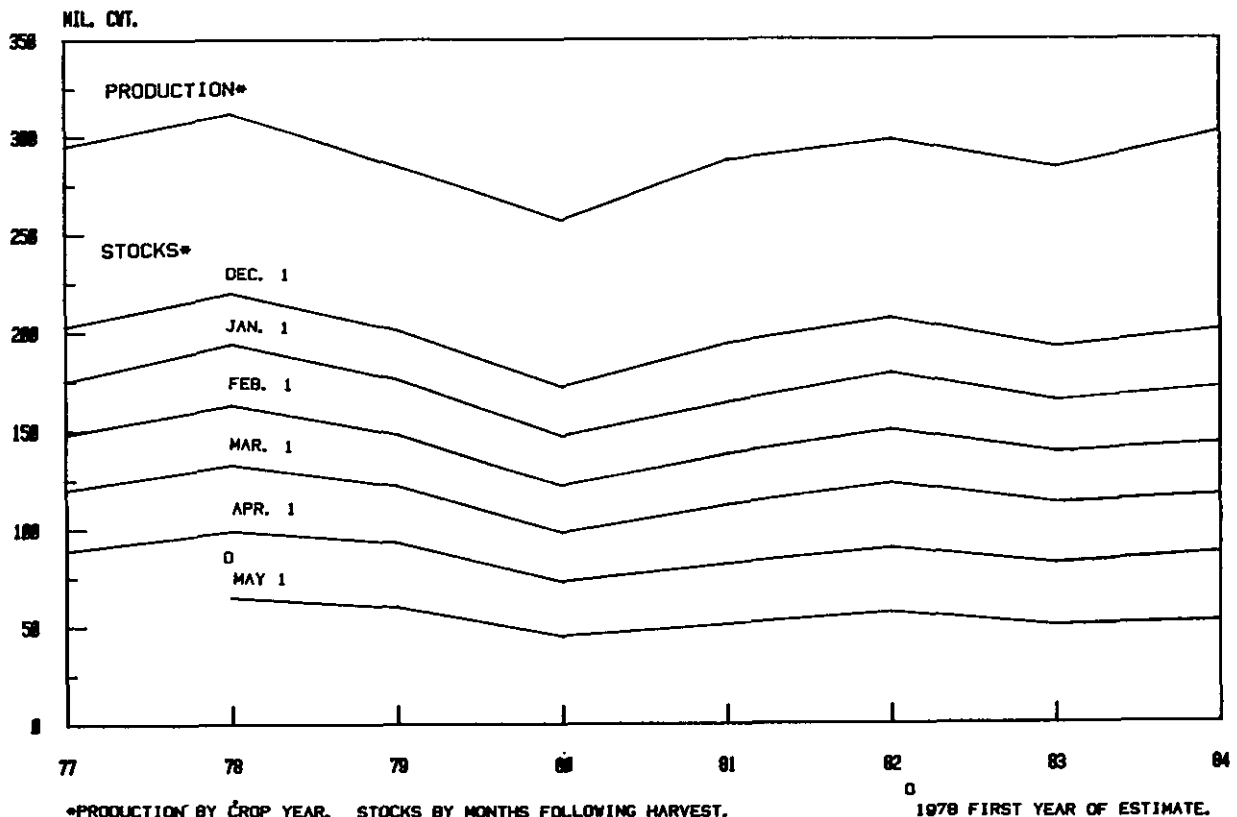
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 * NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
 * purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
 * losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
 * potatoes for all purposes generally account 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
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	51,575

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

STATE	: CROP OF 1983			: CROP OF 1984		
	: PRODUCTION:	: TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1984	: MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	: PRODUCTION:	: TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1985	: MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	:	: 1,000 CWT	: PERCENT	:	: 1,000 CWT	: PERCENT
CALIF	: 7,790	1,200	15	7,280	800	11
COLO	: 13,950	2,550	18	17,225	3,500	20
IDAHO	: 85,990	22,000	26	86,600	22,500	26
MAINE	: 22,560	5,300	23	21,360	4,350	20
MICH	: 9,840	1,000	10	12,540	1,500	12
MINN	: 10,313	1,400	14	13,775	1,700	12
MONT	: 1,800	50	3	1,924	150	8
NEBR	: 2,025	190	9	2,240	200	9
N Y - L I	: 4,075	1/110	3	3,726	1/85	2
- UPSTATE	: 5,635	350	6	6,630	300	5
N DAK	: 20,480	2,400	12	20,615	2,500	12
OHIO	: 1,886	1/	--	2,465	1/	--
OREG	: 20,710	4,500	22	22,680	4,300	19
PA	: 4,300	515	12	5,160	390	8
WASH	: 54,080	7,100	13	56,925	7,000	12
WIS	: 18,910	1,700	9	21,350	2,300	11
15 STATE TOTAL	: 284,344	50,365	18	302,495	51,575	17

1/ OHIO COMBINED WITH LONG ISLAND TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

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	44,650	
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	5,155	
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	43,310	
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	14,715	
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	107,830	

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 MAY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 8.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 51.6 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.1 percent or approximately 4.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 14.1 percent or approximately 7.3 million cwt.

The 6-year (1979-84) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.28 million cwt, ranging from 4.00 million to 4.70 million cwt. During this 6-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 5 out of 6 years.

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