

Potato Stocks



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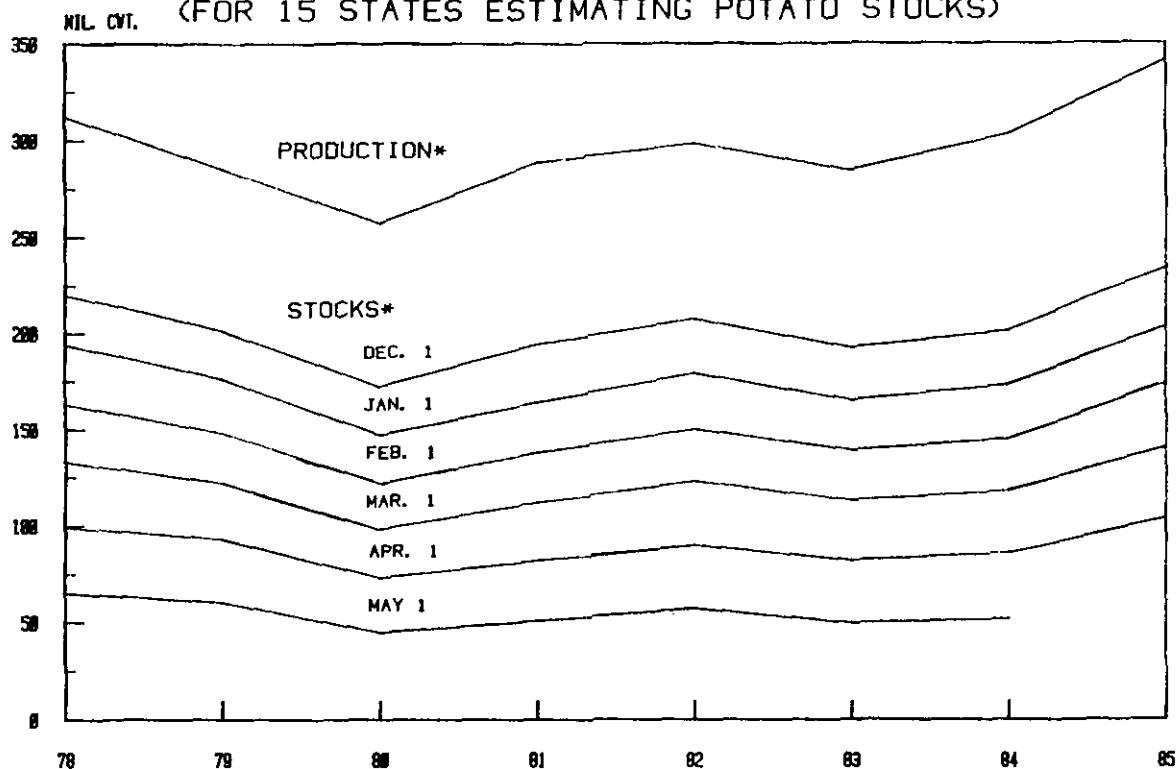
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POTATO STOCKS UP 19 PERCENT

April 1 Potato Stocks totaled an estimated 103 million cwt, up 19 percent from last year and 26 percent above two years ago. Cullage and sorting losses continue to run high in Western States, now reaching nearly two and one-half times last year's level. Stocks account for 30 percent of fall production this season compared with 28 percent a year earlier.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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

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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. However, this year *
 * losses are running much higher than normal. *

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						
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	303,384	201,410	173,380	144,760	118,400	86,440	52,465
1985	340,792	233,775	201,300	169,810	137,420	102,590	

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1984 AND 1985 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.	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010	39,510	44,650	57,410
OREG	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660	32,170	37,910		
MAINE 2/	1984-85	1,820	2,410	3,015	3,520	4,330	5,185	6,550
	1985-86	2,215	2,920	3,805	4,545	5,540		
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1984-85	20,745	24,690	29,345	33,560	38,815	43,380	51,670
	1985-86	21,590	25,665	29,450	34,450	39,990		
OTHER STATES 3/	1984-85	5,695	7,510	9,210	10,930	12,745	14,715	21,005
	1985-86	6,470	7,990	9,900	12,020	13,860		
TOTAL	1984-85	47,260	58,920	70,770	82,020	95,400	107,930	136,635
	1985-86	48,105	59,555	69,815	83,185	97,300		

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.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON APRIL 1, 1985 AND APRIL 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1984			CROP OF 1985		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL : APR 1, : STOCKS : APR 1, : AS % OF : PRODUCTION:	PERCENT	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL : APR 1, : STOCKS : APR 1, : AS % OF : PRODUCTION:	PERCENT
	1,000 CWT			1,000 CWT		
CALIF	7,280	1,900	26	7,878	1,500	19
COLO	17,225	5,400	31	17,920	7,100	40
IDAHO	86,600	34,000	39	102,515	35,000	34
MAINE	21,360	7,300	34	27,160	10,400	38
MICH	12,540	2,800	22	12,100	2,600	21
MINN	13,775	4,500	33	14,145	5,300	37
MONT	1,924	1,180	61	1,890	1,100	58
NEBR	2,480	570	23	2,173	550	25
N Y - L I	3,577	150	4	3,870	300	8
- UPSTATE	6,630	900	14	6,125	600	10
N DAK	20,615	5,100	25	23,630	7,800	33
OHIO	2,418	100	4	2,465	40	2
OREG	23,525	6,400	27	26,701	8,000	30
PA	5,160	940	18	5,720	1,300	23
WASH	56,925	11,300	20	62,370	16,200	26
WIS	21,350	3,900	18	24,130	4,800	20
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	86,440	28	340,792	102,590	30

RELIABILITY OF APRIL 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 4.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 103 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.5 percent or approximately 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.7 percent or approximately 7.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1976-85) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.49 million cwt, ranging from .24 million cwt 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.

The 3 EASTERN STATES stored 12.6 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1986, up 36 percent from last year and 25 percent above two year's ago. Maine stocks of 10.4 million cwt are up 42 percent. New York farmers stored 900 thousand cwt, 14 percent less than last year. Pennsylvania, at 1.30 million cwt, was up 38 percent.

CENTRAL STATES storages contained 21.1 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, a gain of 24 percent from last year and 59 percent over April 1984 stocks. North Dakota leads with 7.80 million under storage, a gain of 53 percent over last year. Minnesota with 5.30 million cwt and Wisconsin at 4.80 million cwt are next with 18 and 23 percent more potatoes than a year ago. Michigan, Nebraska, and Ohio each have fewer stocks on hand than last year.

The WESTERN STATES stored 68.9 million cwt of potatoes this month, up 14 percent from last year and 18 percent above two year's ago. After heavy sorting, Idaho storages hold 35.0 million cwt, up barely 3 percent from last year. Farmers indicate about 7.5 percent of these potatoes have frost damage and will be unusable. Colorado stocks totaled 7.10 million cwt, up 31 percent from last year. Increased size standards, frost damage, and low prices will likely lead to abandonment of as much as one-fourth of remaining stocks. Washington with 16.2 million cwt and Oregon with 8.0 million cwt show gains of 43 percent and 25 percent, respectively, from year earlier stocks. California and Montana are below last year's storage level by 21 percent and 7 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest through March in the 15 stocks States was 238 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year's 217 million cwt. Losses totaled 40.4 million cwt, up 59 percent from 25.4 million cwt a year earlier.

PROCESSING accounted for 97.3 million cwt through March, a gain of 2 percent from last season. March processing of 14.1 million cwt was 5.5 percent ahead of the 13.4 million cwt processed in March a year ago.