

# Potato Stocks



Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

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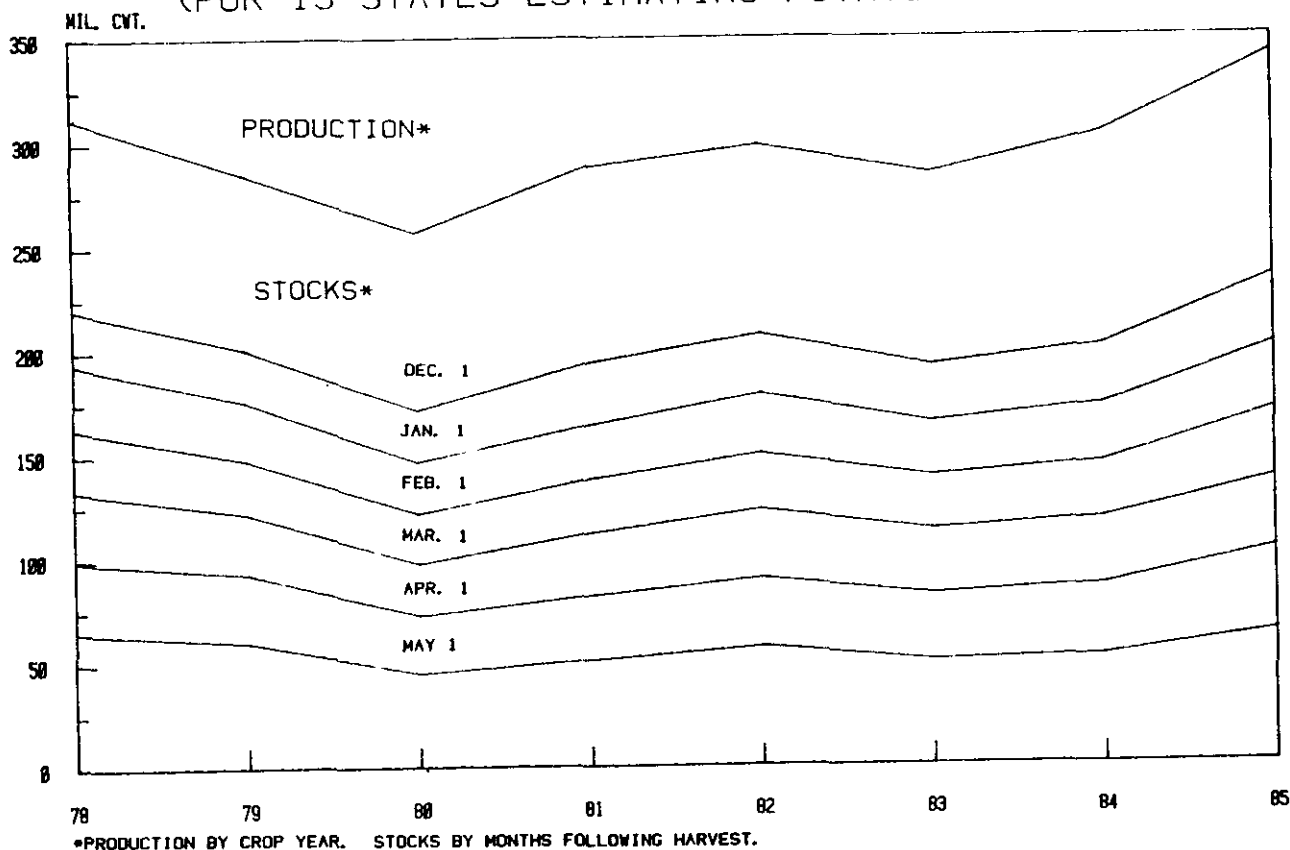
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## POTATO STOCKS UP 21 PERCENT

May 1, 1986 potato stocks totaled an estimated 63.4 million cwt (2.87 million metric tons), up 21 percent from last year, but below the May 1 stocks created by the heavy 1978 potato production. Current stocks accounted for 19 percent of fall production this year compared with 17 percent remaining last year. April sorting losses and cullage continued high in Western States, running nearly 3 times as high as a year ago.

(continued on page 4.)

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



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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. \*  
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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	63,380

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., OREG	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010	39,510	44,650	57,410
	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660	32,170	37,910	43,240	
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	6,280	
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	45,110	
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	16,095	
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	110,725	

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 MAY 1, 1985 AND MAY 1, 1986

STATE	CROP OF 1984			CROP OF 1985		
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	7,280	1,200	16	7,878	750	10
COLO	17,225	3,350	19	17,920	4,700	26
IDAHO	86,600	22,500	26	102,515	22,500	22
MAINE	21,360	4,350	20	27,160	7,000	26
MICH	12,540	1,800	14	12,100	1,500	12
MINN	13,775	1,700	12	14,145	3,100	22
MONT	1,924	150	8	1,890	50	3
NEBR	2,480	200	8	2,173	270	12
N Y - L I	3,577	1/ 125	3	3,870	1/ 150	4
- UPSTATE	6,630	400	6	6,125	250	4
N DAK	20,615	2,500	12	23,630	3,800	16
OHIO	2,418	1/	--	2,465	1/	--
OREG	23,525	4,500	19	26,701	5,800	22
PA	5,160	390	8	5,720	610	11
WASH	56,925	7,000	12	62,370	9,700	16
WIS	21,350	2,300	11	24,130	3,200	13
15 STATE TOTAL	303,384	52,465	17	340,792	63,380	19

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

#### RELIABILITY OF MAY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 63.4 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.6 percent or approximately 4.8 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 13.1 percent or approximately 8.3 million cwt.

The 7-year (1979-85) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.80 million cwt, ranging from .89 million cwt to 4.70 million cwt. During this 7-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 6 out of 7 years.

Potato stocks in the 3 EASTERN STATES totaled 8.01 million cwt, 52 percent higher than last year and 28 percent above two years ago. Maine stocks at 7.0 million cwt were up 61 percent from last year. New York storage, at 400 thousand cwt, was down 24 percent while Pennsylvania stocks of 610 thousand cwt were up 56 percent.

The 6 CENTRAL STATES contained 11.9 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1986, a gain of 40 percent from last year and 77 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks were up 52 percent; Wisconsin up 39 percent; and Minnesota up 82 percent from last year. Michigan stocks were 17 percent below a year earlier.

WESTERN STATES storages held 43.5 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1986, up 12 percent from last year and 16 percent above 1984. Idaho stocks at 22.5 million cwt were even with last year, but April cullage continued high. Storage operators say about 6 percent of stocks on-hand will not be usable because of frost damage. Washington stocks of 9.7 million cwt were up 39 percent while Oregon holdings of 5.8 million cwt were 29 percent larger than a year ago.

Colorado potato stocks totaled 4.7 million cwt, up 40 percent from last year. However, about one-fourth of these holdings are unmarketable under size restrictions and other sorting losses. California holdings at 750 thousand cwt are down 37 percent from last year while Montana's seed stocks are mostly gone.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest through April this year totaled 277 million cwt in the 15 storage States, up 11 percent from the 251 million cwt moved last year. Cullage and losses were up two-thirds, totaling 45.6 million cwt so far this season, compared with 27.4 million lost last year.

PROCESSING through April this season came to 111 million cwt, up 3 percent from nearly 108 million cwt processed a year earlier. During April, plants in the 8 major States utilized 13.4 million cwt of potatoes up 7 percent from last year's 12.5 million cwt.

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\* AGENCY NAME CHANGE \*  
\* \*  
\* The Statistical Reporting Service staff has been active during the past \*  
\* 3 years examining virtually every aspect of its work. One phase dealt \*  
\* with the Agency's identity within the agricultural and statistical com- \*  
\* munities. As a result of this study, the name of the Statistical Re- \*  
\* porting Service has been changed to National Agricultural Statistics \*  
\* Service. This name more accurately reflects the purpose of the Agency, \*  
\* its broad agricultural focus, and the service aspect of its responsi- \*  
\* bility. In line with this change, the Agency's Crop Reporting Board \*  
\* has been renamed the Agricultural Statistics Board to better describe \*  
\* the scope of its output. \*  
\* \*  
\* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports \*  
\* should be directed to Crop Reporting Board Publications, Room 5829 - \*  
\* South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (Phone (202) 447-4021). \*  
\* \*  
\* This report and other statistical, economic, marketing and news reports \*  
\* are available as soon as possible following release through USDA's EDI \*  
\* SERVICE. For more information, call or write: Russell Forte, (202) \*  
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