

Potato Stocks



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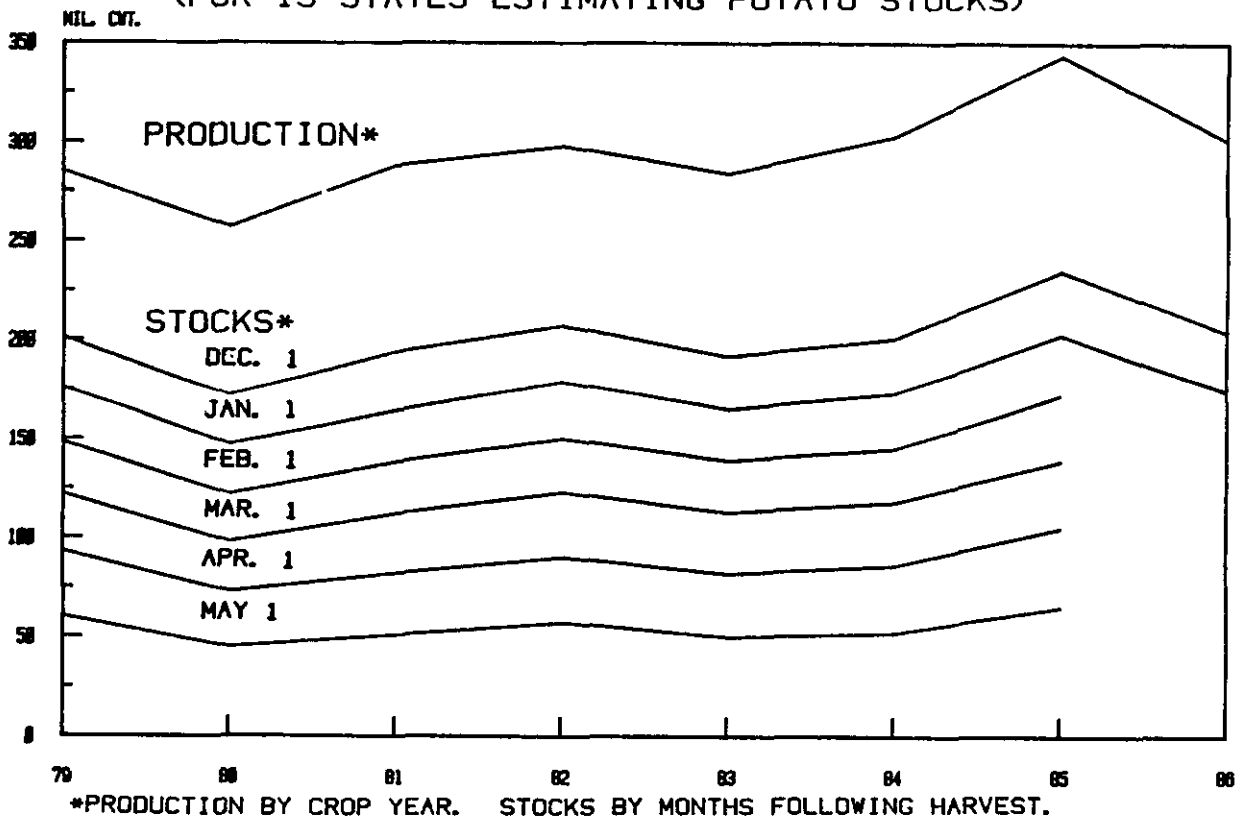
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 13 PERCENT

Storage of fall potatoes in the 15 major States totaled 177 million cwt on January 1, 1987. This is down 13 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 59 percent of production this year, the same percentage as last year. Types stored were: 79 percent russet, 17 percent white, and 4 percent red.

(Comments continued on page 4)

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



 * 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						
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	343,984	235,475	202,800	171,510	138,720	104,540	65,380
1986	301,001	204,180	176,600				

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1985 AND 1986 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE:	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	ENTIRE
	SEASON	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO.,	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660	32,170	37,910	43,240	55,220
OREG	1986-87	13,210	17,980					
MAINE 2/	1985-86	2,215	2,935	3,845	4,630	5,540	6,280	8,660
	1986-87	2,120	2,835					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS,	1985-86	21,725	25,665	29,450	34,450	39,990	45,110	57,430
OREG	1986-87	21,530	25,425					
OTHER STATES 3/	1985-86	6,470	7,990	9,900	12,020	13,860	16,095	22,245
	1986-87	6,240	8,405					
TOTAL	1985-86	48,240	59,570	69,855	83,270	97,300	110,725	143,555
	1986-87	43,100	54,645					

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 JANUARY 1, 1986 AND JANUARY 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : JAN 1, 1986	AS % OF : PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : JAN 1, 1987	AS % OF : PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	8,385	4,600	55	7,110	3,700	52
COLO	17,920	12,900	72	18,150	11,750	65
IDAHO	102,515	65,000	63	87,320	60,500	69
MAINE	28,215	20,200	72	21,000	12,700	60
MICH	12,100	6,600	55	9,350	4,600	49
MINN	14,145	9,900	70	13,650	9,000	66
MONT	1,890	1,400	74	2,233	2,100	94
NEBR	2,106	1,500	71	1,794	1,250	70
N Y - L I	3,870	1,450	37	2,492	350	14
- UPSTATE	6,375	2,700	42	5,288	2,000	38
N DAK	23,630	16,000	68	21,600	13,500	63
OHIO	2,465	500	20	2,377	450	19
OREG	26,888	15,700	58	23,172	14,900	64
PA	5,720	3,350	59	5,160	2,800	54
WASH	63,630	30,000	47	60,180	28,000	47
WIS	24,130	11,000	46	20,125	9,000	45
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	202,800	59	301,001	176,600	59

RELIABILITY OF JANUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 177 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 4.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 7.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1977-86) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.58 million cwt, ranging from .52 million to 5.70 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the January 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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 * are available as soon as possible following release through USDA's EDI *
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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
JANUARY 1, 1987, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	9		91	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		70	30	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	20	32	48	100
N Y		1/ 3/100		100
N DAK	21	56	23	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		3/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	4	16	80	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	4	17	79	100

- 1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

Stocks in the 3 EASTERN STATES totaled 17.9 million cwt on January 1, 1987, down 36 percent from a year ago and 18 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were 12.7 million cwt, down 37 percent; New York storage of 2.35 million cwt was down 43 percent and Pennsylvania stocks of 2.80 million were down 16 percent.

The 6 CENTRAL STATES stocks were set at 37.8 million cwt, down 17 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below January 1985. Michigan stocks are 30 percent below a year ago; Wisconsin is down 18 percent. North Dakota dropped 16 percent and Minnesota 8 percent. Nebraska and Ohio stocks declined 9 and 10 percent respectively.

The 6 WESTERN STATES stored 121 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1987, down 7 percent from last year but 9 percent more than two years ago. Idaho and Washington stocks were down 7 percent from last year. Oregon stocks were down 5 percent. Colorado stored 9 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago and California stocks were off 20 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to January 1 this year totaled 124 million cwt, down sharply from last year's record 141 million cwt. Shrink and loss made up 17.4 million cwt of the disappearance this year, down 30 percent from last year's 24.9 million. December movement was 27.6 million cwt, down 16 percent from last year. Shrink and loss during December was 2.2 million cwt, less than half a year ago.

PROCESSING to date in the 8 processing States totaled 54.6 million cwt, down 8 percent from the 59.6 million cwt processed a year ago. December processing totaled 11.5 million cwt, 2 percent more than last year.