

Potato Stocks



Agricultural
Statistics
Board

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C. 20250

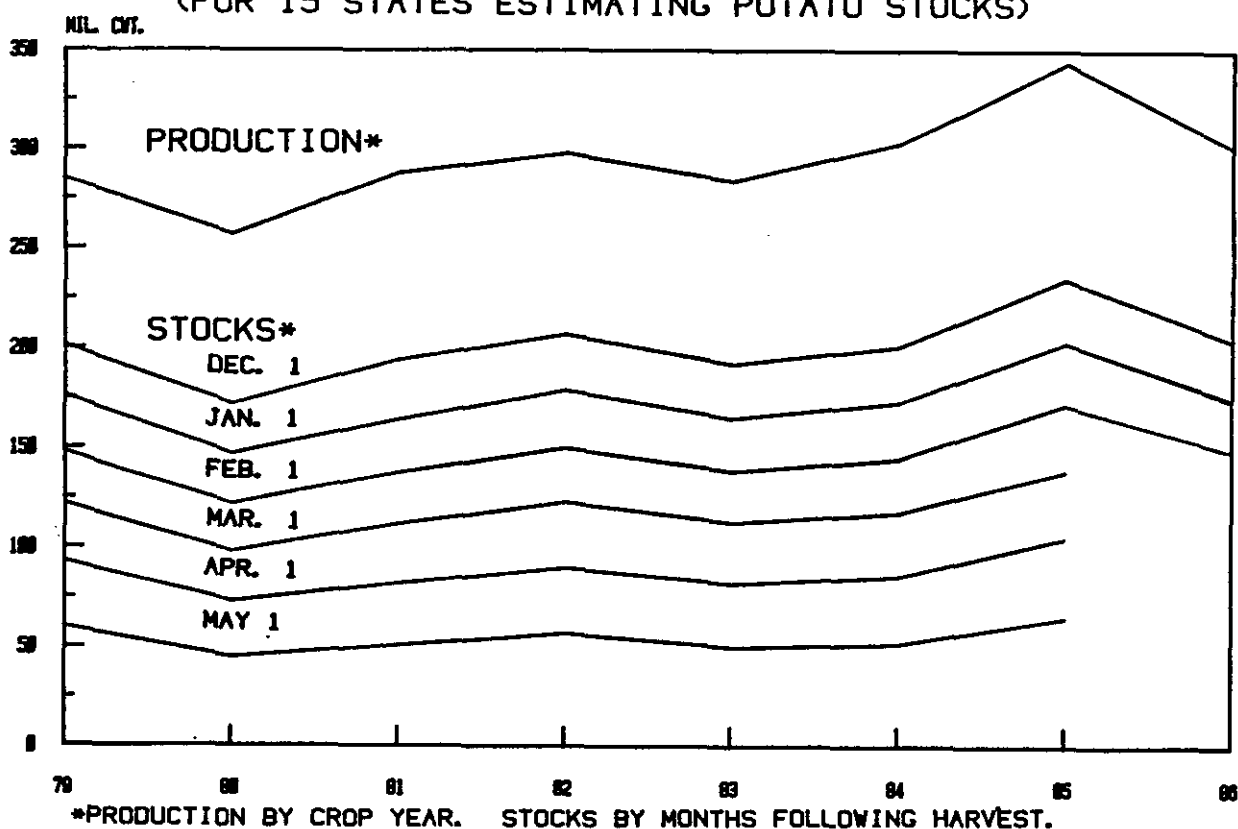
RELEASED: February 13, 1987
3:00 P.M. ET

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 12 PERCENT

Fall potato stocks in the 15 major storage States totaled 151 million cwt on February 1, 1987. This is down 12 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 50 percent of 1986 fall production, the same percentage as a year earlier. By type, potatoes are 81 percent russet, 16 percent white, and 3 percent red.

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



 * NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) re- *
 * maining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrink- *
 * age and waste and other losses that occur after the date of *
 * each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes general- *
 * ly account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. *
 * Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 10 per- *
 * cent. *

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						
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	150,640			

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	21,910				
MAINE 2/	1985-86	2,215	2,935	3,845	4,630	5,540	6,280	8,660
	1986-87	2,120	2,835	3,340				
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	28,445				
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	10,330				
TOTAL	1985-86	48,240	59,570	69,855	83,270	97,300	110,725	143,555
	1986-87	43,100	54,645	64,025				

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 FEBRUARY 1, 1986 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS : FEB 1, 1986	FEB 1 : STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS : FEB 1, 1987	FEB 1 : STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	8,385	3,900	47	7,110	2,700	38
COLO	17,920	11,000	61	18,150	9,750	54
IDAHO	102,515	56,500	55	87,320	54,500	62
MAINE	28,215	17,200	61	21,000	10,300	49
MICH	12,100	5,300	44	9,350	3,900	42
MINN	14,145	8,500	60	13,650	7,700	56
MONT	1,890	1,350	71	2,233	2,040	91
NEBR	2,106	1,250	59	1,794	1,000	56
N Y - L I	3,870	1,000	26	2,492	100	4
- UPSTATE	6,375	2,000	31	5,288	1,300	25
N DAK	23,630	13,200	56	21,600	11,100	51
OHIO	2,465	300	12	2,377	250	11
OREG	26,888	13,300	49	23,172	12,700	55
PA	5,720	2,610	46	5,160	2,100	41
WASH	63,630	25,700	40	60,180	24,400	41
WIS	24,130	8,400	35	20,125	6,800	34
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	171,510	50	301,001	150,640	50

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.0 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 151 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent or approximately 4.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent or approximately 7.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1977-86) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.54 million cwt, ranging from .39 million to 5.41 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1987, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
PERCENT				
COLO	10		90	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		69	31	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	20	35	45	100
N Y		1/ 3/100		100
N DAK	19	54	27	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		3/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	2	13	85	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	16	81	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.

(Continued from page 1)

Stocks in the 3 EASTERN STATES totaled 13.8 million cwt on February 1, 1987, down 40 percent from a year ago and 21 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were 10.3 million cwt, down 40 percent; New York storage of 1.40 million cwt was down 53 percent and Pennsylvania stocks of 2.10 million cwt were down 20 percent.

The 6 CENTRAL STATES stocks were set at 30.8 million cwt, down 17 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below February 1985. Michigan stocks are 26 percent below a year ago; Wisconsin is down 19 percent. North Dakota dropped 16 percent and Minnesota 9 percent. Nebraska and Ohio stocks declined 20 and 17 percent respectively.

The 6 WESTERN STATES stored 106 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1987, down 5 percent from last year but 13 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks were down 4 percent from last year. Oregon and Washington stocks were down 5 percent. Colorado stored 21 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago and California stocks were off 31 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to February 1 this year totaled 150 million cwt, down 13 percent from last year's record 172 million cwt. Shrink and loss made up 19.6 million cwt of the disappearance this year, down 33 percent from last year's 29.2 million cwt. January movement was 26.0 million cwt, down 17 percent from last year. Shrink and loss during January was 2.3 million cwt, down 47 percent from a year ago.

PROCESSING to date in the 8 processing States totaled 64.0 million cwt, down 8 percent from 69.9 million cwt processed a year ago. January processing totaled 9.4 million cwt, 8 percent less than last year.