

# Potato Stocks

 Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board  
National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

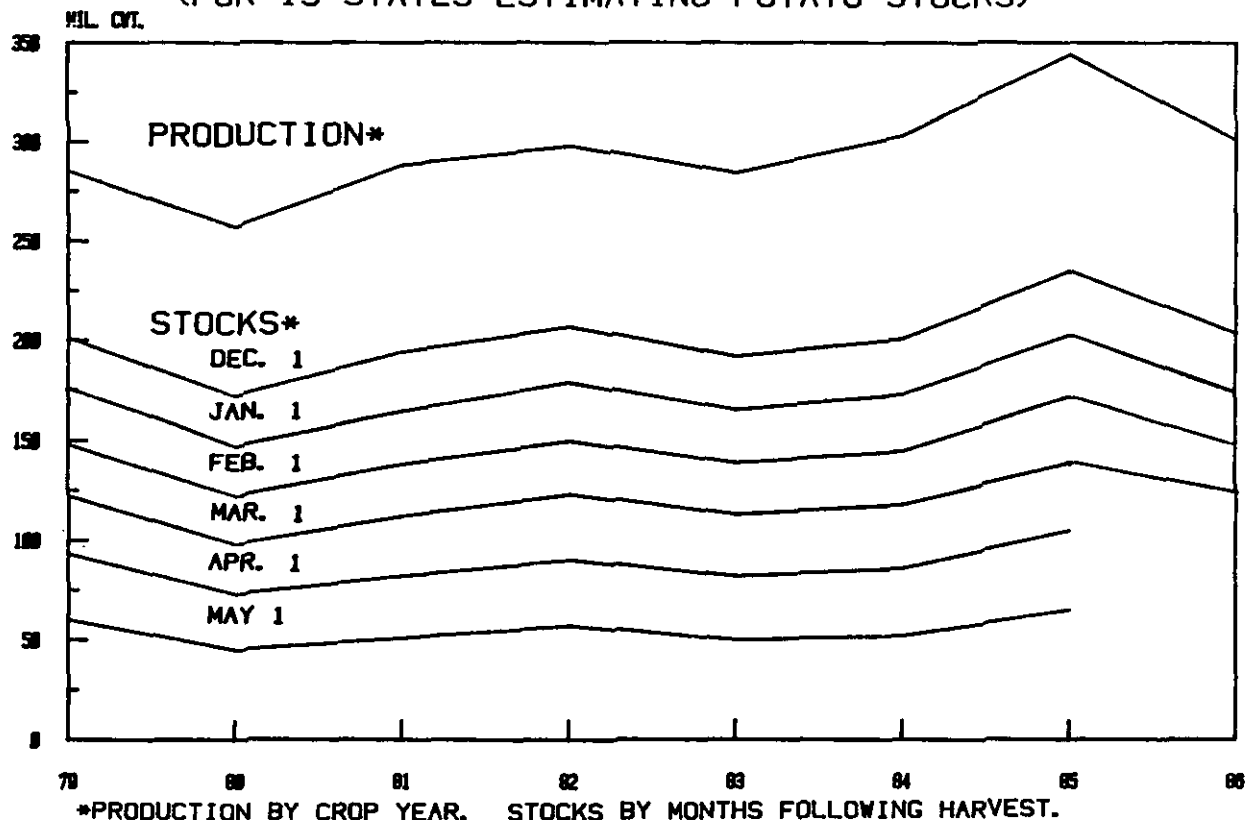
RELEASED: March 13, 1987  
3:00 P.M. ET

## POTATO STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

Potato stocks in the 15 fall storage States totaled 125 million cwt on March 1, 1987. This is down 10 percent from last year, but 5 percent above two years ago. March 1 stocks represent 41 percent of fall production in the 15 States compared with 40 percent last year. Holdings are below last year in all States except Idaho and Montana.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

## 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	124,820		

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., OREG	1985-86	17,830	22,980	26,660	32,170	37,910	43,240	55,220
	1986-87	13,210	17,980	21,910	27,070			
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	3,860			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1985-86	21,725	25,665	29,450	34,450	39,990	45,110	57,430
	1986-87	21,530	25,425	28,445	33,510			
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	12,320			
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	76,760			

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 MARCH 1, 1986 AND MARCH 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAR 1, 1986	MAR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAR 1, 1987	MAR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	8,385	3,200	38	7,110	2,300	32
COLO	17,920	9,350	52	18,150	8,200	45
IDAHO	102,515	46,000	45	87,320	47,500	54
MAINE	28,215	14,100	50	21,000	8,100	39
MICH	12,100	4,100	34	9,350	2,600	28
MINN	14,145	7,000	49	13,650	6,300	46
MONT	1,890	1,300	69	2,233	1,970	88
NEBR	2,106	1,000	47	1,794	780	43
N Y - L I	3,870	600	16	2,492	1/	--
- UPSTATE	6,375	1,400	22	5,288	750	14
N DAK	23,630	10,700	45	21,600	8,900	41
OHIO	2,465	130	5	2,377	1/120	--
OREG	26,888	10,500	39	23,172	10,100	44
PA	5,720	1,840	32	5,160	1,400	27
WASH	63,630	21,000	33	60,180	20,400	34
WIS	24,130	6,500	27	20,125	5,400	27
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	138,720	40	301,001	124,820	41

1/ N Y - L I COMBINED WITH OHIO TO AVOID DISCLOSURE.

#### RELIABILITY OF MARCH 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 125 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent or approximately 4.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent or approximately 7.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1977-86) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.51 million cwt, ranging from .30 million to 6.00 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

The three EASTERN STATES are holding 10.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage, down 43 percent from last year and 24 percent below 2 years ago. The New York deal is nearly finished, with stocks down more than 60 percent from last year. Maine stocks are down 43 percent and Pennsylvania stocks are off 24 percent.

CENTRAL STATES holdings totaled 24.1 million cwt, down 18 percent from last year and 9 percent below two years ago. Michigan is down more than one third, while Wisconsin and North Dakota are down 17 percent each. Minnesota is off 10 percent and Nebraska is down 22 percent.

The six WESTERN STATES storages held 90.5 million cwt of potatoes on March 1 this year, within 1 percent of last year's stocks and 15 percent more than two years ago. March 1 stocks in Idaho are 3 percent above last year. The Montana stocks are well above a year ago. Washington stocks are down 3 percent and Oregon holdings are down 4 percent. Colorado potato stocks are down 12 percent from last year and California is off 28 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE of 1986 production totaled 176 million cwt to March 1 this year, down 14 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss this year came to 21.3 million cwt compared with 34.6 million cwt by this time a year ago, a drop of nearly 40 percent. February disappearance totaled 25.8 million cwt, down 21 percent from a year ago.

PROCESSING accumulated 76.8 million cwt this season, down 8 percent from a comparable 83.3 million cwt from last year's crop. February processing was 12.7 million cwt, down 5 percent from last February.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* NOTICE \*  
 \* \*  
 \* The next issue of this report will be published April 14, 1987 \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports \*  
 \* should be directed to Agricultural Statistics 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) \*  
 \* 447-5505, OGPA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*