

Potato Stocks



Agricultural
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Board

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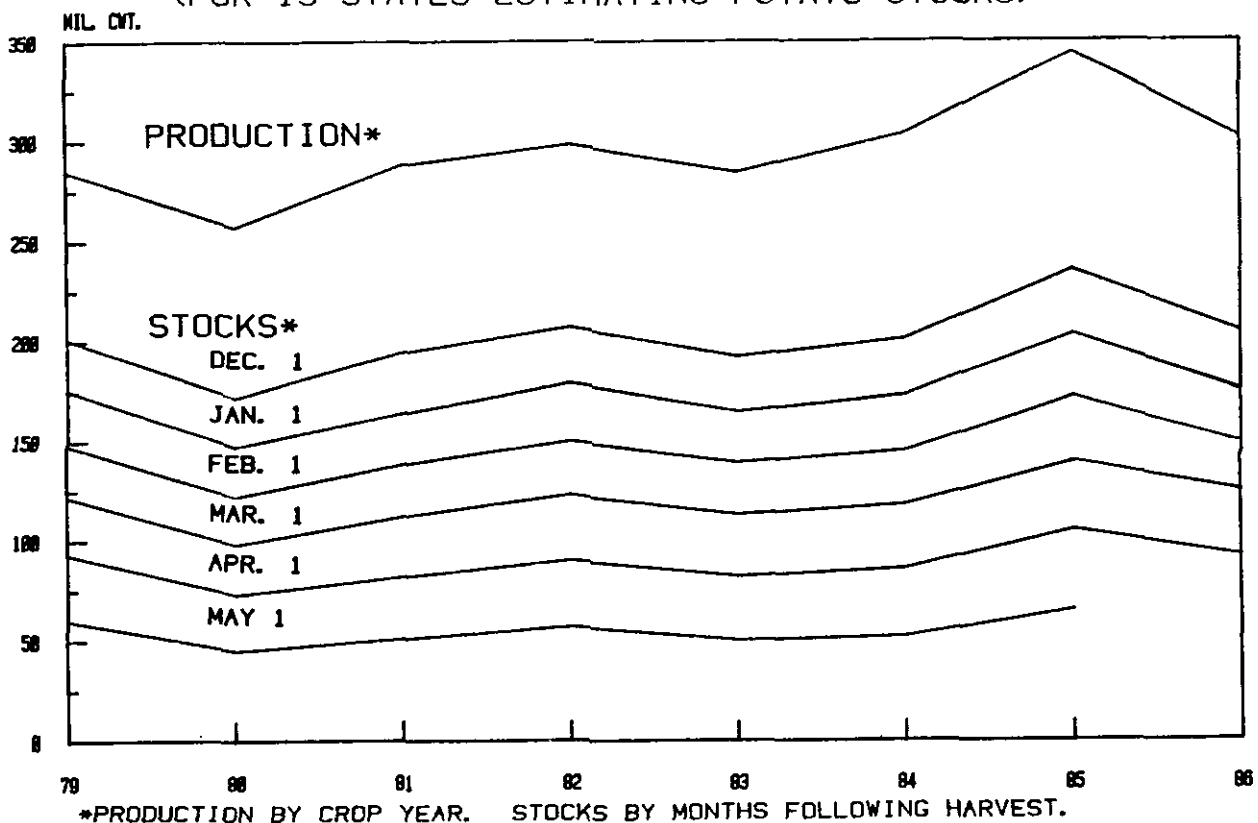
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 12 PERCENT

April 1, 1987 potato stocks totaled 91.7 million cwt in the 15 fall storage States. This is down 12 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent above 2 years ago. Storage contained 30 percent of 1986 fall production, virtually the same percentage as on April 1 a year ago. Stocks are well below last year's level in Eastern and Central States, and down 1 percent in Western States.

(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	91,670	

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	33,360		
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	4,475		
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	39,525		
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	14,690		
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	92,050		

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, 1986 AND APRIL 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : APR 1, 1986	APR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : APR 1, 1987	APR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	8,385	2,600	31	7,110	1,700	24
COLO	17,920	7,550	42	18,150	6,300	35
IDAHO	102,515	35,000	34	87,320	38,000	44
MAINE	28,215	10,600	38	21,000	5,600	27
MICH	12,100	2,600	21	9,350	1,300	14
MINN	14,145	5,300	37	13,650	4,000	29
MONT	1,890	1,100	58	2,233	1,350	60
NEBR	2,106	550	26	1,794	390	22
N Y - L I	3,870	300	8	2,492	1/	
- UPSTATE	6,375	800	13	5,288	300	6
N DAK	23,630	7,800	33	21,600	5,900	27
OHIO	2,465	40	2	2,377	1/30	.
OREG	26,888	8,000	30	23,172	7,800	34
PA	5,720	1,300	23	5,160	1,000	19
WASH	63,630	16,200	25	60,180	14,600	24
WIS	24,130	4,800	20	20,125	3,400	17
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	104,540	30	301,001	91,670	30

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

RELIABILITY OF APRIL 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 4.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 91.7 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.3 percent or approximately 3.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.5 percent or approximately 6.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1977-86) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.26 million cwt, ranging from .24 million 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 three EASTERN STATES stored 6.9 million cwt on April 1, 1987, down 47 percent from last year and 26 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks are set at 5.6 million cwt, down 47 percent; New York holdings are less than one-third of last year's stocks; and Pennsylvania storage of 1.0 million cwt, is off 23 percent.

Six CENTRAL STATES are holding 15.0 million cwt, down 29 percent from last year, and 11 percent below two years ago. Michigan stocks of 1.30 million cwt are half last year's total. Minnesota and North Dakota stocks are down about one-quarter from last year; while Nebraska and Wisconsin are 29 percent below a year ago.

Stocks in the six WESTERN STATES totaled 69.8 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year, but 14 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 38.0 million cwt are 9 percent above last year and Montana (mainly seed) stocks of 1.35 million cwt are up 23 percent. The other four Western States have fewer potatoes on hand than a year ago. Washington stocks of 14.6 million cwt are 10 percent below last year and Oregon's 7.8 million cwt of stocks are down 2 percent. Colorado at 6.3 million cwt is down 17 percent and California stocks of 1.7 million cwt are off 35 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE of 1986 fall production to April 1 totaled 209 million cwt, down 13 percent from last year and 4 percent below 1984 crop movement. Shrinkage and loss are down 42 percent showing 23.3 million cwt this year compared with 40.4 million cwt last year. March disappearance was 33.2 million cwt, 3 percent below a year ago.

PROCESSING usage so far this season totals 92.1 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year. March processing was 15.3 million cwt, up 9 percent from last March.

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* The next issue of this report will be published May 15, 1987 *
