

Potato Stocks



Agricultural
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Board

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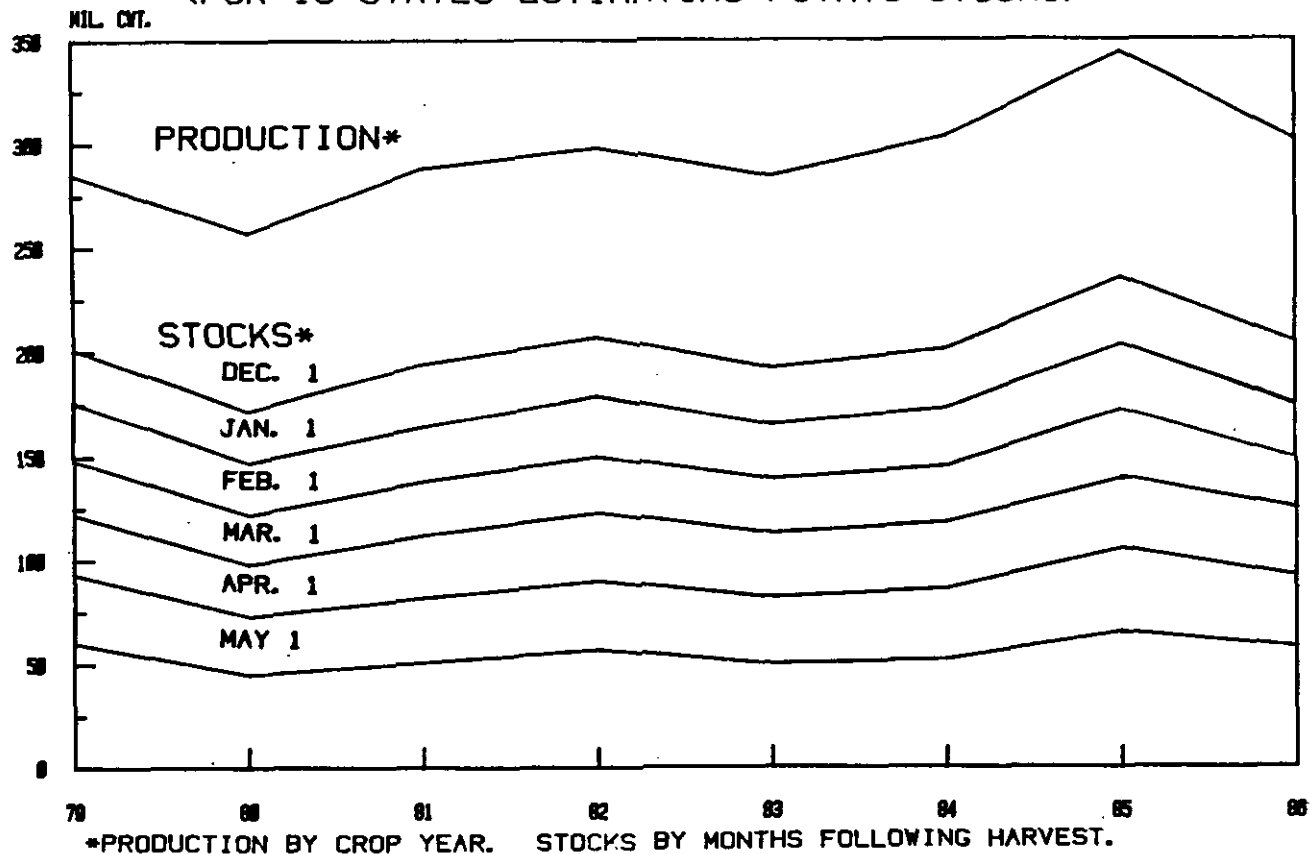
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 13 PERCENT

May 1, 1987 potato stocks totaled 57.0 million cwt in the 15 fall storage States. This is down 13 percent from last year but 9 percent above two years ago. Nineteen percent of fall potato production is still on hand, the same percentage as a year ago. Eastern and Central States are down sharply from last year, while Western States show 1 percent more potatoes stored.

(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	57,040

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	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	5,180	
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	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	16,750	
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	105,680	

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, 1986 AND MAY 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1985			CROP OF 1986		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1986	MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1987	MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	8,385	1,900	23	7,110	1,100	15
COLO	17,920	5,350	30	18,150	4,250	23
IDAHO	102,515	22,500	22	87,320	25,500	29
MAINE	28,215	7,100	25	21,000	3,000	14
MICH	12,100	1,500	12	9,350	500	5
MINN	14,145	3,100	22	13,650	1,800	13
MONT	1,890	50	3	2,233	400	18
NEBR	2,106	270	13	1,794	190	11
N Y - L I	3,870	1/150		2,492	1/	
- UPSTATE	6,375	350	5	5,288	1/100	
N DAK	23,630	3,800	16	21,600	3,000	14
OHIO	2,465	1/		2,377	1/	
OREG	26,888	5,800	22	23,172	5,800	25
PA	5,720	610	11	5,160	400	8
WASH	63,630	9,700	15	60,180	8,700	14
WIS	24,130	3,200	13	20,125	2,300	11
15 STATE TOTAL	343,984	65,380	19	301,001	57,040	19

1/ COMBINED 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 7.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 57.0 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.2 percent or approximately 4.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.4 percent or approximately 7.1 million cwt.

The 8-year (1979-86) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.57 million cwt, ranging from .89 million to 4.70 million cwt. During this 8-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 7 out of 8 years.

The three EASTERN STATES held 3.50 million cwt, down 57 percent from last year and 33 percent below two years ago. Maine had 3.00 million cwt on hand, 58 percent less than last May. New York and Pennsylvania are practically finished for the season.

The six CENTRAL STATES potato storage stands at 7.79 million cwt, down 34 percent from last year and 9 percent under two years ago. North Dakota stocks at 3.00 million cwt are down 21 percent; Wisconsin holdings of 2.30 million cwt are off 28 percent; while Minnesota's 1.80 million cwt dropped 42 percent from a year ago. Michigan, with only half a million cwt of potatoes on hand, was 67 percent below last year and Nebraska with 190 thousand cwt was off 30 percent.

WESTERN STATES held 45.8 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1987, up 1 percent from last year and 18 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 25.5 million cwt are up 13 percent; Oregon storage with 5.80 million cwt is at last year's level; and Washington's 8.70 million cwt are down 10 percent. Colorado storage with 4.25 million cwt and California stocks of 1.10 million cwt are down 21 and 42 percent, respectively.

DISAPPEARANCE from the beginning of harvest to May 1, 1987 totaled 244 million cwt, down 12 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss so far this season totaled 25.1 million cwt, down 45 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. April disappearance of 34.6 million cwt was 12 percent below last year, but 2 percent above two years ago.

PROCESSING accumulation for the 1986-87 season totaled 106 million cwt to date, down 5 percent from last year. Processing usage during April was 13.6 million cwt, up 2 percent.

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

