

Potato Stocks



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

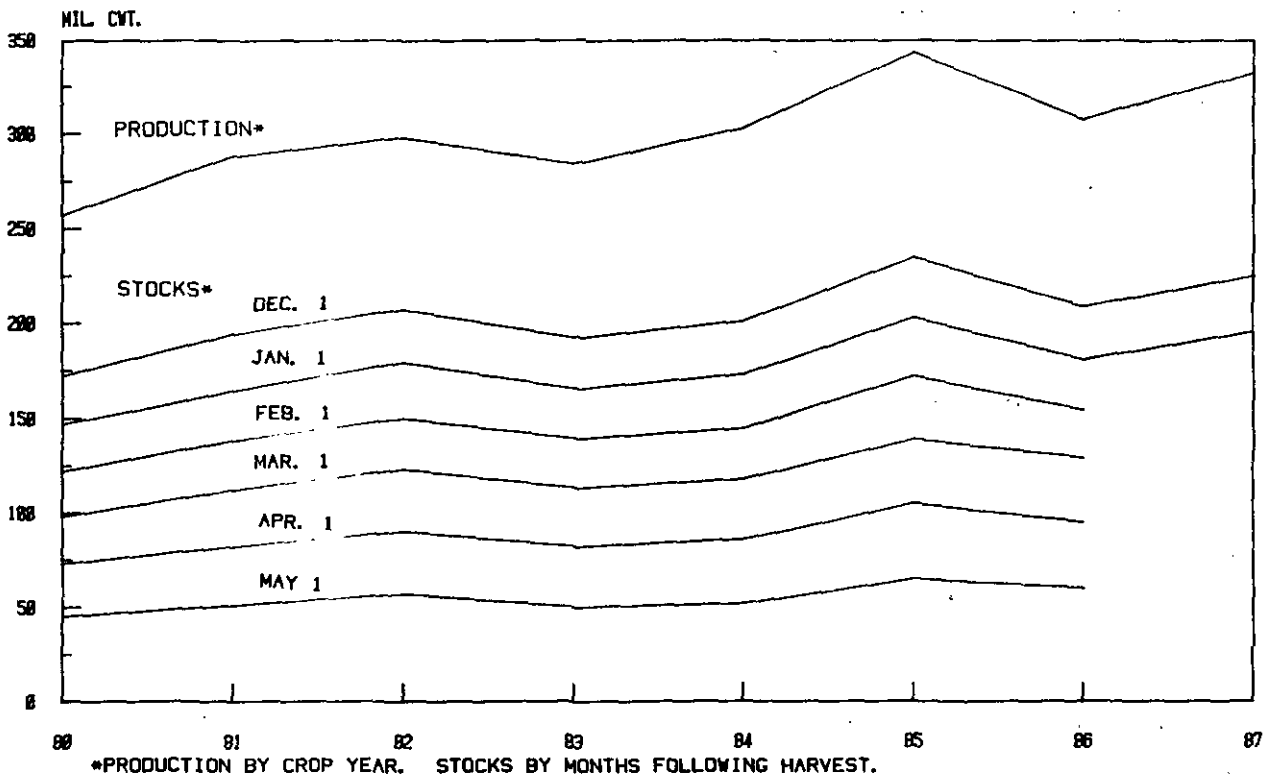
RELEASED: January 15, 1988
3:00 P.M. ET

POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

January 1, 1988 potato stocks are estimated at 196 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year, but 3 percent below 1986. Stocks account for 59 percent of fall production this year the same percent as last year. Storage is made up of 79 percent russet, 17 percent white, and 4 percent red potatoes.

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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							
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	307,501	209,280	180,800	154,490	128,700	95,090	59,790
1987	333,396	223,720	195,880				

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1986 AND 1987 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1986-87	13,200	17,980	21,910	27,070	33,360	38,970	55,470
	1987-88	18,260	23,520					
MAINE 2/	1986-87	2,100	2,835	3,345	3,865	4,500	5,195	6,995
	1987-88	1,770	2,440					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1986-87	21,530	25,510	28,530	33,595	39,610	44,865	56,910
	1987-88	22,265	25,950					
OTHER STATES 3/	1986-87	6,240	8,405	10,330	12,320	14,690	16,750	20,975
	1987-88	5,750	7,370					
TOTAL	1986-87	43,070	54,730	64,115	76,850	92,160	105,780	140,350
	1987-88	48,045	59,280					

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, 1987 AND JANUARY 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION: 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: JAN 1, 1987	AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION: 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: JAN 1, 1988	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,885	3,700	54	7,600	4,100	54
COLO	18,810	11,750	62	19,500	14,050	72
IDAHO	90,220	63,000	70	99,710	65,000	65
MAINE	21,930	13,700	62	24,510	16,300	67
MICH	9,625	5,100	53	8,910	3,800	43
MINN	13,650	9,000	66	16,330	10,300	63
MONT	2,233	2,100	94	2,370	2,100	89
NEBR	1,794	1,250	70	2,100	1,550	74
N Y - L I	2,537	550	22	2,225	450	20
- UPSTATE	5,288	2,000	38	5,875	2,000	34
N DAK	21,600	13,500	63	23,125	14,800	64
OHIO	2,522	450	18	2,254	430	19
OREG	23,172	14,900	64	25,924	16,100	62
PA	5,160	2,800	54	4,730	2,400	51
WASH	61,950	28,000	45	66,960	32,900	49
WIS	20,125	9,000	45	21,273	9,600	45
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	180,800	59	333,396	195,880	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 196 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 4.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 8.0 million cwt.

The 10-year (1978-87) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.46 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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 * The next issue of this report will be published February 16, 1988 *
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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
JANUARY 1, 1988, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
PERCENT				
COLO	8		92	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		67	33	100
MICH		73	27	100
MINN	20	34	46	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	20	58	22	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	5	15	80	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	4	17	79	100

(Comments Continued from Page 1)

The 3 EASTERN STATES stored 21.2 million cwt on January 1 this year, up 11 percent from a year ago, but 24 percent short of two years ago. Maine stocks of 16.3 million cwt are up 19 percent. New York storage of 2.45 million cwt is down 4 percent. Pennsylvania stocks of 2.40 million cwt are down 14 percent.

CENTRAL STATES storages held 40.5 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1988, up 6 percent from last year but 11 percent below 1986. North Dakota with 14.8 million cwt stored and Minnesota with 10.3 million cwt are up 10 and 14 percent, respectively. Wisconsin holdings of 9.60 million cwt are up 7 percent, while Michigan is down 25 percent and Ohio is down 4 percent.

Six WESTERN STATES stored 134 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1988, up 9 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Each of the Western States had more potatoes in storage than last year, except Montana. Idaho stocks of 65.0 million cwt are up 3 percent from last year. Stocks in Washington totaled 32.9 million cwt, up 18 percent; while Colorado storage of 14.1 million cwt was up 20 percent. Oregon, with 16.1 million cwt, was up 8 percent; California was up 11 percent; and Montana was the same as last year.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to January 1 in the 15 stocks States totaled 138 million cwt, 9 percent above last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss totaled 18.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year, but 27 percent below the 1985 frost damaged crop.

PROCESSING in the 8 major processing States totals 59.3 million cwt so far this season, up 8 percent from last year but fractionally below the 1985 pace. December processing of 11.2 million cwt was 4 percent below a year ago and 1 percent below December 1985.

