

Potato Stocks



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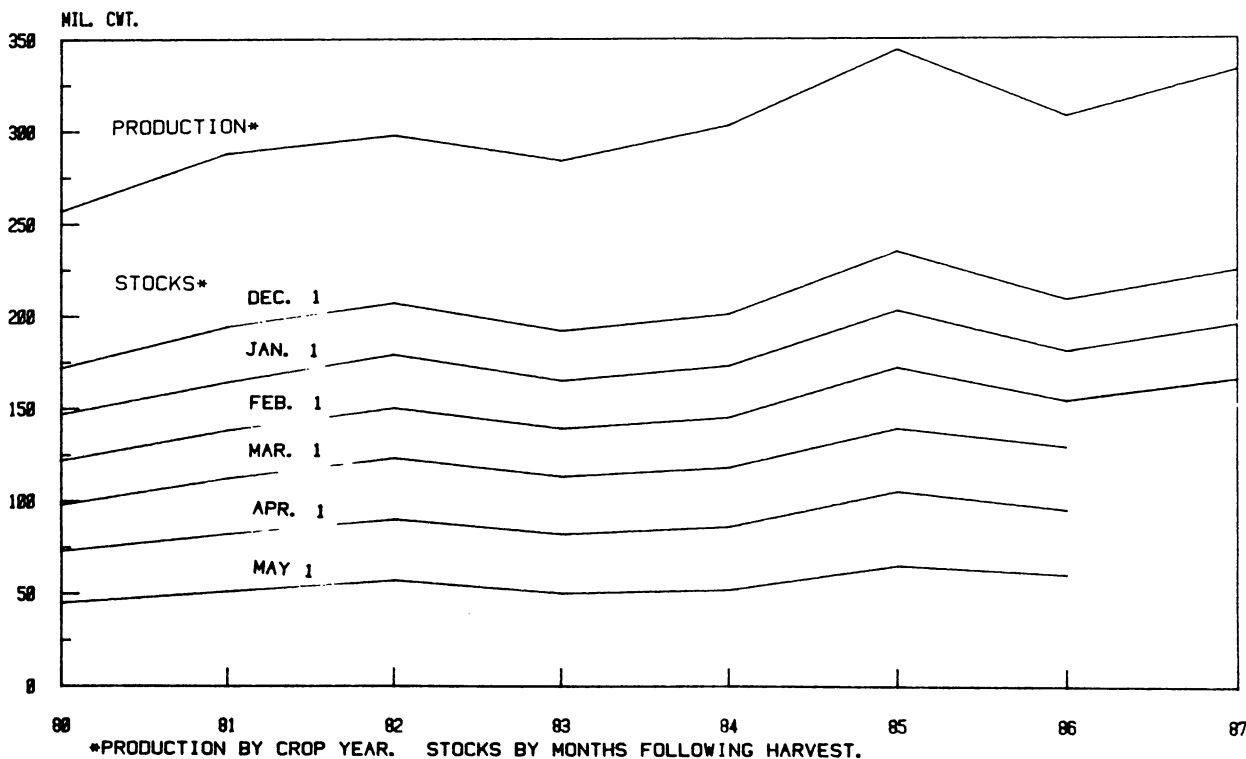
POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

February 1, 1988 potato stocks are estimated at 167 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Half of fall potato production is still on hand this year, the same proportion as a year ago. Storage potatoes are 81 percent russet by type, 16 percent white, and 3 percent red.

(continued on page 4.)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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 * 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	167,110			

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

STATE	STORAGE TO 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.,	1986-87	13,200	17,980	21,910	27,070	33,360	38,970	55,470
OREG	1987-88	18,260	4/23,320	28,680				
MAINE 2/	1986-87	2,100	2,835	3,345	3,865	4,500	5,195	6,995
	1987-88	1,770	2,440	3,140				
WASH AND OTHER AREAS,	1986-87	21,530	25,510	28,530	33,595	39,610	44,865	56,910
OREG	1987-88	22,265	25,950	30,790				
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	9,200				
TOTAL	1986-87	43,070	54,730	64,115	76,850	92,160	105,780	140,350
	1987-88	48,045	4/59,080	71,810				

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. 4/ CORRECTED.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1987 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1987	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1988	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,885	2,700	39	7,600	3,100	41
COLO	18,810	9,750	52	19,500	12,200	63
IDAHO	90,220	57,000	63	99,710	57,000	57
MAINE	21,930	11,200	51	24,510	13,700	56
MICH	9,625	4,100	43	8,910	2,800	31
MINN	13,650	7,700	56	16,330	8,700	53
MONT	2,233	2,040	91	2,370	2,000	84
NEBR	1,794	1,000	56	2,100	1,350	64
N Y - L I	2,537	350	14	2,225	225	10
- UPSTATE	5,288	1,300	25	5,875	1,700	29
N DAK	21,600	11,100	51	23,125	12,500	54
OHIO	2,522	250	10	2,254	235	10
OREG	23,172	12,700	55	25,924	14,200	55
PA	5,160	2,100	41	4,730	1,800	38
WASH	61,950	24,400	39	66,960	28,300	42
WIS	20,125	6,800	34	21,273	7,300	34
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	154,490	50	333,396	167,110	50

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 2.8 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 167 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.8 percent or approximately 4.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.9 percent or approximately 8.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1978-87) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.52 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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 * The next issue of this report will be published March 15, 1988 *

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1988, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
PERCENT				
COLO	8		92	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		66	34	100
MICH		70	30	100
MINN	17	35	48	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	19	57	24	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	5	13	82	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	16	81	100

The three EASTERN STATES stored 17.4 million cwt, up 17 percent over last year, but 24 percent short of 1986. Maine stocks of 13.7 million cwt gained 22 percent over last year. New York holdings of 1.90 million cwt were up 17 percent; while Pennsylvania storages at 1.80 million cwt held 14 percent fewer potatoes than last year. Storage in all three Eastern States was well below 1986 levels.

The six CENTRAL STATES held 32.9 million cwt of potatoes February 1, 1988, a gain of 6 percent over last year but 11 percent below 1986. North Dakota stocks of 12.5 million cwt and Minnesota stocks of 8.70 million cwt were up 13 percent each. Wisconsin stored 7.30 million cwt, up 7 percent; while Nebraska stocks of 1.35 million cwt were up over one-third. Michigan stocks were down 32 percent with only 2.80 million cwt on hand. Minnesota and Nebraska are the only two Central States showing more potatoes stored than two years ago.

Potato stocks in the 6 WESTERN STATES stand at 117 million cwt, 8 percent more than last year and 5 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks of 57.0 million cwt are even with last year and slightly above two years ago. Washington at 28.3 million cwt stored and Oregon with 14.2 million cwt are up 16 and 12 percent, respectively. Colorado, with 12.2 million cwt was up 25 percent. California stocks totaling 3.10 million cwt gained 15 percent over a year ago; while Montana sheds holding 2.00 million cwt were 2 percent below last year. Of the 6 Western States, only California had fewer potatoes this year than were on-hand two years ago.

DISAPPEARANCE in the 15 States from harvest time to the present totaled 166 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year, but was 4 percent short of two year's ago. Shrinkage and losses totaling 20.5 million cwt are up 4 percent from the 19.6 million cwt last year but are 30 percent below two years ago when losses were 29.2 million cwt. As a percent of disappearance, losses are running 12.3 percent this season compared with 12.8 percent last year and 16.9 percent for the 1985 crop.

PROCESSING usage in the 8 major States so far this season totaled 71.8 million cwt, up 12 percent from a year ago. January pack used 12.7 million cwt of potatoes, up 36 percent from a year ago.

