

# Potato Stocks



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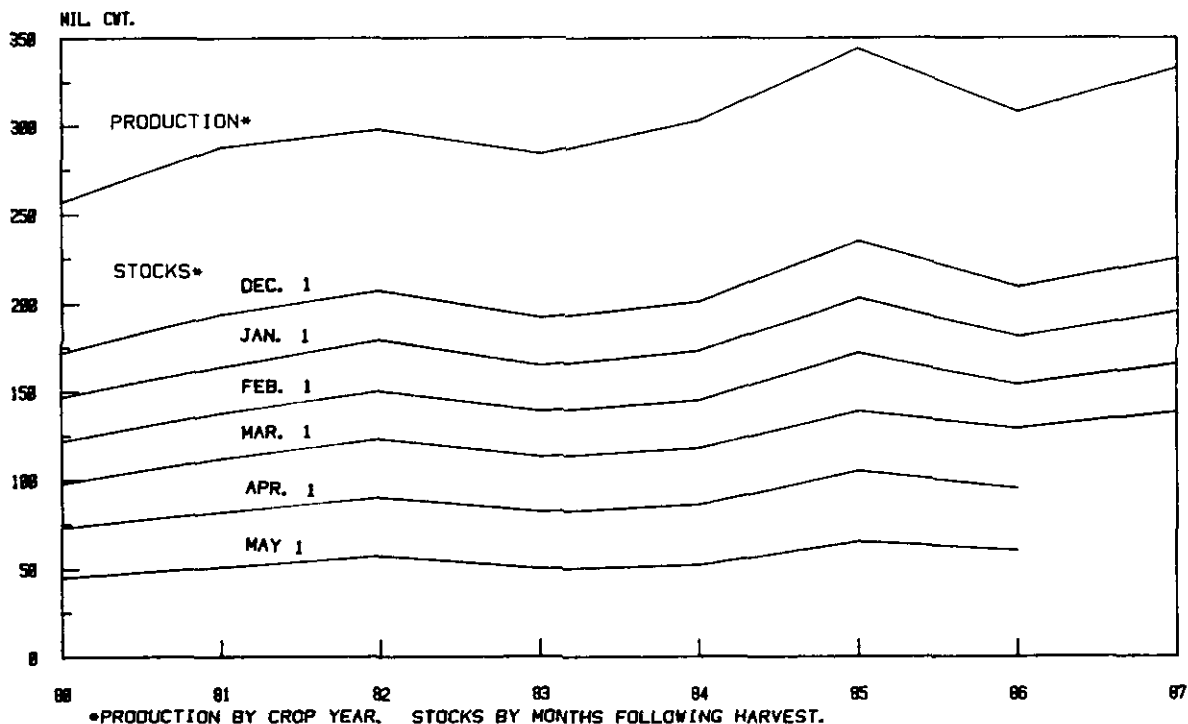
## POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

Potato stocks in the 15 fall storage States totaled 138 million cwt on March 1, 1988. This is up 7 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago. Remaining stocks account for 41 percent of fall production this year compared with 42 percent a year ago. Holdings in most States are above a year ago; notable exceptions are Idaho, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, where stocks are below last year.

(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. \*  
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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	137,950		

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	23,320	28,680	34,340			
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	3,745			
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	30,790	35,800			
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	11,270			
TOTAL	1986-87	43,070	54,730	64,115	76,850	92,160	105,780	140,350
	1987-88	48,045	59,080	71,810	85,155			

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, 1987 AND MARCH 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAR 1, 1987	MAR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAR 1, 1988	MAR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	6,885	2,300	33	7,600	2,400	32
COLO	18,810	8,200	44	19,500	10,550	54
IDAHO	90,220	50,000	55	99,710	49,000	49
MAINE	21,930	9,000	41	24,510	11,400	47
MICH	9,625	3,000	31	8,910	2,100	24
MINN	13,650	6,300	46	16,330	7,100	43
MONT	2,233	1,970	88	2,370	1,995	84
NEBR	1,794	780	43	2,100	1,050	50
N Y - L I	2,537	1/200		2,225	1/215	
- UPSTATE	5,288	750	14	5,875	1,000	17
N DAK	21,600	8,900	41	23,125	10,000	43
OHIO	2,522	1/		2,254	1/	
OREG	23,172	10,100	44	25,924	11,800	46
PA	5,160	1,400	27	4,730	1,340	28
WASH	61,950	20,400	33	66,960	22,800	34
WIS	20,125	5,400	27	21,273	5,200	24
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	128,700	42	333,396	137,950	41

1/ COMBINED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

#### RELIABILITY OF MARCH 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.4 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 138 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.4 percent or approximately 4.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.9 percent or approximately 8.1 million cwt.

The 10-year (1978-87) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.45 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 13.7 million cwt, 23 percent more than last year. Maine stocks of 11.4 million cwt are 27 percent above last year, but 19 percent below two years ago. Pennsylvania holdings are 4 percent below last year and 27 percent below March 1986. Upstate New York stocks are one-third over last year but 29 percent short of two years.

The CENTRAL STATES tallied 25.5 million cwt of potato storage on March 1, 1988. This is 4 percent above last year but 13 percent short of two years ago. Michigan holdings are down 30 percent from last year and just over half the amount stored two years ago. Wisconsin stocks are down 4 percent from last year and 20 percent below 1986. North Dakota's March 1 stocks are 12 percent above last year but 7 percent below 1986. Minnesota gained 13 percent; while Nebraska stocks are up 35 percent from last year.

WESTERN STATES potato stocks totaled 98.5 million cwt on March 1, up 6 percent from last year and 8 percent above 1986. Idaho stocks at 49.0 million cwt were down 2 percent but each of the other 5 Western States were above a year ago. Colorado gained 29 percent; California was up 4 percent. Washington and Oregon were up 12 and 17 percent, respectively.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to March 1 totaled 195 million cwt this year, up 9 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss at 22.2 million cwt was up 4 percent from last year's 21.3 million cwt, but nearly 40 percent below two years ago when losses were 34.6 million cwt. February disappearance of 29.2 million cwt was 13 percent above last year.

Cumulative PROCESSING this year totaled 85.2 million cwt in the 8 major States, up 11 percent from the same period a year ago. February processing of 13.3 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago.

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* The next issue of this report will be published April 14, 1988 *
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