

Potato Stocks



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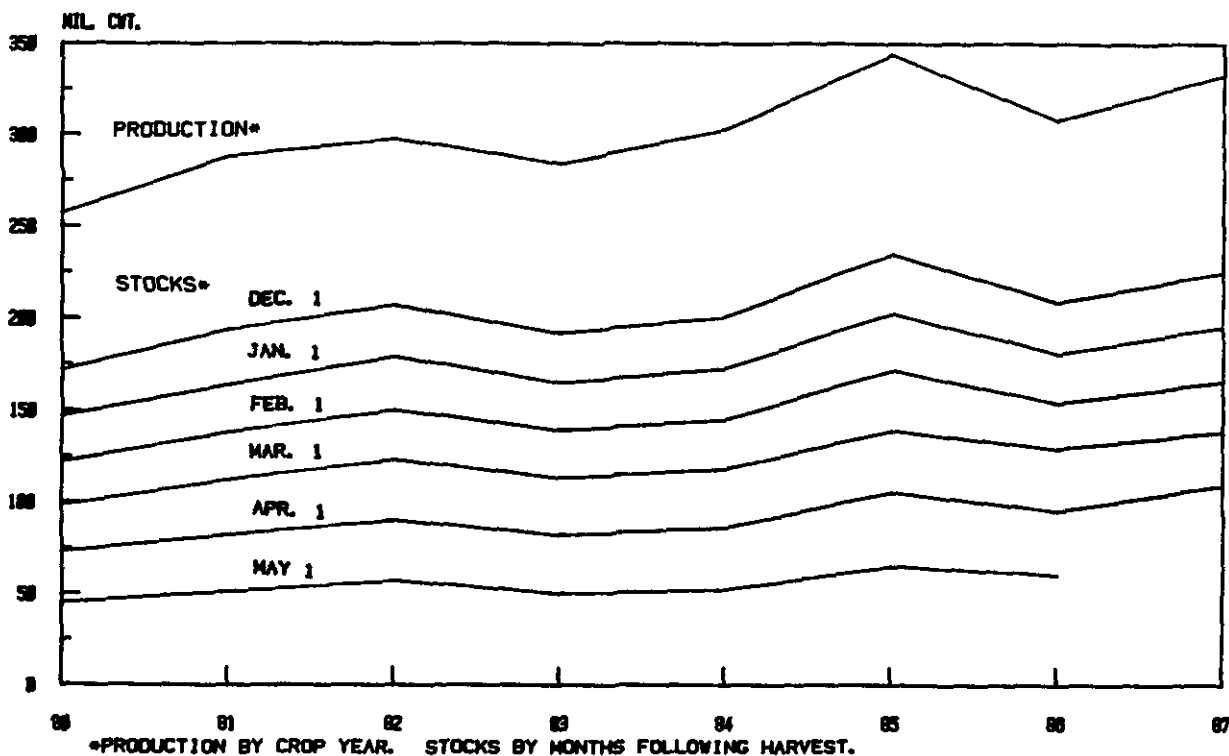
POTATO STOCKS UP 11 PERCENT

April 1, 1988 potato stocks totaled 106 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Remaining stocks account for 32 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States this season compared with 31 percent a year ago. Of the storage States, only Pennsylvania and Michigan had less stocks than a year ago.

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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	167,110	137,950	105,895	

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	40,380		
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	4,390		
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	40,900		
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	13,305		
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	98,975		

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, 1987 AND APRIL 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : APR 1, 1987	APR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : APR 1, 1988	APR 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,885	1,700	25	7,600	1,700	22
COLO	18,810	6,300	33	19,500	8,600	44
IDAHO	90,220	40,000	44	99,710	40,000	40
MAINE	21,930	6,500	30	24,510	8,500	35
MICH	9,625	1,800	19	8,910	1,200	13
MINN	13,650	4,000	29	16,330	5,100	31
MONT	2,233	1,350	60	2,370	1,400	59
NEBR	1,794	390	22	2,100	620	30
N Y - L I	2,537	1/50		2,225	1/45	
- UPSTATE	5,288	300	6	5,875	500	9
N DAK	21,600	5,900	27	23,125	6,900	30
OHIO	2,522	1/		2,254	1/	
OREG	23,172	7,800	34	25,924	9,500	37
PA	5,160	1,000	19	4,730	830	18
WASH	61,950	14,600	24	66,960	17,500	26
WIS	20,125	3,400	17	21,273	3,500	16
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	95,090	31	333,396	105,895	32

1/ COMBINED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

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 106 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.3 percent or approximately 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.4 percent or approximately 7.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1978-87) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.33 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.

EASTERN STATES stored 9.84 million cwt on April 1, 1988, up 26 percent from a year ago but 24 percent below 1986. Maine stored 8.50 million cwt of this total, up 31 percent from last year. Pennsylvania stocks were down 17 percent; while New York Upstate was up two thirds.

The six CENTRAL STATES stored 17.4 million cwt of potatoes on the first of April, up 12 percent from last year, but 18 percent below 1986. Michigan stocks were down one third; while Minnesota and North Dakota were up 28 and 17 percent, respectively. Wisconsin storages held 3.50 million cwt, a gain of 3 percent from last year.

WESTERN STATES potato stocks were set at 78.7 million cwt, 10 percent above last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks of 40.0 million cwt were the same as last year. Washington and Oregon were up 20 and 22 percent, respectively. Colorado stocks of 8.60 million cwt were 37 percent above last year. California storage was the same as last year and Montana gained 4 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to April 1 in the 15 major States totaled 228 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year but 5 percent below the 1985 crop. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 24.5 million of this total, up 5 percent from last year's 23.3 million cwt but 40 percent below two years ago when 40.4 million cwt were lost.

PROCESSING claimed 99.0 million cwt of potatoes so far this crop year, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent above two years ago. March processing used 13.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year.

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 * The next issue of this report will be published May 16, 1988 *

