

Potato Stocks



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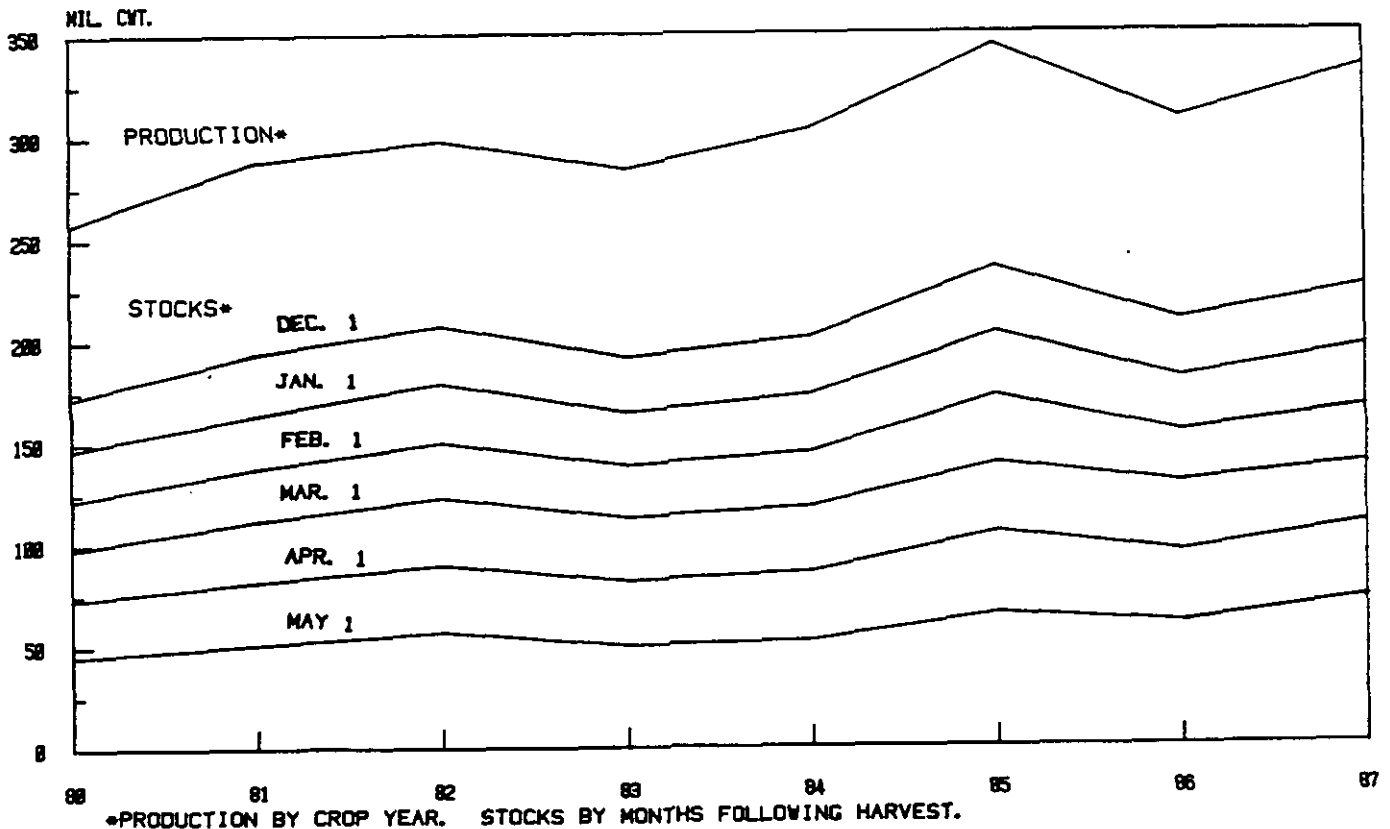
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POTATO STOCKS UP 20 PERCENT

Potato stocks on May 1, 1988 totaled 71.6 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 21 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States compared with 19 percent a year ago. Storage is heaviest in the West where much of the crop is committed to processors. Several States are either finished or winding down shipping operations for the season.

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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 :	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	71,640

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

STATE :	STORAGE:	TO :	TO :	TO :	TO :	TO :	TO :	ENTIRE
STATE :	SEASON :	DEC 1 :	JAN 1 :	FEB 1 :	MAR 1 :	APR 1 :	MAY 1 :	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	23,320	28,680	34,340	40,380	46,440	
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	4,860	
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	35,800	40,900	44,925	
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	15,270	
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	98,975	111,495	

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, 1987 AND MAY 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1987	MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : MAY 1, 1988	MAY 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,885	1,100	16	7,600	1,100	14
COLO	18,810	4,250	23	19,500	6,500	33
IDAHO	90,220	27,500	30	99,710	27,500	28
MAINE	21,930	3,900	18	24,510	5,600	23
MICH	9,625	600	6	8,910	500	6
MINN	13,650	1,800	13	16,330	3,000	18
MONT	2,233	150	7	2,370	300	13
NEBR	1,794	190	11	2,100	350	17
N Y - L I	2,537	1/		2,225	1/	
- UPSTATE	5,288	1/100	2	5,875	1/310	5
N DAK	21,600	3,000	14	23,125	3,400	15
OHIO	2,522	1/		2,254	1/	
OREG	23,172	5,800	25	25,924	7,500	29
PA	5,160	400	8	4,730	380	8
WASH	61,950	8,700	14	66,960	12,600	19
WIS	20,125	2,300	11	21,273	2,600	12
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	59,790	19	333,396	71,640	21

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 6.9 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 71.6 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.9 percent or approximately 4.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.0 percent or approximately 8.6 million cwt.

The 9-year (1979-87) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.48 million cwt, ranging from .89 million to 4.70 million cwt. During this 9-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 9 years.

The three EASTERN STATES held 6.29 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1988. This is up 43 percent from last year, but 23 percent below two years ago. Maine cellars accounted for 5.60 million cwt, a gain of 44 percent from last year but 21 percent short of 1986 holdings. New York and Pennsylvania are close to finished for the season with 310 and 380 thousand cwt on hand, respectively.

Six CENTRAL STATES contained 9.85 million cwt of potatoes in storage, up 25 percent from a year ago, but 17 percent short of two years ago. Nearly all of the remaining stocks are held in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin, each up substantially from last year but below two years ago. Minnesota stocks of 3.00 million cwt were up 67 percent. North Dakota at 3.40 million cwt and Wisconsin at 2.60 million cwt were up 13 percent each.

The six WESTERN STATES stored 55.5 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 17 percent from last year and 23 percent above two years ago. Idaho at 27.5 million cwt and California at 1.10 million cwt are the same as they were last year. Montana is winding down its seed deal with 300 thousand cwt left. Colorado stocks of 6.5 million cwt represents one-third of its production and were 53 percent above last year. Washington with 12.6 million cwt and Oregon with 7.50 million cwt, mostly for processing, are up 45 and 29 percent, respectively.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to May 1 totaled 262 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year, but 6 percent below the 1985 crop. Shrinkage and loss accounted for 26.9 million cwt of this total, up 7 percent from last year's 25.1 million cwt, but 41 percent below two years ago when 45.6 million cwt were lost.

PROCESSING plants used 111 million cwt of potatoes this year to date, up 5 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. April processing took 12.5 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year and is the second consecutive month processing has fallen below year ago levels.

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