

Potato Stocks



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service
Fact Finding
for Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Statistics
Board

Washington, D.C.

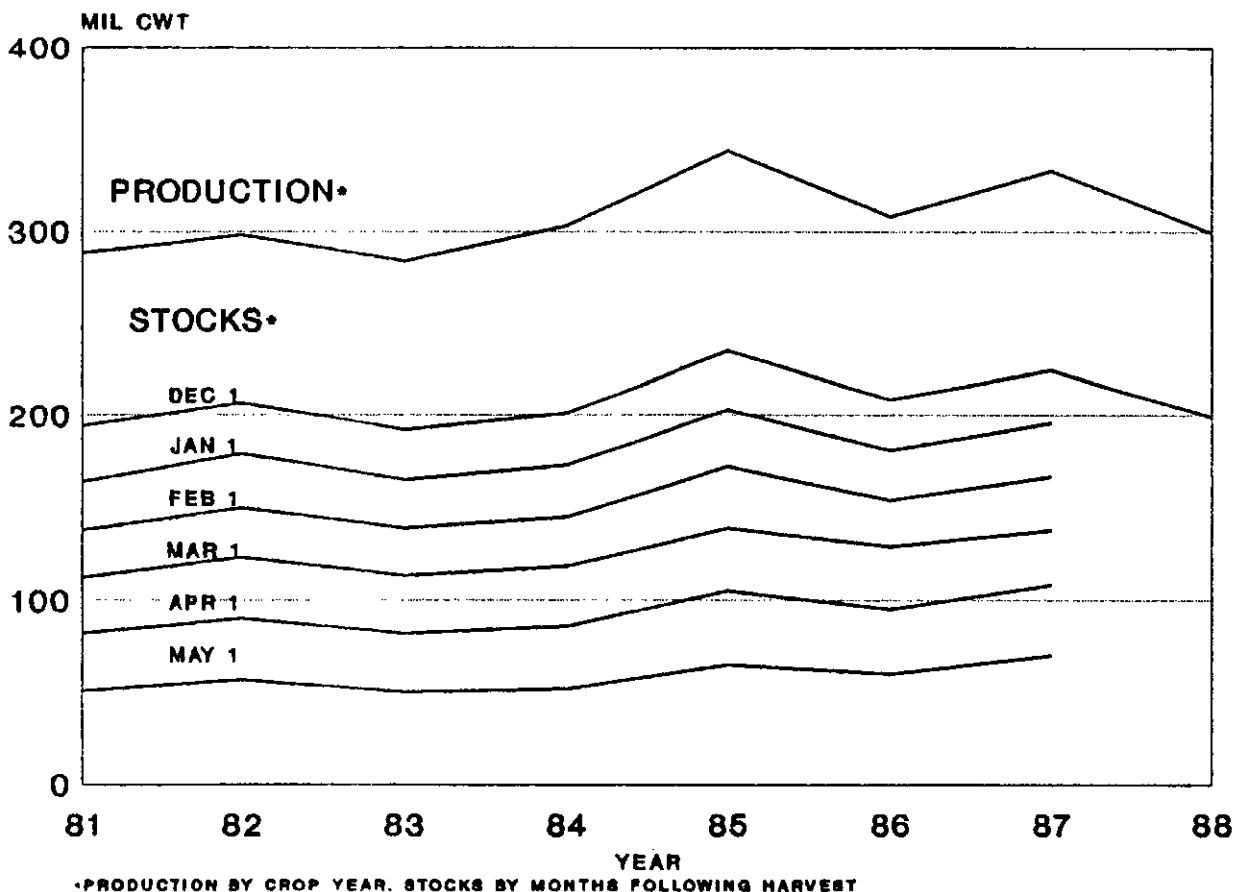
RELEASED: December 16, 1988
3:00 P.M. ET

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 12 PERCENT

Fall potato stocks in the 15 major storage States were estimated at 199 million cwt on December 1, 1988. This is a drop of 12 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1986 storage. Farmers and storage operators accounted for 66 percent of fall production under cover this year, compared with 67 percent last year. Potato stocks by type were 2 percent red, 16 percent white, and 82 percent russet.

(Continued on Page 8)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



 * 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					
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	333,105	224,610	195,750	166,690	138,380	107,750	70,020
1988	299,296	198,520					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1987 AND 1988 CROPS

STATE AND CROP YEAR	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	SEASON
	1,000 CWT						
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1987 : 18,260	23,320	28,680	34,340	40,380	46,440	64,495
	1988 : 18,740						
MAINE 2/	1987 : 1,770	2,440	3,145	3,745	4,410	4,865	6,745
	1988 : 1,690						
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1987 : 22,265	25,950	30,790	35,800	40,900	44,925	58,085
	1988 : 19,200						
OTHER STATES 3/	1987 : 5,750	7,370	9,200	11,250	13,305	15,270	20,155
	1988 : 5,805						
TOTAL	1987 : 48,045	59,080	71,815	85,135	98,995	111,500	149,480
	1988 : 45,435						

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 DECEMBER 1, 1987 AND DECEMBER 1, 1988

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1987	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1988	DEC 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,869	5,000	64	6,105	3,400	56
COLO	19,500	15,600	80	18,445	13,950	76
IDAHO	99,710	72,500	73	99,320	70,500	71
MAINE	23,240	17,600	76	22,000	15,800	72
MICH	8,910	5,500	62	6,900	3,600	52
MINN	16,330	11,400	70	12,075	8,900	74
MONT	2,370	2,200	93	2,156	2,020	94
NEBR	2,175	1,800	83	2,128	1,550	73
N Y - L I	2,225	840	38	1,920	550	29
- UPSTATE	5,875	3,300	56	4,500	2,100	47
N DAK	23,125	17,500	76	14,375	10,500	73
OHIO	2,254	700	31	1,697	450	27
OREG	25,924	17,900	69	20,735	15,300	74
PA	4,730	3,070	65	3,690	2,700	73
WASH	66,960	36,600	55	63,250	36,700	58
WIS	21,908	13,100	60	20,000	10,500	53
15 STATE TOTAL	333,105	224,610	67	299,296	198,520	66

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.0 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 199 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.0 percent or approximately 3.97 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.5 percent or approximately 6.95 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1978-87) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.46 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

ESTIMATE	ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR			TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE					
	PERCENT	90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL		QUANT	AVG	QUANTITY		NUMBER OF YEARS	
		PERCENT	QUANT			SMALL	LARGE	BELOW FINAL	ABOVE FINAL
STOCKS	2.0	3.5	6.95	3.46	.08	5.82	9	1	
PRODUCTION	1.5	2.6	7.99	4.24	.30	7.02	8	2	

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

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	7		93	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		80	20	100
MICH		61	39	100
MINN	12	28	60	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	15	59	26	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	6	14	80	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	2	16	82	100

1988 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Agricultural Statistics Board conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1988. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1987-88 1/

STATE AND YEAR	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	ALL TYPES
CWT PER ACRE				
COLO 1987	10		19	20
1988	10		18	18
IDAHO 1987			34	34
1988			30	30
MAINE 1987		17	24	20
1988		19	24	19
MICH 1987		23	19	21
1988		17	20	17
MINN 1987	17	24	32	27
1988	18	13	22	17
N Y 1987		25		25
1988		16		16
N DAK 1987	26	26	26	26
1988	15	14	19	16
OREG 1987		16	22	22
1988			21	21
PA 1987		16		16
1988		19		19
WASH 1987		20	23	23
1988		18	26	26
WIS 1987	15	12	15	15
1988	9	11	16	14

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1987-88 1/

STATE AND YEAR	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE
COLO 1987	6	11,794			79	11,865
1988	4	12,852			75	12,378
IDAHO 1987			4	11,234	332	12,171
1988	2/	2/	2/	2/	318	12,798
MAINE 1987			110	13,608	66	10,534
1988	2/	2/	144	14,167	29	10,388
MICH 1987			66	12,288	37	11,339
1988			79	12,035	23	9,808
MINN 1987	26	11,416	43	11,067	64	12,201
1988	29	11,319	60	10,894	45	13,272
N Y 1987	6	12,089	114	13,305	2	11,373
1988	2/	2/	135	13,288	4	13,282
N DAK 1987	30	10,219	101	10,186	21	9,602
1988	32	9,868	97	9,543	42	9,665
OREG 1987	3	11,778	5	12,913	140	13,453
1988	2	14,162	4	15,250	144	15,146
PA 1987	4	13,323	94	12,913	3	11,697
1988	6	11,692	85	13,388	2	13,339
WASH 1987	2/	2/	4	14,361	181	14,484
1988	2/	2/	4	12,099	176	14,340
WIS 1987	15	12,497	28	13,402	93	11,721
1988	16	13,404	19	13,138	91	11,986

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1986	1987	1988	1986	1987	1988
	1,000 ACRES					
CALIF	17.0	18.3	16.5	17.0	18.3	16.5
COLO	57.0	61.0	60.0	57.0	60.0	59.5
CONN	.9	.4	.5	.9	.4	.5
IDAHO-10 SW CO	17.0	18.0	18.0	17.0	18.0	18.0
-OTHER CO	293.0	322.0	332.0	290.0	319.0	329.0
IND	4.9	5.4	4.9	4.5	5.0	4.2
MAINE	87.0	84.0	81.0	86.0	83.0	80.0
MASS	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.8	2.6
MICH	42.0	34.0	32.0	35.0	33.0	30.0
MINN	72.0	72.0	70.0	70.0	71.0	69.0
MONT	7.8	8.0	7.8	7.7	7.9	7.7
NEBR	7.1	7.8	8.0	6.9	7.5	7.6
NEV	9.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	8.0
N Y-LONG IS	9.0	9.0	8.0	8.9	8.9	8.0
-UPSTATE	24.0	24.0	23.5	22.5	23.5	22.5
N DAK	128.0	130.0	130.0	120.0	125.0	125.0
OHIO	10.2	10.3	9.5	9.7	9.8	8.7
OREG-MALHEUR CO	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.4
-OTHER CO	46.0	49.0	39.4	45.2	48.2	38.6
PA	22.0	22.0	21.5	21.5	21.5	20.5
R I	1.6	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.5	1.2
S DAK	13.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	10.0
UTAH	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.6	6.6
VT	.1			.1		
WASH	119.0	124.0	115.0	118.0	124.0	115.0
WIS	59.0	64.5	63.0	57.5	63.5	62.5
WYO	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.9
TOTAL	1,065.1	1,104.2	1,078.9	1,036.2	1,086.5	1,059.5
	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1986	1987	1988	1986	1987	1988
	CWT					
CALIF	405	430	370	6,885	7,869	6,105
COLO	330	325	310	18,810	19,500	18,445
CONN	235	245	225	212	98	113
IDAHO-10 SW CO	360	400	400	6,120	7,200	7,200
-OTHER CO	290	290	280	84,100	92,510	92,120
IND	220	250	180	990	1,250	756
MAINE	255	280	275	21,930	23,240	22,000
MASS	230	235	220	667	658	572
MICH	275	270	230	9,625	8,910	6,900
MINN	195	230	175	13,650	16,330	12,075
MONT	290	300	280	2,233	2,370	2,156
NEBR	260	290	280	1,794	2,175	2,128
NEV	350	340	310	3,150	2,720	2,480
N Y-LONG IS	285	250	240	2,537	2,225	1,920
-UPSTATE	235	250	200	5,288	5,875	4,500
N DAK	180	185	115	21,600	23,125	14,375
OHIO	260	230	195	2,522	2,254	1,697
OREG-MALHEUR CO	350	410	375	2,380	2,788	2,400
-OTHER CO	460	480	475	20,792	23,136	18,335
PA	240	220	180	5,160	4,730	3,690
R I	240	175	250	384	263	300
S DAK	210	210	160	2,520	2,310	1,600
UTAH	275	240	245	1,760	1,584	1,617
VT	200			20		
WASH	525	540	550	61,950	66,960	63,250
WIS	350	345	320	20,125	21,908	20,000
WYO	270	210	235	567	483	447
U S	307	315	290	317,771	342,471	307,181

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT

Fall potato production is estimated at 307 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year and 3 percent below 1986. Area harvested is set at 1.06 million acres, down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above 1986. The average yield was finalized at 290 cwt per acre, 8 percent short of a year ago and 6 percent below 1986. The December 1 estimate of production is nearly 1 percent below the November 1 forecast, based on an adjustment in acreage and a downward change in yield per acre.

SIX EASTERN STATES produced 33.1 million cwt of potatoes in 1988, a drop of 11 percent from 1987 and 9 percent below 1986. This is the smallest crop production in the East since regional records began in 1949. Harvested acreage of 135 thousand acres is down 4 percent from last year and 6 percent below 1986. The average yield of 245 fell 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below 1986. Production in Maine fell 5 percent from last year primarily because of fewer acres. New York was down 21 percent and Pennsylvania was down 22 percent.

EIGHT CENTRAL STATES produced 59.5 million cwt of potatoes this year, falling 24 percent from last year and 18 percent below 1986. Harvested acreage of 317 thousand acres was down only 3 percent, but drought reduced yields 22 percent to an average of 188 cwt per acre. Dry, hot weather hit hardest in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, and North Dakota where production was off 23, 25, 40, 26, and 38 percent, respectively. The use of irrigation moderated losses in Nebraska and Wisconsin along with some areas of Michigan and Minnesota.

NINE WESTERN STATES produced 215 million cwt of potatoes in 1988, down 6 percent from last year but 3 percent above 1986. Acreage harvested is set at 607 thousand acres, a dip of 2 percent from last year but 5 percent above 1986. The average yield of 353 cwt was 4 percent below last year and 2 percent 1986. Idaho production is down fractionally from last year as increased acreage nearly offset lower average yields. The Colorado crop turned out 5 percent smaller than last year and smaller than forecast on November 1. A water shortage in Malheur County and spring frost in Klamath Falls coupled with an 18 percent drop in acres to reduce Oregon production 20 percent from last year. Washington production dipped 6 percent; while California output dropped 22 percent.

The 3 EASTERN STATES stored 21.2 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1988, down 15 percent from last year and 9 percent below 1986. New York stocks dropped 36 percent while Maine and Pennsylvania were off 10 and 12 percent respectively.

Six CENTRAL STATES carried 35.5 million cwt of potatoes in storage as of December 1 this year, a drop of 29 percent from last year and 23 percent below 1986. The North Central States were among the hardest hit by the summer drought of 1988. Michigan, North Dakota, and Ohio registered the largest percentage drops from a year ago, ranging from 35 to 40 percent. Wisconsin stocks are down 20 percent. Minnesota was down 22 percent, and Nebraska was off 14 percent.

WESTERN STATES totaled 142 million cwt of potatoes stored on December 1, 1988, down 5 percent from last year, but 1 percent above two years ago. California and Oregon storages are down 32 and 15 percent when compared with last year. Colorado is off 11 percent; while Montana is down 8 percent. Idaho, with nearly half of the Western total, is down 3 percent and Washington is up slightly.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to December 1 in the 15 storage States was 101 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year, but 3 percent above 1986 movement. Shrink and loss so far this year has been calculated at 15.2 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below 1986.

PROCESSING in 8 major States this season accumulates to 45.4 million cwt, down 5 percent from the pace of 48.0 million cwt set a year ago, but above the 43.1 million cwt processed in 1986.

* NOTICE *
* *
* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports *
* should be directed to Agricultural Statistics Board Publications, Room *
* 5829-South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250 (Phone (202) 447-4021). *
* *
* This report and other statistical, economic, marketing and news reports *
* are available as soon as possible following release through USDA's EDI *
* SERVICE. For more information, call or write: Russell Forte, (202) *
* 447-5505, OGPA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. *
* *
* The next issue of this report will be published January 17, 1989. *
