

Potato Stocks



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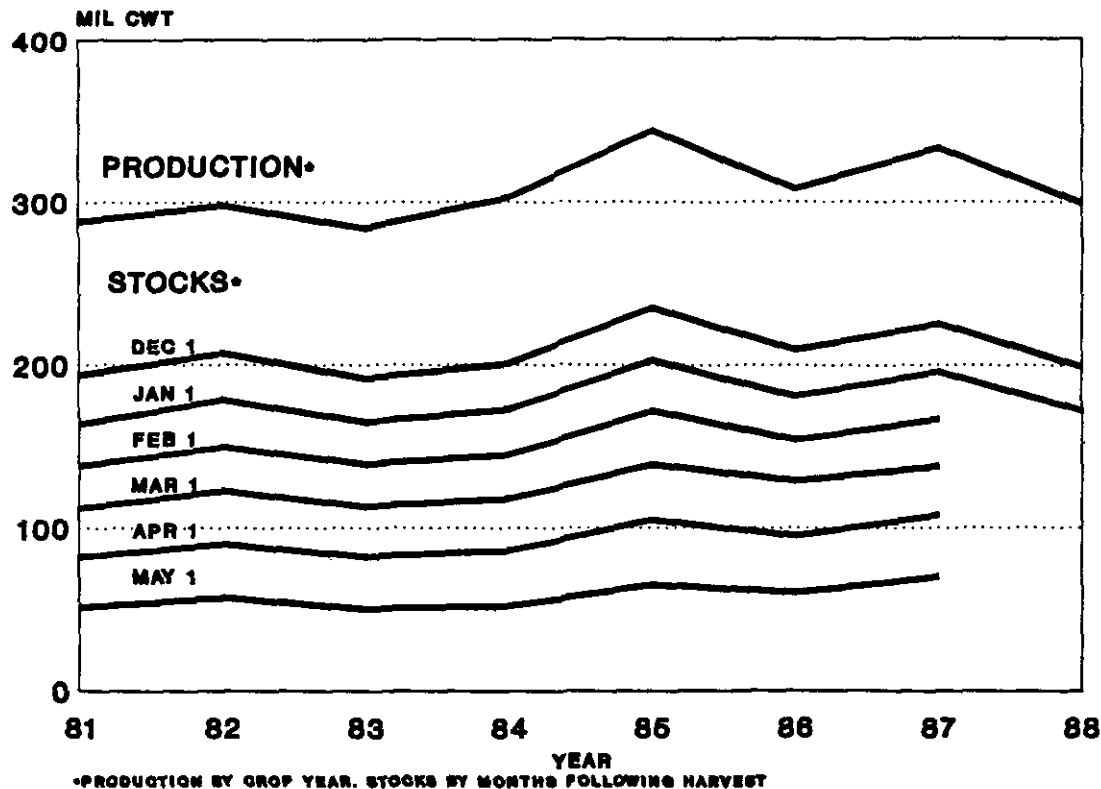
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 12 PERCENT

January 1, 1989 potato stocks totaled 172 million cwt, down 12 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Farmers and storage operators in the 15 major producing States reported 57 percent of fall potato production on hand, compared with 59 percent a year ago. Storage is made up of 2 percent red, 15 percent white, and 83 percent russet potatoes.

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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	171,560				

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	24,270					
MAINE 2/	1987 : 1,770	2,440	3,145	3,745	4,410	4,865	6,745
	1988 : 1,690	2,195					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1987 : 22,265	25,950	30,790	35,800	40,900	44,925	58,085
	1988 : 19,200	23,450					
OTHER STATES 3/	1987 : 5,750	7,370	9,200	11,250	13,305	15,270	20,155
	1988 : 5,805	7,450					
TOTAL	1987 : 48,045	59,080	71,815	85,135	98,995	111,500	149,480
	1988 : 45,435	57,365					

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 JANUARY 1, 1988 AND JANUARY 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION: 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: JAN 1, 1988 PERCENT	JAN 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION: 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: JAN 1, 1989 PERCENT	JAN 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	7,869	3,900	50	6,105	2,700	44
COLO	19,500	13,800	71	18,445	12,150	66
IDAHO	99,710	65,000	65	99,320	62,000	62
MAINE	23,240	15,000	65	22,000	13,500	61
MICH	8,910	4,300	48	6,900	2,600	38
MINN	16,330	10,300	63	12,075	7,900	65
MONT	2,370	2,100	89	2,156	1,950	90
NEBR	2,175	1,550	71	2,128	1,050	49
N Y - L I	2,225	600	27	1,920	400	21
- UPSTATE	5,875	2,500	43	4,500	1,800	40
N DAK	23,125	14,800	64	14,375	8,600	60
OHIO	2,254	500	22	1,697	260	15
OREG	25,924	16,100	62	20,735	13,100	63
PA	4,730	2,400	51	3,690	2,150	58
WASH	66,960	32,900	49	63,250	32,100	51
WIS	21,908	10,000	46	20,000	9,300	47
15 STATE TOTAL	333,105	195,750	59	299,296	171,560	57

RELIABILITY OF JANUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 172 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 3.95 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 7.03 million cwt.

The 10-year (1979-88) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.42 million cwt, ranging from .52 million to 5.70 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the January 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 February 16, 1989. *

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

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	9		91	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		79	21	100
MICH		62	38	100
MINN	11	26	63	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	13	57	30	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	3	13	84	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	2	15	83	100

The three EASTERN STATES held 17.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 1989. This is down 13 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 10 percent, New York was off 29 percent and Pennsylvania dropped 10 percent from a year ago.

Six CENTRAL STATES stored 29.7 million cwt of potatoes on January 1 this year, down 28 percent from a year ago and 22 percent under two years ago. Michigan, Ohio, and North Dakota had 60 percent or less on hand this year than last. Nebraska was down nearly one-third, while Minnesota stocks were off 23 percent. Wisconsin stocks were down 7 percent from a year ago.

The six WESTERN STATES carried 124 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1989, a reduction of 7 percent from a year ago but slightly more than two years ago. Idaho stocks were off 5 percent, Oregon was down 19 percent, while Washington was down 2 percent. Colorado and Montana stocks are off 12 and 7 percent respectively, from last year. California registered a 31 percent drop.

DISAPPEARANCE from 1988 harvest so far this marketing season totaled 128 million cwt, 7 percent short of last year but 1 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss was estimated at 17.4 million cwt this year, 5 percent below last year but slightly more than two years ago.

PROCESSORS in the 8 major States have used 57.4 million cwt of potatoes from the 1988 fall crop, 3 percent less than a year earlier, but 5 percent more than two years ago. December processing totaled 11.9 million cwt, a gain of 8 percent over last year's 11.0 million cwt and 2 percent above the 11.7 million cwt processed in December 1986.