

Potato Stocks



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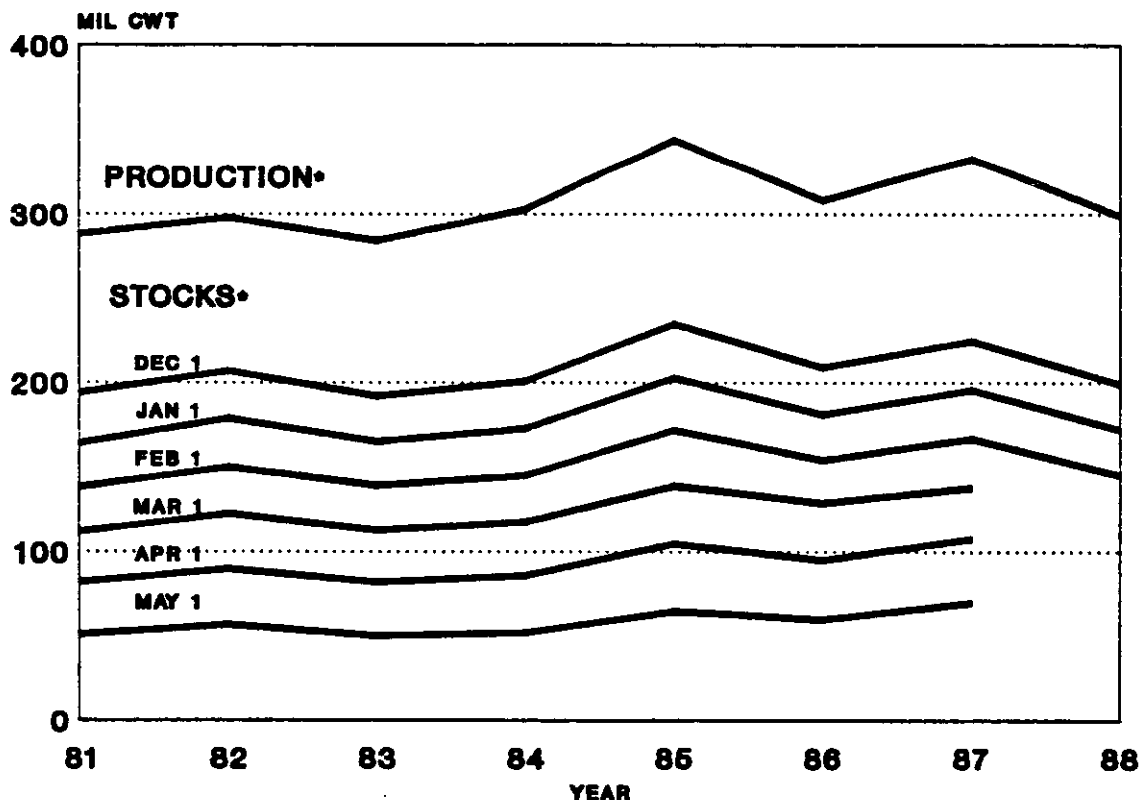
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 13 PERCENT

Fall potato stocks totaled 145 million cwt on February 1, 1989, down 13 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Storage operators in the 15 major States reported 48 percent of fall production on hand this year compared with 50 percent last year. February 1 stocks are 84 percent russet, 14 percent white, and 2 percent red.

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FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (16 STORAGE STATES)



•PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST

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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. *

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	144,625			

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	29,420				
MAINE 2/	1987 : 1,770	2,440	3,145	3,745	4,410	4,865	6,745
	1988 : 1,690	2,195	2,840				
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	27,275				
OTHER STATES 3/	1987 : 5,750	7,370	9,200	11,250	13,305	15,270	20,155
	1988 : 5,805	7,450	9,040				
TOTAL	1987 : 48,045	59,080	71,815	85,135	98,995	111,500	149,480
	1988 : 45,435	57,365	68,575				

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 FEBRUARY 1, 1988 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : FEB 1, 1988	FEB 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : FEB 1, 1989	FEB 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,869	3,200	41	6,105	2,050	34
COLO	19,500	11,800	61	18,445	10,350	56
IDAHO	99,710	57,000	57	99,320	54,000	54
MAINE	23,240	12,400	53	22,000	10,700	49
MICH	8,910	3,200	36	6,900	1,700	25
MINN	16,330	8,700	53	12,075	6,900	57
MONT	2,370	2,000	84	2,156	1,900	88
NEBR	2,175	1,350	62	2,128	850	40
N Y - L I	2,225	340	15	1,920	150	8
- UPSTATE	5,875	2,000	34	4,500	1,600	36
N DAK	23,125	12,500	54	14,375	6,800	47
OHIO	2,254	300	13	1,697	125	7
OREG	25,924	14,200	55	20,735	11,100	54
PA	4,730	1,800	38	3,690	1,500	41
WASH	66,960	28,300	42	63,250	27,700	44
WIS	21,908	7,600	35	20,000	7,200	36
15 STATE TOTAL	333,105	166,690	50	299,296	144,625	48

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 2.8 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 145 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.8 percent or approximately 4.05 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.9 percent or approximately 7.09 million cwt.

The 10-year (1979-88) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.53 million cwt, ranging from .42 million to 5.40 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

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 * The next issue of this report will be published March 15, 1989. *

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, FEBRUARY 1, 1989, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
PERCENT				
COLO	9		91	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		80	20	100
MICH		67	33	100
MINN	10	27	63	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	13	53	34	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	4	12	84	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	2	14	84	100

The three EASTERN STATES contained 14.0 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1989, down 16 percent from last year and 7 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks of 10.7 million cwt were down 14 percent. New York was down 25 percent and Pennsylvania was off 17 percent.

Stocks in the six CENTRAL STATES totaled 23.6 million cwt, off 30 percent from last year and 24 percent below February 1987. Michigan and North Dakota stored just over half the amount on hand a year ago. Ohio was down nearly 60 percent. Nebraska stocks were down 37 percent; while Minnesota supplies were off 21 percent. Wisconsin potato stocks were down 5 percent from last year.

The six WESTERN STATES stored 107 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1989, down 8 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1987. California stocks were down 36 percent from last year; Oregon, down 22 percent. Idaho and Montana were each off 5 percent from last year. Colorado stocks were down 12 percent and Washington was down 2 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE from the start of harvest to February 1 totaled 155 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 19.2 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year's 20.5 million cwt and 2 percent below the 19.6 million cwt lost from the 1986 crop. January disappearance of 26.9 million cwt was 7 percent below a year ago.

PROCESSING usage so far this season totaled 68.6 million cwt in the 8 major States, 5 percent below a year ago. January processing use was 11.2 million cwt, down 12 percent from 1988.