

Potato Stocks



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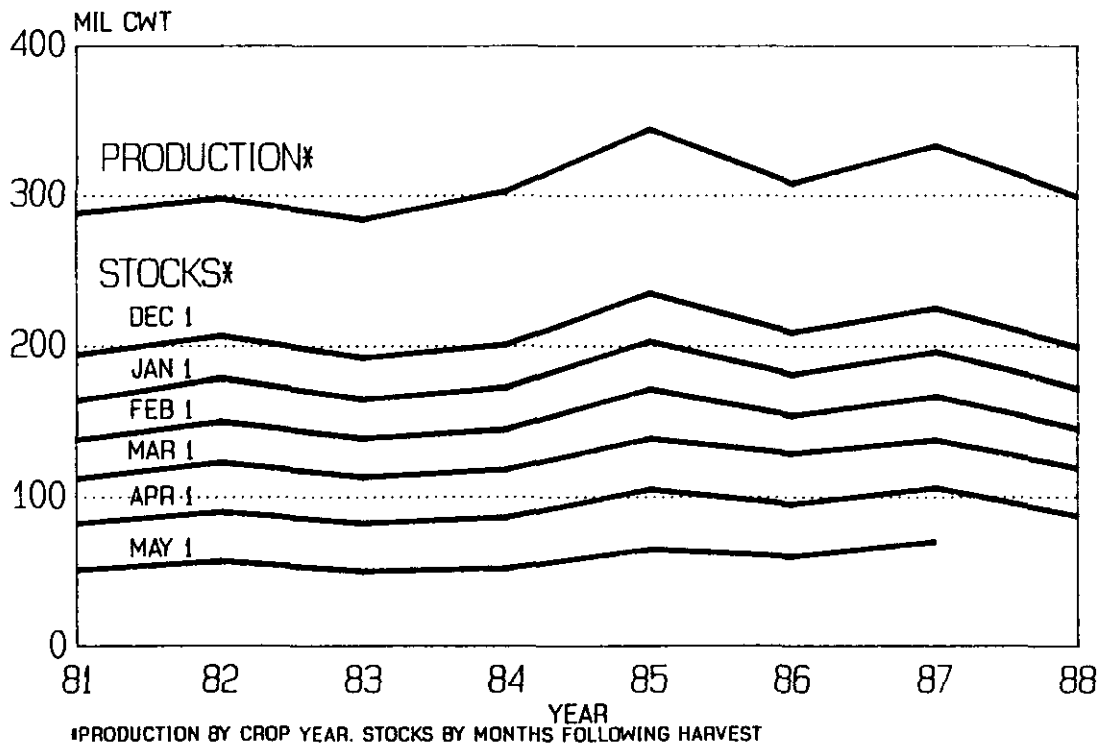
Washington, D.C.

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 18 PERCENT

April 1, 1989 potato stocks are set at 86.7 million cwt, a drop of 18 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below two years ago. Current stocks account for 29 percent of fall potato production compared with 32 percent a year ago.

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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	105,750	70,020
1988	299,296	198,520	171,560	144,625	118,960	86,745	

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

STATE AND CROP YEAR	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	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	34,720	41,360		
MAINE 2/							
1987	1,770	2,440	3,145	3,745	4,410	4,865	6,745
1988	1,690	2,195	2,840	3,475	4,205		
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	31,960	37,625		
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	10,645	12,340		
TOTAL							
1987	48,045	59,080	71,815	85,135	98,995	111,500	149,480
1988	45,435	57,365	68,575	80,800	95,530		

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, 1988 AND APRIL 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1988	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1989	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,869	2,000	25	6,105	1,050	17
COLO	19,500	8,100	42	18,445	6,500	35
IDAHO	99,710	40,000	40	99,320	36,500	37
MAINE	23,240	7,100	31	22,000	5,300	24
MICH	8,910	1,300	15	6,900	600	9
MINN	16,330	5,100	31	12,075	4,300	36
MONT	2,370	1,400	59	2,156	1,200	56
NEBR	2,175	620	29	2,128	320	15
N Y -LI	2,225	1/50		1,920	1/25	
-UPST	5,875	750	13	4,500	500	11
N DAK	23,125	6,900	30	14,375	3,300	23
OHIO	2,254	1/		1,697	1/	
OREG	25,924	9,500	37	20,735	6,300	30
PA	4,730	830	18	3,690	600	16
WASH	66,960	17,500	26	63,250	16,200	26
WIS	21,908	4,600	21	20,000	4,050	20
15 STATES	333,105	105,750	32	299,296	86,745	29

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 4.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 86.7 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.2 percent or approximately 3.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.2 percent or approximately 6.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1979-88) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.32 million cwt, ranging from .15 million to 5.26 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

EASTERN STATES stored 6.41 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1989, down 26 percent from last year and 18 percent below 1987. Maine stocks are down 25 percent, New York is off one-third and Pennsylvania is down 28 percent.

CENTRAL STATES accounted for 12.6 million cwt on April 1, down 32 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years ago. Michigan, North Dakota, and Nebraska are storing about half the amount of potatoes that were on hand a year ago. Minnesota stocks are off 16 percent and Wisconsin is down 12 percent.

WESTERN STATES stored a total of 67.8 million cwt on April 1, 1989, a drop of 14 percent from last year and 6 percent under two years ago. Idaho, down 9 percent, and Washington, down 7 percent, dominate the Western storage total. California is down nearly one-half and Oregon one-third below a year ago stocks. Colorado stocks are off 20 percent and Montana is down 14 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE of potatoes from harvest time to April 1 totaled 213 million cwt, 7 percent below last year, but slightly above two years ago. This includes 22.2 million cwt lost to shrink, sorting, etc. Shrink and loss so far this season are 9 percent below last year's 24.5 million cwt and 5 percent below the 1986 season's 23.3 million cwt loss to the same date.

PROCESSING so far this season comes to 95.5 million cwt, down 3.5 percent from last year; but nearly 4 percent over the 1986 season. March usage was 14.7 million cwt processed, up 6 percent from last year, but 4 percent short of two years ago.

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* The next issue of this report will be published May 16, 1989. *
