

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Statistics
Board

Washington, D.C.

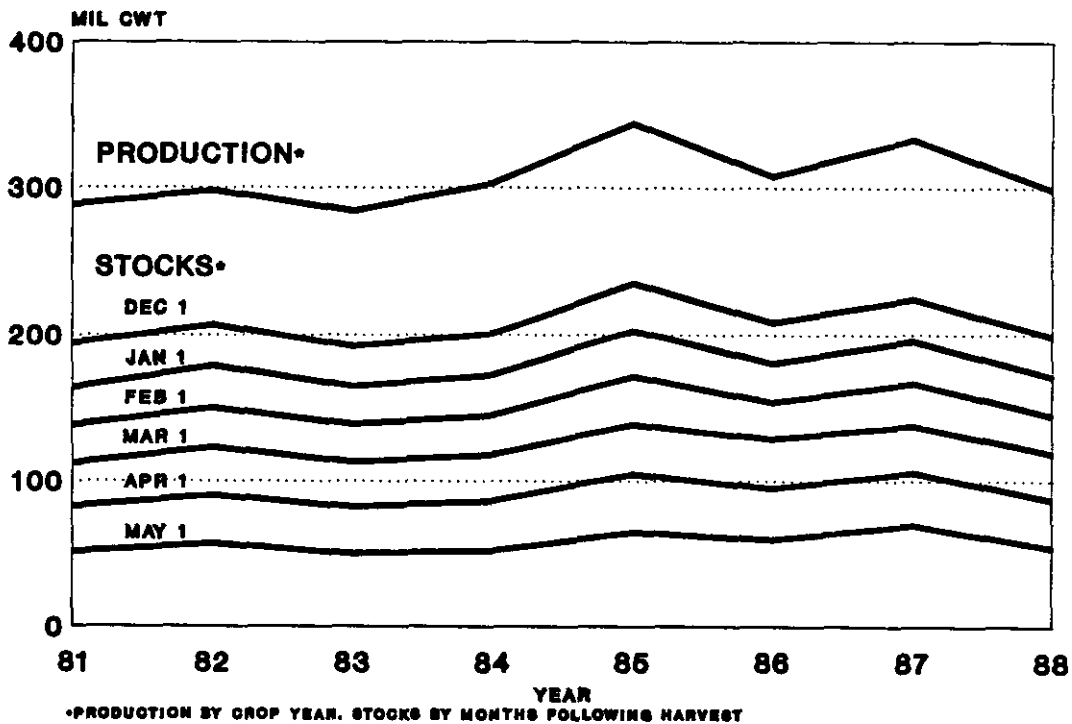
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 22 PERCENT

Potato stocks on hand May 1, 1989, totaled 54.4 million cwt in the 15 storage States, down 22 percent from last year and 9 percent under two years ago. May 1 stocks account for 18 percent of fall production this season compared with 21 percent last year.

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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	144,625	118,960	86,745	54,390	

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	64,495
	1988	18,740	24,270	29,420	34,720	41,360	48,080
MAINE 2/	1987	1,770	2,440	3,145	3,745	4,410	6,745
	1988	1,690	2,195	2,840	3,475	4,205	4,915
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1987	22,265	25,950	30,790	35,800	40,900	58,085
	1988	19,200	23,450	27,275	31,960	37,625	41,940
OTHER STATES 3/	1987	5,750	7,370	9,200	11,250	13,305	20,155
	1988	5,805	7,450	9,040	10,645	12,340	14,075
TOTAL	1987	48,045	59,080	71,815	85,135	98,995	149,480
	1988	45,435	57,365	68,575	80,800	95,530	109,010

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, 1988 AND
MAY 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1987			CROP OF 1988		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAY 1, 1988	MAY 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS MAY 1, 1989	MAY 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,869	1,300	17	6,105	750	12
COLO	19,500	5,900	30	18,445	4,600	25
IDAHO	99,710	27,500	28	99,320	22,500	23
MAINE	23,240	4,400	19	22,000	2,700	12
MICH	8,910	400	4	6,900	300	4
MINN	16,330	3,000	18	12,075	2,900	24
MONT	2,370	300	13	2,156	65	3
NEBR	2,175	350	16	2,128	150	7
N Y -LI	2,225	1/		1,920	1/	
-UPST	5,875	1/190	2	4,500	1/155	2
N DAK	23,125	3,400	15	14,375	2,000	14
OHIO	2,254	1/		1,697	1/	
OREG	25,924	7,500	29	20,735	4,500	22
PA	4,730	380	8	3,690	200	5
WASH	66,960	12,600	19	63,250	10,700	17
WIS	21,908	2,800	13	20,000	2,870	14
15 STATES	333,105	70,020	21	299,296	54,390	18

RELIABILITY OF MAY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 6.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 54.4 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.6 percent or approximately 3.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 11.4 percent or approximately 6.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1979-88) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.30 million cwt, ranging from 0.89 million to 4.70 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

The three EASTERN STATES stored 3.1 million cwt this year, 39 percent below last year and 31 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks are down 39 percent, New York is off 18 percent and Pennsylvania is down nearly half compared with last year.

The CENTRAL STATES stocks totaled 8.2 million cwt on May 1, a drop of 17 percent from last year but a little more than two years ago. Wisconsin stocks are up two percent as the season winds to a close. Minnesota stocks are down 3 percent from last year, while North Dakota holdings are off 41 percent. Michigan, Nebraska, and Ohio are virtually finished for the season with nominal stocks remaining.

WESTERN STATES potato stocks are 43.1 million cwt this year compared with 55.1 million cwt last year and 47.5 million cwt on hand two years ago or down 22 and 9 percent, respectively. Idaho stocks are 18 percent below last year with strong movement during April. Washington stocks are down 15 percent from last year. Oregon is down 40 percent and Colorado is off 22 percent. California and Montana are off 42 percent and 78 percent, respectively.

Seasonal DISAPPEARANCE is 245 million cwt to date, down 7 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. This includes shrinkage and loss of 23.9 million cwt, 11 percent below last year's 26.9 million cwt and 5 percent below two years ago when losses were 25.1 million cwt. April movement of 32.4 million cwt was 14 percent below last year as the season drew to a close in many States.

PROCESSING so far this season, in the 8 major States, totaled 109 million cwt at the end of April, 2 percent below a year ago. April processing gained 8 percent over a year ago, totaling 13.5 million cwt.

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