

Potato Stocks



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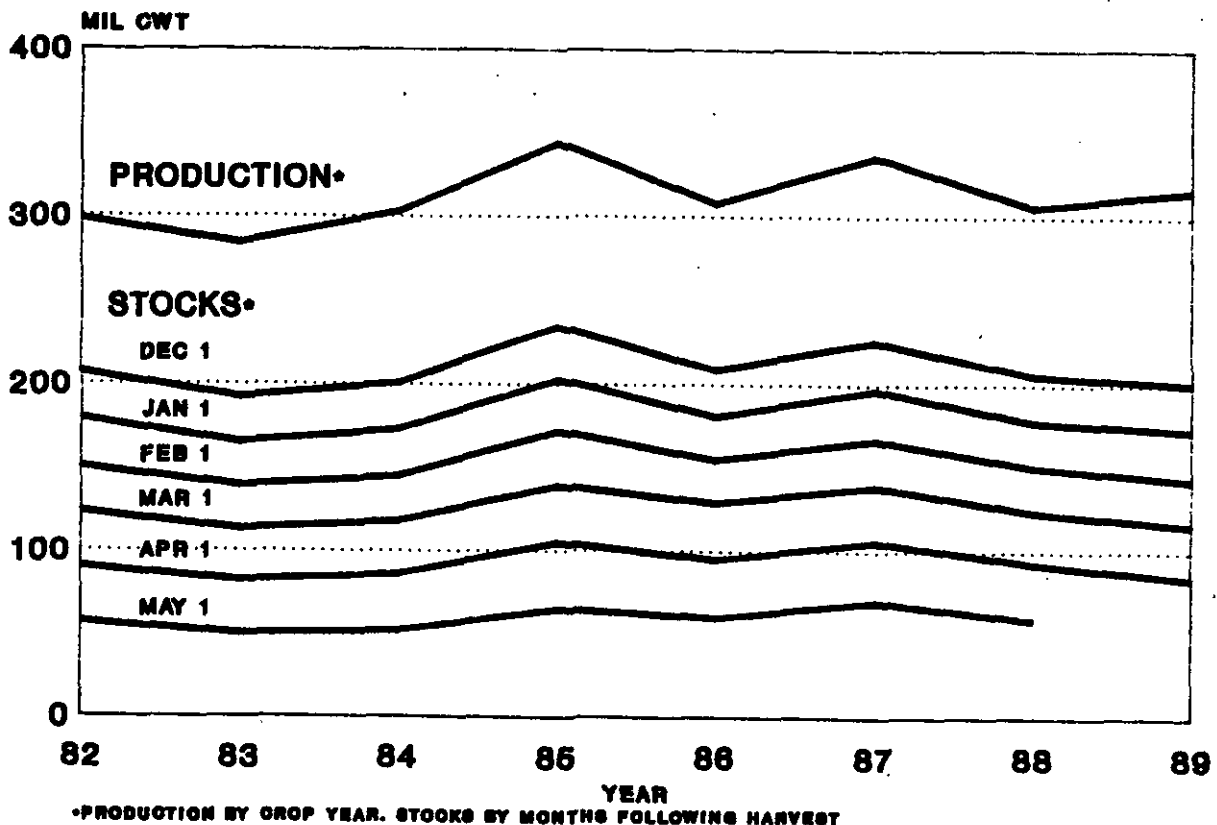
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

Potato stocks on April 1, 1990 totaled 83.5 million cwt, down 10 percent from last year and 21 percent below two years ago. Current stocks account for 26 percent of fall production in the 15 storage States compared with 30 percent a year ago. Seasonal disappearance from harvest to April 1 is a record high 233 million cwt this year, up 9 percent from last year. Major processors (except chips) used a record 109 million cwt to date, up 14 percent from a year ago.

(continued on page 4)

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						
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	302,958	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	307,928	209,435	180,915	154,545	128,720	95,090	59,790
1987	335,607	225,890	196,760	167,325	138,800	105,905	70,030
1988	305,623	206,420	177,750	151,050	124,485	92,585	59,355
1989	316,147	201,400	173,400	143,150	115,780	83,540	

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1988 AND 1989 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 1988	18,740	24,270	29,420	34,720	41,360	48,080	64,425
1989	22,200	28,140	34,240	40,270	46,330		
MAINE 2/ 1988	1,685	2,190	2,830	3,455	4,230	4,915	6,915
1989	2,015	2,605	3,450	4,005	4,605		
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG 1988	19,200	23,455	27,280	31,960	37,575	41,795	51,555
1989	23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610	44,510		
OTHER STATES 3/ 1988	5,805	7,450	9,040	10,645	12,340	14,075	18,385
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	*11,535	13,240		
TOTAL 1988	45,430	57,365	68,570	80,780	95,505	108,865	141,280
1989	54,190	66,770	80,720	*94,420	108,685		

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. *CORRECTED.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON APRIL 1, 1989 AND APRIL 1, 1990

STATE	CROP OF 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1989	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1990	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	1,600	26	6,600	1,250	19
COLO	19,040	7,400	39	20,603	7,500	36
IDAHO	102,610	40,500	39	102,475	35,000	34
MAINE	22,000	5,300	24	22,000	5,400	25
MICH	7,820	900	12	6,900	800	12
MINN	12,075	4,300	36	13,860	3,400	25
MONT	2,156	1,200	56	2,228	1,100	49
NEBR	2,128	320	15	2,528	340	13
N Y -LI	1,992	1/65		1,898	1/100	
-UPST	4,800	550	11	4,730	400	8
N DAK	15,525	3,300	21	15,070	3,600	24
OHIO	1,697	1/		1,462	1/	
OREG	20,735	6,300	30	23,308	5,900	25
PA	3,690	600	16	4,715	750	16
WASH	63,250	16,200	26	64,310	13,100	20
WIS	20,000	4,050	20	23,460	4,900	21
15 STATES	305,623	92,585	30	316,147	83,540	26

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 4.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 83.5 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.3 percent or approximately 3.59 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.5 percent or approximately 6.27 million cwt.

The 10-year (1980-89) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.46 million cwt, ranging from 0.01 million to 5.84 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL APRIL STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY STOCKS	% OF FINAL	FINAL STOCKS 1/
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	1,000 CWT
1984	85,425	98.8	86,440
1985	102,590	98.1	104,540
1986	91,670	96.4	95,090
1987	105,895	100.0	105,905
1988	86,745	93.7	92,585
1989	83,540	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

The three **EASTERN STATES** stored 6.65 million cwt on April 1, 1990, up 2 percent from last year, but 24 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks are up 2 percent from last year and make up the bulk of Eastern storage. New York stocks are down 18 percent while Pennsylvania is up 25 percent.

Stocks in the **CENTRAL STATES** totaled 13.0 million cwt, a gain of 1 percent over last year, but 30 percent below two years ago. Wisconsin stocks are up 21 percent from last year, while North Dakota has 9 percent more; Minnesota, on the other hand, has 21 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago. Michigan is down 11 percent and Nebraska is up 6 percent on nominal storage.

Six **WESTERN STATES** held 63.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1990, down 13 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks of 35.0 million cwt are off 14 percent from last year, and made up over half the Western total. Washington stocks are down 19 percent and Oregon is 6 percent short of last year. Montana stocks are down 8 percent and California storages are off 22 percent from a year ago. Of the Western States, only Colorado shows more potatoes in storage than last year, but only by 1 percent.

DISAPPEARANCE of fall potatoes from harvest through March hit a record high 233 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year and 1 percent above the previous record disappeared from the 1987 crop two years ago. This included 21.6 million cwt of shrinkage and loss which was down 3 percent from last year's 22.2 million cwt and 12 percent below the 24.5 million cwt lost from the 1987 crop. March disappearance of 32.2 million cwt was 1 percent above last year, but 2 percent below March 1988.

PROCESSORS in the 8 major processing States have used 109 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 14 percent from the cumulative total last year and 10 percent above two years ago. March processing of 14.3 million cwt was 3 percent below last year but 3 percent above two years ago.

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