

# Potato Stocks



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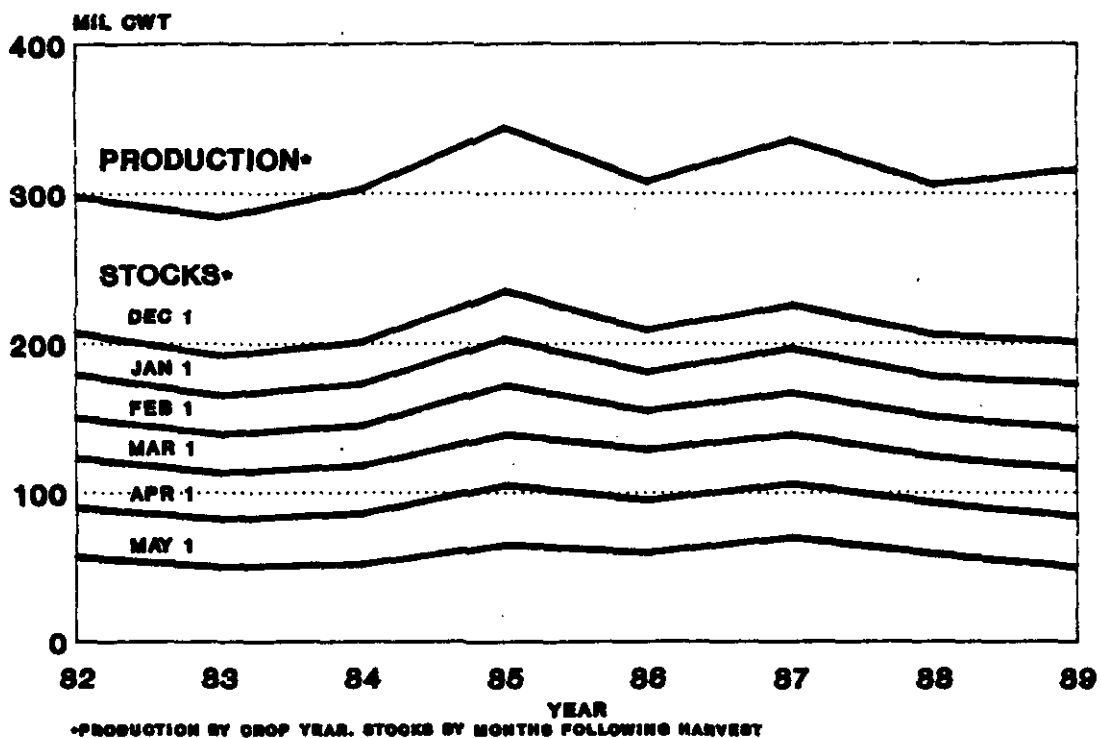
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## POTATO STOCKS DOWN 16 PERCENT

May 1, 1990 potato stocks are set at 50.1 million cwt down 16 percent from last year and the lowest May level since 1981. Stocks account for 16 percent of fall production this year compared with 19 percent last year. Seasonal disappearance totaled 266 million cwt to May 1, up 8 percent from last year. Processors used a record 122 million cwt of fall potatoes to May 1.

(Continued on page 4).

## FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



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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. \*  
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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	50,125

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	51,810	
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	5,210	
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	49,595	
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	15,100	
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	121,715	

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, 1989 AND MAY 1, 1990

STATE	CROP OF 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS MAY 1, 1989	MAY 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS MAY 1, 1990	MAY 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	1,200	20	6,600	700	11
COLO	19,040	5,500	29	20,603	5,600	27
IDAHO	102,610	27,000	26	102,475	22,000	21
MAINE	22,000	2,700	12	22,000	2,800	13
MICH	7,820	300	4	6,900	400	6
MINN	12,075	2,000	17	13,860	1,600	12
MONT	2,156	65	3	2,228	100	4
NEBR	2,128	150	7	2,528	170	7
N Y -LI	1,992	1/		1,898	1/	
-UPSTATE:	4,800	1/170		4,730	1/105	
N DAK	15,525	2,000	13	15,070	2,200	15
OHIO	1,697	1/		1,462	1/	
OREG	20,735	4,500	22	23,308	4,100	18
PA	3,690	200	5	4,715	250	5
WASH	63,250	10,700	17	64,310	7,100	11
WIS	20,000	2,870	14	23,460	3,000	13
15 STATES	305,623	59,355	19	316,147	50,125	16

1/ COMBINED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

#### RELIABILITY OF MAY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 6.9 per cent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 50.1 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.9 per cent or approximately 3.46 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 11.9 percent or approximately 5.96 million cwt.

The 10-year (1980-89) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.38 million cwt, ranging from 0.89 million to 4.97 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

#### RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MAY STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY STOCKS	% OF FINAL	FINAL STOCKS 1/
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	1,000 CWT
1984	51,575	98.3	52,465
1985	63,380	96.9	65,380
1986	57,040	95.4	59,790
1987	71,640	102.3	70,030
1988	54,390	91.6	59,355
1989	50,125	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

Stocks in the 3 **EASTERN STATES** totaled 3.16 million cwt on May 1, 1990, up 3 percent from last year, but 37 percent below two years ago. Maine holds the bulk of Eastern potatoes with 2.80 million cwt in storage. Maine holdings are 4 percent above last year, but down 36 percent from 1988. New York stocks are nearly 40 percent less than last year, while Pennsylvania holdings are up one-fourth.

The 6 **CENTRAL STATES** stored 7.37 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1990, up 1 percent from last year, but 26 percent below 1988. Minnesota stocks are down 20 percent and the only Central State with fewer potatoes than last year. North Dakota stocks are up 10 percent and Wisconsin up 5 percent as the season winds down. Michigan stocks are up one-third and Nebraska holdings up 13 percent from last May.

**WESTERN STATES** at 39.6 million cwt hold the bulk of U.S. potatoes this May 1, but stocks are down 19 percent from last year and 28 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks are off 19 percent from last year. Washington holdings are down one-third, while Oregon stocks are 9 percent below last May. California is down more than 40 percent. Colorado (with a 2 percent gain) and Montana are the only two Western States with more spuds than last year.

**DISAPPEARANCE** from the start of harvest through April is 266 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year and slightly more than two years ago. Shrink and loss so far total 23.4 million cwt down 2 percent from last year's 23.9 million cwt and 13 percent below the 26.9 million cwt lost to date two years ago.

**PROCESSORS** used a record 122 million cwt so far this season up 12 percent from last year and 9 percent above 2 years ago. May usage was 13.0 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year.

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