

Potato Stocks



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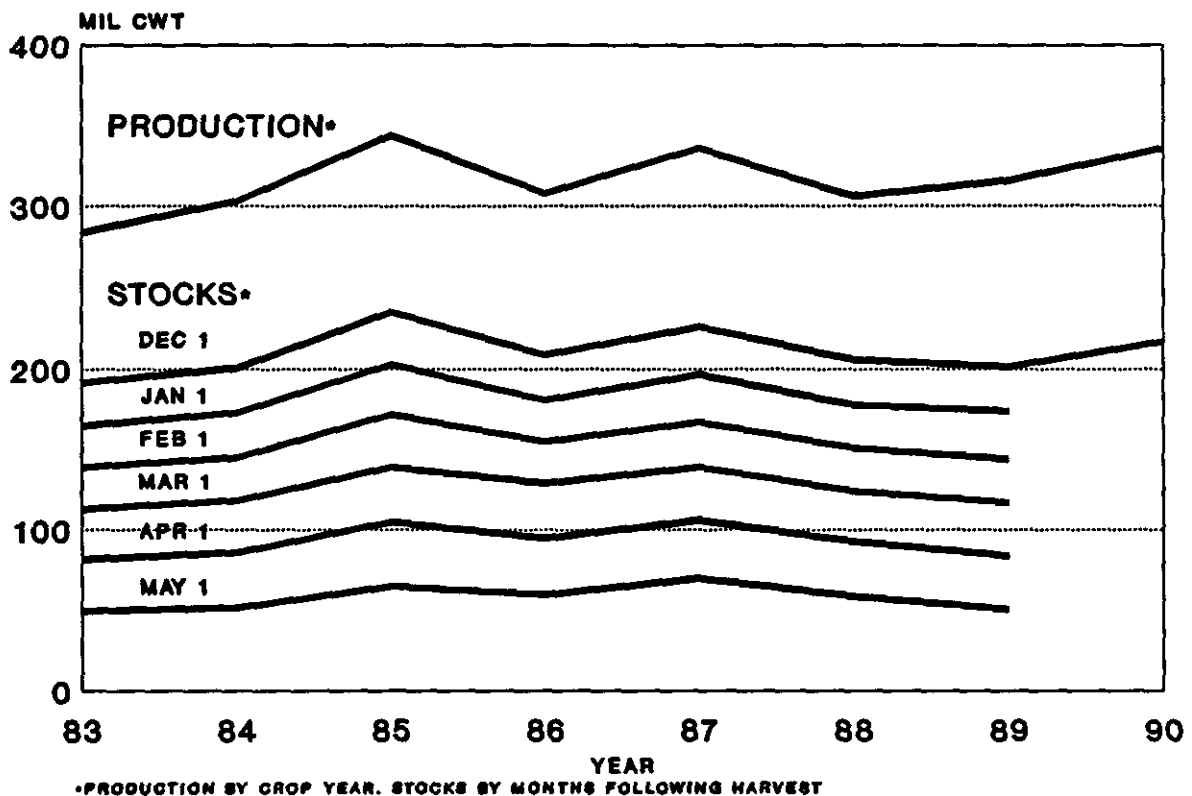
Washington, D.C.

RELEASED: December 14, 1990
3:00 P.M. ET

POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

Storages in the 15 major potato States held 217 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1990, up 8 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 65 percent of fall production this year compared with 64 percent a year ago. Processors in the 8 major processing States used 58.0 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, up 7 percent from last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent reds, 16 percent whites, and 81 percent russets, the same as a year ago. (continued on page 10)

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					
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	316,097	202,050	173,550	144,290	116,600	84,320	50,675
1990	335,986	217,300					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1989 AND 1990 CROPS

STATE AND CROP YEAR	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	SEASON
	1,000 CWT						
ID & OR-MALHEUR CO:							
1989	22,200	28,140	34,240	40,270	46,330	51,810	66,010
1990	24,780						
ME 2/							
1989	2,055	2,660	3,510	4,000	4,620	5,210	6,900
1990	2,105						
WA & OR-OTHER							
1989	23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610	44,510	49,595	57,695
1990	24,480						
OT STS 4/							
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	11,535	13,240	15,100	20,610
1990	6,585						
TOTAL							
1989	54,230	66,825	80,780	94,415	108,700	121,715	151,215
1990	57,950						

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 ME, MI, MN, ND, OR WI.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

3/ MI, MN, ND, AND WI.

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

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1989	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS DEC 1, 1990	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,440	4,600	71	6,232	4,000	64
CO	20,603	15,650	76	22,100	16,200	73
ID	102,475	70,500	69	112,340	79,500	71
ME	22,000	16,000	73	20,520	14,900	73
MI	7,350	4,000	54	9,240	5,000	54
MN	13,860	8,900	64	14,280	10,200	71
MT	2,228	2,100	94	2,492	2,300	92
NE	2,528	1,450	57	2,837	1,850	65
NY-LI	1,898	800	42	1,950	750	38
-UPST	4,730	2,300	49	5,940	2,900	49
ND	15,070	11,000	73	16,675	12,800	77
OH	1,462	350	24	1,911	400	21
OR	23,308	13,800	59	23,014	15,200	66
PA	4,715	2,900	62	5,400	2,550	47
WA	64,310	34,500	54	67,980	35,500	52
WI	23,120	13,200	57	23,075	13,250	57
15 STATES	316,097	202,050	64	335,986	217,300	65

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.0 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 217 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.0 percent or approximately 4.3 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.5 percent or approximately 7.6 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1980-89) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.56 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimate has been below the final estimate each year and 9 out of 10 years for production.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

ESTIMATE	ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR			TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE				
	PERCENT	90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL		AVG	QUANTITY		NUMBER OF YEARS	
		PERCENT	QUANT		SMALL	LARGE	BELOW FINAL	ABOVE FINAL
STOCKS	2.0	3.5	7.61	3.56	0.08	5.82	10	0
PRODUCTION	1.5	2.6	8.95	3.98	0.05	7.44	9	1

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
DECEMBER 1, 1989-90, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES					
	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS	
	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990
PERCENT						
CO	8	7			92	93
ID					100	100
ME			80	77	20	23
MI		3	63	63	37	34
MN	17	14	27	27	56	59
NY			100	100		
ND	17	14	57	54	26	32
OR					100	100
PA			100	100		
WA					100	100
WI	8	8	12	16	80	76
11 STATE AVG.	3	3	16	16	81	81

1990 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Agricultural Statistics Board conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1990. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1989-90 1/

STATE AND YEAR		REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	ALL TYPES
CWT PER ACRE					
CO	1989	16		26	25
	1990	14		27	26
ID	1989		14	26	26
	1990		19	27	27
ME	1989		17	19	17
	1990		13	21	15
MI	1989		22	19	21
	1990		19	11	17
MN	1989	14	12	17	15
	1990	9	13	14	12
NY	1989	13	15		15
	1990		12		12
ND	1989	14	17	16	16
	1990	10	19	29	21
OR	1989		9	18	17
	1990		9	20	19
PA	1989		17		17
	1990		17		17
WA	1989		39	19	20
	1990	14	11	19	18
WI	1989	14	17	16	16
	1990	10	20	20	19

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1989-90 1/

STATE AND YEAR	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS		
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	
CO	1989	9	13,546		63	12,260	
	1990	4	12,766		70	11,959	
ID	1989			7	12,800	309	12,202
	1990			12	12,966	322	12,153
ME	1989			143	13,920	28	10,879
	1990			128	14,333	54	9,749
MI	1989	2/	2/	87	12,177	17	10,958
	1990	3	8,462	57	11,435	21	11,258
MN	1989	25	10,695	52	10,992	58	12,861
	1990	37	11,598	51	11,365	48	11,946
NY	1989	4	14,085	131	13,274	2/	2/
	1990	2/	2/	129	13,897	2/	2/
ND	1989	26	9,963	102	10,421	44	9,613
	1990	20	10,340	109	10,058	35	10,277
OR	1989	2/	2/	14	14,383	135	14,411
	1990	2/	2/	16	14,311	141	14,299
PA	1989	3	11,602	86	11,835		
	1990	2/	2/	65	12,198	2/	2/
WA	1989	2/	2/	12	13,918	181	14,321
	1990	6	15,835	19	14,150	161	14,243
WI	1989	16	13,135	34	13,098	84	11,775
	1990	12	11,394	33	12,546	83	11,840

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS.

2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Fall potato production is estimated at 344 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1988. Area harvested totaled 1.15 million acres, up 6 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. The average yield is 298 cwt per acre, down 1 cwt from last year but 6 cwt above two years ago. Production is up one-half of one percent from the November 1 forecast due primarily to an upward revision in the State of Washington.

FIVE EASTERN STATES produced 34.8 million cwt of potatoes this fall, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 1988. Harvested area was estimated at 131 thousand acres, down 2 percent from last year, while the average yield of 266 cwt per acre was up 4 percent. The Maine crop fell 7 percent from last year, but New York jumped 19 percent and Pennsylvania gained 15 percent.

EIGHT CENTRAL STATES produced 70.9 million cwt of fall potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year and 15 percent above 1988. Harvested acreage was 341 thousand acres, a gain of 3 percent. The average yield was 208 cwt per acre, up 3 percent. Wisconsin production was down fractionally from last year as improved yields nearly offset a lower acreage estimate. Michigan potatoes were up 26 percent from last year with good yields and higher acreage. The Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota recovered slightly from a three year drought with improved yields although acreage was up in both States. The Nebraska crop, not as good as expected on November 1, was 12 percent above a year ago.

NINE WESTERN STATES produced 239 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Farmers harvested 683 thousand acres of potatoes, up 10 percent, while the average yield of 350 cwt per acre was down 3 percent from a year ago. Washington production of nearly 68 million cwt was up 6 percent from last year which is 3 percent better than the November 1 forecast. Idaho production of 112 million cwt was up 10 percent from last year pushed by a substantial increase in acreage. A good crop of potatoes from Colorado's San Luis Valley was 7 percent better than 1989. Montana and Utah had better crops than last year, but both States fell below the November forecast. Oregon, California and Wyoming potatoes were below a year ago.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
	1,000 ACRES					
CA	16.5	16.1	16.4	16.5	16.1	16.4
CO	60.0	62.0	65.5	59.5	61.5	65.0
CT	0.6	0.4	1/	0.6	0.3	1/
ID-10 SW CO	18.0	17.0	20.0	18.0	17.0	20.0
-OTHER CO	332.0	338.0	375.0	329.0	336.0	373.0
IN	4.9	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9
ME	81.0	81.0	81.0	80.0	80.0	76.0
MA	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6
MI	36.0	33.0	34.0	34.0	30.0	33.0
MN	70.0	67.0	69.0	69.0	66.0	68.0
MT	7.8	8.2	9.0	7.7	8.1	8.9
NE	8.0	8.0	9.4	7.6	7.9	9.3
NV	8.0	8.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.0
NY-LONG IS	8.4	7.5	6.5	8.3	7.3	6.5
-UPSTATE	25.0	22.5	22.5	24.0	21.5	22.0
ND	140.0	140.0	150.0	135.0	137.0	145.0
OH	9.5	8.5	8.0	8.7	7.9	7.8
OR-MALHEUR CO	6.6	5.4	7.0	6.4	5.2	6.8
-OTHER CO	39.4	45.6	46.0	38.6	44.8	45.2
PA	21.5	21.0	23.0	20.5	20.5	22.5
RI	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
SD	11.0	10.0	9.0	10.0	9.0	9.0
UT	6.8	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.1	6.2
WA	115.0	118.0	133.0	115.0	118.0	132.0
WI	63.0	68.5	67.0	62.5	68.0	65.0
WY	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.2
TOTAL	1,094.9	1,102.4	1,175.0	1,075.4	1,086.0	1,154.5

SEE FOOTNOTE ON PAGE 9.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION

STATE	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
CA	370	400	380	6,105	6,440	6,232
CO	320	335	340	19,040	20,603	22,100
CT	225	210	1/	135	63	1/
ID-10 SW CO	400	395	395	7,200	6,715	7,900
-OTHER CO	290	285	280	95,410	95,760	104,440
IN	180	240	220	756	960	858
ME	275	275	270	22,000	22,000	20,520
MA	220	240	250	572	600	650
MI	230	245	280	7,820	7,350	9,240
MN	175	210	210	12,075	13,860	14,280
MT	280	275	280	2,156	2,228	2,492
NE	280	320	305	2,128	2,528	2,837
NV	310	325	335	2,480	2,600	2,345
NY-LONG IS	240	260	300	1,992	1,898	1,950
-UPSTATE	200	220	270	4,800	4,730	5,940
ND	115	110	115	15,525	15,070	16,675
OH	195	185	245	1,697	1,462	1,911
OR-MALHEUR CO:	375	390	360	2,400	2,028	2,448
-OTHER CO	475	475	455	18,335	21,280	20,566
PA	180	230	240	3,690	4,715	5,400
RI	250	250	245	300	300	294
SD	160	220	220	1,600	1,980	1,980
UT	245	245	265	1,617	1,495	1,643
WA	550	545	515	63,250	64,310	67,980
WI	320	340	355	20,000	23,120	23,075
WY	250	275	255	475	578	561
TOTAL	292	299	298	313,558	324,673	344,317

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED.

(continued from page 1)

DISAPPEARANCE in the 15 storage States from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record 119 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 4 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 15.6 million cwt, up 7 percent from the 14.5 million cwt lost last year and 3 percent above the 15.1 million cwt lost from the 1988 crop.

PROCESSING accounted for a record 58.0 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, a gain of 7 percent over a year ago and 28 percent above two years ago.

Three **EASTERN STATES** stored 21.1 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1990, down 4 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 7 percent, Pennsylvania holdings dropped 12 percent but New York stocks gained 18 percent from year ago levels.

Six **CENTRAL STATES** housed 43.5 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 12 percent from last year and 16 percent above two years ago. All six States were above last year's level and only Ohio stocks were below two years ago. Stocks were up 15 and 16 percent in Minnesota and North Dakota, respectively, from last year as both States climb slowly out of a drought that's lasted for three years. Michigan stocks were up 25 percent, while Nebraska holdings jumped 28 percent from last year. Wisconsin potato stocks were up fractionally from a year ago and Ohio stocks gained 14 percent.

Six **WESTERN STATES** held 153 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, a gain of 8 percent from last year and 4 percent above December 1988 stocks. Over half of this storage is in Idaho where 79.5 million cwt are held. Idaho stocks were up 13 percent from a year ago and have gone into storage in good condition. Oregon and Montana stocks are each up 10 percent from last year. Washington holdings are up 3 percent from a year ago showing the effects of heavy movement so far this season. Fall potato stocks in Colorado's San Luis Valley are up 4 percent and appear to be clean after earlier frosted potatoes were sorted out. California stocks are 13 percent below last year.

FARM MARKETINGS OF ALL POTATOES, UNITED STATES - 1980-89 CROPS

The following table contains farm marketings correcting the table on page 20 of "Potatoes" published September 26, 1990.

FARM MARKETINGS OF ALL POTATOES, UNITED STATES - 1980-89 CROPS

MONTH	CROP YEAR									
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
	PERCENT									
NOV		0.1		0.1	0.1		0.1		0.1	0.1
DEC		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
JAN	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
FEB	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
MAR	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
APR	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.2
MAY	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.3	2.7
JUN	2.8	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.8
JUL	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.6	2.9
AUG	5.5	6.0	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.0	5.2	7.3	6.2	7.3
SEP	10.5	10.2	10.1	11.1	10.8	10.5	11.6	11.7	11.8	13.6
OCT	19.0	15.3	16.4	18.0	17.3	17.1	17.2	16.2	17.3	16.4
NOV	8.7	8.2	8.1	8.1	7.4	7.3	6.5	7.3	8.0	8.0
DEC	7.1	7.7	6.4	7.0	6.6	7.4	6.9	7.0	7.5	7.6
JAN	7.6	8.2	7.8	7.3	7.5	7.0	6.4	7.1	6.9	6.9
FEB	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.6	6.8
MAR	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.8	7.8	8.2	7.8	8.5	8.5
APR	8.3	8.8	8.7	8.8	9.2	8.5	9.1	8.3	8.5	7.1
MAY	5.0	5.2	6.3	5.1	6.1	7.0	7.1	5.8	5.5	4.5
JUN	2.4	3.4	4.1	3.1	2.9	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.2	2.9
JUL	0.6	1.3	1.5	1.4	0.7	1.7	1.5	2.6	1.7	1.3
CROP YEAR:	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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 * The next issue of this report will be published *
 * January 15, 1991. *
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