

Potato Stocks



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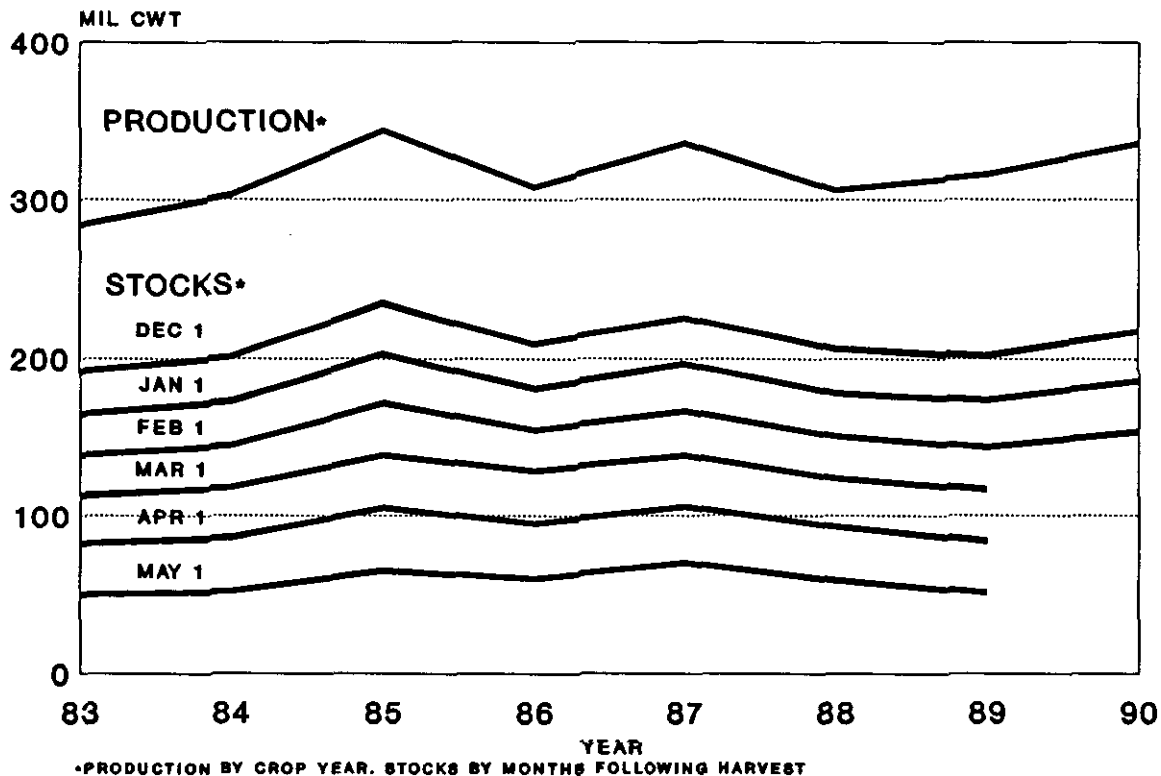
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POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

Potato stocks totaled 154 million cwt on February 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year and 2 percent above two years ago. Stocks accounted for 46 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same percentage as a year ago. Potatoes by type are: red-3 percent, white-14 percent, and russet-83 percent. Disappearance so far this season is a record 182 million cwt. Processors kept pace by using 86.8 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent over last year and 27 percent above two years 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						
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	186,160	154,310				

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	31,100	37,550				
ME 2/							
1989	2,055	2,660	3,510	4,000	4,620	5,210	6,900
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420				
WA & OR-OTHER							
1989	23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610	44,510	49,595	57,695
1990	24,480	29,830	35,170				
OTH STS 3/							
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	11,535	13,240	15,100	20,610
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645				
TOTAL							
1989	54,230	66,825	80,780	94,415	108,700	121,715	151,215
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785				

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 ME GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MI, MN, ND, AND WI.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1990 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1991

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1990	% OF PROD	PROD	STOCKS FEB 1, 1991	% OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,440	3,200	50	6,232	2,400	39
CO	20,603	11,700	57	22,100	11,400	52
ID	102,475	53,000	52	112,340	60,500	54
ME	22,000	10,900	50	20,520	10,100	49
MI	7,350	2,200	30	9,240	3,000	32
MN	13,860	6,300	45	14,280	8,000	56
MT	2,228	1,900	85	2,492	2,000	80
NE	2,528	900	36	2,837	1,150	41
NY-LI	1,898	200	11	1,950	150	8
-UPST	4,730	1,300	27	5,940	1,500	25
ND	15,070	7,800	52	16,675	9,100	55
OH	1,462	90	6	1,911	110	6
OR	23,308	10,000	43	23,014	10,100	44
PA	4,715	1,600	34	5,400	1,600	30
WA	64,310	25,100	39	67,980	24,500	36
WI	23,120	8,100	35	23,075	8,700	38
15 STATES	316,097	144,290	46	335,986	154,310	46

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 2.7 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 154 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.7 percent or approximately 4.17 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.7 percent or approximately 7.25 million cwt.

The 10-year (1981-90) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.35 million cwt, ranging from 0.42 million to 6.43 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL FEBRUARY STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY STOCKS	% OF FINAL	FINAL STOCKS 1/
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	1,000 CWT
1985	169,810	99.0	171,510
1986	150,640	97.5	154,545
1987	167,110	99.9	167,325
1988	144,625	95.7	151,050
1989	143,150	99.2	144,290
1990	154,310	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, FEBRUARY 1, 1990-91, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES					
	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
	PERCENT					
CO	8	7			92	93
ID					100	100
ME			75	79	25	21
MI		3	64	63	36	34
MN	16	13	29	30	55	57
NY			100	100		
ND	16	13	52	48	32	39
OR					100	100
PA			100	100		
WA					100	100
WI	2	6	19	15	79	79
11 STATE AVG.:	2	3	15	14	83	83

(continued from page 1)

DISAPPEARANCE from the start of harvest through January totalled a record high 182 million cwt of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 18 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 20.1 million cwt, 11 percent above the 18.1 million cwt lost last year and 6 percent above two years ago when losses were 19.0 million cwt.

PROCESSING in the 8 major States claimed 86.8 million cwt of potatoes from the 1990 crop so far, 7 percent above a year ago and 27 percent above 1988. January usage was 14.4 million cwt compared with 14.0 million cwt last year and 11.2 million cwt two years ago.

The **THREE EASTERN STATES** stored 13.4 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1991, 5 percent fewer than last year and 7 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 7 percent, which more than offset higher holdings in Upstate New York. Long Island stocks were also down from last year.

CENTRAL STATES held 30.1 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1991. This is a gain of 18 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. Each of the six storage States had more on hand than last year. North Dakota stocks were up 17 percent from last year and Wisconsin was up 7 percent. Michigan, Nebraska, and Minnesota were up 36, 28, and 27 percent, respectively.

WESTERN potato stocks totalled 111 million cwt in six States, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks are up 14 percent from last year and accounted for 55 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, is up 5 percent. Washington stocks are off 2 percent and Colorado stocks are down 3 percent from a year ago. California stocks, off the greatest amount of any western state, are 25 percent below a year earlier.