

Potato Stocks



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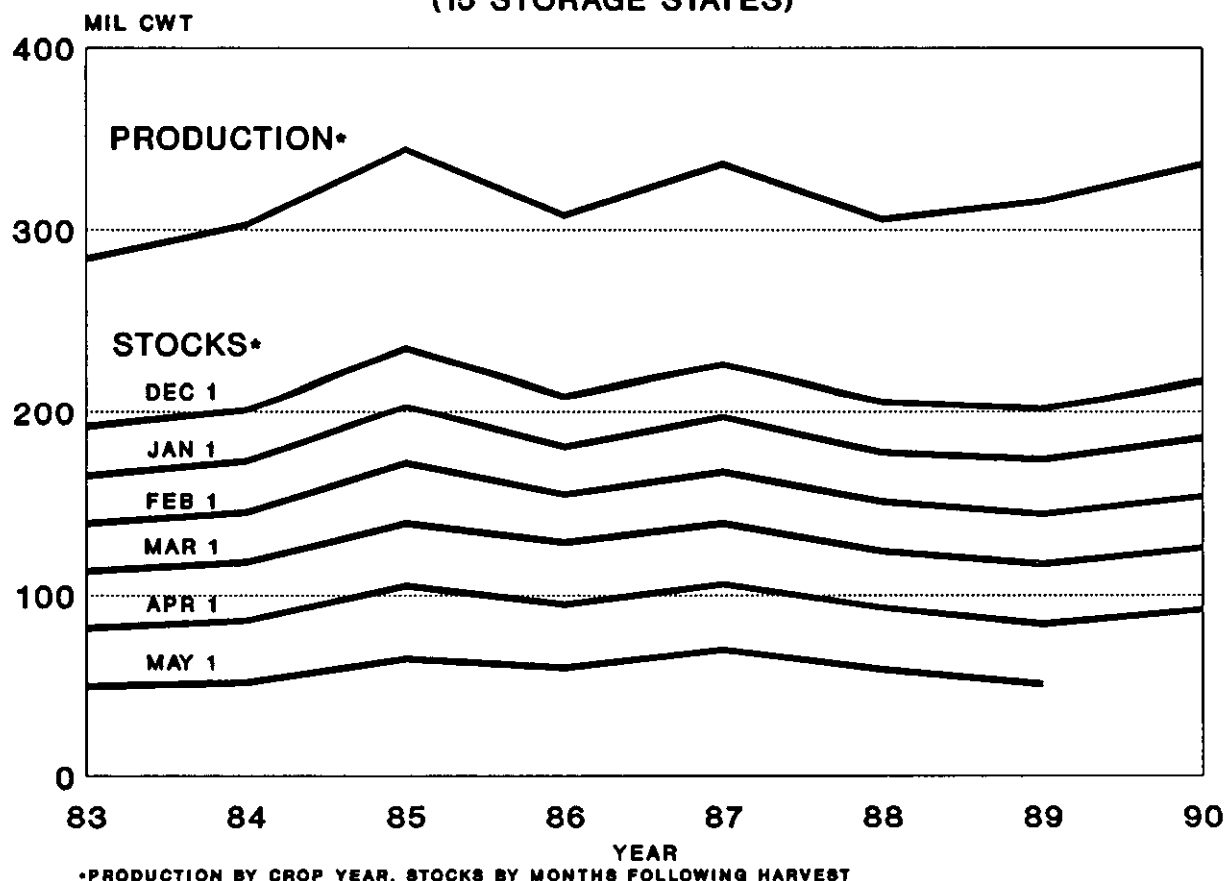
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POTATO STOCKS UP 9 PERCENT

Potato stocks totaled 91.9 million cwt on April 1, 1991, up 9 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. This is 27 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record 244 million cwt of potatoes, 5 percent above last year. Processors used 116 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent over last year and 21 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	126,030	91,910	

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	44,220	51,030		
ME 2/							
1989	2,055	2,660	3,510	4,000	4,620	5,210	6,900
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460		
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	39,950	45,600		
OT STS 3/							
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	11,535	13,240	15,100	20,610
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595	14,805		
TOTAL							
1989	54,230	66,825	80,780	94,415	108,700	121,715	151,215
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665	115,895		

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 APRIL 1, 1990 AND APRIL 1, 1991

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1990	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PROD	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS APR 1, 1991	APR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CA	6,440	1,800	28	6,232	1,300	21
CO	20,603	7,600	37	22,100	6,900	31
ID	102,475	35,000	34	112,340	39,500	35
ME	22,000	5,400	25	20,520	4,700	23
MI	7,350	800	11	9,240	1,300	14
MN	13,860	3,400	25	14,280	5,000	35
MT	2,228	1,100	49	2,492	1,400	56
NE	2,528	340	13	2,837	470	17
NY-LI	1,898	1/30		1,950	1/30	
-UPST	4,730	500	11	5,940	400	7
ND	15,070	3,600	24	16,675	5,700	34
OH	1,462	1/		1,911	1/	
OR	23,308	5,900	25	23,014	6,000	26
PA	4,715	750	16	5,400	610	11
WA	64,310	13,100	20	67,980	14,000	21
WI	23,120	5,000	22	23,075	4,600	20
15 STATES	316,097	84,320	27	335,986	91,910	27

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 4.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 91.9 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.2 percent or approximately 3.86 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.3 percent or approximately 6.68 million cwt.

The 10-year (1981-90) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.17 million cwt, ranging from 10 thousand cwt to 5.84 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 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
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	99.1	84,320
1990	91,910	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

DISAPPEARANCE from the start of harvest through March totalled a record high 244 million cwt of potatoes, up 5 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 24.2 million cwt, 12 percent above the 21.6 million cwt lost last year and 9 percent above two years ago when losses were 22.2 million cwt.

PROCESSING in the 8 major States claimed 116 million cwt of potatoes from the 1990 crop so far, 7 percent above a year ago and 21 percent above two years ago. March usage was 15.2 million cwt compared with 14.3 million cwt last year and 14.7 million cwt two years ago.

THREE EASTERN STATES stored 5.73 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1991, 14 percent fewer than last year and 12 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 13 percent, New York and Pennsylvania were both down 19 percent.

SIX CENTRAL STATES held 17.1 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1991. This is a gain of 30 percent from last year and 33 percent above two years ago. Stocks in Wisconsin were down 8 percent, but the other Central States had more potatoes in storage than a year ago. North Dakota stocks were up 58 percent from last year and Minnesota was up 47 percent. Michigan stocks were 63 percent higher than last year and Nebraska holdings were up 38 percent.

WESTERN potato stocks totalled 69.1 million cwt in six States, up 7 percent from last year but 6 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 13 percent from last year and accounted for 57 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, is up 27 percent. Oregon holdings are up by 2 percent and Washington stocks are up 7 percent. Colorado is down 9 percent from a year ago while California stocks are off 28 percent.

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