

# Potato Stocks



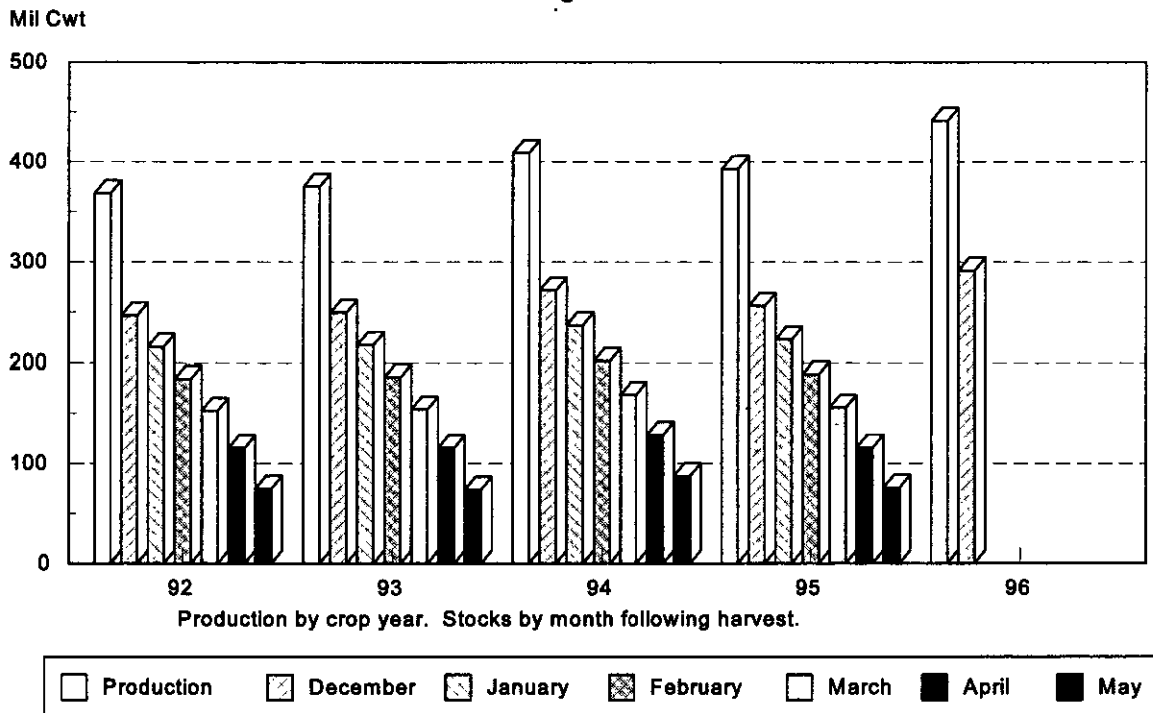
USDA  
Washington, D.C.

Released December 16, 1996, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Arvin Budge at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the Agricultural Statistics Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV.

## Potato Stocks Up 14 Percent, Fall Production Gains 12 Percent

Production of fall potatoes is estimated at a record high 452 million cwt in 1996, up 12 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above comparable 1994 totals. December 1 stocks, at 292 million cwt in the 15 storage States, jumped 14 percent from last year and 7 percent above 1994 on a comparable basis. Disappearance this year was up 10 percent, including a 12 percent gain in processor usage.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks  
15 Storage States



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1987-96

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	344,200	225,500	194,460	162,850	134,470	101,150	63,040
1991	363,541	242,070	211,005	178,515	145,820	108,865	69,110
1992	368,516	246,820	215,990	184,560	152,795	115,785	75,040
1993	375,004	249,710	217,800	186,090	154,135	115,970	73,860
1994	408,139	272,290	237,960	201,870	168,050	128,360	87,500
1995	392,942	256,310	223,150	188,960	155,720	116,255	76,170
1996	441,297	291,650					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1994-96 1/

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Season
1,000 Cwt							
ID & OR-Malheur Co							
1994	26,620	34,230	42,330	49,890	57,990	66,680	90,300
1995	27,310	35,040	43,260	51,530	59,060	66,690	89,250
1996	31,060						
ME 2/							
1994	1,505	1,840	2,265	2,540	2,985	3,330	4,770
1995	1,335	1,690	2,180	2,520	3,025	3,465	5,225
1996	1,400						
WA & OR - Other							
1994	28,670	33,480	39,120	46,070	52,940	59,540	76,780
1995	30,000	35,170	39,460	45,280	51,730	57,360	70,250
1996	31,650						
Oth Sts 3/							
1994	8,785	12,070	14,605	17,095	19,840	22,595	32,260
1995	12,450	15,330	18,415	21,485	24,910	28,010	33,305
1996	15,540						
Total							
1994	65,580	81,620	98,320	115,595	133,755	152,145	204,110
1995	71,095	87,230	103,315	120,815	138,725	155,525	198,030
1996	79,650						

- 1/ Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, MN, ND, and WI.  
 2/ Includes Maine grown potatoes only.  
 3/ MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1995-96

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1996	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct
CA	5,330	4,000	75	4,600	3,600	78
CO	23,808	18,200	76	28,786	22,800	79
ID	132,657	96,000	72	139,960	99,000	71
ME	17,160	13,800	80	21,175	16,900	80
MI	16,350	9,600	59	13,800	8,000	58
MN	20,790	13,500	65	24,600	16,500	67
MT	2,940	2,800	95	3,213	3,050	95
NE	3,680	2,600	71	4,375	3,110	71
NY	7,695	3,400	44	7,980	3,700	46
ND	25,410	17,000	67	28,820	20,000	69
OH	1,404	310	22	1,275	290	23
OR	24,788	17,200	69	31,925	25,000	78
PA	4,080	2,400	59	4,208	2,800	67
WA	80,850	39,500	49	94,990	48,000	51
WI	26,000	16,000	62	31,590	18,900	60
Total 15 State	392,942	256,310	65	441,297	291,650	66

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,  
11 Major States, December 1, 1995-96

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1996	1995
	Percent					
CO	6	6			94	94
ID			10	10	90	90
ME	3	3	69	61	28	36
MI	2	3	78	78	20	19
MN	14	13	16	17	70	70
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	12	18	38	35	50	47
OR	1	1	3	2	96	97
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	2	2	5	6	93	92
WI	3	3	27	17	70	80
11 State Avg	3	4	20	17	77	79

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1994-96

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
	1,000 Acres					
CA	14.0	13.0	11.5	14.0	13.0	11.5
CO	74.0	77.0	78.0	73.7	76.8	77.8
ID	410.0	400.0	410.0	408.0	398.0	408.0
10 SW Co	27.0	27.0	28.0	27.0	27.0	28.0
Other ID	383.0	373.0	382.0	381.0	371.0	380.0
IN	4.4	5.0	5.7	4.1	4.6	5.2
ME	78.0	78.0	78.0	75.0	78.0	77.0
MA	3.1	3.3	2.7	3.1	3.3	2.6
MI 1/	54.0	55.0	52.0	52.0	54.5	46.0
MN 1/	81.7	83.0	85.0	74.6	77.0	82.0
MT	10.0	9.8	10.4	10.0	9.8	10.2
NE	11.3	12.0	12.7	11.1	11.5	12.5
NV	8.0	7.6	8.0	8.0	7.6	7.9
NM	6.3	6.3	6.7	6.0	6.3	6.4
NY 2/	29.1	29.0	29.0	28.6	28.5	28.5
Long Is	6.1			6.1		
Upstate	23.0			22.5		
ND	133.0	125.0	134.0	120.0	121.0	131.0
OH	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4	5.1
OR	56.4	54.0	65.0	55.8	53.2	64.0
Malheur	11.9	13.0	13.6	11.8	12.8	13.3
Other OR	44.5	41.0	51.4	44.0	40.4	50.7
PA	19.0	18.0	17.0	18.0	17.0	16.5
RI	1.1	.9	.8	1.1	.9	.8
SD	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.5	5.2	5.7
UT	6.1	5.2	4.3	6.0	5.1	4.2
WA	152.0	147.0	163.0	152.0	147.0	161.0
WI	73.0	82.0	83.0	71.5	80.0	81.0
WY	1.7	1.5	.9	1.7	1.5	.8
Total	1,237.8	1,224.1	1,269.0	1,205.3	1,205.2	1,245.7

1/ Summer Potato estimates included with fall in 1994 for comparative purposes.  
 2/ Long Island and Upstate breakout discontinued in 1995.

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1994-96

State	Yield			Production		
	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
CA	400	410	400	5,600	5,330	4,600
CO	350	310	370	25,795	23,808	28,786
ID	340	333	343	138,801	132,657	139,960
10 SW Co	470	420	425	12,690	11,340	11,900
Other ID	331	327	337	126,111	121,317	128,060
IN	280	260	250	1,148	1,196	1,300
ME	245	220	275	18,375	17,160	21,175
MA	240	260	260	744	858	676
MI 1/	270	300	300	14,040	16,350	13,800
MN 1/	269	270	300	20,035	20,790	24,600
MT	320	300	315	3,200	2,940	3,213
NE	360	320	350	3,996	3,680	4,375
NV	345	365	390	2,760	2,774	3,081
NM	500	380	400	3,000	2,394	2,560
NY 2/	273	270	280	7,805	7,695	7,980
Long Is	265			1,617		
Upstate	275			6,188		
ND	235	210	220	28,200	25,410	28,820
OH	245	260	250	1,348	1,404	1,275
OR	493	466	499	27,514	24,788	31,925
Malheur	430	390	380	5,074	4,992	5,054
Other OR	510	490	530	22,440	19,796	26,871
PA	210	240	255	3,780	4,080	4,208
RI	225	270	265	248	243	212
SD	280	190	280	1,540	988	1,596
UT	265	240	280	1,590	1,224	1,176
WA	585	550	590	88,920	80,850	94,990
WI	360	325	390	25,740	26,000	31,590
WY	280	260	280	476	390	224
Total	352	334	363	424,655	403,009	452,122

1/ Summer Potato estimates included with fall in 1994 for comparative purposes.  
 2/ Long Island and Upstate breakout discontinued in 1995.

### 1996 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 1996. These 7 States account for 83 percent of the 1996 fall potato production. 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.

Sample data from the objective yield surveys presented in the following tables are not Agricultural Statistics Board official estimates. They are provided only to show current information about the crop and trends in potato production practices.

Potatoes: Harvest Loss of Potatoes by Type, 7 Major States, 1995-96 1/

State and Year	:	Reds	:	Whites	:	Russets	:	All Types
-----								
Cwt per Acre								
ID	1995	:		21	:	28	:	28
	1996	:		16	:	31	:	28
ME	1995	:	10	14	:	22	:	16
	1996	:	7	15	:	19	:	16
MN	1995	:	9	16	:	20	:	16
	1996	:	11		:	21	:	22
ND	1995	:	16	19	:	27	:	19
	1996	:	26	26	:	30	:	27
OR	1995	:	8	23	:	21	:	21
	1996	:		43	:	25	:	29
WA	1995	:		17	:	19	:	19
	1996	:		27	:	30	:	30
WI	1995	:		15	:	16	:	16
	1996	:	8	24	:	22	:	20

1/ Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post-harvest samples.

Potatoes: Average Number of Hills per Acre by Type, 1995-96 1/

State and Year	Reds		Whites		Russets		
	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	
ID	1995		27	13,573	243	12,377	
	1996		36	13,032	235	12,224	
ME	1995	8	13,252	105	14,454	44	10,368
	1996	9	14,923	105	13,547	50	9,739
MN	1995	37	11,139	37	10,707	45	13,144
	1996	33	11,480	11	10,859	59	13,170
ND	1995	37	10,234	100	10,363	80	11,184
	1996	29	7,690	71	9,981	62	11,368
OR	1995	2	16,739	58	13,335	90	14,313
	1996	2	11,636	53	13,474	108	14,557
WA	1995	3	15,811	21	14,101	121	14,465
	1996	4	12,147	24	13,809	119	14,119
WI	1995	10	13,805	34	13,069	82	12,520
	1996	14	13,684	31	13,372	76	12,435

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato field selected for objective yield samples.

### Potato Stocks Up 14 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 292 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1996, up 14 percent from last year and 7 percent above the previous record in 1994. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1996 fall production compared with 65 percent in 1995. Stocks by type were 4 percent red, 17 percent white, and 79 percent russet. There were more reds and russets, but fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 150 million cwt of potatoes, up 10 percent from the same period in 1995. Shrink and loss so far was estimated at 18.4 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 17.4 million cwt lost in 1995 but 1 percent below the 18.6 million cwt lost from the 1994 crop.

Processing is heavy, with 80.0 million cwt taken by fryers and dehydrators in eight major States so far this season. This is a gain of 12 percent over a year ago and 21 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 23.4 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1996, a gain of 19 percent from last year and 18 percent above 1994. Maine's stocks were up 22 percent and the highest since 1992, New York was up 9 percent, and Pennsylvania's stocks were up 17 percent.

Central States accounted for 66.8 million cwt of potato stocks this December, a jump of 13 percent over last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Michigan's and Ohio's stocks were below a year ago, but the other 4 Central States were up sharply. Minnesota gained 22 percent, Nebraska's stocks increased 20 percent, while North Dakota and Wisconsin jumped 18 percent each.

Western States held 201 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1996, up 13 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago. Oregon's storage jumped 45 percent above a year ago. Colorado was up 25 percent and Washington was up 22 percent. Idaho's stocks increased 3 percent from last year but were below those of two years ago. Stocks in Montana's seed area were up 9 percent, but California's storage dropped 10 percent.



### Fall Potato Production Up 12 Percent

Production of fall potatoes in 1996 is estimated at a record high 452 million cwt, 12 percent above last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This is the fifth record production of potatoes in the United States in the last six years. The December 1 forecast is less than 1 percent above the November forecast. A substantial increase in final yield data in Washington more than offset downward adjustments in other States. Area harvested, at 1.25 million acres, is up 3 percent from the last two years. The average yield is estimated at 363 cwt per acre, a jump of 29 cwt from last year and 11 cwt above two years ago. Planting started late but good weather in June turned the season into one of the best ever in most States. Total U.S. potato production from all four seasons was a record high 496 million cwt in 1996, 12 percent above a year earlier and 6 percent above the previous record in 1994.

Five Eastern States produced 34.3 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1996, up 14 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Potatoes were harvested from 125,400 acres, a decline of 2 percent from last year. The average yield of 273 cwt per acre increased 38 cwt from last year but slipped a little from the November forecast. Maine growers produced a 21.2 million-cwt crop, 23 percent better than last year based on a 55 cwt per acre gain in yields. New York production increased 4 percent and Pennsylvania gained 3 percent over a year ago. Massachusetts and Rhode Island potato crops were smaller than last year.

Eight Central States' production is forecast at 107.4 million cwt this year, up 12 percent from the last two years. Harvested area is estimated at 368,500 acres, a gain of 3 percent from last year. The average yield of 291 cwt per acre is 24 cwt above last year. The season produced record high crops in Minnesota and Wisconsin, up 18 and 22 percent from last year. North Dakota's production increased 13 percent but was not record large. Michigan and Ohio were hurt by too much rain throughout the season even though higher ground produced bumper crops. Larger crops were grown this year in Indiana, Nebraska, and South Dakota than a year ago.

Ten Western States produced 311 million cwt in 1996, up 12 percent from the last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest at 751,800 acres was up 5 percent, while the average yield of 413 cwt per acre was up 27 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 140 million cwt is 6 percent above last year and slightly larger than the previous record high two years ago. Some frost damage on both ends of the season kept the crop from being even larger. Production in Washington gained by late season reports of high yields. This year's production was 17 percent larger than last year and 7 percent above the previous record high. Oregon's production jumped 29 percent from last year and was 16 percent larger than two years ago. Ideal weather and growing conditions in Colorado produced a record crop of potatoes, 21 percent higher than last year. Montana growers managed a record large crop, 9 percent above last year in spite of fall frost damage. California, Utah, and Wyoming produced smaller potato crops than last year, by 14, 4, and 43 percent, respectively. New Mexico's crop was smaller than earlier expected but gained 7 percent on last year. Nevada's crop was 11 percent larger than a year ago.

**Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates**

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 292 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 7.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.5 percent or approximately 13.1 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1986-95) 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 6.2 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate each year. Production estimates have been below the final 8 years and above 2 years.

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	Quantity			Number of Years		
			Avg	Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final	
Stocks	2.6	4.5	6.20	.65	14.50	10	0	
Production	1.5	2.6	5.50	.05	13.46	8	2	

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks,  
United States, 1986-96

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1986	204,180	97.5	209,435
1987	223,720	99.0	225,890
1988	198,520	96.2	206,420
1989	201,400	99.7	202,050
1990	217,300	96.4	225,500
1991	240,660	99.4	242,070
1992	232,320	94.1	246,820
1993	240,370	96.3	249,710
1994	264,090	97.0	272,290
1995	252,030	98.3	256,310
1996	291,650		

1/ As reported in the September "Potato" annual summary.

Note: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.5 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.5 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand but remains as part of stocks until planted.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,  
United States, 1991-96

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes				Amount Used	
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	All Seasons Following year
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1991	371,730	334,893	90.1	36,837	9.9	27,021
1992	379,525	341,209	89.9	38,316	10.1	28,275
1993	385,935	351,161	91.0	34,774	9.0	29,031
1994	419,645	378,333	90.2	41,312	9.8	29,348
1995	403,009	368,946	91.5	34,063	8.5	30,357
1996	452,122					

---

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on January 13, 1997.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

## **SUBSCRIBE TODAY!!**

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### **INTERNET ACCESS**

All NASS reports are now available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and select:

1. Worldwide Web: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/> **OR**
2. For Gopher/Telenet/FTP access:  
HOST=usda.mannlib.cornell.edu **OR**
3. For a subscription direct to your e-mail address,  
send an e-mail message to: [usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu](mailto:usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu)  
and in the body of the message type the word: list

### **AUTOFAX ACCESS**

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts.

---

### **PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS**

**CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 1-800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)**  
**Other areas, please call 1-703-834-0125 FAX: 1-703-834-0110**  
**(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)**

---

### **ASSISTANCE**

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics HOTLINE** at **1-800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV**.

---

## USDA Announces Agricultural Outlook Forum '97

February 24 and 25, 1997

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C.

An era of freer markets under the 1996 Farm Bill has begun. For an expert assessment of the impact, attend the Outlook Forum. Top speakers will discuss the 1997 farm outlook, prospects to 2005, risk management, concentration issues, market stability, world food security, marketing high-valued exports and more. *Plan now to attend.* For program and registration details, check Forum home page, call (202) 720-3050 or dial (202) 219-0296 from your fax machine and request document 66666. Send e-mail to [agforum@oce.usda.gov](mailto:agforum@oce.usda.gov).

*Get news from the Forum.* Can't attend? After the Forum, download speeches from the Internet. Or, call 1-800-999-6779 to place an advance order for the printed proceedings (YCON-97) or new long term projections to 2005 (WAOB-97-1).

Ag Forum home page: <http://www.usda.gov/oc/waob/agforum.htm>

# *Agricultural Outlook Forum '97*