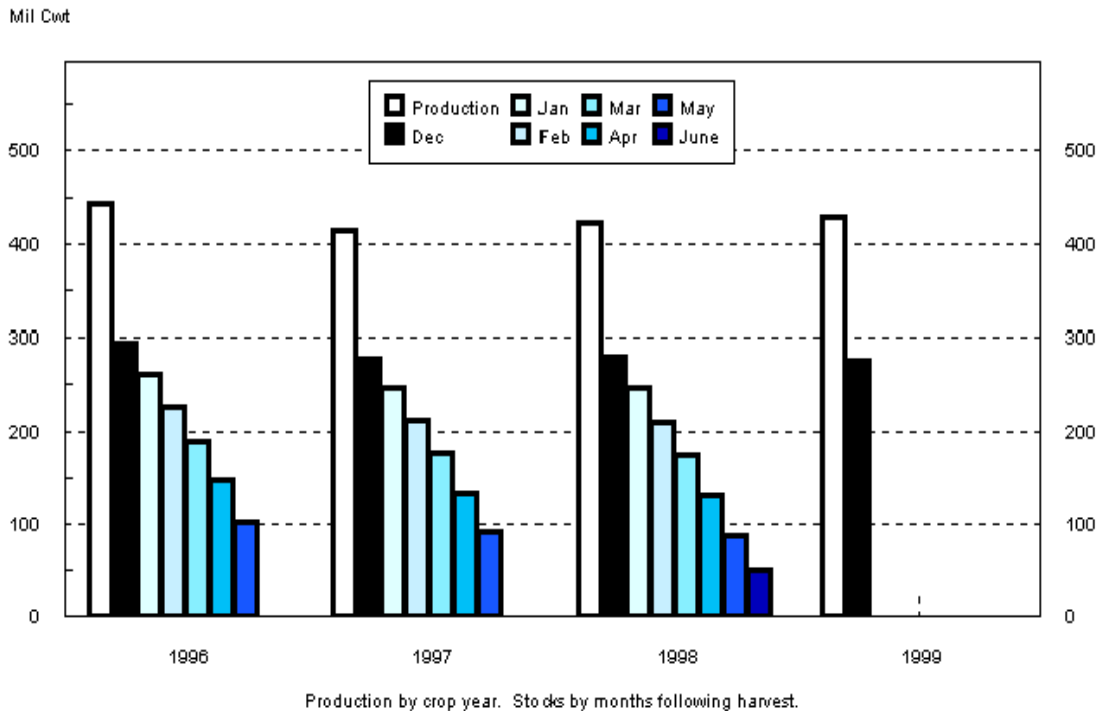


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## Potato Production Down 1 Percent, Stocks Off 2 Percent

Production of fall potatoes is forecast at 429 million cwt in the 23 fall States this year, down 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above 1997. December 1 stocks in 15 storage States, at 275 million cwt, are down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1997. Seasonal disappearance of 146 million cwt in the 15 States is up 2 percent from last year. Fryers and dehydrators used 74.6 million cwt so far this season, up 1 percent from last year.

### Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1990-99**

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 <sup>1</sup>
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860	
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600	
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870	
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	274,870						

<sup>1</sup> Data not available prior to 1998.

**Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1996-99 <sup>1</sup>**

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 <sup>2</sup>	Season
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
<b>ID &amp; OR-Mal</b>								
1996	31,060	38,210	45,420	54,640	62,570	70,720		96,970
1997	26,880	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750		91,450
1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	76,410	92,860
1999	27,970							
<b>ME <sup>3</sup></b>								
1996	1,790	2,115	2,820	3,280	3,820	4,420		6,495
1997	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900		5,870
1998	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
1999	1,375							
<b>WA &amp; OR-Oth</b>								
1996	31,670	36,660	41,700	48,740	55,570	62,320		80,970
1997	28,580	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780		76,930
1998	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
1999	33,440							
<b>Oth Sts <sup>4</sup></b>								
1996	13,720	17,000	20,645	24,085	27,650	30,830		43,100
1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
1998	11,615	14,550	18,150	20,900	24,710	27,855	31,635	37,662
1999	11,785							
<b>Total</b>								
1996	78,240	93,985	110,585	130,745	149,610	168,290		227,535
1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
1998	74,185	90,075	109,000	128,385	149,275	167,765	186,940	220,197
1999	74,570							

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Data not available prior to 1998.

<sup>3</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>4</sup> MI, MN, ND, and WI.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 1998-99 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop of 1998			Crop of 1999		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1998	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1999	% of Prod
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	3,708	2,800	76	4,005	3,200	80
CO	25,360	19,000	75	25,762	19,500	76
ID	138,000	99,500	72	133,330	96,000	72
ME	18,060	14,100	78	17,813	14,500	81
MI	14,648	9,100	62	14,963	8,800	59
MN	21,170	13,500	64	18,020	10,000	55
MT	3,180	3,050	96	3,325	3,220	97
NE	8,175	4,700	57	8,904	5,300	60
NY	7,290	3,400	47	6,758	3,700	55
ND	28,670	20,500	72	26,400	16,500	63
OH	1,200	260	22	987	250	25
OR	26,229	20,000	76	28,020	22,800	81
PA	3,360	2,000	60	3,080	1,600	52
WA	93,225	49,000	53	95,200	48,000	50
WI	30,895	20,000	65	34,000	21,500	63
15 States	423,170	280,910	66	420,567	274,870	65

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 1999 totaled 29.5 million cwt.

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,  
11 Selected States, December 1, 1998-99**

State	Potato Types							
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	4	4	6	2			90	94
ID					4	5	96	95
ME	4	3	48	50	11	10	37	37
MI	1	2	81	87			18	11
MN	13	7	7	5	3	1	77	87
NY	5	5	93	93			2	2
ND	16	15	22	22	3	13	59	50
OR	1	1	2	2	4	2	93	95
PA	2	3	98	97				
WA	1	1	1	1	6	6	92	92
WI	3	4	13	33			84	63
11 St Avg	3	2	11	12	4	5	82	81

**Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1997-99**

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
CA	10.5	10.3	9.0	10.5	10.3	9.0
CO	77.0	75.8	77.2	76.9	75.7	76.9
ID	400.0	410.0	395.0	398.0	408.0	393.0
10 SW Co	27.0	28.0	26.0	27.0	28.0	26.0
Other ID	373.0	382.0	369.0	371.0	380.0	367.0
IN	4.9	5.3	5.2	4.5	5.0	4.9
ME	72.0	65.5	65.0	72.0	64.5	62.5
MA	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9
MI	48.0	47.0	48.0	47.5	46.5	47.5
MN	77.0	82.0	70.0	73.0	73.0	53.0
MT	10.4	10.6	11.0	10.4	10.6	10.9
NE	20.0	22.0	21.6	19.9	21.8	21.2
NV	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.9	7.0	6.5
NM	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.1	5.9	6.6
NY	26.5	27.6	26.0	26.0	27.0	25.5
ND	125.0	126.0	121.0	110.0	122.0	110.0
OH	5.3	5.1	4.8	5.2	4.8	4.7
OR	56.5	59.0	56.0	55.5	58.0	55.5
Malheur	11.0	11.5	10.5	10.9	11.4	10.5
Other OR	45.5	47.5	45.5	44.6	46.6	45.0
PA	14.0	14.5	14.5	13.5	14.0	14.0
RI	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6
SD	4.6	5.0	3.5	4.4	4.8	3.4
UT	3.3	2.7	2.0	3.3	2.6	2.0
WA	152.0	165.0	170.0	152.0	165.0	170.0
WI	85.5	84.5	86.0	85.0	83.5	85.0
WY	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
Total	1,210.1	1,235.1	1,203.0	1,185.1	1,214.0	1,166.1

**Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1997-99**

State	Yield			Production		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	400	360	445	4,200	3,708	4,005
CO	325	335	335	24,993	25,360	25,762
ID	353	338	339	140,314	138,000	133,330
10 SW Co	470	450	470	12,690	12,600	12,220
Other ID	344	330	330	127,624	125,400	121,110
IN	260	320	270	1,170	1,600	1,323
ME	265	280	285	19,080	18,060	17,813
MA	270	235	255	810	682	740
MI	300	315	315	14,250	14,648	14,963
MN	280	290	340	20,440	21,170	18,020
MT	320	300	305	3,328	3,180	3,325
NE	390	375	420	7,761	8,175	8,904
NV	430	400	440	2,967	2,800	2,860
NM	390	380	320	2,379	2,242	2,112
NY	275	270	265	7,150	7,290	6,758
ND	200	235	240	22,000	28,670	26,400
OH	225	250	210	1,170	1,200	987
OR	492	452	505	27,319	26,229	28,020
Malheur	440	400	440	4,796	4,560	4,620
Other OR	505	465	520	22,523	21,669	23,400
PA	235	240	220	3,173	3,360	3,080
RI	270	210	225	216	147	135
SD	220	260	290	968	1,248	986
UT	290	280	290	957	728	580
WA	580	565	560	88,160	93,225	95,200
WI	355	370	400	30,175	30,895	34,000
WY	300	300	295	210	120	148
Total	357	356	368	423,190	432,737	429,451

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1996-99 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Fall Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	1996	4,600	3,500	200	23	472	4,105
	1997	4,200	2,700	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	2,800	171	29	720	2,959
	1999	4,005	3,200				
CO	1996	29,175	23,100	1,925	1,485	3,975	23,715
	1997	24,993	19,400	1,895	1,340	2,773	20,880
	1998	25,360	19,000	1,930	1,615	2,615	21,130
	1999	25,762	19,500				
ID	1996	142,800	102,000	8,600	1,500	10,100	131,200
	1997	140,314	102,000	8,700	1,130	9,258	129,926
	1998	138,000	99,500	8,400	1,280	9,756	126,964
	1999	133,330	96,000				
ME	1996	21,175	16,900	1,584	395	1,800	18,980
	1997	19,080	15,600	1,430	275	1,760	17,045
	1998	18,060	14,100	1,496	360	1,740	15,960
	1999	17,813	14,500				
MI	1996	13,800	8,000	768	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	8,500	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,648	9,100	888	200	1,348	13,100
	1999	14,963	8,800				
MN	1996	24,600	16,500	1,348	445	4,158	19,997
	1997	20,440	13,500	1,640	450	1,717	18,273
	1998	21,170	13,500	1,400	254	1,440	19,476
	1999	18,020	10,000				
MT	1996	3,213	3,050	239	137	221	2,855
	1997	3,328	3,180	244	152	208	2,968
	1998	3,180	3,050	253	145	265	2,770
	1999	3,325	3,220				
NE	1996	4,402	3,160	451	169	439	3,794
	1997	7,761	5,300	462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175	4,700	469	166	881	7,128
	1999	8,904	5,300				
NY	1996	7,420	3,700	583	127	341	6,952
	1997	7,150	3,600	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	3,400	572	110	330	6,850
	1999	6,758	3,700				

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**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1996-99 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Fall Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ND	1996	28,820	20,500	2,188	360	5,270	23,190
	1997	22,000	16,000	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	20,500	2,250	395	2,840	25,435
	1999	26,400	16,500				
OH	1996	1,275	290	109	5	35	1,235
	1997	1,170	350	105	8	37	1,125
	1998	1,200	260	100	8	37	1,155
	1999	987	250				
OR	1996	30,124	23,600	1,345	305	2,560	27,259
	1997	27,319	20,500	1,405	195	1,555	25,569
	1998	26,229	20,000	1,382	195	2,206	23,828
	1999	28,020	22,800				
PA	1996	4,160	2,800	266	81	320	3,759
	1997	3,173	2,000	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	2,000	261	50	252	3,058
	1999	3,080	1,600				
WA	1996	94,990	48,000	3,648	300	6,800	87,890
	1997	88,160	47,000	3,840	300	6,400	81,460
	1998	93,225	49,000	4,080	300	6,500	86,425
	1999	95,200	48,000				
WI	1996	33,150	20,000	1,710	320	1,425	31,405
	1997	30,175	19,200	1,764	275	1,448	28,452
	1998	30,895	20,000	1,720	265	2,360	28,270
	1999	34,000	21,500				
15 Sts	1996	443,704	295,100	24,964	5,952	39,216	398,536
	1997	413,513	278,830	25,580	5,120	29,933	378,460
	1998	423,170	280,910	25,372	5,372	33,290	384,508
	1999	420,567	274,870				
23 Fall Sts	1996	454,388		25,608	6,054	40,087	408,247
	1997	423,190		26,224	5,260	30,841	387,089
	1998	432,737		25,929	5,584	34,231	392,922
	1999	429,451					

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,  
1996-98 Marketing Years**

State	Crop Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	1996				13	12	13	11	10	12	10	8	7	4
	1997													
	1998													
CO	1996			4	7	9	9	10	9	10	11	10	11	10
	1997		1	4	8	9	11	10	8	11	11	10	10	7
	1998			5	8	9	12	10	10	12	11	10	9	4
ID	1996		6	14	18	7	5	6	6	9	8	8	6	7
	1997		6	15	12	8	8	8	6	7	7	9	7	7
	1998		6	11	20	6	6	7	6	8	9	9	6	6
ME	1996		1	8	7	7	8	10	9	14	16	9	11	
	1997		1	6	7	8	8	10	9	15	17	10	9	
	1998		1	7	9	9	9	10	11	14	12	9	9	
MI	1996	1	9	10	11	11	9	12	11	10	9	5	2	
	1997	3	9	10	8	11	11	11	12	11	8	6		
	1998	3	8	9	9	9	12	14	9	12	10	5		
MN	1996		6	22	19	11	5	5	7	8	8	5	4	
	1997		5	22	25	11	7	5	6	7	7	5		
	1998		11	16	14	10	5	7	6	8	9	6	8	
NY	1996		7	17	17	14	14	10	8	7	4	2		
	1997		8	15	15	16	15	13	9	5	3	1		
	1998		7	16	16	16	15	11	8	6	4	1		
ND	1996		4	12	22	8	7	7	8	10	7	6	7	2
	1997		1	12	16	13	8	12	9	9	8	6	5	1
	1998		3	13	14	10	10	8	7	7	9	10	6	3
OR	1996	1	14	16	26	7	5	5	5	4	6	5	5	1
	1997	1	9	14	30	8	6	5	6	6	5	6	3	1
	1998	2	12	15	27	8	5	4	5	6	6	4	4	2
PA	1996	1	12	15	13	11	9	10	8	9	6	4	2	
	1997	1	13	13	12	12	12	10	8	7	8	3	1	
	1998		14	12	11	12	15	11	9	7	6	2	1	
WA	1996		17	11	31	8	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	2
	1997		12	14	31	7	4	4	4	6	6	6	5	1
	1998		16	13	25	7	3	5	6	7	5	6	6	1
WI	1996	1	6	20	14	10	7	8	11	9	7	4	3	
	1997	1	7	17	14	10	9	8	11	10	7	4	2	
	1998	1	6	18	13	10	10	10	9	9	8	4	2	



## 1999 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 1999. These 7 States account for 82 percent of the 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. Survey data from the objective yield counts are presented in the following tables. They are provided to show information about the crop and trends in production.

**Potatoes: Harvest Loss by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 1998-99 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>	
ID	1998		43	27	28
	1999		23	33	32
ME	1998	15	12	16	13
	1999	33	15	16	16
MN	1998	13	19	26	21
	1999	16	17	19	18
ND	1998	31	17	25	23
	1999	18	15	31	22
OR	1998		37	26	28
	1999		16	24	24
WA	1998		36	26	27
	1999		35	20	22
WI	1998	4	21	19	19
	1999	8	4	16	13

<sup>1</sup> Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for postharvest samples.

**Potatoes: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 1998-99 <sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre
ID	1998			19	12,406	264	12,134
	1999			18	13,028	277	12,200
ME	1998	6	15,275	102	13,091	45	10,189
	1999	7	14,607	110	13,263	45	9,112
MN	1998	33	11,125	18	11,375	76	12,725
	1999	42	10,339	16	8,435	76	12,358
ND	1998	24	9,162	53	10,099	57	11,196
	1999	21	9,260	54	8,773	73	9,960
OR	1998	4	13,841	34	13,981	131	13,016
	1999	2	16,566	25	14,350	134	14,723
WA	1998	3	14,053	20	13,197	158	13,924
	1999	6	16,380	28	13,967	152	13,896
WI	1998	11	12,347	41	11,699	86	11,911
	1999	12	13,085	28	12,600	76	11,969

<sup>1</sup> Based on row measurements and counts in potato fields selected for objective yield samples.

### 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 275 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 7.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent or approximately 12.1 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1989-98) 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 5.5 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years. Production estimates have been below the final estimate 7 years and above 3 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	
		Percent	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final
			<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>		
Stocks	2.6	4.4	12.09	5.50	0.65	14.50	9	1
Production	1.8	3.0	12.88	5.20	0.05	13.46	7	3

#### Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December 1 Stocks, United States, 1989-99

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	96.4	249,410
1994	264,090	96.6	273,290
1995	252,030	98.2	256,710
1996	291,650	98.8	295,100
1997	274,250	98.4	278,830
1998	281,020	100.0	280,910
1999	274,870		

**Note:** Stocks are the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes not yet moved, 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 90.7 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use accounted for the remaining 9.3 percent. Most seed for use the following crop year is on hand and remains part of stocks until planted.

**Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,  
United States, 1994-99**

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes					Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following year <i>1,000 Cwt</i>
	Production <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Sold <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Sold as % of Prod <i>Percent</i>	Not Sold <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Not Sold as % of Prod <i>Percent</i>	
1994	422,345	380,818	90.2	41,527	9.8	29,428
1995	404,852	370,679	91.6	34,173	8.4	30,561
1996	454,388	408,247	89.8	46,141	10.2	29,138
1997	423,190	387,089	91.5	36,101	8.5	29,975
1998	432,737	392,922	90.8	39,815	9.2	29,516
1999	429,451					

**Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 15 Fall Storage States, 1996-99**

Crop Year	To Dec 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	To Jan 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	To Feb 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	To Mar 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	To Apr 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	To May 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	Total Jun 1 <i>Million Cwt</i>	Season <i>Million Cwt</i>
1996	24.2	26.1	28.2	30.0	32.3	34.8		39.2
1997	15.3	17.3	19.3	21.3	23.5	25.6		30.0
1998	19.8	21.7	23.6	25.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	33.1
1999	17.2							

## Potato Stocks Down 2 Percent

The **15 major potato States** held 275 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1997. Storage accounted for 65 percent of 1999 fall production, 1 percentage point below last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 12 percent round white, 5 percent long white (Shepody) and 81 percent russet; with fewer russets, and more round whites than a year ago.

**Disappearance** in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1, at 146 million cwt of potatoes, was up 2 percent from the same period last year and 8 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 17.2 million cwt so far this year, was down 13 percent from losses in 1998, but up 12 percent from two years ago.

**Processors** used 74.6 million cwt of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season, up 1 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 19.8 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, up 2 percent from last year but 7 percent below 1997. Maine's stocks were up 3 percent, New York's storage gained 9 percent, but Pennsylvania's stocks declined 20 percent.

**Central States** accounted for 62.4 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 8 percent from last year and 1 percent lower than two years ago. Minnesota's stocks dropped 26 percent and North Dakota fell 20 percent from last year. Michigan was off 3 percent and Ohio slipped 4 percent. Wisconsin gained 8 percent while Nebraska stored 13 percent more potatoes than last year.

**Western States** held 193 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, fractionally below a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago. California and Oregon stored 14 percent more potatoes this year than last. Colorado gained 3 percent and Montana increased 6 percent. Idaho's stocks fell 4 percent and Washington's were off 2 percent.

## Fall Potato Production Down 1 Percent

**Production** of fall potatoes for 1999 is forecast at 429 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year but up 1 percent from 1997. Area harvested, at 1.17 million acres, is down 4 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield is 368 cwt per acre, a jump of 12 cwt from last year and 11 cwt above two years ago. Since the November forecast, additional acres have been lost in the Red River Valley of Minnesota and North Dakota from heavy rains before and during harvest. The Idaho acreage was trimmed 1 percent. Summer drought hurt potatoes in New York and Pennsylvania and caused scattered damage in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. On the other hand, record large potato crops were recorded in Nebraska, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Five **Eastern States** produced 28.5 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1999, down 3 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 105,500 acres, down 3 percent from last year. The average yield of 270 cwt per acre was 1 cwt below last year but 6 cwt above 1997. Maine potato growers had a nearly ideal season from early planting to harvest time. Persistent rains delayed harvest and caused considerable damage to tubers. Production in Maine dropped 1 percent from last year. New York and Pennsylvania suffered extended drought through the summer cutting onto yields and reducing size.

Eight **Central States'** production is forecast at 106 million cwt this year, down 2 percent from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. Harvest was taken from 329,700 acres, a drop of 9 percent from last year. The average yield of 320 cwt per acre represented a 22-cwt increase from a year ago. Dry summer weather hurt yields in Ohio and Indiana with production drops of 17 or more percent. Michigan's yields were not as high as expected, but higher acreage pushed production up 2 percent. Heavy rains during harvest led to acreage abandonment in North Dakota and Minnesota. Production in Wisconsin jumped 10 percent with increased acreage and record high yields. Nebraska's production increased 9 percent, also with a record high yield.

Ten **Western States** produced 295 million cwt in 1999, down slightly from last year but fractionally above two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 730,900 acres, decreased 2 percent from last year, and the average yield of 404 cwt per acre was up 6 cwt. Production in Idaho decreased 3 percent from last year and 5 percent from two years ago. Washington gained 2 percent and Oregon 7 percent. Colorado was up 2 percent and California increased 8 percent. Montana was up 5 percent and Nevada gained 2 percent from a year ago. Production in Utah dropped 20 percent and New Mexico slid 6 percent.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 14, 2000.

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