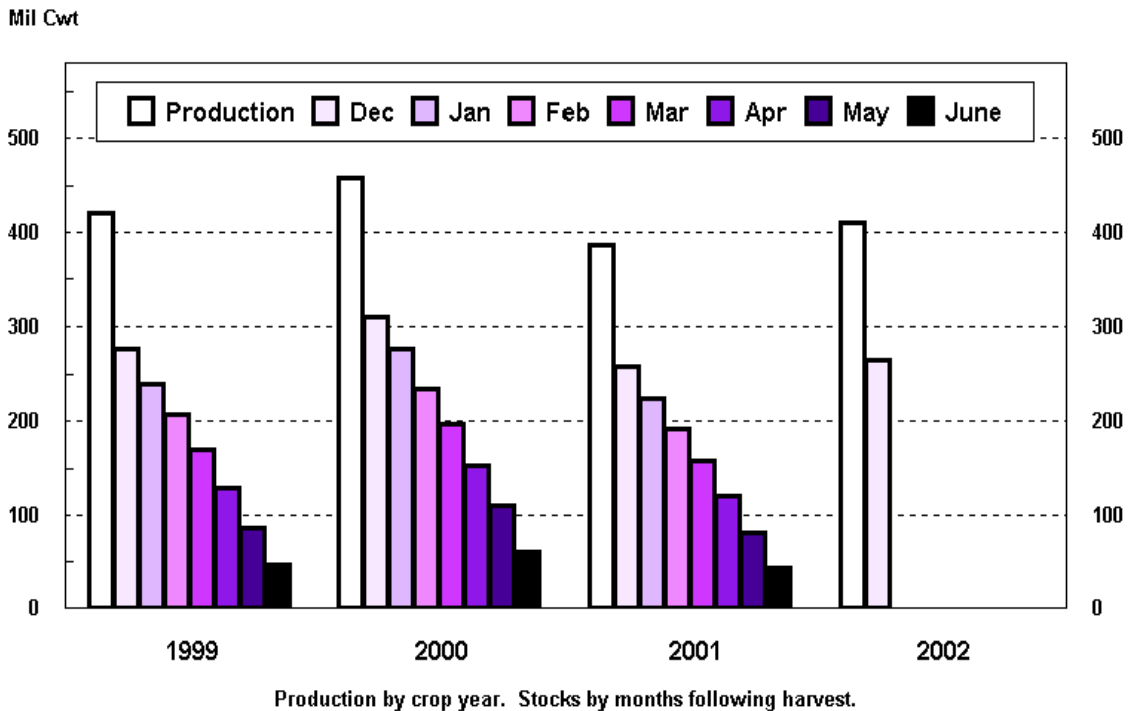


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Potato Stocks Up 2 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2002, up 2 percent from last year but 15 percent below 2000. Storage accounts for 65 percent of the 2002 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type show more round white and fewer russet and long white (Shepody) than a year ago. Disappearance of 146 million cwt, is up 13 percent from last year but 2 percent below 2000 movement. Shrink and loss of 16.2 million cwt so far in the season is up 10 percent from last year but 14 percent below the same date in 2000. Processors in the 9 major States used 77.6 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 18 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 15.7 million cwt of the total processing.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1993-2002

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ¹
	<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>
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	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	410,704	265,190						

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2000-2002 ¹

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1	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>
ID & OR-Mal								
2000	29,290	35,720	43,470	50,580	58,910	66,760	75,270	93,460
2001	20,940	27,330	33,620	40,860	47,710	54,150	61,200	73,390
2002	28,380							
ME ²								
2000	1,845	2,475	3,105	3,695	4,225	4,760	5,340	7,015
2001	1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
2002	2,275							
WA & OR-Oth								
2000	34,770	40,970	47,720	55,250	62,860	69,850	78,010	91,130
2001	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
2002	33,680							
Oth Sts ³								
2000	12,665	16,215	18,975	22,095	25,410	28,695	31,765	39,020
2001	13,270	15,325	19,060	22,255	24,865	28,095	30,810	36,300
2002	13,275							
Total								
2000	78,570	95,380	113,270	131,620	151,405	170,065	190,385	230,625
2001	65,505	80,405	96,330	114,725	131,830	148,380	166,925	194,065
2002	77,610							
Dehydrated ⁴								
2000 ⁵								51,946
2001 ⁵								38,581
2002	15,660							

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, CO, MI, and WI.

² Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

³ MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2000 and 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002.

⁴ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals.

⁵ No monthly data available.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 2001-2002 ¹

State	Crop of 2001			Crop of 2002		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2001	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2002	% 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	1,424	1,200	84	4,450	1,500	34
CO	21,357	15,600	73	27,885	20,100	72
ID	120,200	87,500	73	133,385	92,000	69
ME	16,430	12,200	74	16,960	12,600	74
MI	13,950	8,200	59	13,878	7,900	57
MN	18,425	12,000	65	18,700	12,000	64
MT	3,296	3,000	91	3,213	3,050	95
NE	8,400	4,850	58	8,414	5,650	67
NY	5,942	2,400	40	5,500	2,500	45
ND	26,400	19,500	74	23,460	16,000	68
OH	1,097	300	27	1,008	190	19
OR	20,730	17,500	84	24,936	18,000	72
PA	3,173	1,800	57	2,590	1,200	46
WA	94,400	53,000	56	95,200	53,000	56
WI	31,955	19,700	62	31,125	19,500	63
Oth Sts	387,179	258,750	67	410,704	265,190	65

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2002 totaled 29.3 million cwt.

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Selected States, December 1, 2001-2002**

State	Potato Types							
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<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	6	4	1	1			93	95
ID		1			6	4	94	95
ME	4	4	48	47	3	2	45	47
MI	1	1	90	88			9	11
MN	8	12	5	7			87	81
NY	5	5	90	90			5	5
ND	14	15	16	16	7	6	63	63
OR	1	1		1	2		97	98
PA	3	3	97	97				
WA	1	1	1	1	4	6	94	92
WI	5	3	12	31			83	66
11 St Avg	3	3	9	11	4	3	84	83

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 2000-2002

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	<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	8.7	3.2	8.9	8.7	3.2	8.9
CO	75.8	68.1	71.6	75.6	67.8	71.5
ID	415.0	350.0	375.0	413.0	348.0	373.0
10 SW Co	28.0	23.0	27.0	28.0	23.0	27.0
Other ID	387.0	327.0	348.0	385.0	325.0	346.0
IN	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8
ME	64.0	62.0	64.0	64.0	62.0	64.0
MA	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.5	2.8	2.9
MI	49.0	46.0	46.5	47.5	45.0	45.5
MN	66.0	59.0	61.0	59.0	55.0	55.0
MT	11.5	10.5	10.3	11.3	10.3	10.2
NE	26.0	22.5	21.5	24.7	22.4	21.3
NV	7.0	6.5	7.6	7.0	6.5	7.6
NM	6.8	4.2	4.0	6.8	4.2	4.0
NY	22.0	23.5	22.5	21.3	23.3	22.0
ND	124.0	118.0	118.0	110.0	110.0	102.0
OH	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2
OR	57.0	45.0	50.0	56.5	44.5	49.8
Malheur	10.5	9.0	8.0	10.5	9.0	8.0
Other OR	46.5	36.0	42.0	46.0	35.5	41.8
PA	13.5	14.0	15.0	13.0	13.5	14.0
RI	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
SD	3.5	2.8	1.1	2.8	2.7	1.1
UT	1.5	1.3	0.8	1.5	1.3	0.8
WA	175.0	160.0	170.0	175.0	160.0	170.0
WI	86.0	84.0	85.0	84.5	83.0	83.0
Total	1,223.0	1,091.5	1,143.5	1,192.2	1,073.2	1,114.1

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 2000-2002

State	Yield			Production		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	<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	430	445	500	3,741	1,424	4,450
CO	370	315	390	27,972	21,357	27,885
ID	369	345	358	152,320	120,200	133,385
10 SW Co	490	450	455	13,720	10,350	12,285
Other ID	360	338	350	138,600	109,850	121,100
IN	280	320	260	784	928	728
ME	280	265	265	17,920	16,430	16,960
MA	255	265	255	638	742	740
MI	315	310	305	14,963	13,950	13,878
MN	360	335	340	21,240	18,425	18,700
MT	310	320	315	3,503	3,296	3,213
NE	410	375	395	10,127	8,400	8,414
NV	450	360	340	3,150	2,340	2,584
NM	400	340	400	2,720	1,428	1,600
NY	280	255	250	5,964	5,942	5,500
ND	245	240	230	26,950	26,400	23,460
OH	270	255	240	1,134	1,097	1,008
OR	543	466	501	30,683	20,730	24,936
Malheur	425	410	400	4,463	3,690	3,200
Other OR	570	480	520	26,220	17,040	21,736
PA	270	235	185	3,510	3,173	2,590
RI	275	280	160	138	140	80
SD	290	240	300	812	648	330
UT	290	265	305	435	345	244
WA	600	590	560	105,000	94,400	95,200
WI	400	385	375	33,800	31,955	31,125
Total	392	367	374	467,504	393,750	417,010

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1999-2002 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	1999	4,005	3,200	183	17	383	3,605
	2000	3,741	2,700	58	11	300	3,430
	2001	1,424	1,200	231	3	128	1,293
	2002	4,450	1,500				
CO	1999	25,762	19,700	1,971	1,705	2,967	21,090
	2000	27,972	20,300	1,771	1,485	3,847	22,640
	2001	21,357	15,600	1,790	1,465	1,887	18,005
	2002	27,885	20,100				
ID	1999	133,330	96,000	8,700	1,150	9,300	122,880
	2000	152,320	111,000	8,140	1,190	13,718	137,412
	2001	120,200	87,500	8,690	1,230	8,261	110,709
	2002	133,385	92,000				
ME	1999	17,813	14,500	1,408	330	1,850	15,633
	2000	17,920	14,100	1,302	315	1,490	16,115
	2001	16,430	12,200	1,344	301	849	15,280
	2002	16,960	12,600				
MI	1999	14,963	8,800	1,005	213	1,300	13,450
	2000	14,963	8,700	1,135	250	1,700	13,013
	2001	13,950	8,200	1,181	245	945	12,760
	2002	13,878	7,900				
MN	1999	18,020	10,600	1,254	170	1,980	15,870
	2000	21,240	14,200	1,140	130	1,700	19,410
	2001	18,425	12,000	1,159	190	1,700	16,535
	2002	18,700	12,000				
MT	1999	3,325	3,200	276	151	213	2,961
	2000	3,503	3,350	211	133	732	2,638
	2001	3,296	3,000	225	152	188	2,956
	2002	3,213	3,050				
NE	1999	8,904	5,300	621	240	711	7,953
	2000	10,127	7,500	542	182	730	9,215
	2001	8,400	4,850	557	153	720	7,527
	2002	8,414	5,650				
NY	1999	6,758	3,500	484	95	323	6,340
	2000	5,964	2,600	517	108	406	5,450
	2001	5,942	2,400	495	100	502	5,340
	2002	5,500	2,500				

--continued

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1999-2002 Crop Years (continued)**

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	1999	26,400	17,000	2,232	340	4,600	21,460
	2000	26,950	18,500	2,035	295	3,235	23,420
	2001	26,400	19,500	2,340	320	3,960	22,120
	2002	23,460	16,000				
OH	1999	987	300	88	6	60	921
	2000	1,134	350	102	2	35	1,097
	2001	1,097	300	90	3	36	1,058
	2002	1,008	190				
OR	1999	28,020	22,000	1,368	239	1,607	26,174
	2000	30,683	25,000	957	140	1,915	28,628
	2001	20,730	17,500	1,212	175	1,059	19,496
	2002	24,936	18,000				
PA	1999	3,080	2,000	270	31	172	2,877
	2000	3,510	2,000	252	44	165	3,301
	2001	3,173	1,800	285	59	120	2,994
	2002	2,590	1,200				
WA	1999	95,200	48,000	4,320	300	6,500	88,400
	2000	105,000	59,000	3,960	300	9,500	95,200
	2001	94,400	53,000	4,200	300	7,000	87,100
	2002	95,200	53,000				
WI	1999	34,000	21,000	1,720	310	1,420	32,270
	2000	33,800	21,000	1,700	264	1,949	31,587
	2001	31,955	19,700	1,615	278	1,947	29,730
	2002	31,125	19,500				
15 Sts	1999	420,567	275,100	25,900	5,297	33,386	381,884
	2000	458,827	310,300	23,822	4,849	41,422	412,556
	2001	387,179	258,750	25,414	4,974	29,302	352,903
	2002	410,704	265,190				
Fall Sts	1999	429,847		26,449	5,408	34,229	390,210
	2000	467,504		24,249	4,968	42,257	420,279
	2001	393,750		25,834	5,039	29,757	358,954
	2002	417,010					

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,
1999-2001 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	1999				5	12	14	10	12	9	10	10	11	7
	2000				9	11	13	10	9	11	7	11	9	10
	2001					15	11	17	17	22	18			
CO	1999			4	7	10	10	10	10	12	11	10	10	6
	2000			5	8	10	10	11	8	11	11	12	9	5
	2001			5	10	11	12	12	9	11	10	11	7	2
ID	1999		3	15	18	6	6	5	7	9	10	9	6	6
	2000		5	9	10	9	6	7	6	9	9	13	8	9
	2001		3	12	13	8	6	7	9	10	10	10	6	6
ME	1999		3	6	7	7	9	10	10	12	16	11	9	
	2000		2	8	8	7	9	9	12	12	15	10	5	3
	2001		1	9	10	9	9	12	11	11	12	8	5	3
MI	1999	3	7	8	9	15	12	9	9	9	11	6	2	
	2000	3	7	8	12	12	12	11	12	11	7	4	1	
	2001	3	7	8	12	11	12	13	11	11	8	3	1	
MN	1999		8	12	13	11	8	8	7	9	8	6	5	5
	2000	2	8	8	7	6	5	6	7	10	11	12	18	
	2001		10	9	7	7	6	7	9	10	10	9	8	8
NY	1999		4	21	18	11	9	10	8	9	10			
	2000		2	26	18	11	12	8	8	10	5			
	2001		4	20	18	17	15	9	7	6	4			
ND	1999		2	13	20	7	10	12	7	7	8	7	6	1
	2000		4	21	11	10	5	8	5	9	11	8	8	
	2001			18	10	12	7	8	7	7	14	11	6	
OR	1999	2	13	10	21	7	6	7	8	7	7	7	3	2
	2000	3	9	12	21	4	5	5	6	7	7	9	6	6
	2001		7	13	21	8	6	5	7	7	8	8	7	3
PA	1999		14	13	12	12	13	11	9	7	6	2	1	
	2000		14	13	12	12	13	11	9	7	6	2	1	
	2001		17	16	15	12	12	10	8	7	2	1		
WA	1999		17	14	24	6	6	5	5	6	5	6	5	1
	2000		16	14	25	7	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	3
	2001		11	13	25	7	6	5	7	7	6	7	5	1
WI	1999	2	7	16	12	11	9	8	10	9	9	5	2	
	2000	1	7	15	14	11	8	8	9	10	10	5	2	
	2001	1	6	13	14	12	10	9	8	10	11	5	1	

Potatoes: Harvest Loss by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 2001-2002 ¹

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites		Russets		All Types	
		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>	
ID	2001				13		32		31
	2002				18		26		26
ME	2001				12		20		16
	2002				16		15		15
MN	2001	22		4		21			20
	2002	14		12		32			24
ND	2001	8		23		26			22
	2002	27		25		38			30
OR	2001			15		38			36
	2002			14		21			17
WA	2001					28			30
	2002			29		26			26
WI	2001	19		18		16			17
	2002	8		12		13			12

¹ 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, 2001-2002 ¹

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	2001	3	13,845	19	12,389	254	12,103
	2002			14	13,553	276	12,454
ME	2001	5	15,088	82	13,413	56	9,304
	2002	5	13,946	91	13,440	62	9,596
MN	2001	44	12,517	15	10,949	76	12,361
	2002	38	11,761	17	11,273	77	12,366
ND	2001	24	10,357	45	9,929	47	11,039
	2002	15	9,906	63	10,197	54	11,253
OR	2001			19	13,537	85	12,327
	2002	5	15,193	32	13,903	45	13,603
WA	2001	9	13,930	9	13,358	155	14,066
	2002	7	15,440	17	14,951	99	14,692
WI	2001	13	15,851	38	14,583	77	12,573
	2002	10	15,822	37	15,208	74	12,671

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

2002 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 2002. 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 previous two tables. They are provided to show information about the crop and trends in production.

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 90.8 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 9.2 percent.

**Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,
United States, 1997-2002**

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes					Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following year
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1997	423,190	387,089	91.5	36,101	8.5	29,975
1998	432,737	392,922	90.8	39,815	9.2	29,217
1999	429,847	390,210	90.8	39,637	9.2	29,709
2000	467,504	420,279	89.9	47,225	10.1	27,145
2001	393,750	358,954	91.2	34,796	8.8	29,251
2002	417,010					

Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 15 Fall Storage States, 1999-2002

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	Total Jun 1	Season
	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>
1999	19.7	22.4	24.1	25.9	27.7	29.6	31.3	33.4
2000	18.7	21.3	26.3	29.2	33.1	36.0	38.4	41.4
2001	14.7	17.3	19.7	21.7	23.5	25.1	26.7	29.3
2002	16.2							

Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 265 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.5 percent or approximately 6.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.3 percent or approximately 11.4 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1992-2001) 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 5.4 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate 8 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	2.5	4.3	11.40	5.43	0.11	14.50	8	2
Production	1.7	2.9	12.09	5.84	0.40	13.46	7	3

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December 1 Stocks, United States, 1992-2002

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	99.9	275,100
2000	309,520	99.7	310,300
2001	266,520	103.0	258,750
2002	265,190		

December Potato Stocks Up 2 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2002, up 2 percent from last year but 15 percent below 2000. Storage accounted for 65 percent of the 2002 fall production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russet; with more round whites and fewer long whites and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance, at 146 million cwt, from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 13 percent from the same period last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt, is up 10 percent from last year and 14 percent below two years ago.

Processors used 77.6 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 18 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur processing gained 36 percent while Washington and the rest of Oregon processed 15 percent more 2002 crop potatoes than a year ago. Dehydrators used 15.7 million cwt to date. Colorado has joined the group of 9 processing States this year and South Dakota has dropped out.

Western States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 6 percent from last year but 15 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 5 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 29 percent. The return of irrigation water to the Klamath Basin boosted California's stocks 25 percent from last year and helped increase Oregon's stocks by 3 percent. Washington's sheds stored the same amount of potatoes as last year but Montana's stocks are up 2 percent.

Central States accounted for 61.2 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 5 percent from last year and 13 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks dropped 18 percent, Ohio fell 37 percent, Michigan slipped 4 percent and Wisconsin declined 1 percent from last year's level. Minnesota's stocks are equal to last year while Nebraska's storages hold 16 percent more than in 2001.

Eastern States stored 16.3 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 1 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Maine's stocks were up 3 percent, New York's gained 4 percent, but were offset by a 33 percent decline in Pennsylvania.

Fall Potato Production Up Less Than 1 Percent from November

Production of fall potatoes for 2002 is forecast at 417 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from November and 6 percent above last year. However, this is 11 percent smaller than the record high 2000 crop. Area harvested, at 1.11 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 374 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above last month and 7 cwt above last year. Production estimates are generally lower this year in Central and Eastern States but higher in the West. Harvest was completed on schedule in nearly all States.

The nine Western States' production is forecast at 293 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year but 11 percent below 2000. Acreage harvested, at 695,800 acres, gained 8 percent from last year, while the average yield of 422 cwt per acre is up 11 cwt. California growers responded with record high yields with adequate irrigation water available in the Tule Lake Basin. Colorado's production rose 31 percent as farmers had sufficient irrigation water to sustain them through the hot, dry summer weather. Idaho's production increased 11 percent from last year as potatoes were able to size up at the end of the season. Production in Oregon was adjusted upward 31 percent from the November forecast with current storage totals and corrections made in objective yield data. Production now stands at 24.9 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year but 19 percent below 2000. Washington's production forecast is down 5 percent from last month but up 1 percent from 2001 despite lower yields. Production in Nevada and New Mexico rose 10 and 12 percent, respectively, from a year ago. Montana's production is down 3 percent and Utah is down 29 percent.

Eight Central States' production is forecast at 97.6 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year and 11 percent below 2000. Harvested area, estimated at 314,900 acres, is down 3 percent, while the average yield of 310 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from a year ago. Minnesota and Nebraska register production increases from last year but the other 6 Central States are down. Spring rains and flooding reduced production potential in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Indiana production fell 22 percent from last year, North Dakota was down 11 percent, Wisconsin dropped 3 percent, and Ohio output fell 8 percent. Minnesota gained 1 percent and Nebraska's production is up fractionally.

Five Eastern States' production is forecast at 25.9 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 103,400 acres, 1 percent above last year, but the average yield fell to 250 cwt per acre, 9 cwt below last season. Maine's production is up 3 percent from last year but the other 4 States are down. Production in New York dropped 7 percent from last year and Pennsylvania fell 18 percent. Massachusetts' production is down less than 1 percent and Rhode Island is off 43 percent.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 16, 2003.

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