

POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES



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ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

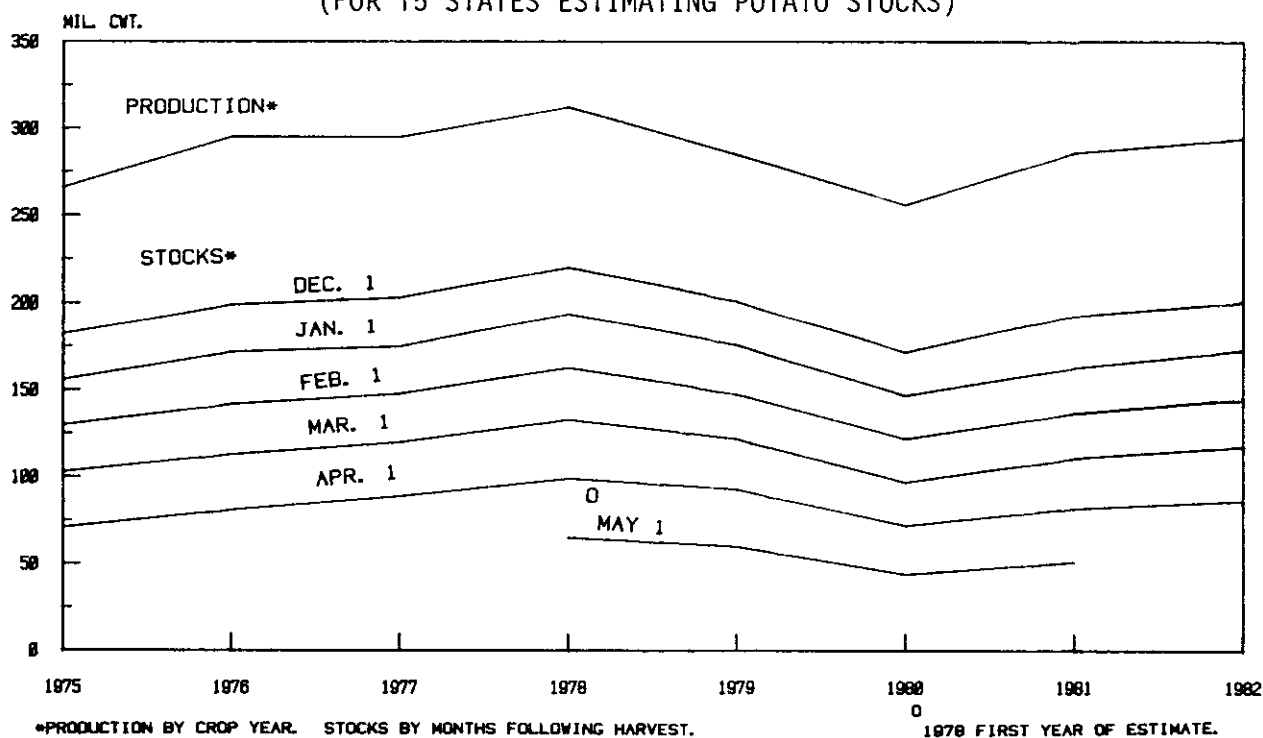
POTATO STOCKS UP 4 PERCENT

April 1, 1983 potato stocks are estimated at 84.8 million cwt (3.85 million metric tons) for the 15 major fall producing States. This is up 4 percent from last April 1 and 17 percent above two years ago. The April 1 stocks accounted for 29 percent of production in these 15 States the same percentage as a year ago.

In the three Eastern States, estimated holdings totaled 9.9 million cwt, 5 percent less than a year ago and 3 percent above two years ago. Maine storage dropped to 7.9 million cwt, 8 percent short of last April and 4 percent below two years ago. New York stocks are up 14 percent from last year while Pennsylvania holdings are up 10 percent.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1,
APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES
ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS

[illegible]

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1981 AND 1982 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE: SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
IDAHO & MALHEUR CO., OREG	1981-82 1982-83	16,720 14,330	21,450 18,645	26,000 23,395	31,205 28,535	36,840 34,480	42,270	56,585
MAINE 2/	1981-82 1982-83	2,145 2,075	2,715 2,800	3,450 3,675	4,135 4,430	5,195 5,315	5,975	7,325
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1981-82 1982-83	17,730 16,840	21,255 20,130	24,940 23,685	29,175 27,870	33,855 32,100	38,095	47,325
OTHER STATES 3/	1981-82 1982-83	5,088 5,651	6,329 7,135	7,743 8,625	9,385 10,220	11,111 12,170	12,750	15,769
TOTAL	1981-82 1982-83	41,683 38,896	51,749 48,710	62,133 59,380	73,900 71,055	87,001 84,065	99,090	127,004

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 MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON APRIL 1, 1982 AND APRIL 1, 1983

STATE	CROP OF 1981			CROP OF 1982		
	: APR 1 STOCKS:			: APR 1 STOCKS:		
	: PRODUC-	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF	: PRODUC-	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: AS % OF
	: TION	: APR 1, 1982	: PRODUCTION	: TION	: APR 1, 1983	: PRODUCTION
		1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT
CALIF	: 6,919	1,500	22	7,585	1,900	25
COLO	: 11,600	3,100	27	12,600	3,300	26
IDAHO	: 84,540	34,500	41	89,890	34,500	38
MAINE	: 26,520	8,600	32	26,500	7,900	30
MICH	: 7,050	1,200	17	8,085	1,800	22
MINN	: 13,300	3,900	29	11,520	3,400	30
MONT	: 1,739	900	52	1,924	1,220	63
NEBR	: 2,252	700	31	2,147	570	27
N Y	:					
L I	: 5,365	1/120	-	4,995	1/275	-
UPSTATE	: 6,875	650	9	7,020	600	9
N DAK	: 20,125	4,600	23	17,250	4,900	28
OHIO	: 1,890	1/	-	2,328	1/	-
OREG	: 21,710	5,800	27	21,105	6,700	32
PA	: 5,250	1,050	20	5,758	1,150	20
WASH	: 52,920	12,600	24	52,800	13,200	25
WIS	: 18,190	2,650	15	22,575	3,430	15
15 STATE	:					
TOTAL	: 286,245	81,870	29	294,082	84,845	29

1/ OHIO COMBINED WITH LONG ISLAND TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the April 1, 1983 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the April 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1973-82 ten-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years's preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1, 1983 potato stocks estimate is 4.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 84.8 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.4 percent or approximately 3.73 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.5 percent or approximately 6.36 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the April 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.06 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 4.47 and the smallest was 0.24 million hundredweight. The preliminary April 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

(Continued from page 1)

Stocks in the six Central States totaled 14.1 million cwt, 8 percent greater than a year ago and 78 percent above two years ago. Wisconsin stocks at 3.4 million cwt are up 29 percent; Michigan holdings at 1.8 million are up 50 percent. Minnesota potato stocks at 3.4 million cwt are down 13 percent from last year; and North Dakota stocks of 4.9 million cwt are up 7 percent.

The six Western States held an estimated 60.8 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1983, 4 percent more than a year ago and 11 percent more than two years ago. Idaho storages accounting for over two-fifths of the national total, held 34.5 million cwt of potatoes, the same as a year earlier. The movement of frost damaged potatoes from storage cellars to feedlots and field dumps continued last month. A grower survey indicates that of the potatoes in storage on April 1, a potential 2 1/2 percent may not be marketable due to frost damage. Potato shrink also continued to run above normal. Washington stocks of 13.2 million cwt are up 5 percent; while Oregon holdings of 6.7 million cwt are up 16 percent from last year. Colorado stocks are up 6 percent; while California has 27 percent more potatoes stored than last April.

Disappearance to April 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall States totaled 209 million cwt, 2 percent above the same period a year ago. This includes 28.1 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss) compared with 23.5 million cwt a year earlier. Disappearance for the month of March totaled 31.7 million cwt compared with 29.4 million cwt for March 1982.

Potatoes processed to April 1, 1983 in eight major processing States totaled 84.1 million cwt, 3 percent less than in the same period a year earlier. Processing during March totaled 13.0 million cwt compared with 13.1 million cwt for March 1982.

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