

SPECIAL IDAHO POTATO SURVEY  
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1967

January 13, 1967

The Idaho office of the Statistical Reporting Service, United States Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Idaho Potato and Onion Commission, conducted a special survey to determine probable utilization of the 1966 crop of Idaho potatoes. This survey was undertaken because of the heavy losses occurring in storage stocks, largely as a result of the mid-October 1966 freeze that damaged considerable acreage of unharvested potatoes in central and eastern Idaho. Also contributing to the storage losses were immaturity because of the late season (spring frosts occurred as late as June 25 in some areas), and poor storage weather conditions during October and early November. No attempt was made to arrive at separate estimates of losses for southwest Idaho and other counties, nor for losses attributed to frost damage separate from other causes. This survey was conducted as a supplement to the usual procedures employed by the Statistical Reporting Service for determining January 1 total potato stocks in Idaho.

Potatoes, Idaho - 1966 Crop

	<u>Thousand Cwt.</u>
1. <u>Production</u> in Idaho in 1966 .....	66,050
2. <u>Stocks on hand</u> January 1 usable for all purposes, including table stock, food processing, starch, flour, seed, and livestock feed .....	32,000
3. <u>Disappearance</u> for all purposes to January 1, including table stock, food processing, starch, flour and livestock feed plus shrink and loss .....	34,050

It is estimated that 28,500,000 cwt. (89 percent) of the 32,000,000 cwt. total stocks on hand January 1 would be usable for table stock, food processing and seed if disposition of the entire stocks could have occurred on January 1. The 28.5 million cwt. does not include quantities which could be utilized only for starch, flour and livestock feed.

By the time final disposition of the January 1 stocks is completed, it is expected that 26,900,000 cwt. (84 percent) will be used for table stock, food processing and seed. Quantities which are expected to be usable only for starch, flour and livestock feed are not included in this volume.

It is emphasized that the information on quantities of usable potatoes on hand January 1 and expected utilization when marketings are completed are based on respondents' evaluations of the condition of their own stocks and market conditions about January 1 and expected changes during the remainder of the storage season. Final utilization of the January 1 stocks may differ from these estimates because of changes in the condition of the potatoes in storage and other factors.

Percentage breakdown of the 34,050,000 cwt. disappearance to January 1 is as follows:

	<u>Percent</u>
a. For table stock .....	13.5
b. For food processing .....	40.0
c. Starch and flour .....	4.0
d. Livestock feed and other uses ..	9.0
e. Shrinkage, decay and waste .....	<u>33.5</u>
TOTAL	100.0

There are no comparable data for these items for previous years, but for shrinkage, decay and waste, the loss to January 1 usually ranges from 3 to 4 percent of total production and 8 to 10 percent of the disappearance to January 1. Shrinkage and waste (not usable for any purpose) from the 1966 Idaho crop after January 1, 1967 is expected to be much above the normal shrinkage of 1.5 to 2.5 percent of the total production or 2.2 to 3.5 percent of the January 1 stocks.

A random sample of about 250 growers, shippers and processors was covered in this special survey. Personal interviews were conducted about January 1. The reported holdings covered in the survey totaled about 66 percent of the estimated total stocks on hand January 1, for the State. Information obtained relates to: (1) uses of potatoes to January 1, (2) losses of potatoes for all reasons to January 1, (3) total stocks on hand January 1, (usable for all purposes), (4) stocks on hand January 1 usable for table stock, food processing and seed if moved on January 1, and (5) expected quantity from January 1 stocks usable for table stock, food processing and seed when actually moved.

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