

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS AS OF JANUARY 1, 1939
WITH COMPARISONS

Reports from potato growers, dealers and buyers in the 37 late and intermediate States to the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, indicate that merchantable potatoes available for sale, on hand January 1, 1939, totaled 100,806,000 bushels. This total is 11 percent smaller than the 113,155,000 bushels on hand January 1, 1938, and 4 percent smaller than the 5-year (1933-37) average stocks of 105,369,000 bushels.

January 1 stocks in the 18 surplus late States are estimated to have been 92,845,000 bushels, compared with 105,508,000 bushels a year earlier; in the 12 other late States, 5,911,000 bushels compared with 5,649,000 bushels last year; and in the 7 intermediate States, 2,050,000 bushels, compared with 1,998,000 bushels on hand January 1, 1938.

The 1938 growing season in the 37 late and intermediate States, was, for the most part, favorable for the production of potatoes. Although yields were above average for these States as a group, the crop in some sections received severe setbacks during the latter part of the growing season. Attacks of late blight in the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin reduced yields and have caused considerable loss in storage. In Idaho, many undug potatoes were frozen by low temperatures at harvest time. Psyllid damage in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado resulted in a heavy acreage abandonment and sharply lower yields. With the exception of those areas, the crop in most sections was characterized by better-than-average yields. For the 37 late and intermediate States as a whole, yields in 1938 averaged 128.4 bushels per acre, compared with 130.8 bushels in 1937, and the 1927-36 average of 114.6 bushels per acre.

An analysis of utilization of the 1938 crop indicates that sound and cull potatoes fed to livestock, and those lost through shrinkage, decay and culling prior to January 1, 1939, totaled 28,348,000 bushels, or 3.5 percent of the production in the 37 late and intermediate States. Last year, 26,239,000 bushels, or 7.6 percent of production, were accounted for this way.

Fewer potatoes were used for livestock feed prior to January 1 this year than last. To January 1, growers indicated that 10,780,000 bushels of sound and cull potatoes, or 3.2 percent of production, had been fed. A year ago, 14,225,000 bushels, or 4.0 percent of production, had been fed. Potatoes saved for consumption in the farm household totaled 53,670,000 bushels compared with 52,821,000 bushels last year. The quantity saved for seed on the farms where grown totaled 29,478,000 bushels this year compared with 31,705,000 bushels last season. Growers report that of the total seed for planting this spring, 67.6 percent will be home grown seed. Last year, growers indicated that 70.2 percent of the total seed to be planted would be home grown.

Sales to January 1, 1939, in the 37 late and intermediate States are estimated to have been 119,697,000 bushels, compared with 131,383,000 bushels the year before and the 1933-37 average of 124,499,000 bushels. Rail shipments to January 1 totaled 81,530 cars compared with 98,161 cars a year earlier. Shipments by truck have increased this season over a year ago. This is especially true in Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado and Washington. Growers, on the other hand, have indicated that movement of potatoes by truck has decreased in New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Idaho, and Oregon. For the 37 late and intermediate States as a whole, the increase in truck movement over a year ago is indicated to be 2.6 percent.

POTATOES: PRODUCTION, AVAILABLE FOR SALE, AND MERCHANTABLE STOCKS ON HAND
JANUARY 1 IN 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES, CROPS OF 1929 TO 1938

Crop of:	Production	Available for Sale	January 1 Stocks	
	37 States	37 States	Date	1,000 bushels
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		
1929	304,194	200,289	Jan. 1, 1930	82,957
1930	309,191	201,342	Jan. 1, 1931	88,338
1931	344,723	227,340	Jan. 1, 1932	108,164
1932	348,148	220,802	Jan. 1, 1933	109,313
1933	313,749	210,936	Jan. 1, 1934	98,404
1934	369,454	248,132	Jan. 1, 1935	123,739
1935	352,581	232,453	Jan. 1, 1936	106,127
1936	305,888	213,278	Jan. 1, 1937	85,418
1937	356,003	244,538	Jan. 1, 1938	113,155
1938	331,999	220,503	Jan. 1, 1939	100,806

POTATOES: ESTIMATED MERCHANTABLE STOCKS HELD BY GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS AND BUYERS, ON JANUARY 1, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939, IN 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

STATE and GROUP	Stocks as percent of potatoes sold or available for sale				Merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers and buyers *			
	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1939	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1939
	Crop of 1935	Crop of 1936	Crop of 1937	Crop of 1938	Crop of 1935	Crop of 1936	Crop of 1937	Crop of 1938
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Thousand Bus.	Thousand Bus.	Thousand Bus.	Thousand Bus.
<u>SURPLUS LATE STATES:</u>								
Maine.....	67	65	66	68	20,923	24,903	26,535	22,300
New York.....	42	40	43	46	8,107	7,483	8,598	7,978
Pennsylvania.....	42	32	42	46	7,042	5,536	7,002	6,017
Michigan.....	59	52	63	59	9,860	8,517	11,498	11,684
Wisconsin.....	57	47	57	53	6,816	5,156	5,602	5,121
Minnesota.....	57	65	54	59	9,912	3,661	7,603	6,904
North Dakota.....	50	56	49	45	4,198	2,085	3,897	2,853
South Dakota.....	35	19	32	31	594	45	182	196
Nebraska.....	52	52	46	56	3,700	1,717	2,500	2,300
Montana.....	57	32	67	61	454	255	601	430
Idaho.....	51	42	59	55	9,447	7,753	14,408	12,500
Wyoming.....	62	57	48	32	1,112	524	751	98
Colorado.....	60	40	50	45	8,508	5,911	5,800	4,028
Utah.....	47	21	38	40	735	296	598	705
Nevada.....	50	45	73	70	156	110	192	179
Washington.....	40	40	50	49	2,354	2,393	3,853	2,822
Oregon.....	50	49	61	62	2,006	2,691	3,488	3,400
California.....	14	12	17	21	1,438	1,407	2,700	3,330
18 SURPLUS LATE	51.8	46.1	52.2	52.4	97,362	80,443	105,608	92,845
<u>OTHER LATE STATES:</u>								
New Hampshire....	60	35	56	53	325	379	511	398
Vermont.....	59	33	56	60	598	475	661	570
Massachusetts....	30	20	26	19	350	375	429	262
Rhode Island.....	25	25	25	25	148	152	172	130
Connecticut.....	34	17	32	34	615	393	749	570
West Virginia....	29	21	30	30	290	103	361	220
OHIO.....	34	20	29	30	3,020	1,688	1,248	2,058
Indiana.....	46	22	46	44	964	385	922	820
Illinois.....	30	11	39	38	328	63	198	352
Iowa.....	24	6	26	27	587	77	298	360
New Mexico.....	15	12	22	21	44	41	70	97
Arizona.....	23	7	26	33	25	10	30	74
12 OTHER LATE	34.7	20.4	34.4	33.5	7,294	4,141	5,649	5,911
<u>INTERMEDIATE STATES:</u>								
New Jersey.....	7	4	7	7	552	324	671	658
Delaware.....	20	18	27	29	64	43	71	56
Maryland.....	9	9	12	12	191	171	279	250
Virginia.....	1	2	2	2	86	109	132	160
Kentucky.....	18	7	26	23	202	40	403	417
Missouri.....	13	8	15	12	266	83	301	284
Kansas.....	8	5	9	10	110	64	141	225
7 INTERMEDIATE	6.3	4.5	7.7	7.9	1,471	834	1,998	2,050
30 LATE STATES	50.1	43.4	50.8	50.7	104,656	84,584	111,157	98,756
37 LATE and INTERMEDIATE	45.7	40.1	46.3	45.7	106,127	85,418	113,155	100,806

* Includes potatoes for sale to starch factories after January 1. The January 1, 1938 stocks also include merchantable potatoes which were diverted from normal market channels under government diversion programs.

POTATOES: ESTIMATED UTILIZATION OF THE 1938 CROP
IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

(All quantities shown in thousand bushels, i.e. 000 omitted)

STATE and GROUP	Estimated total production	Unfit for food or seed*	Saved for food on farms where grown	Saved for seed in locality where grown	Balance of crop** (sold or for sale)	
					Quantity	Percent of Crop
SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:						
Maine.....	39,600	3,366	1,023	2,598	32,613	82
New York.....	26,840	2,684	4,070	2,920	17,166	64
Pennsylvania.....	22,002	2,200	4,340	2,445	13,017	59
Michigan.....	30,000	2,700	4,392	3,157	19,751	66
Wisconsin.....	19,080	3,244	3,750	2,365	9,721	51
Minnesota.....	20,700	1,242	4,620	3,054	11,784	57
North Dakota.....	9,750	585	1,110	1,702	6,353	65
South Dakota.....	1,624	81	594	311	638	39
Nebraska.....	6,240	250	1,340	554	4,096	66
Montana.....	1,620	130	538	250	702	43
Idaho.....	28,750	3,738	564	1,683	22,765	81
Wyoming.....	1,080	130	470	173	307	28
Colorado.....	11,830	1,183	358	1,366	8,923	75
Utah.....	2,244	157	227	101	1,759	78
Nevada.....	336	24	27	31	254	76
Washington.....	7,568	605	728	488	5,747	76
Oregon.....	7,310	585	608	649	5,468	75
California.....	18,720	1,310	180	1,219	16,011	86
18 SURPLUS LATE	255,294	24,214	28,939	25,066	177,075	69.4
OTHER LATE STATES:						
New Hampshire.....	1,296	104	384	59	749	58
Vermont.....	1,884	151	601	187	945	50
Massachusetts.....	2,041	143	454	64	1,380	68
Rhode Island.....	624	37	62	11	514	82
Connecticut.....	2,310	185	403	30	1,692	73
West Virginia.....	2,720	190	1,500	296	734	27
OHIO.....	12,626	631	4,216	1,002	6,777	54
Indiana.....	4,940	296	2,314	473	1,857	38
Illinois.....	3,822	229	2,332	324	937	25
Iowa.....	5,684	341	3,600	389	1,354	24
New Mexico.....	560	17	38	38	467	83
Arizona.....	275	14	12	25	224	81
12 OTHER LATE	38,782	2,338	15,916	2,898	17,630	45.5
INTERMEDIATE STATES:						
New Jersey.....	10,530	316	400	414	9,400	89
Delaware.....	368	18	136	18	196	53
Maryland.....	2,990	120	602	218	2,050	69
Virginia.....	10,349	414	1,767	354	7,814	76
Kentucky.....	4,635	417	2,080	340	1,798	39
Missouri.....	5,832	350	3,080	118	2,284	39
Kansas.....	3,219	161	750	52	2,256	70
7 INTERMEDIATE	37,923	1,796	8,815	1,514	25,798	68.0
30 LATE STATES	294,076	26,552	44,355	27,964	194,705	66.2
37 LATE and INTERMEDIATE	331,999	28,348	53,670	29,478	220,503	66.4

* Includes potatoes fed to livestock to January 1 and lost through shrinkage, decay, dumping, or culling.

** Includes potatoes sold to starch factories.