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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS UNUSUALLY LARGE ON FEBRUARY 1 1/

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers in or near areas of production were unusually large on February 1, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics announced today. Combined grower and dealer holdings of 118,800,000 bushels were 13 percent larger than the 105,420,000 bushels held a year earlier, and only 2 percent below the record holdings of February 1, 1947. Potatoes held for use as food, seed or livestock feed on farms where grown and those purchased by the Government under the price support program but released to the grower for livestock feed are not included in these merchantable stocks estimates.

Estimates of February 1 stocks are based primarily on the published estimates of January 1 stocks and estimated marketings in January. In estimating January marketings, consideration was given quantities purchased by the Government under the price support program, carlot movement, truck shipments, local sales including deliveries to processing plants, and shrinkage and waste during January.

For the surplus late States in the East (Maine, N. Y., and Pa.), February 1 stocks were 26 percent larger than holdings of a year earlier and 9 percent above the record February 1 stocks held by growers and local dealers three years ago. In the 5 central surplus late States (Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak.) February 1, 1950 stocks were 17 percent larger than a year earlier, but 6 percent below February 1, 1947, holdings. In the West, February 1 stocks were 9 percent below those of a year earlier with most of this difference accounted for by reduced holdings in Idaho. Compared with February 1, 1947, holdings this year in the 10 surplus late States of the West were down 14 percent.

Below-zero weather delayed movement in January from some areas, especially the Red River Valley. For the 37 late and intermediate potato States, disappearance during the past month is estimated at 26,640,000 bushels, compared with marketings of 30,460,000 bushels in January 1949. Included in these quantities are Government purchases of slightly more than 5.8 million bushels in January 1950 and nearly 9 million bushels in the first month of 1949. Total shipments of old-crop potatoes in carlot quantities by rail and boat during the past month, including Government purchases moved in this manner, are estimated at 12,854,000 bushels, or 48 percent of total marketings. In January 1949, 15,993,000 bushels or 53 percent of the quantity marketed moved in this manner.

1/ This special report of merchantable potato stocks is made possible under funds provided by the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

POTATOES (IRISH): SEASON SALES AND MERCHANTABLE STOCKS HELD BY GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS JANUARY 1 AND FEBRUARY 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES - CROPS OF 1947, 1948 AND 1949

GROUP AND STATE	Quantity of potatoes sold		Quantity of potatoes sold		Merchantable stocks held by growers and local dealers	
	From	To	From	To	January 1	February 1
	crop of 1947	crop of 1948	crop of 1948	of 1949	1949	1948
					1950	1949
					1950	1950
<u>Thousand bushels</u>						
SURPLUS LATE STATES:						
Maine	59,339	68,044	43,850	41,440	50,170	36,610
N. Y.	28,830	33,628	7,920	9,000	10,800	5,680
Pa.	13,985	15,688	6,450	7,060	8,080	4,390
Mich.	6,618	11,161	4,430	6,470	7,400	3,840
Wis.	5,497	8,448	2,000	2,700	2,880	1,510
Minn.	11,786	13,202	8,370	7,790	8,440	7,030
N. Dak.	16,420	16,447	9,620	8,900	9,290	7,630
S. Dak.	1,153	1,832	690	980	460	810
Nebr.	6,268	8,226	3,150	4,240	4,200	3,360
Mont.	1,285	1,745	770	1,340	1,100	1,180
Idaho	24,879	39,852	12,000	20,720	16,720	15,600
Wyo.	1,748	1,752	1,100	1,090	1,110	920
Colo.	15,706	18,308	6,500	6,660	6,830	4,820
Utah	2,087	2,624	770	1,190	1,280	1,030
Nev.	404	275	240	180	180	150
Wash.	8,886	11,274	920	2,250	1,910	1,550
Oreg.	7,912	10,920	3,000	3,940	4,200	3,050
Calif. (Late)	11,106	13,918	1,890	2,860	3,020	1,960
TOTAL 18						
SURPLUS LATE	223,909	277,344	113,670	128,810	138,079	100,850
TOTAL 11						
OTHER LATE	15,711	17,543	6,080	6,270	6,710	4,170
TOTAL 8						
INTERMEDIATE AND INTER-	25,193	27,408	920	800	660	400
TOTAL 37 LATE						
AND INTER-						
MEDIATE STATES	264,813	322,295	120,670	135,880	145,440	92,180
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OTHER LATE	15,711	17,543	6,080	6,270	6,710	4,170
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