

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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MARCH 1 MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS
WITH COMPARISONS

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers in or near areas of production on March 1, 1946 are placed at 60,140,000 bushels. These stocks are 17 percent greater than the 51,490,000 bushels held March 1, 1945 but 20 percent below March 1, 1944 stocks of 74,980,000 bushels. These stocks consist of potatoes that will be marketed for food, seed and processing from March 1 to the end of the season. However, potatoes held on farms for home consumption and for planting on producers' own farms, together with an allowance for expected shrinkage and waste after March 1, are excluded from these estimates.

Sixty-four percent of the March 1, 1946 stocks were in the four States of Maine, North Dakota, Minnesota and Idaho. In Maine, stocks are below those of each of the past two years and indications point to a rather close utilization of the crop. However, stocks in the Red River Valley States of North Dakota and Minnesota are 80 percent greater than those of March 1, 1945 and 13 percent larger than the quantity held March 1, 1944. In these States, shortage of cars and heavy snows retarded marketings in January and February. With abnormally large stocks remaining in these States, growers fear deterioration after March 1 will be much heavier than usual. In Idaho, March 1, 1946 stocks are greater than holdings on the corresponding date of 1945 and 1944.

In the 37 late and intermediate States, marketings from the beginning of the season to March 1 are estimated at 213,254,000 bushels, compared with 192,038,000 bushels to March 1, 1945 and marketings of 212,536,000 bushels prior to March 1, 1944. Rail and boat shipments from the beginning of the season to March 1, 1946 account for 126,731,000 bushels, or 59 percent of total marketings to that date. In 1945 the movement by rail and boat to March 1 was also 59 percent of the total, or 113,364,000 bushels. Shipments by rail and boat amounted to 122,746,000 bushels prior to March 1, 1944, or 58 percent of total marketings.

During January and February 1946, marketings in the 37 late and intermediate States are estimated at 58,940,000 bushels - a quantity 13 percent greater than the 52,390,000 bushels marketed during the first two months of 1945, but nearly as much as the 59,040,000 bushels marketed in January and February of 1944. Shipments by rail and boat in January and February of this year accounted for 37,525,000 bushels, or 64 percent of total marketings during these two months. The 31,270,000 bushels moving by rail and boat in January and February of 1945 were 60 percent of marketings, while rail and boat shipments in the corresponding months of 1944 were 36,440,000 bushels, or 62 percent of total marketings.

POTATOES (IRISH): SEASON SALES AND MERCHANTABLE STOCKS IN HANDS OF GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES - CROPS OF 1943, 1944 AND 1945

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	March 1	
	1943	1944	1944	1945	1944	1945	1946
SURPLUS LATE STATES:							
Maine	60,052	46,776	35,200	29,800	20,400	17,800	17,200
N.Y.	22,765	20,172	8,600	7,100	4,900	3,800	2,200
Pa.	12,197	13,156	6,300	6,350	3,700	2,800	1,400
Mich.	13,836	11,999	8,500	6,250	6,000	3,650	3,500
Wis.	9,067	5,722	4,260	2,060	2,700	1,200	1,700
Minn.	14,310	8,339	8,590	4,600	5,000	2,300	5,000
N.Dak.	17,105	15,413	10,300	7,550	5,700	4,400	7,100
S.Dak.	1,941	1,383	960	600	600	270	320
Nebr.	8,785	6,628	4,800	3,050	2,500	500	1,800
Mont.	1,439	1,699	820	900	600	400	270
Idaho	35,532	34,117	18,500	14,600	8,500	6,350	9,350
Wyo.	1,886	1,904	1,160	1,010	550	240	700
Colo.	15,369	17,154	6,500	6,300	3,500	2,600	3,000
Utah	2,544	2,351	1,300	990	800	460	800
Nev.	499	470	320	260	130	80	200
Wash.	10,207	7,886	3,220	1,500	1,750	550	850
Oreg.	8,706	8,444	4,500	3,100	2,350	1,300	1,600
Calif. (Late)	10,546	10,430	2,580	1,980	1,000	400	500
TOTAL 18	246,786	214,043	126,410	98,000	70,680	49,100	57,490
TOTAL 12							
OTHER LATE	18,751	15,042	6,560	5,220	3,800	2,150	2,300
TOTAL 7	21,979	14,443	1,050	660	500	240	350
INTERMEDIATE AND INTER-MEDIATE STATES:							
TOTAL 37 LATE	287,516	243,528	134,020	103,880	74,980	51,490	60,140
I/ Revised							