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FIELD CROPS



POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS

January 2001

2001 WINTER POTATO PRODUCTION

FLORIDA: Heavy rains during early December in the Homestead area drowned the winter potato acreage with acreage on drier land developing discolored potatoes which are not gaining proper size. Very cold temperatures in other regions during the first week of the new year froze the top half of some plants with actual damages currently being assessed. Winter potato production is estimated at 1.1 million hundredweight, down 50 percent from 2000. Planted acreage is set at 7,800 acres versus 8,200 acres planted last year. Acreage for harvest at 5,000 acres is down 3,000 acres from last year and indicates 2,300 acres or 36 percent abandoned due mainly to the heavy December rain in Dade County. The yield per acre is expected to average 210 hundredweight per acre compared with 260 a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Production of winter potatoes in 2001 is forecast at 3.75 million cwt, down 24 percent from 2000 and 8 percent below

1999. Area for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, down 18 percent from a year ago. The average yield is forecast at 268 cwt per acre, 24 cwt below last year. In California, winter production this year is expected to be 6 percent below a year ago. Acreage remains the same but the average yield is expected to be down 20 cwt per acre from last winter season.

U.S. SPRING POTATOES: Revised spring potato production, at 21.9 million cwt in 2000, was down 13 percent on a comparable basis from a year earlier but 4 percent above 1998. Final production was down 3 percent from the May 1 forecast. Harvested area totaled 75,600 acres down 10 percent from comparable estimates in 1999 while the average yield of 290 cwt per acre decreased 10 cwt from last year.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2000	Indicated 2001	1999	2000	Indicated 2001
	2000	Indicated 2001	2000	Indicated 2001					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	320	300	2,210	2,880	2,700
Florida	8.2	7.8	8.0	5.0	260	210	1,860	2,080	1,050
Total	17.2	16.8	17.0	14.0	292	268	4,070	4,960	3,750
Spring ^{1/}									
Alabama ^{2/}							280		
Arizona	9.0		9.0		280		3,024	2,520	
California	18.8		18.8		395		7,600	7,426	
Florida	22.3		21.5		295		8,820	6,343	
Hastings	17.2		16.5		295		6,930	4,868	
Other	5.1		5.0		295		1,890	1,475	
North Carolina ^{3/}	17.5		17.0		200		3,300	3,400	
Texas	9.8		9.3		240		2,303	2,232	
Total	77.4		75.6		290		25,327	21,921	

^{1/} 2000 Revised. ^{2/} Spring estimates included with summer starting in 2000. ^{3/} Summer estimates included with spring starting in 2000.

POTATO STOCKS RECORD HIGH, UP 14 PERCENT

January 1, 2001 **potato stocks** totaled a record high 273 million cwt, up 14 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set in January 1997. Potatoes in storage accounted for 59 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from a year ago. Stocks by type were 2 percent reds, 8 percent round whites, 4 percent long white, and 86 percent russets, with more russets but fewer reds and round whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1, at 189 million cwt, was record high. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. December disappearance of 36.6 million cwt was also record high for the month. Shrink and loss to this point in the season was 22.5 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled a record high 97.1 million cwt to January 1, up 5 percent from the 1999 crop and 2 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season for comparable States. In December, processors claimed a record high 18.5 million cwt of potatoes, up 11 percent from a year ago and 8 percent above the previous high in December 1995 for comparable States.

Eastern States stored 15.5 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 2001, down 9 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 4 percent and Pennsylvania's stocks were off 27 percent from last year. New York's storage was down 24 percent from a year ago.

Central States accounted for 57.4 million cwt of potato stocks this January 1, 10 percent above 2000 but 1 percent below 1999. Minnesota's stocks were up 44 percent and Nebraska's were up 27 percent. Stocks in North Dakota and Ohio were up 14 percent and 11 percent, respectively, from last year. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 11 percent from a year ago and Michigan dropped 3 percent from last year.

Western States held 200 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 2001, up 17 percent from last year and 16 percent above 1999. Washington's potato stocks were up 32 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks were up 16 percent, and Oregon's were up 12 percent. Colorado was up 2 percent and Montana gained 5 percent. California's potato stocks were down 22 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 1997-2000 ^{1/}

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1 ^{2/}	Entire season
1,000 cwt									
Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon	1997	26,880	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750		91,450
	1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	76,410	92,860
	1999	27,970	34,490	40,790	49,220	57,820	66,080	74,110	88,210
	2000	29,290	35,720						
Maine ^{3/}	1997	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900		5,870
	1998	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
	1999	1,270	1,700	2,385	3,070	3,765	4,560	5,150	6,670
	2000	1,845	2,475						
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	1997	28,580	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780		76,930
	1998	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
	1999	33,320	39,620	45,500	53,350	61,080	67,230	74,840	83,210
	2000	34,770	40,970						
Other States ^{4/}	1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
	1998	11,570	14,465	18,030	20,850	24,850	28,190	31,365	39,865
	1999	12,455	15,035	17,950	20,855	24,305	27,220	30,410	36,435
	2000	12,650	17,890						
Total	1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
	1998	74,140	89,990	108,880	128,335	149,415	168,100	186,670	222,400
	1999	75,015	90,845	106,625	126,495	146,970	165,090	184,510	214,525
	2000	78,555	97,055						

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Data not available prior to 1998. ^{3/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{4/} MN, ND, NV, SD, and WI in 2000. MI, MN, ND, and WI in 1997-1999.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2000-2001

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000			January as percent of production
	Production	Stocks Jan 1, 2000	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2000	Stocks Jan 1, 2001	
	1,000 cwt		Percent	1,000 cwt		Percent	
California	4,005	2,700	67	3,741	2,700	2,100	56
Colorado	25,762	17,300	67	27,972	20,300	17,700	63
Idaho	133,330	86,000	65	152,320	110,500	100,000	66
Maine	17,813	13,000	73	17,920	14,100	12,500	70
Michigan	14,963	7,100	47	14,963	8,700	6,900	46
Minnesota	18,020	9,000	50	21,240	14,200	13,000	61
Montana	3,325	3,100	93	3,503	3,350	3,250	93
Nebraska	8,904	4,320	49	10,127	6,450	5,500	54
New York	6,758	2,500	37	5,964	2,700	1,900	32
North Dakota	26,400	13,800	52	26,950	18,500	15,800	59
Ohio	987	190	19	1,134	320	210	19
Oregon	28,020	20,500	73	30,683	25,000	23,000	75
Pennsylvania	3,080	1,500	49	3,510	1,700	1,100	31
Washington	95,200	41,000	43	108,000	61,000	54,000	50
Wisconsin	34,000	17,900	53	33,800	20,000	16,000	47
Total 15 States	420,567	239,910	57	461,827	309,520	272,960	59