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FIELD CROPS

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

April 16, 2003

FLORIDA

SPRING: Mostly warm temperatures aided crop development during February and March. Frequent rains during March caused some rotting in a few fields with most acreage well-drained. Production is forecast at 7,817,000 hundredweight, down about one percent from the 7,883,000 hundredweight dug a year ago. Growers expect to harvest 27,300 acres this spring, up 1,000 acres from the amount dug in 2002. Yield is expected to average 286 hundredweight per acre, down 14 hundredweight from the 2002 yield of 300 hundredweight per acre. Hastings growers plan to dig 19,000 acres, equal to the acreage harvested last year. The Hastings yield is expected to average 300 hundredweight per acre, down 15 hundredweight from the 2001 yield of 315 hundredweight per acre. Hastings production is set at 5,700,000 hundredweight, down five percent from last year. Spring crop production from other areas is forecast at 2,117,000 hundredweight, up eleven percent from the spring 2002 production of 1,898,000 hundredweight.

WINTER: Frequent rainfall during March lowered the quality of some crops. Production totaled 1,363,000 hundredweight, down 23 percent from the 2002 production of 1,776,000 hundredweight. Growers harvested 5,800 acres compared with 6,700 acres dug last year. Yield averaged 235 hundredweight per acre, down 30 hundredweight from the 2002 crop yield.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production in 2003 is forecast at 23.7 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 83,800

acres, down 3 percent from 2002. The average yield is forecast at 282 cwt per acre, up 11 cwt from a year ago. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.81 million cwt, down 21 percent from last year. Wet soils have delayed planting with about 78 percent of the crop in the ground as of April 6 compared with a 5 year average of 96 percent. Area for harvest is expected to be down 19 percent from a year ago, with yields falling an average of 5 cwt per acre. Some of the early planted fields have emerged. Texas producers report near perfect weather so far this season. Spring potato production is forecast at 3.00 million cwt, up 47 percent from last season. Acreage for harvest has increased 4 percent and the average yield is expected to gain 70 cwt per acre. Arizona growers report a 3 percent increase in acreage for harvest and expect a 10 cwt per acre yield increase over last year. Production is forecast at 2.24 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year. California's spring production forecast, at 7.79 million cwt, is 1 percent above last year. Yield is forecast at 410 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from a year ago.

WINTER POTATOES: Production of 2003 winter potatoes in California and Florida combined for an estimated 4.15 million cwt, the same as the January forecast but 1 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 14,800 acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 281 cwt per acre, is up 13 cwt from a year ago. Since the January forecast, a 15 percent gain in California's yield per acre was offset by fewer acres for harvest and lower yields in Florida. California winter harvest has made normal progress with no setbacks from weather or pests.

POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
	2002	2003	2002	2003					
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	270	310	2,790	2,430	2,790
Florida	6.8	6.0	6.7	5.8	265	235	1,325	1,776	1,363
Total	15.8	15.0	15.7	14.8	268	281	4,115	4,206	4,153
Spring									
Arizona	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	270	280	2,214	2,106	2,240
California	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	405	410	6,045	7,695	7,790
Florida	27.0	28.0	26.3	27.3	300	286	7,970	7,883	7,817
Hastings	19.5	19.5	19.0	19.0	315	300	5,940	5,985	5,700
Other	7.5	8.5	7.3	8.3	260	255	2,030	1,898	2,117
North Carolina	21.5	18.0	21.0	17.0	170	165	3,515	3,570	2,805
Texas	12.5	13.0	12.0	12.5	170	240	2,070	2,040	3,000
Total	87.8	86.0	86.1	83.8	271	282	21,814	23,294	23,652

APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 4 PERCENT

The 15 major potato storage States held 125 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 2003, up 4 percent from last year but 19 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 30 percent of the 2002 fall storage State's production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 286 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to April 1, is up 7 percent from the same period last year but 6 percent below two years ago. March disappearance was 38.9 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year ago but 12 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 23.9 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year but 28 percent below two years ago.

Processers used 145 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below two years ago. March usage of 18.2 million cwt is 6 percent above last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 31.9 million cwt to date.

Western States held 93.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 7 percent from last year but 21 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 30 percent. Washington's potato stocks are 2 percent above last year but Oregon's storage is down 12 percent. California's stocks are double last year and Montana's are up 1 percent.

Central States account for 24.2 million cwt of potato stocks this April 1, down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks dropped 33 percent. Wisconsin's stocks are down 7 percent from a year earlier, but Minnesota's stocks are the same as last year. Potatoes stored in Michigan are up 87 percent from last year, while stocks in Nebraska and Ohio together are up 42 percent.

Eastern States stored 6.95 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 18 percent from last year but 5 percent below the 2000 crop. Maine's stocks are up 19 percent from last year, Pennsylvania's gained 17 percent, but New York's are unchanged from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2000-2002 ^{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	Entire season
1,000 cwt									
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2000	29,290	35,720	43,470	50,580	58,910	66,760	75,270	93,460
	2001	20,940	27,330	33,620	40,860	47,710	54,150	61,200	73,390
	2002	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240			
Maine ^{2/}	2000	1,845	2,475	3,105	3,695	4,225	4,760	5,340	7,015
	2001	1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
	2002	2,275	2,720	3,300	3,855	4,485			
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2000	34,770	40,970	47,720	55,250	62,860	69,850	78,010	91,130
	2001	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
	2002 ^{3/}	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710			
Other States ^{4/}	2000	12,665	16,215	18,975	22,095	25,410	28,695	31,765	39,020
	2001	13,270	15,325	19,060	22,255	24,865	28,095	30,810	36,300
	2002	13,275	15,720	18,960	22,115	25,205			
Total	2000	78,570	95,380	113,270	131,620	151,405	170,065	190,385	230,625
	2001	65,505	80,405	96,330	114,725	131,830	148,380	166,925	194,065
	2002	77,610	92,790	107,650	126,490	144,640			
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2000 ^{6/}								51,946
	2001 ^{6/}								38,581
	2002	15,660	19,655	23,690	27,950	31,915			

^{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, CO, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{3/} February revised. ^{4/} MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2000 and 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002. ^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI. ^{6/} No monthly data available.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1993 through 2002

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
1,000 Cwt								
1993	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860	
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600	
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870	
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	410,912	265,890	232,140	197,470	163,900	125,030		

^{1/} Data not available prior to 1998.