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FIELD CROPS

FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE



POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

May 16, 2003

FLORIDA

SPRING: Potato production to be harvested during the spring is forecast at 6,825,000 hundredweight, down about thirteen percent from both the April forecast and a year ago. Hastings producers hope to dig 19,000 acres this spring, equal to the acreage dug in 2002. The 2003 spring crop yield for Hastings is expected to average 250 hundredweight per acre, down 50 hundredweight from the April estimate and down twenty-one percent from the 315 hundredweight per acre averaged last year. Producers in other areas expect to dig 2,075,000 hundredweight from 8,300 acres, down 42,000 hundredweight from the April estimate, but up 177,000 hundredweight or nine percent from 2002. Digging in the Hastings area started in late April with several growers beginning in early May, about two to three weeks later than usual. Early yields are reportedly down due to abundant rainfall during planting which rotted some seed in the field. However, producers report that later yields are near their usual average.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production in 2003 is forecast at 22.3 million cwt, down 6 percent from the April forecast and 4 percent below last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 82,900 acres, down 1 percent from the April estimate and 4 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 269 cwt per acre, down 13 cwt from last month and 2 cwt below a year ago. Spring rains delayed planting and early growth in North Carolina resulting in lower yield potential. North Carolina's potato crop forecast at 2.81 million cwt, is unchanged from last month. Harvest will start about two weeks late due to the wet spring. Texas spring production is forecast at 3.00 million cwt, the same as last month. Harvest is underway in early areas and just beginning in the Winter Garden area. May acreage estimates for both Arizona and California are less than the April estimates. Arizona growers now report 7,600 acres for harvest, down 5 percent from last month, contributing to a production forecast of 2.09 million cwt, down 7 percent from the April forecast. Production in California is forecast at 7.59 million cwt, down 3 percent from last month with acreage also down 3 percent for the same period. Growers in the Kern County area expect to start harvesting ahead of normal.

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		
Spring									
Arizona	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.6	270	275	2,214	2,106	2,090
California	19.0	18.5	19.0	18.5	405	410	6,045	7,695	7,585
Florida	27.0	28.0	26.3	27.3	300	250	7,970	7,883	6,825
Hastings	19.5	19.5	19.0	19.0	315	250	5,940	5,985	4,750
Other	7.5	8.5	7.3	8.3	260	250	2,030	1,898	2,075
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	85.1	86.1	82.9	271	269	21,814	23,294	22,305

MAY POTATO STOCKS UP 2 PERCENT

The 15 major potato storage States held 83.2 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 2003, up 2 percent from last year but 24 percent below 2001. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2002 fall storage State's production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance, at 328 million cwt, from the start of harvest in 2002 to May 1, is up 7 percent from the same period last year but 6 percent below two years ago. April disappearance was 41.9 million cwt, up 8 percent from a year ago but 6 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.8 million cwt, is up 3 percent from last year but 28 percent below two years ago.

Processors used 161 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 9 percent from a year ago but 5 percent below two years ago. April usage of 16.5 million cwt is virtually the same as last year but 11 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 36.1 million cwt to date.

Western States held 65.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, up 4 percent from last year but 26 percent below two years ago. Potato stocks in Idaho and Colorado are both up 6 percent from last year. Washington's potato stocks are 8 percent above last year but Oregon's storage is down 26 percent. California's stocks are up nearly four fold from last year, while Montana's are down 11 percent.

Central States account for 14.0 million cwt of potato stocks this May 1, down 7 percent from last year and 20 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks dropped 32 percent from last year, Wisconsin's stocks are down 3 percent, but Minnesota's stocks are up 5 percent from last year. Potatoes stored in Michigan are up 125 percent from last year, while stocks in Nebraska and Ohio together are more than double.

Eastern States stored 4.18 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, up 20 percent from last year but 2 percent below the 2000 crop. Maine's stocks are up 15 percent from last year. Pennsylvania and New York are included in the "Other States" total.

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	63,840		
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	5,205		
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	64,300		
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	27,835		
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	161,180		
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2000 ^{6/}								51,946
	2001 ^{6/}								38,581
	2002	15,660	19,655	23,690	27,950	31,915	36,075		

^{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	83,180	

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