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# FIELD CROPS

## POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS

January 20, 2004

### 2004 WINTER POTATO PRODUCTION

**FLORIDA:** Dry weather returned during **October**. However, frequent rains in the Homestead area during the month reduced the effectiveness of pesticides, thus increasing insect populations. Dry conditions continued during most of **November** and **December** prompting producers to irrigate in drier areas of the central and southern Peninsula. Temperatures remained warm during the first half of November but dipped to freezing levels in many northern and central Peninsula, and Panhandle localities beginning in late November and continuing through most of December. Potato field preparations continued around Hastings during the month with planting active by the end. Heavy rains in some central and southern Peninsula localities near mid-month slowed planting. In late December, light frosts and freezes occurred in some central and southern Peninsula localities. The cooler temperatures slowed crop development. The lack of contracts in the Hastings area delayed some planting in early January. Most digging is expected to start in early to mid-February. Winter crop acreage for harvest is placed at 5,500, down 300 acres from last winter. Yield is expected to average 250 hundredweight per acre, up 10 hundredweight from the winter 2002 crop yield. Production calculates to

1,375,000 hundredweight, down 17,000 hundredweight or one percent from the 1,392,000 hundredweight dug a year ago.

**UNITED STATES:** Production for 2004 is forecast at 3.84 million cwt, down 5 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below 2002. Harvested acreage in the two winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at 14,000 acres, down 2 percent from 2003, while the average yield is forecast at 274 cwt per acre, 8 cwt below last year. Harvest is underway in California's Kern County and proceeding normally.

**U.S. SPRING POTATOES:** Production for 2003 is revised to 24.4 million cwt, up 10 percent from the May forecast and 5 percent above 2002. Harvested area totaled 84,700 acres, down 2 percent from a year ago, while the average yield of 288 cwt per acre increased 17 cwt from 2002. Spring potato production increased 47 percent from 2002 in Texas and 9 percent in California on the strength of higher average yields. Florida's crop of 8.01 million cwt was up 2 percent from 2002. Production in North Carolina is off 17 percent and Arizona's potato production is 1 percent below a year ago.

### POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2003	Indicated 2004	2002	2003	Indicated 2004
	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	310	290	2,430	2,635	2,465
Florida	6.1	5.7	5.8	5.5	240	250	1,776	1,392	1,375
Total	14.6	14.2	14.3	14.0	282	274	4,206	4,027	3,840
Spring <sup>1/</sup>									
Arizona			7.6		275		2,106	2,090	
California			19.0		440		7,695	8,360	
Florida			28.6		280		7,883	8,008	
Hastings			20.3		280		5,985	5,684	
Other			8.3		280		1,898	2,324	
North Carolina			17.0		175		3,570	2,975	
Texas			12.5		240		2,040	3,000	
Total	88.6		84.7		288		23,294	24,433	

<sup>1/</sup> 2003 Revised.

### POTATO STOCKS, UP 1 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 234 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 58 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 82 percent russet, with more round whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 170 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 3 percent from the same period last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 17.4 million cwt, is down 4 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago.

Processors used 86.8 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 6 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. December usage of 15.7 million cwt is 1 percent above last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Dehydrators used 18.4 million cwt to date, down 6 percent from last year.

Western States held 157 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, down 5 percent from last year but up less than 1 percent from two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 7 percent from last year, Colorado decreased 14 percent and California lost 21 percent. Washington's sheds stored 1 percent more than last year, Oregon gained 5 percent, and Montana increased 3 percent.

Central States accounted for 60.2 million cwt of potato stocks this January, up 14 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Wisconsin's stocks increased 6 percent from last year's level, North Dakota gained 24 percent, and Minnesota went up 18 percent. Nebraska's stocks are 27 percent more than last year, and Ohio jumped 350 percent. Michigan's storages hold the same amount as last year at this time.

Eastern States stored 16.5 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, up 17 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 8 percent, New York's gained 56 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 45 percent.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2001-2003 <sup>1/</sup>

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	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	71,280	85,390
	2003	24,310	30,730						
Maine <sup>2/</sup>	2001	1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
	2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003	1,590	2,095						
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2001	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
	2002	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
	2003 <sup>3/</sup>	32,670	38,520						
Other States <sup>4/</sup>	2001	13,170	14,925	19,000	22,115	24,655	27,815	30,460	37,740
	2002	12,190	14,865	17,865	20,740	23,580	26,000	29,075	36,705
	2003	12,570	15,445						
Total	2001	65,405	80,005	96,270	114,585	131,620	148,100	166,575	195,505
	2002	76,480	91,930	106,600	125,165	143,035	159,365	177,740	209,040
	2003 <sup>3/</sup>	71,140	86,790						
Dehydrated <sup>5/</sup>	2001 <sup>6/</sup>								38,581
	2002	15,670	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,910	36,105	40,455	48,943
	2003	14,250	18,405						

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3/</sup> December 1, 2003 processing revised.

<sup>4/</sup> MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002 and 2003.

<sup>5/</sup> Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

<sup>6/</sup> No monthly data available.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2003-2004 <sup>1/</sup>

State	Crop of 2002			Crop of 2003			January as percent of production
	Production	Stocks Jan 1, 2003	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2003	Stocks Jan 1, 2004	
	1,000 cwt			1,000 cwt			Percent
California	4,264	2,900	68	3,444	2,700	2,300	67
Colorado <sup>2/</sup>	27,885	18,100	65	23,652	17,700	15,500	66
Idaho	133,385	82,500	62	123,180	86,000	76,500	62
Maine	16,960	11,200	66	17,030	13,500	12,100	71
Michigan	13,878	6,500	47	15,015	8,400	6,500	43
Minnesota	18,700	10,500	56	22,330	14,000	12,400	56
Montana	3,224	3,000	93	3,339	3,200	3,100	93
Nebraska <sup>2/</sup>	8,611	4,550	53	9,860	7,000	5,800	59
New York <sup>2/</sup>	5,500	1,800	33	6,510	3,500	2,800	43
North Dakota	23,460	14,000	60	27,440	19,400	17,300	63
Ohio	903	40	4	1,290	260	180	14
Oregon	24,936	15,000	60	20,991	18,000	15,800	75
Pennsylvania	2,590	1,100	42	3,915	2,200	1,600	41
Washington	92,400	43,500	47	93,150	51,000	44,000	47
Wisconsin	31,125	17,000	55	32,800	21,000	18,000	55
Total 15 States <sup>2/</sup>	407,821	231,690	57	403,946	267,860	233,880	58

<sup>1/</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt.

<sup>2/</sup> December 1, 2003 stocks revised.