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FIELD CROPS

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

April 15, 2004

FLORIDA

SPRING: Mostly mild conditions helped the crop develop normally during February and March. Southern Peninsula producers dug during most of February with rain delaying some planting around Hastings early in the month. Some planting in the Hastings area was later than normal due to late contracting. Most growers finished planting around Hastings by early March. Growers expect to harvest 22,500 acres this spring, down 6,100 acres from the amount dug in 2003. Yield is expected to average 249 hundredweight per acre, down 31 hundredweight from the 2003 yield of 280 hundredweight per acre. Hastings growers plan to dig 16,000 acres, down 4,300 acres from the acreage harvested last year. The Hastings yield is expected to average 265 hundredweight per acre, down 15 hundredweight from the 2003 yield of 280 hundredweight per acre. Hastings production is set at 4,240,000 hundredweight, down twenty-five percent from last year. Spring crop production from other areas is forecast at 1,365,000 hundredweight, down forty-one percent from the spring 2003 production of 2,324,000 hundredweight.

WINTER: Southern Peninsula producers encountered no significant problems in digging the crop during March. Production for 2004 totaled 1,375,000 hundredweight, down one percent from the 2003 production of 1,392,000 hundredweight. Growers harvested 5,500 acres compared with 5,800 acres dug last year. Yield averaged 250 hundredweight per acre, up 10 hundredweight from the 2003 crop yield.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production for 2004 is forecast at 19.7 million cwt, down 20 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at

72,500 acres, 14 percent below 2003. The average yield is forecast at 271 cwt per acre, down 17 cwt from a year ago. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.85 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to be down 12 percent from a year ago, due in part to a reduction in contracts for processing. Average yield is expected to increase 15 cwt per acre from a year ago. Some early planted fields have emerged. California's spring potato production forecast, at 6.83 million cwt, is 18 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 8 percent and yield is down 50 cwt per acre. Generally poor market conditions prompted growers to reduce acreage. In some areas, frost affected the crop resulting in lower yields. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 2.42 million cwt, 19 percent below last season. Acreage for harvest has decreased 16 percent and the average yield is expected to decline 10 cwt per acre from a year ago. Producers report potatoes look good and weather conditions were holding constant. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.96 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year. Growers report an 8 percent decrease in acreage for harvest but expect a 5 cwt per acre yield increase over last year.

WINTER POTATOES: The 2004 U.S. winter potato crop in California and Florida combined is forecast at 3.50 million cwt, 9 percent below the January forecast and 13 percent less than last year. Area for harvest, at 14,000 acres is unchanged from January but down 2 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 250 cwt per acre is down 24 cwt from January and 32 cwt below a year ago. California's average yield is forecast at 250 cwt per acre, 40 cwt per acre below the January forecast. This reduced yield was caused by a freeze during the growing season in the Imperial Valley.

POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004					
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
WINTER									
California	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	310	250	2,430	2,635	2,125
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	250	4,206	4,027	3,500
SPRING									
Arizona	7.6	7.0	7.6	7.0	275	280	2,106	2,090	1,960
California	19.0	17.5	19.0	17.5	440	390	7,695	8,360	6,825
Florida	30.0	22.8	28.6	22.5	280	249	7,381	8,008	5,605
Hastings	21.5	16.2	20.3	16.0	280	265	5,775	5,684	4,240
Other	8.5	6.6	8.3	6.5	280	210	1,606	2,324	1,365
North Carolina	19.0	16.0	17.0	15.0	175	190	3,230	2,975	2,850
Texas	13.0	11.0	12.5	10.5	240	230	2,040	3,000	2,415
Total	88.6	74.3	84.7	72.5	288	271	22,452	24,433	19,655

APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP LESS THAN 1 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 278 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Processors used 137 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. March usage of 16.9 million cwt is 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 30.3 million cwt to date, down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 86.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 5 percent from last year, Washington decreased 7 percent, Colorado's storages held 29 percent less, and California lost 6 percent. Potato sheds in both Oregon and Montana stored 11 percent more than last year at this time.

Central States accounted for 31.8 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, up 22 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks increased 42 percent from last year's level, Minnesota's storages held 25 percent more, Wisconsin went up 3 percent, and Michigan gained 7 percent. Nebraska and Ohio combined are up 25 percent.

Eastern States stored 7.75 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 12 percent from last year and 31 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 3 percent, New York's gained 241 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 25 percent.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2001-2003 ^{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
<i>1,000 cwt</i>									
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	36,260	43,640	49,570			
Maine ^{2/}	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	2,725	3,415	4,105			
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	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,280			
Other States ^{3/}	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 ^{4/}	12,570	15,410	18,760	21,885	25,055			
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 ^{4/}	71,140	86,755	101,355	120,150	137,010			
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2001 ^{6/}								38,581
	2002	15,670	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,910	36,105	40,455	48,943
	2003 ^{4/}	14,250	18,370	22,050	26,090	30,290			

^{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/} MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002 and 2003.

^{4/} March revised.

^{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, 1994 through 2003

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>								
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 ^{2/}	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 ^{2/}	407,085	264,585	231,690	199,320	165,310	125,870	82,940	45,980
2003	403,946	267,860	233,880	200,530	166,690	126,410		

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

^{2/} Production revised in Field Crops, Final Estimates 1997 - 2002 publication released March 17, 2004. Stocks will be revised in Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Final Estimates 1997 - 2002 publication tentatively scheduled for release August 20, 2004.