



FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

April 15, 2005

FLORIDA

WEATHER: Mostly mild, dry weather during the last weeks of 2004 provided good conditions for planting and crop development. Most acreage escaped damage from the cold, wet weather in late December. Mostly mild conditions during January, February and early March aided growth. Rains during late March saturated fields with adequate drainage preventing any damage to tubers. Digging around Lake Okeechobee, Immokalee and Palmetto-Ruskin got underway by early February while harvesting in the Hastings region started by early April.

SPRING: Producers planted 23,600 acres, down 1,200 acres from the 24,800 acres planted in 2004. Acreage for harvest was set at 23,200 acres, down 1,300 acres from a year ago. Yield is expected to average 302 hundredweight per acre, down 11 hundredweight from the previous year. Production is anticipated to total 7,014,000 hundredweight, down 9 percent or 664,000 hundredweight from the 2004 production. Growers in the Hastings area planted 17,300 acres and hope to dig 17,000 acres compared with 18,200 acres planted and 18,000 acres dug in 2004. The Hastings area yield is expected to average 305 hundredweight per acre, down 15 cwt or 5 percent from the 320 per acre averaged in 2004. The Hastings production is set at 5,185,000 hundredweight, down 575,000 hundredweight or 10 percent from the 5,760,000 hundredweight dug last year. Spring production from other areas is expected to total 1,829,000 hundredweight, down 89,000 hundredweight or 5 percent from the 1,918,000 cwt dug a year ago.

WINTER: Planted acreage at 6,000 acres was up 300 acres or 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested totaled 5,800 acres, up 300 acres or about 5 percent from last year. Yield averaged 270 hundredweight per acre, down 15 hundredweight from last year's average. Production

totaled 1,566,000 hundredweight, down less than one percent from last year's production.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production in 2005 is forecast at 17.9 million cwt, down 21 percent from last year. Area for harvest is forecast at 63,100 acres, 13 percent below 2004. The average yield is forecast at 284 cwt per acre, down 30 cwt from a year ago. North Carolina's spring potato crop is forecast at 2.47 million cwt, down 9 percent from last year. Area for harvest is expected to be down 4 percent from a year ago due to fewer contract acres for processing. Average yield is expected to decrease 10 cwt per acre from a year ago. California's spring potato production forecast, at 5.38 million cwt, is 35 percent below last year. Area for harvest is down 21 percent and yield is down 85 cwt per acre from a year ago. Generally poor market conditions prompted growers to reduce table stock acreage. Also, a reduction in contracted acres for chips is due to a plant closure. Wet conditions have some growers expecting a late harvest. Texas spring potato production is forecast at 1.91 million cwt, 13 percent below last season. Arizona's production is forecast at 1.12 million cwt, down 37 percent from last year. Growers report a 35 percent decrease in acreage for harvest and expect yield to be down 5 cwt per acre from last year.

WINTER POTATOES: The 2005 U.S. winter potato crop in California and Florida combined is forecast at 5.07 million cwt, 9 percent above the January forecast and 5 percent more than last year. Area for harvest, at 19,800 acres, is unchanged from January but up 7 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 256 cwt per acre is up 21 cwt from January but 4 cwt below a year ago. California's average yield is forecast at 250 cwt per acre, 25 cwt per acre above the January forecast.

POTATOES

Seasonal group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	2004	2005	2004	2005					
	1,000 Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
WINTER									
California	13.0	14.0	13.0	14.0	250	250	2,635	3,250	3,500
Florida	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	285	270	1,392	1,568	1,566
Total	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	256	4,027	4,818	5,066
SPRING									
Arizona	6.2	4.0	6.2	4.0	285	280	2,090	1,767	1,120
California	17.5	13.8	17.5	13.8	475	390	8,360	8,313	5,382
Florida	24.8	23.6	24.5	23.2	313	302	8,008	7,678	7,014
Hastings	18.2	17.3	18.0	17.0	320	305	5,684	5,760	5,185
Other	6.6	6.3	6.5	6.2	295	295	2,324	1,918	1,829
North Carolina	17.0	14.0	13.5	13.0	200	190	2,975	2,700	2,470
Texas	11.0	9.5	10.5	9.1	210	210	3,000	2,205	1,911
Total	76.5	64.9	72.2	63.1	314	284	24,433	22,663	17,897

APRIL POTATO STOCKS UP 3 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

The 15 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2005, up 3 percent from both last year and April 1, 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 32 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Disappearance of 274 million cwt from the start of harvest to April 1, is down 1 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 26.8 million cwt, is up 6 percent from last year and 11 percent above the same date in 2003. Processors used 136 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. March usage, at 16.6 million cwt, is 3 percent below last year and down 8 percent from two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 3 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing decreased 2 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003. Western States held 91.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 6 percent from last

year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are both up 13 percent from last year and Washington's potato sheds stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 26 percent, Montana's sheds hold 13 percent less than last year, and California's stocks decreased 10 percent from a year ago. Central States accounted for 29.6 million cwt of potato stocks on April 1, down 8 percent from last year but 14 percent above two years ago. Michigan's potato stocks are down 16 percent, Minnesota potato sheds stored 14 percent less than last year, and North Dakota's stocks decreased 8 percent. Nebraska and Ohio's potato stocks combined decreased 8 percent from last year. Wisconsin's sheds are the only sheds in the Central States storing more potatoes than last year, with an increase of 1 percent. Eastern States stored 8.42 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, up 17 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Maine's potato sheds hold 15 percent more than last year, Pennsylvania's stocks are up 50 percent, and New York's sheds increased 7 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2002-2004 ^{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	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	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004	24,360	30,840	36,820	44,610	51,000			
Maine ^{2/}	2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004 ^{3/}	1,555	1,985	2,615	3,155	3,720			
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	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	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004	32,305	38,130	43,570	50,730	57,140			
Other States ^{4/}	2002	12,675	15,530	18,735	21,780	24,810	27,405	30,655	38,700
	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,525	15,035	18,005	20,945	24,185			
Total	2002	76,965	92,595	107,470	126,205	144,265	160,770	179,320	211,035
	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004 ^{3/}	70,745	85,990	101,010	119,440	136,045			
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2002	15,675	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,915	36,105	40,455	48,940
	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	13,365	17,015	19,995	23,735	27,750			

^{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/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} March revised.

^{4/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1995 through 2004

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>								
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	61,270
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	403,327	271,800	238,220	204,190	168,420	129,620		

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