

MARCH POTATO STOCKS DOWN 8 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

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The 13 major potato States held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 219 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 115 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 4 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 5 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

Western States held 113 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 4 percent from last year. Both Idaho's and Colorado's potato stocks are down 14 percent from last year. California's stocks decreased 40 percent from 2005. Oregon's potato stocks are up 28 percent from last year, Montana's potato sheds stored 21 percent more than in 2005, and Washington's stocks increased 10 percent from last season.

Central States accounted for 31.2 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, down 21 percent from last year for comparable States. Wisconsin's potato stocks decreased 2 percent from last year, Minnesota's stocks are down 19 percent from 2005, and stocks in North Dakota are 49 percent below last season. Michigan potato stocks are unchanged from the same date in 2005.

Eastern States stored 10.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, down 1 percent from last year for comparable States. Maine's potato sheds held 7 percent less than last year, while New York's potato stocks increased 86 percent from a year ago.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on March 1, 2005-2006 ^{1/}

State	Crop of 2004			Crop of 2005		
	Production	Stocks Mar 1, 2005 ^{2/}	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Mar 1, 2006	Percent of production
	1,000 cwt		Percent	1,000 cwt		Percent
California	3,648	1,500	41	3,240	900	28
Colorado	23,791	11,900	50	22,292	10,200	46
Idaho	131,970	64,000	48	116,975	55,000	47
Maine	19,065	9,400	49	15,736	8,700	55
Michigan	13,650	3,600	26	13,920	3,600	26
Minnesota	18,920	8,800	47	17,630	7,100	40
Montana	3,551	2,400	68	3,434	2,900	84
Nebraska	9,288			8,245	3,300	40
New York	5,184	700	14	5,226	1,300	25
North Dakota	26,765	13,100	49	20,500	6,700	33
Ohio ^{3/}	1,080					
Oregon	19,775	9,000	46	22,023	11,500	52
Pennsylvania ^{3/}	2,640	700	27			
Washington	93,810	29,000	31	95,480	32,000	34
Wisconsin	30,450	10,700	35	27,880	10,500	38
Other States		3,220				
Total 15 States ^{4/}	403,587	168,020	42	372,581	153,700	41

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2005 totaled 24.7 million cwt.

^{2/} Missing stocks combined into "Other Sts."

^{3/} Stock estimates discontinued for the 2005 crop.

^{4/} 13 States for the 2005 crop.



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POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2003-2005^{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	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	58,090	65,800	84,600
	2005	22,590	28,960	35,570	42,800				
Maine ^{2/}	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004	1,540	1,970	2,600	3,135	3,700	4,340	4,910	6,590
	2005	1,290	1,805	2,405	3,015				
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	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	63,855	71,355	78,680
	2005	30,310	35,895	40,545	48,285				
Other States ^{3/}	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,490	15,000	17,965	20,910	24,150	27,480	30,945	41,175
	2005	11,820	15,030	17,980	21,180				
Total	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004	70,695	85,940	100,955	119,385	135,990	153,765	173,010	211,045
	2005	66,010	81,690	96,500	115,280				
Dehydrated ^{4/}	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	14,525	18,540	21,875	25,970	30,020	33,685	38,505	47,805
	^{3/} 2005	12,180	15,920	19,515	23,210				

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

^{4/} 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, 1996 through 2005

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ^{1/}
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>						
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	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005 ^{2/}	372,581	251,800	218,900	187,600	153,700			

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

^{2/} 13 major States for the 2005 crop.