



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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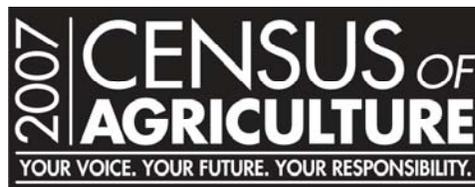
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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on February 1 totaled 74.0 million cwt, 4.00 million cwt more than on hand February 1, 2007. Disappearance, at 57.7 million cwt is down from last year's 58.9 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 3.60 million cwt, up from last year's 3.40 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 70.4 million cwt, were up from the 66.6 million cwt stored on February 1, 2007. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 6.96 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes during January, down 4 percent from January 2007. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 40.2 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes to February 1, down 2.7 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 34.3 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 5.90 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 206 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2008, up 7 percent from last year and 9 percent above February 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage account for 52 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from last year. Potato disappearance, at 194 million cwt, was down 1 percent from last year but up 5 percent from two years ago. Season to date shrink and loss, at 18.0 million cwt, was down 2 percent from 2007 but 7 percent above 2006. Processors in the 9 major States have used 104 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 20.9 million cwt of the total processing, down 12 percent from last year but 9 percent above the same date in 2006.



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