



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
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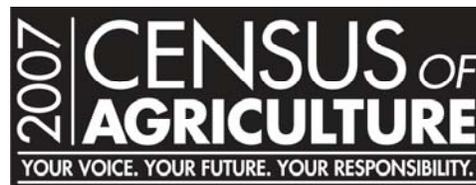
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### Idaho Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on March 1 totaled 63.0 million cwt, 3.50 million cwt more than on hand March 1, 2007. Disappearance, at 68.7 million cwt is down from last year's 69.4 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 3.00 million cwt, up from last year's 2.90 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 60.0 million cwt, were up from the 56.6 million cwt stored on March 1, 2007. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 8.35 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes during February, up 10 percent from February 2007. This is the largest monthly processing total since May 2001. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 48.6 million cwt of 2007 crop raw potatoes to March 1, down 0.8 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 42.1 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 6.45 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 172 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2008, up 8 percent from last year and 10 percent above March 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage account for 43 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Potato disappearance, at 228 million cwt, was down 1 percent from last year but up 4 percent from two years ago. Season to date shrink and loss, at 19.7 million cwt, was down 3 percent from 2007 but 7 percent above 2006. Processors in the 9 major States have used 123 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 25.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 10 percent from last year but 11 percent above the same date in 2006.



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