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MINNESOTA POTATO STOCKS 1 PERCENT BELOW 2007 LEVEL

January 1 Stocks: Minnesota's fall potatoes in storage totaled 11.5 million hundredweight, 1 percent below the January 1, 2007 level, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. The breakdown of January 1, 2008 stocks by type indicate 12 percent red, 5 percent white and 83 percent russet.

Stocks in Area 1 totaled 2.2 million hundredweight, down 24 percent from 2007 and stocks in Area 2 totaled 9.3 million hundredweight, up 7 percent from 2007.

MINNESOTA FALL POTATO STOCKS

| Type | Jan. 1, 2007 | | Jan. 1, 2008 | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Stocks 2006 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks | Stocks 2007 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks |
| Red | 1,280 | 11 | 1,380 | 12 |
| White ¹ | 690 | 6 | 580 | 5 |
| Russet | 9,630 | 83 | 9,540 | 83 |
| Total | 11,600 | 100 | 11,500 | 100 |

¹/ Yellow type potatoes are included in White type.

MINNESOTA FALL POTATO STOCKS BY REGION

| Type | Jan. 1, 2007 | | Jan. 1, 2008 | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Stocks 2006 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks | Stocks 2007 Crop (000) Cwt | Percent of Total Stocks |
| MN Area 1 | 2,900 | 25 | 2,200 | 19 |
| MN Area 2 | 8,700 | 75 | 9,300 | 81 |
| State Total | 11,600 | 100 | 11,500 | 100 |

NOTE: Minnesota Area 1 includes the following counties: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Mahanomen, Norman, Clearwater, Clay, Becker and Wilkin counties. Minnesota Area 2 includes all remaining counties in the State.

Potato Stocks Up 5 Percent from Last Year

The 13 major potato States held 238 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2008, up 5 percent from last year and 8 percent above January 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 3.40 million cwt on January 1, 2008, unchanged from last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks. Potato disappearance, at 163 million cwt, is down slightly from last year but up 6 percent from 2006. Season to date shrink and loss, at 16.0 million cwt, is down 1 percent from the same date in 2007 but 7 percent above 2 years ago. Processors in the 9 major States have used 87.7 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 16.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 13 percent from last year but 7 percent above the same date in 2006.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2007-2008¹

| State | Crop of 2006 | | | Crop of 2007 | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Production | Stocks Dec. 1, 2006 | Stocks Jan. 1, 2007 | Production | Stocks Dec. 1, 2007 | Stocks Jan. 1, 2008 | Jan % Of Production |
| | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>1,000 Cwt</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| CA | 3,870 | 1,800 | 1,500 | 4,223 | 2,000 | 1,600 | 38 |
| CO | 22,686 | 17,200 | 15,200 | 20,981 | 15,200 | 13,200 | 63 |
| ID | 128,915 | 90,000 | 80,000 | 131,650 | 94,000 | 84,000 | 64 |
| ME | 17,980 | 14,400 | 12,800 | 16,530 | 12,700 | 11,300 | 68 |
| MI | 14,190 | 8,100 | 6,300 | 14,700 | 9,500 | 7,400 | 50 |
| MN | 20,400 | 13,300 | 11,600 | 20,680 | 13,500 | 11,500 | 56 |
| MT | 3,518 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,696 | 3,600 | 3,500 | 95 |
| NE ² | 8,730 | 5,800 | 4,900 | 7,800 | 5,200 | 4,500 | 56 |
| NY | 5,700 | 3,000 | 2,200 | 5,216 | 2,800 | 1,900 | 36 |
| ND | 25,480 | 17,300 | 15,000 | 23,660 | 14,500 | 12,500 | 53 |
| OR | 18,533 | 16,000 | 13,900 | 20,238 | 18,000 | 16,100 | 80 |
| WA | 89,900 | 49,000 | 42,500 | 102,300 | 60,000 | 54,000 | 53 |
| WI | 29,370 | 20,100 | 16,900 | 28,160 | 19,000 | 16,000 | 57 |
| 13 Sts ² | 389,272 | 259,300 | 226,100 | 399,834 | 270,000 | 237,500 | 59 |
| Klamath Basin ³ | | 4,000 | 3,400 | | 4,200 | 3,400 | |

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2007 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

² December 1, 2007, stocks revised.

³ Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.