

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 799
Palmer, AK 99645

RELEASED March 18, 2004

POTATO STOCKS

ALASKA: All potatoes in storage as of March 1, 2004 totaled 62,000 cwt, down from the 68,000 cwt on hand March 1 a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand for March 1 totals 94,000 cwt. Disappearance of the 2003 crop since the start of the harvest to March 1 totaled 106,000 cwt which compares to 86,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 76,000 cwt. Currently 37 percent of the 2003 production is still in storage compared to 44 percent for the same time last year.

Disappearance reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused by frost damage to potatoes in both the Tanana and Matanuska-Susitna Valleys.

The 15 major potato States held 167 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Disappearance of 237 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.6 million cwt so far this season, is up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the 9 major States used 120 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 26.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

Western States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington decreased 3 percent, Colorado's storages held 21 percent less, and California lost 10 percent. Oregon's sheds stored 11 percent more than last year and Montana increased 4 percent.

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: February milk production of 1.2 million pounds was down 14 percent from the 1.4 million pounds a year earlier but was unchanged from January 2004. Production per cow at 1,000 pounds, was down 40 pounds from a year ago and compares with 980 pounds per cow in January. Milk cows at 1,200 head were the same as January and down 100 head from a year ago. Total milk production for January and February was 2.4 million pounds compared with 2.8 million pounds for the same period in 2003.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during February totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to the leap year causes February milk production to be down 1.8 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was down 1.0 percent from January 2003. The January revision represented a decrease of 11 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,531 pounds for February, 42 pounds above February 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 91,000 head less than February 2003, but 4,000 head more than January 2004.

PRELIMINARY 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Year	Type of Farms				Average Age of Principal Operator
	Family or Individual	Partnership	Corporation	Other 1/	
	(Number of Farms)				
1978	327	29	15	12	46.8
1982	489	42	29	10	45.8
1987	478	52	29	15	48.9
1992	430	40	30	12	51.3
1997	458	43	36	11	53.3
2002	497	30	36	46	55.2

1/ Cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS

POTATO STOCKS ON
MARCH 1, 2004 TOTALED 62,000 CWT

FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION
DOWN 14 PERCENT FROM THE SAME
PERIOD LAST YEAR

SPRING CALENDAR

2004 Alaska Forage Conference
VFW Hall - Glenn HWY
Palmer, Alaska
April 16, 2004 8 am - 4 pm
For more information
call 746-4564

Internet Access to ALASKA reports at:
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak>

Internet Access to all NASS Reports at:
<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

SUZAN BENZ
Agricultural Statistician
Phone: 1-800-478-6079
(907) 745-4272

Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 799
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Standard Mail
Postage and Fees Paid
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Permit No. G-38

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED