

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

April 19, 2004

POTATO STOCKS

ALASKA: All potato stocks (bin-run) in Alaska on April 1, 2004 totaled 52,000 cwt, the same as was on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand April 1 is 78,300 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to April 1 totaled 116,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to April 1 was 102,000 cwt; the five year average is 91,300 cwt. Disappearance since March 1 was 10,000 cwt compared with 9,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 15,500 cwt.

The **15 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2004, up less than 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of 278 million cwt of potatoes is down 1 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 25.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss includes unmarketable Maine potatoes disposed of through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Processors used 137 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. March usage of 16.9 million cwt is 6 percent below last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 30.3 million cwt to date, down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 86.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 5 percent from last year, Washington decreased 7 percent, Colorado's storages held 29 percent less, and California lost 6 percent. Potato sheds in both Oregon and Montana stored 11 percent more than last year at this time.

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: March milk production of 1.2 million pounds was down 20 percent from the 1.5 million pounds a year earlier. Milk production was virtually unchanged from February. Production per cow at 1,030 pounds, was down 150 pounds from a year ago and compares with 1,000 pounds per cow in February. Milk cows at 1,200 head were the same as February and down 100 head from a year ago.

Total milk production for January through March was 3.6 million pounds compared with 4.3 million pounds for the same period in 2003. This is a decrease of 16% from the same three month period in 2003.

Milk production in the **20 MAJOR STATES** during March totaled 12.8 billion pounds, down 1.8 percent from March 2003. February revised production, at 11.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from February 2003. However, adjusting for leap year, February milk production was down 2.1 percent on a per day basis from last year. The February revision represented a decrease of 35 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,656 pounds for March, 10 pounds below March 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.71 million head, 96,000 head less than March 2003, and 2,000 head less than February 2004.

PRELIMINARY 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Year	Principal Operator by Primary Occupation		Principal Operator by Days of Work Off Farm 1/		
	Farming	Other	None	Any	200 Days or More
1978	150	233	103	276	127
1982	231	339	132	397	200
1987	248	326	173	369	182
1992	273	239	178	308	145
1997	306	242	182	314	145
2002	370	239	272	337	172

1/ Data for 1997 and prior years do not include imputation for item non-response.

HIGHLIGHTS

POTATO STOCKS ON
MARCH 1, 2004 TOTALED 52,000 CWT

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION
DOWN 20 PERCENT FROM THE SAME
PERIOD LAST YEAR

Nominations of the Alaska State Fair Farm Family of the Year Due June 25, 2004

The Fair needs the public's help in nominating friends and neighbors for the 5th Annual Farm Family of the Year. The agricultural community established the award in 2000 to honor an Alaska farming family and show appreciation for all the hardworking Alaskans committed to agriculture and aquaculture in the state.

Last years winning family were the Rempel's of Palmer. Mark, Tammy and their family run an organic farm, that continues a farming legacy in the Valley started by Mark's father in 1940.

The award, sponsored by the Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union, will be presented at the Fair on Opening Day, August 26, 2004.

Details on how to nominate a farm family and questions about the program should be directed to Sandy Gaither at sandy@alaskastatefair.org or by calling (907)746-7157.

Taken from Alaska State Fair Press Release Dated 4/8/04.

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