

# 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  
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MAY 20, 2004

## POTATO STOCKS

**ALASKA:** All potato stocks (bin-run) in **Alaska** on May 1, 2004 totaled 32,000 cwt, down from the 38,000 cwt on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand May 1 is 63,000 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to May 1 totaled 136,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to May 1 was 116,000 cwt. Disappearance since April 1 was 20,000 cwt compared with 14,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 15,300 cwt.

The **15 Major Potato States** held 84.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2004, up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 21 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 319 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 27.0 million cwt so far this season, is up 5 percent from last year and 8 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 154 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. April usage of 16.7 million cwt is 2 percent above last year and up 1 percent from two years ago. Dehydrators used 34.6 million cwt to date, down 4 percent from last year.

**Western States** held 59.3 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, down 6 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 3 percent from last year, Washington decreased 9 percent, and Colorado's storages held 38 percent less. Potato sheds in Oregon stored 10 percent more than last year, California increased 20 percent, and Montana's storages gained 25 percent.

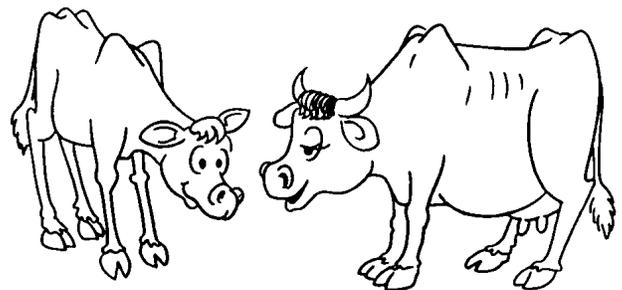
## MILK PRODUCTION

**ALASKA:** April milk production of 1.2 million pounds was down 20% from April 2003, and virtually unchanged from March 2004. Production per cow, at 990 pounds, was down 40 pounds from March 2004 and down 160 pounds from the same period last year. Milk cows, at 1,200 head, were down 100 head from April 2003. Production during the first four months of 2004 totaled 4.8 million pounds, compared with 5.8 million pounds during the same period last year.

Milk production in the **20 MAJOR STATES** during April totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from April 2002. March revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from March 2002. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,625 pounds for April, 4 pounds above April 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.80 million head, 42,000 head more than April 2002, but 11,000 head less than March 2003.



## 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE DATA RELEASED JUNE 3, 2004

2002 Census of Agriculture will be released June 3, 2003. This report will provide data at the national, state and county levels. It will also provide first time facts about organic crop acreage and sales, production contracts, farm computer and Internet use, plus the broader, full range of traditional census data including land use and ownership; acres irrigated; crop acreages and quantities harvested; livestock and poultry inventories; value of products sold; value of production; participation in Federal farm programs; market value of land and buildings; as well as other data.

The 2002 Census of Agriculture is the most comprehensive source of statistics portraying our nations Agriculture. It is the only source of uniform agricultural data across the United States. The data will be available June 3<sup>rd</sup> on our web site [www.nass.usda.gov/ak](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak) or by calling our office at (907)745-4272.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**POTATO STOCKS ON  
MAY 1, 2004 TOTALED 32,000  
CWT**

**APRIL MILK PRODUCTION  
DOWN 20% PERCENT FROM THE  
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR**

### ALASKA FARMERS

The **SPRING ACREAGE SURVEY** questionnaires will be mailed on May 21st. We would appreciate your taking the time to fill out the questionnaire and give us your best acreage estimates, along with your intentions for harvesting hay. As always, individual data is kept confidential. The acreage data collected from this survey will be published in the June Farm Reporter.

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

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

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