

# 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

June 30, 2004

## POTATO STOCKS

All potato stocks (bin-run) in **Alaska** on June 1, 2004 totaled 11,000 cwt, down from the 13,000 cwt on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand June 1 is 32,800 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to June 1 totaled 157,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to June 1 was 141,000 cwt. Disappearance since May 1 was 21,000 cwt compared with 25,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 30,000 cwt.

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

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Data are only being published at the state level this year due to confidentiality requirements.

## MILK PRODUCTION

May milk production in Alaska totaled 1.3 million pounds, down from a year ago, and 100,000 pounds above the April 2004 production. Production per cow, at 1,110 pounds, compares with 1,150 pounds in May 2003. Milk cows at 1,200 head were down 100 head from 2003. Production during the first five months of 2003 totaled 6.1 million pounds, compared with 7.3 million pounds for the same period last year.

Alaska releases are available on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak>. NASS reports are available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass>. Or for more information contact: Alaska Agricultural Statistics, Sue Benz at 1-800-478-6079.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## ALASKA JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

**BARLEY** planted for all purposes is estimated at 4,800 acres, and compares with the 4,000 acres in 2003. **Tanana Valley** growers seeded nearly 4,400 acres compared with 3,600 acres in 2003. The majority of this acreage is in the Delta Junction area. Barley seeded in the **Matanuska Valley** and elsewhere in the State totaled 400 acres, the same acres as in 2003.

Alaska farmers seeded 1,900 acres of **OATS** for all purposes in 2004, compared with 2,700 acres a year ago. Farmers intentions in early June were to harvest 65 percent of the 2004 planted acres for grain, up from the 45 percent harvested for grain in 2003.

**POTATO** growers planted an estimated 880 acres in 2004, compared with 930 acres last year.

**ALL HAY** (for hay or silage) is intended to be harvested from 25,000 acres in 2004, compared with 23,000 acres last year. **Tanana Valley** growers intend to harvest 11,600 acres of all hay, up from 9,400 acres in 2003. **Matanuska Valley** growers plan to harvest 10,500 acres of all hay, up from 9,600 acres in 2003. **Kenai** and the rest of the State plan to harvest 2,600 acres of all hay/silage in 2004, unchanged from 2003.

ACREAGE PLANTED		
June	2004	2003
Barley	4,800	4,000
Oats	1,900	2,700
Potatoes	880	930
All Hay/Silage*	25,000	23,000

\*area for harvest

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## Census of Agriculture Historical Highlights: 2002 and Earlier Census Years

		2002	1997	1992	1987	1982
Farms	number	609	548	512	574	570
Land in farms	acres	900,715	881,045	923,037	1,026,732	1,323,953
Average size of farm	acres	1,479	1,608	1,803	1,789	2,323
Estimated market value of land and buildings 1/						
Average per farm	dollars	543,213	486,827	486,550	553,000	463,849
Average per acre	dollars	367	303	270	309	200
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment 1/	\$1,000	41,853	28,993	22,423	22,290	18,562
Average per farm	dollars	71,790	53,003	43,795	38,901	32,912
Farms by size:						
1 to 9 acres		127	96	76	96	91
10 to 49 acres		129	98	93	113	115
50 to 179 acres		162	171	160	172	184
180 to 499 acres		93	93	85	97	88
500 to 999 acres		41	33	41	24	23
1,000 to 1,999 acres		29	26	19	24	13
2,000 acres or more		28	31	38	48	56
Total cropland	farms	479	434	419	454	460
	acres	98,131	94,810	84,061	66,305	54,311
Harvested cropland	farms	393	381	352	397	395
	acres	31,824	34,227	22,699	28,949	25,694
Irrigated land	farms	150	114	93	74	46
	acres	2,742	2,667	1,566	1,826	667
Market value of agricultural products sold	\$1,000	46,143	24,650	15,351	17,972	11,399
Average per farm	dollars	75,768	44,982	29,982	31,309	19,999
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops	\$1,000	20,543	15,968	11,228	10,768	6,010
Livestock, poultry, and their products	\$1,000	25,600	8,682	4,123	7,204	5,389
Farms by value of sales 2/:						
Less than \$2,500		207	187	211	242	267
\$2,500 to \$4,999		59	75	75	92	110
\$5,000 to \$9,999		96	66	67	73	85
\$10,000 to \$24,999		89	99	70	65	46
\$25,000 to \$49,999		53	44	30	38	25
\$50,000 to \$99,999		34	30	25	25	11
\$100,000 to \$499,999		56	41	31	34	23
\$500,000 or more		15	6	3	5	3
Farms by type of organization:						
Family or individual		497	458	430	478	489
Partnership		30	43	40	52	42
Corporation		36	36	30	29	29
Other-cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc		46	11	12	15	10
Principal operator by days of work off farm 3/						
None		272	182	178	173	132
Any		337	314	308	369	397
200 days or more		172	145	145	182	200
Principal operator by primary occupation						
Farming		370	306	273	248	231
Other		239	242	239	326	339
Average age of principal operator	years	55.2	53.3	51.3	48.9	45.8
Total farm production expenses 1/	\$1,000	39,123	21,821	16,308	15,774	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses 1/:						
Livestock and poultry purchased	\$1,000	569	1,291	254	386	507
Feed purchased	\$1,000	4,078	2,532	1,586	2,978	2,293
Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners 4/ 5/	\$1,000	1,535	1,549	1,225	1,413	1,118
Gasoline, fuels, and oils	\$1,000	2,125	1,728	1,224	1,140	1,113
Hired farm labor	\$1,000	13,427	5,064	3,928	2,647	1,925
Interest expense 6/	\$1,000	2,892	1,143	869	1,275	1,466
Chemicals 4/	\$1,000	187	219	110	166	45
Livestock and poultry:		113	120	132	170	207
Cattle and calves inventory	farms					
number		12,609	11,111	8,002	9,433	8,729
Beef cows	farms	86	84	97	112	129
number		5,408	3,694	3,224	3,199	2,994
Milk cows	farms	31	30	34	50	64
number		1,253	1,101	715	1,713	963
Cattle and calves sold	farms	83	92	115	134	151
number		1,356	2,847	1,672	2,538	1,640
Hogs and pigs inventory	farms	48	53	45	45	88
number		1,201	2,112	2,135	573	3,741
Hogs and pigs sold	farms	47	33	40	37	70
number		2,002	2,532	2,800	1,100	6,244
Layers 20 weeks old and older inventory	farms	82	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
number		2,872	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Broilers and other meat- type chickens sold	farms	11	9	7	12	19
number		4,262	1,860	(D)	4,141	4,610
Selected crops harvested:						
Oats for grain	farms	10	22	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres		1,107	1,463	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
bushels		46,033	64,140	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Barley for grain	farms	23	31	22	35	45
acres		3,672	7,106	2,676	5,666	6,950
bushels		143,679	164,015	136,228	235,417	227,820
Potatoes	farms	68	63	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres		851	814	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
cwt		154,513	159,056	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Forage - land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	farms	255	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres		25,051	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
tons, dry		28,154	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Vegetables harvested for sale	farms	55	48	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres		364	315	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)

1/ Data are based on a sample of farms.

2/ Data for 1982 exclude abnormal farms.

3/ Data for 1997 and prior years do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

4/ Data for 1982 do not include cost of custom applications.

5/ Data for 1997 and prior years exclude cost of lime and manure.

6/ Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

**The complete results of the 2002 Census of Agriculture can be found at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.**