

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

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



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National Agricultural Statistics Service
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As of February 1, 2004

Potato stocks in storage in **ALASKA** as of February 1, 2004 totaled 71,000 cwt. Stocks on hand accounted for 42 percent of the 2003 crop and compares with 79,000 cwt on hand a year ago, or 51 percent on hand during the same period last year. The five-year average stocks on hand for January 1 totaled 107,000 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1, 2004 totaled 19,000 cwt compared with the 5 year average of almost 16,000 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to January 1 totaled 97,000 cwt compared with a disappearance of 75,000 cwt a year earlier. The five year average is just over 62,000 cwt. Disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, 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.

The **15 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 201 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 50 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type show more reds and round whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 203 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 20.6 million cwt so far this season, is up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the 9 major States used 101 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 22.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

WESTERN STATES held 136 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 8 percent from last year, Washington decreased 1 percent, Colorado's storages held 20 percent less, and California lost 17 percent. Oregon's sheds stored 8 percent more than last year and Montana increased 3 percent.

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POTATO STOCKS - FEBRUARY 1, 2004

	STOCKS			PRODUCTION	Feb. 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	FEB. 1	JAN. 1	DEC. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----				-- Percent --
2003	71.0	90.0	110.0	168.0	42%
2002	79.0	101.0	116.0	154.0	51%
2001	163.0	177.0	189.0	230.0	71%

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