

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

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



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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Service
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RELEASED March 17, 2004

As of March 1, 2004

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** 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 almost 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. Disappearance since February 1, was 9,000 cwt compared to 11,000 cwt last year and a five year average of 14,000 cwt. Currently 37 percent of the 2003 production is still in storage compared to 44 percent for the same time last year. The five year average is 54 percent of production in storage on March 1.

Disappearance 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 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.

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POTATO STOCKS - MARCH 1, 2004

	STOCKS			PRODUCTION	March 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	MAR. 1	FEB. 1	JAN. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----				-- Percent --
2004	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	37%
2003	68.0	79.0	101.0	154.0	44%
2002	148.0	163.0	177.0	230.0	64%

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