

# ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

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As of April 1, 2004

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.

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 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.

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POTATO STOCKS - APRIL 1, 2004

	STOCKS				PRODUCTION	April 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	APR 1	MAR 1	FEB 1	JAN 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----					-- Percent --
2004	52.0	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	31%
2003	52.0	68.0	79.0	101.0	154.0	34%
2002	129.5	148.0	163.0	177.0	230.0	56%

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