

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 May 1, 2004

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.

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 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.

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POTATO STOCKS - MAY 1, 2004

	STOCKS					PRODUCTION	May 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	MAY 1	APR 1	MAR 1	FEB 1	JAN 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----						-- Percent --
2004	32.0	52.0	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	19%
2003	38.0	52.0	68.0	79.0	101.0	154.0	25%
2002	110.0	129.5	148.0	163.0	177.0	230.0	48%

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