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FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



May 15, 2001

FLORIDA

SPRING: Growers in the Hastings area, who produce in the counties of Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns, expect to dig 4,455,000 hundredweight of potatoes this spring, down eight percent from the 4,868,000 hundredweight produced during the spring of 2000. Acreage to be harvested in the Hastings area is set at 16,500 acres, equal to the acreage dug a year ago. Yield is expected to average 270 hundredweight per acre, 25 hundredweight below last year's yield of 295 hundredweight per acre.

Spring crop production for those who produce outside the Hastings area is expected to total 1,485,000 hundredweight up 10,000 hundredweight from last year's production of 1,475,000 hundredweight. Acreage to be dug is set at 5,500 acres, up 500 acres from a year ago. Yield is expected to average 270 hundredweight per acre compared with the spring 2000 average of 295 hundredweight per acre.

UNITED STATES

SPRING: Spring production in 2001 is forecast at 19.5 million cwt, down 4 percent from last month and 11 percent below a year ago. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 72,500 acres, 3 percent below last month and down 4 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 269 cwt per acre, down 3 cwt from last month and 21 cwt below last year. From their April 1 estimates, California's harvested acreage was dropped 1,500 acres to 15,500 acres and Arizona's was trimmed 500 acres to 8,500 acres.

Harvest started in Arizona's western counties in early April while central counties began about mid-month. Production in Arizona, at 2.30 million cwt, is 9 percent below both last month and last year. California's spring production, at 6.05 million cwt, is down 9 percent from last month and 19 percent below a year ago. California's harvest is anticipated to start in May, about two weeks later than usual, because of cool weather early in the growing season. Texas production is 2.07 million cwt, the same as last month but 7 percent below last year. Frost hit North Carolina fields the third week in April, slowing development and reducing potential yields. Production is now forecast at 3.15 million cwt, down 5 percent from a month ago and 7 percent below last year.

POTATOES:

Seasonal group and State	Area Harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2000	2001	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
	1,000 Acres		Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Spring							
Alabama ^{1/}					280		
Arizona	9.0	8.5	280	270	3,024	2,520	2,295
California	18.8	15.5	395	390	7,600	7,426	6,045
Florida	21.5	22.0	295	270	8,820	6,343	5,940
Hastings	16.5	16.5	295	270	6,930	4,868	4,455
Other	5.0	5.5	295	270	1,890	1,475	1,485
North Carolina ^{2/}	17.0	17.5	200	180	3,300	3,400	3,150
Texas	9.3	9.0	240	230	2,303	2,232	2,070
Total	75.6	72.5	290	269	25,327	21,921	19,500

^{1/} Spring estimates to be combined with summer starting with 2000 crop year. ^{2/} Summer estimates combined with spring starting 2000 crop year.

POTATO STOCKS RECORD HIGH, UP 28 PERCENT

May 1, 2001 potato stocks totaled a record high 111 million cwt, up 28 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 24 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set May 1, 1997 by 8 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 was a record high 350 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 3 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during April was 42.6 million cwt, up 3 percent from last year but 4 percent below the record in April 1997. Shrink and loss, to this point in the season, was 37.6 million cwt, up 29 percent from the last two years. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses. Potatoes sold and disposed of under a government program are included in the disappearance.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 170 million cwt to May 1, up 1 percent from last year in comparable States. In April, proces-

sors used 18.7 million cwt of potatoes, a gain of 2 percent from last year in comparable States.

Eastern States stored 4.13 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 2001, down 11 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 9 percent and Pennsylvania's storage was down 33 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 17.4 million cwt of potato stocks this May 1, 24 percent above last year but 1 percent below 1999. Minnesota's stocks were up 81 percent and stocks in North Dakota were up 40 percent from last year. Wisconsin's stocks were down 16 percent and Michigan's potato stocks were 46 percent below a year ago.

Western States held 90.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2001, up 32 percent from the last year and 36 percent above two years ago. Washington's potato stocks were up 79 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's were up 25 percent. Oregon's stocks were up 11 percent and Montana's swelled 150 percent. Colorado's stocks were equal to last year but California's were down 27 percent.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 1997 through 2000 ^{1/}

State	Crop year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1 ^{2/}	Entire season
1,000 cwt									
Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon	1997	26,880	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750		91,450
	1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	76,410	92,860
	1999	27,970	34,490	40,790	49,220	57,820	66,080	74,110	88,210
	2000	29,290	35,720	43,470	50,580	58,910	66,760		
Maine ^{3/}	1997	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900		5,870
	1998	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
	1999	1,270	1,700	2,385	3,070	3,765	4,560	5,150	6,670
	2000	1,845	2,475	3,105	3,695	4,225	4,790		
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	1997	28,580	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780		76,930
	1998	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
	1999	33,320	39,620	45,500	53,350	61,080	67,230	74,840	83,210
	2000	34,770	40,970	47,720	55,250	62,860	69,920		
Other States ^{4/}	1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
	1998	11,570	14,465	18,030	20,850	24,850	28,190	31,365	39,865
	1999	12,455	15,035	17,950	20,855	24,305	27,220	30,410	36,435
	2000	12,650	16,235	18,625	22,030	25,420	28,680		
Total	1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
	1998	74,140	89,990	108,880	128,335	149,415	168,100	186,670	222,400
	1999	75,015	90,845	106,625	126,495	146,970	165,090	184,510	214,525
	2000	78,555	95,400	112,920	131,555	151,415	170,150		

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Data not available prior to 1998. ^{3/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{4/} MN, ND, NV, SD, and WI in 2000. MI, MN, ND, and WI in 1997-1999.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on May 1, 2000-2001 ^{1/}

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000		
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2000	Percent of production	Production	Stocks May 1, 2001	Percent of production
	1,000 cwt		Percent	1,000 cwt		Percent
California	4,005	1,100	27	3,741	800	21
Colorado	25,762	7,400	29	27,972	7,400	26
Idaho	133,330	36,000	27	152,320	45,000	30
Maine	17,813	4,400	25	17,920	4,000	22
Michigan	14,963	1,300	9	14,963	700	5
Minnesota	18,020	3,200	18	21,240	5,800	27
Montana	3,325	300	9	3,503	750	21
Nebraska ^{2/}	8,904			10,127		
New York ^{2/}	6,758			5,964		
North Dakota	26,400	4,500	17	26,950	6,300	23
Ohio ^{2/}	987			1,134		
Oregon	28,020	9,000	32	30,683	10,000	33
Pennsylvania	3,080	150	5	3,510	100	3
Washington	95,200	14,500	15	108,000	26,000	24
Wisconsin	34,000	4,400	13	33,800	3,700	11
Other States		665			875	
Total 15 States	420,567	86,915	21	461,827	111,425	24

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2001 potatoes; 2000 crop seed usage total 29.7 million cwt. ^{2/} Nebraska, New York, and Ohio combined into "Other States"