



IDAHO POTATOES



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PROCESSING

Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 28.4 million cwt of 2002 crop raw potatoes to Dec. 1, 36 percent more than a year ago. Idaho potatoes contributed 23.8 million cwt of the total potatoes processed, the remaining 4.58 million cwt were produced in other states. Processing of the 2002 crop potatoes totaled 77.6 million cwt to Dec. 1, up 18 percent from last year. Of the total 77.6 million cwt processed, 15.7 million cwt were used for dehydrated products, excluding starch and flour.

POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING,^{1/} SELECTED STATES, 2001 AND 2002

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO OCT 1	TO NOV 1	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	TO JUN 1	ENTIRE SEASON
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>											
Idaho & Malheur Co., Ore. All Potatoes	2001-02	8,050	14,350	20,940	27,330	33,620	40,860	47,710	54,150	61,200	73,390
	2002-03	11,790	20,180	28,380							
IDAHO Potatoes	2001-02	5,670	10,970	17,030	22,750	28,470	35,310	41,640	47,480	53,860	65,720
	2002-03	8,630	16,170	23,800							
Maine ^{2/}	2001-02			1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
	2002-03			2,275							
Wash. & Other Area, Ore.	2001-02	15,400	22,130	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
	2002-03	19,500	26,440	33,680							
Other States ^{3/}	2001-02			13,270	15,325	19,060	22,255	24,865	28,095	30,810	36,300
	2002-03			13,275							
TOTAL	2001-02			65,505	80,405	96,330	114,725	131,830	148,380	166,925	194,065
	2002-03			77,610							

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, CO, MI, and WI. 2/ Includes ME grown potatoes only. 3/ MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002.

STOCKS

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on December 1 totaled 92.0 million cwt, 4.50 million cwt more than on hand December 1, 2001. Disappearance, at 41.4 million cwt, is up from last year's 32.7 million cwt and 2000's 41.3 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 7.90 million cwt, above last year's 6.40 million cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 84.1 million cwt, was 3.00 million cwt more the amount stored on December 1, 2001.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1, 2002 Idaho Potato Stocks estimate is 4.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 92.0 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.3 percent or 3.96 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence interval) that the difference will not exceed 7.5 percent or approximately 6.90 million cwt.

UNITED STATES POTATO STOCKS UP 2 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2002, up 2 percent from last year but 15 percent below 2000. Storage accounted for 65 percent of the 2002 fall production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russet; with more round whites and fewer long whites and russets than a year ago. Disappearance, at 146 million cwt, from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 13 percent from the same period last year but 2 percent below two years ago.

Western States held 188 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 6 percent from last year but 15 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 5 percent from last year and Colorado's are up 29 percent. The return of irrigation water to the Klamath Basin boosted California's stocks 25 percent from last year and helped increase Oregon's stocks by 3 percent. Washington's sheds stored the same amount of potatoes as last year but Montana's stocks are up 2 percent.

Central States accounted for 61.2 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 5 percent from last year and 13 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks dropped 18 percent, Ohio fell 37 percent, Michigan slipped 4 percent and Wisconsin declined 1 percent from last year's level. Minnesota's stocks are equal to last year while Nebraska's storages hold 16 percent more than in 2001.

Eastern States stored 16.3 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 1 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Maine's stocks were up 3 percent, New York's gained 4 percent, but were offset by a 33 percent decline in Pennsylvania.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION & STOCKS 1997-2002 IDAHO & 15 FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS						
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR					
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	JUN 1 2/
<u>1,000 Cwt</u>								
IDAHO								
1997	140,314	102,000	91,500	81,000	69,500	56,000	41,500	
1998	138,000	99,500	89,000	77,500	66,000	52,000	37,000	23,000
1999	133,330	96,000	86,000	76,500	65,000	50,000	36,000	21,000
2000	152,320	111,000	101,000	87,500	76,500	61,500	47,000	26,500
2001	120,200	87,500	78,000	68,000	58,000	45,000	32,500	18,500
2002	133,385	92,000						
15 STATES 1/								
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	410,704	265,190						

1/ See table below for listing of 15 states. 2/ Stocks not available prior to 1998.

PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON DECEMBER 1, 2001 AND DECEMBER 1, 2002 1/

STATE	CROP OF 2001			CROP OF 2002		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2001	DECEMBER 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DECEMBER 1, 2002	DECEMBER 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	<u>1,000 Cwt</u>		<u>Percent</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt</u>		<u>Percent</u>
California	1,424	1,200	84	4,450	1,500	34
Colorado	21,357	15,600	73	27,885	20,100	72
Idaho	120,200	87,500	73	133,385	92,000	69
Maine	16,430	12,200	74	16,960	12,600	74
Michigan	13,950	8,200	59	13,878	7,900	57
Minnesota	18,425	12,000	65	18,700	12,000	64
Montana	3,296	3,000	91	3,213	3,050	95
Nebraska	8,400	4,850	58	8,414	5,650	67
New York	5,942	2,400	40	5,500	2,500	45
N. Dakota	26,400	19,500	74	23,460	16,000	68
Ohio	1,097	300	27	1,008	190	19
Oregon	20,730	17,500	84	24,936	18,000	72
Pennsylvania	3,173	1,800	57	2,590	1,200	46
Washington	94,400	53,000	56	95,200	53,000	56
Wisconsin	31,955	19,700	62	31,125	19,500	63
15 STATES	387,179	258,750	67	410,704	265,190	65

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 2002 totaled 29.3 million cwt.

IDAHO PRODUCTION UNCHANGED FROM NOVEMBER 1

Idaho's 2002 potato production of 133 million cwt, is unchanged from the November 1 estimate. Planted acres of 375,000 and harvested acres of 373,000 are also unchanged from earlier estimates. Statewide yield of 358 cwt (field-run basis) is 13 cwt above a year ago.

Production in the 10 Southwestern Counties is estimated at 12.3 million cwt, above the 10.4 million cwt produced in 2001. Harvested acreage of 27,000 is up 4,000 acres from a year ago. Yield of 455 cwt (field run basis) is up 5 cwt from last year.

Other Counties' production of 121 million cwt is above 2001's production of 110 million cwt. Acres for harvest increased 21,000 acres from 2001 to 346,000 acres. Field-run yield of 350 cwt per acre is 12 cwt above a year ago.

FALL POTATOES - PRODUCTION FORECAST DECEMBER 1, 2002

States	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production		
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>		<u>Cwt.</u>		<u>1,000 Cwt</u>		
WINTER	14.0	15.7	294	268	4,960	4,115	4,206
SPRING	76.2	77.7	286	280	21,921	21,814	21,753
SUMMER	58.8	60.6	310	310	19,236	18,209	18,813
FALL							
California	3.2	8.9	445	500	3,741	1,424	4,450
Colorado	67.8	71.5	315	390	27,972	21,357	27,885
IDAHO, ALL	348.0	373.0	345	358	152,320	120,200	133,385
- 10 SW Counties	23.0	27.0	450	455	13,720	10,350	12,285
- Other Areas	325.0	346.0	338	350	138,600	109,850	121,100
Indiana	2.9	2.8	320	260	784	928	728
Maine	62.0	64.0	265	265	17,920	16,430	16,960
Massachusetts	2.8	2.9	265	255	638	742	740
Michigan	45.0	45.5	310	305	14,963	13,950	13,878
Minnesota	55.0	55.0	335	340	21,240	18,425	18,700
Montana	10.3	10.2	320	315	3,503	3,296	3,213
Nebraska	22.4	21.3	375	395	10,127	8,400	8,414
Nevada	6.5	7.6	360	340	3,150	2,340	2,584
New Mexico	4.2	4.0	340	400	2,720	1,428	1,600
New York	23.3	22.0	255	250	5,964	5,942	5,500
North Dakota	110.0	102.0	240	230	26,950	26,400	23,460
Ohio	4.3	4.2	255	240	1,134	1,097	1,008
Oregon, ALL	44.5	49.8	466	501	30,683	20,730	24,936
- Malheur, Co	9.0	8.0	410	400	4,463	3,690	3,200
- Other Areas	35.5	41.8	480	520	26,220	17,040	21,736
Pennsylvania	13.5	14.0	235	185	3,510	3,173	2,590
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	280	160	138	140	80
South Dakota	2.7	1.1	240	300	812	648	330
Utah	1.3	0.8	265	305	435	345	244
Washington	160.0	170.0	590	560	105,000	94,400	95,200
Wisconsin	83.0	83.0	385	375	33,800	31,955	31,125
TOTAL FALL	1,073.2	1,114.1	367	374	467,504	393,750	417,010
UNITED STATES	1,222.2	1,268.1	358	364	513,621	437,888	461,782

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Production of fall potatoes for 2002 is forecast at 417 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from November and 6 percent above last year. However, this is 11 percent smaller than the record high 2000 crop. Area harvested, at 1.11 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 374 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above last month and 7 cwt above last year.

Production estimates are generally lower this year in Central and Eastern States but higher in the West. Harvest was completed on schedule in nearly all States.

The nine Western States' production is forecast at 293 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year but 11 percent below 2000. Acreage harvested, at 695,800 acres, gained 8 percent from last year, while the average yield of 422 cwt per acre is up 11 cwt. California growers responded with record high yields with adequate irrigation water available in the Tule Lake Basin. Colorado's production rose 31 percent as farmers had sufficient irrigation water to sustain them through the hot, dry summer weather. Idaho's production increased 11 percent from last year as potatoes were able to size up at the end of the season. Production in Oregon was adjusted upward 31 percent from the November forecast. Oregon's current storage totals reflect an increased production. Production now stands at 24.9 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year but 19 percent below 2000. Washington's production forecast is down 5 percent from last month but up 1 percent from 2001 despite lower yields. Production in Nevada and New Mexico rose 10 and 12 percent, respectively, from a year ago. Montana's production is down 3 percent and Utah is down 29 percent.

Eight Central States' production is forecast at 97.6 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year and 11 percent below 2000. Harvested area, estimated at 314,900 acres, is down 3 percent, while the average yield of 310 cwt per acre is down 3 cwt from a year ago. Minnesota and Nebraska register production increases from last year but the other 6 Central States are down. Spring rains and flooding reduced production potential in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Indiana production fell 22 percent from last year, North Dakota was down 11 percent, Wisconsin dropped 3 percent, and Ohio output fell 8 percent. Minnesota gained 1 percent and Nebraska's production is up fractionally.

Five Eastern States' production is forecast at 25.9 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Area for harvest totaled 103,400 acres, 1 percent above last year, but the average yield fell to 250 cwt per acre, 9 cwt below last season. Maine's production is up 3 percent from last year but the other 4 States are down. Production in New York dropped 7 percent from last year and Pennsylvania fell 18 percent. Massachusetts' production is down less than 1 percent and Rhode Island is off 43 percent.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 265 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.5 percent or approximately 6.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.3 percent or approximately 11.4 million cwt.

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