



NEWS RELEASE

**Potato Production & Stocks
December 15, 2003**

NORTH DAKOTA POTATO PRODUCTION INCREASES

North Dakota

Potato production in North Dakota is estimated at 26.9 million (cwt) for 2003, up 15 percent from last year and the highest since 2000's 27.0 million cwt, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The increase is due a combination of more harvested acres and increased yields per acre. Since 1990, production has ranged from 16.7 million cwt in 1990 to 30.0 million cwt in 1991.

Planted acreage totaled 117,000, down 1 percent from last year. Harvested acreage, at 112,000, was up 10 percent from last year. Yield averaged 240 cwt per harvested acre, up from 230 cwt per acre last year, but below the record high yield of 245 cwt per acre in 2000.

Russet potatoes accounted for 47,000 acres or 42.0 percent of the total harvested acres, down from last year's 47,500 acres. Whites increased to 43,500 acres harvested, 38.8 percent of the total harvested acres, and reds increased to 21,500 acres, 19.2 percent of the total harvested acres. Last year whites totaled 40,000 acres and reds 14,500 acres.

Of the total production, russet potatoes accounted for 56.3 percent, whites 30.9 percent and reds accounted for 12.8 percent. Last year russets accounted for 58.1 percent of the total production, while whites accounted for 30.9 percent and reds accounted for 11.0 percent.

United States

Production of fall potatoes for 2003 is forecast at 412 million cwt, down less than 1 percent from the November forecast and 1 percent below last year. Area harvested, at 1.09 million acres, is down 2 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 377 cwt per acre, 1 cwt below last month but 4 cwt above last year.

NORTH DAKOTA DECEMBER 1 POTATO STOCKS INCREASE

North Dakota

Stocks of potatoes in storage facilities of North Dakota growers, dealers and processors on December 1 2003, were estimated at 19.4 million hundredweight (cwt), up 21 percent from last year, but down 1 percent from 2001, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. Current stocks represent 72 percent of the production, up from 68 percent in 2002, but down from 74 percent in 2001. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Comparing stocks by type, russets accounted from 56 percent of the total, down from 62 percent in 2002 and 63 percent in 2001. Round whites held 23 percent of the total, up from 17 percent in 2002 and 16 percent in 2001. Long whites held 7 percent, up from 6 percent in 2002. All white potatoes, at 30 percent of total stocks, were up from 23 percent in both 2002 and 2001. Reds decreased to 14 percent from last year's 15 percent, but were unchanged from 14 percent in 2001.

United States

The 15 major potato storage States held 267 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2003, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2001. Storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type were 4 percent red, 12 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 81 percent russet, with more reds and round whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 137 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 4 percent from the same period last year but 7 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 14.7 million cwt, is down 5 percent from last year but unchanged from two years ago. Processors used 70.7 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 8 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Dehydrators used 14.3 million cwt to date, down 9 percent from last year.

For More Information Contact:

FALL POTATOES: BY TYPE, NORTH DAKOTA

Item	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	Dec 1 Stocks
	--- Acres ---		--- Cwt ---		--- 1,000 Cwt ---
	2002				
Reds	19,000	14,500	178	2,580	2,400
Whites	47,500	40,000	181	7,250	3,680
Russets	51,500	47,500	287	13,630	9,920
TOTAL	118,000	102,000	230	23,460	16,000
	2003				
Reds	23,500	21,500	160	3,440	2,720
Whites	45,500	43,500	191	8,305	5,820
Russets	48,000	47,000	322	15,135	10,860
TOTAL	117,000	112,000	240	26,880	19,400

FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND DECEMBER 1 STOCKS ^{1/}

State	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		Total Stocks	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	--- 1,000 Acres ---				--- Cwt ---		--- 1,000 Cwt ---			
NORTH DAKOTA	118.0	117.0	102.0	112.0	230	240	23,460	26,880	16,000	19,400
California	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	520	410	4,264	3,444	3,300	2,700
Colorado	71.6	66.3	71.5	65.7	390	360	27,885	23,652	20,500	17,800
Idaho	375.0	360.0	373.0	358.0	358	344	133,385	123,180	92,000	86,000
Maine	64.0	66.0	64.0	65.5	265	260	16,960	17,030	12,600	13,500
Michigan	46.5	46.0	45.5	45.5	305	330	13,878	15,015	7,900	8,400
Minnesota	61.0	60.0	55.0	58.0	340	385	18,700	22,330	12,000	14,000
Montana	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.6	310	320	3,224	3,392	3,100	3,200
Nebraska	22.0	23.5	21.8	23.0	395	420	8,611	9,660	5,500	6,700
New York	22.5	22.2	22.0	21.7	250	300	5,500	6,510	2,400	3,000
Ohio	4.3	4.5	4.2	4.3	215	300	903	1,290	85	260
Oregon	50.0	42.8	49.8	42.6	501	493	24,936	20,991	17,500	18,000
Pennsylvania	15.0	14.5	14.0	13.5	185	290	2,590	3,915	1,400	2,200
Washington	165.0	163.0	165.0	162.0	560	575	92,400	93,150	50,000	51,000
Wisconsin	85.0	82.0	83.0	81.0	375	420	31,125	34,020	20,300	21,000
15 State Total							407,821	404,459	264,585	267,160
UNITED STATES	1,138.8	1,107.8	1,109.4	1,091.8	373	377	414,317	411,649		

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 cwt.

FALL POTATO STOCKS: DECEMBER 1, 2003

State	Percent of Stocks by Type							
	Red		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russet	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	--- Percent ---							
NORTH DAKOTA	15	14	17	23	6	7	62	56
Colorado	4	5	1	2			95	93
Idaho	1	1			4	3	95	96
Maine	4	4	47	46	2	2	47	48
Michigan	1	1	88	86			11	13
Minnesota	12	14	7	4		1	81	81
New York	5	5	90	90			5	5
Oregon	1	1	1	1			98	98
Pennsylvania	3	4	97	96				
Washington	1	1	1	1	6	6	92	92
Wisconsin	4	7	32	29			64	64
11 State Total	3	4	11	12	3	3	83	81

