

Potatoes

Our state's potato farmers produced 32.8 million hundredweight (cwt.) of potatoes in 2003, from 80,000 acres. Where did those potatoes go? Approximately 91 percent of the crop was sold as either fresh market, processing, or seed potatoes. The other 9 percent was either used on the farm where it was grown, or lost after it reached storage. Usually, there are more potatoes sold in Wisconsin, but fad diets led to less demand, resulting in a lot more dumping of potatoes at the end of the storage season.

The value of the state's 2003 potato crop was \$187 million, with an average price of \$5.70 per cwt. This price is down \$1.20 from 2002. Nationally, the 2003 potato crop was valued at \$2.69 billion, with an average price of \$5.89 per cwt.

The first production forecast for the 2004 potato crop will be released November 12, 2004.

POTATOES – 2003 FALL CROP

State	Production	Total used for seed	Farm disposition			Price per cwt.	Value of	
			Used on farms where grown		Sold		Production	Sales
			For seed, feed, & household use	Shrinkage and loss				
1,000 cwt.						Dollars	1,000 dollars	
Idaho	123,180	7,700	1,463	8,900	112,817	4.40	541,992	496,395
Maine	17,030	1,245	215	2,430	14,385	6.05	103,032	87,029
Minnesota	22,330	1,060	130	1,800	20,400	5.05	112,767	103,020
North Dakota	27,440	1,805	390	3,700	23,350	5.45	149,548	127,258
Oregon	20,991	955	275	1,290	19,426	5.35	112,837	104,350
Washington	93,150	4,000	280	5,600	87,270	5.25	489,038	458,168
Wisconsin	32,800	1,650	300	2,750	29,750	5.70	186,960	169,575
Total Fall	410,588	23,249	5,254	33,579	371,755	5.23	2,149,570	1,943,986
United States	457,814	26,360	5,541	35,296	416,977	5.89	2,685,822	2,457,640

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.