



FIELD CROPS

POTATO ACREAGE, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKS

January 18, 2005

2005 WINTER PRODUCTION

FLORIDA: Mostly mild conditions during December and the first half of January allowed Hastings growers to prepare ground for planting. The crop received no significant damage from temperatures in the 30s around mid-December and during the last half. Most producers in the Hastings area started planting around mid-January. Harvesting of a small acreage in the Hastings area, planted in late October, is getting underway. Total winter crop acreage for harvest, in both the Hastings and other regions, is placed at 5,800, up 300 acres from last winter. Yield is expected to average 260 hundredweight per acre, 25 hundredweight below the winter 2004 crop yield. The expected production of 1,508,000 hundredweight is down 60,000 hundredweight or four percent from the 1,568,000 hundredweight dug a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Production for 2005 is forecast at 4.66 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago but 16 percent above 2003. Harvested acreage in the two winter potato States (California and Florida) is estimated at

19,800 acres, up 2 percent from 2004, while the average yield is forecast at 235 cwt per acre, 25 cwt below last year. Harvest is underway in California's Kern County and proceeding normally. There have been no reports that the recent cold, wet weather has seriously affected the quality of the potatoes.

2004 SPRING PRODUCTION

UNITED STATES: Production for 2004 is revised to 22.7 million cwt, up 19 percent from the May forecast but 7 percent below 2003. Harvested area totaled 72,200 acres, down 15 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 314 cwt per acre increased 26 cwt from 2003 and is a record high, 14 cwt above the previous record set in 1999. Spring potato production in Texas decreased 26 percent from 2003 and 15 percent in Arizona. Production in North Carolina is down 9 percent from the previous year and Florida's crop is 4 percent below 2003. California's crop decreased 1 percent from last year. Record high yields in California partially offset an 8 percent decrease in harvested acres.

POTATOES

Seasonal Group and State	Area				Yield per acre		Production		
	Planted		Harvested		2004	Indicated 2005	2003	2004	Indicated 2005
	2004	Indicated 2005	2004	Indicated 2005					
	1,000 acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		
Winter									
California	13.0	14.0	13.0	14.0	250	225	2,635	3,250	3,150
Florida	5.7	6.0	5.5	5.8	285	260	1,392	1,568	1,508
Total	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	235	4,027	4,818	4,658
Spring ^{1/}									
Arizona	6.2		6.2		285		2,090	1,767	
California	17.5		17.5		475		8,360	8,313	
Florida	24.8		24.5		313		8,008	7,678	
Hastings	18.2		18.0		320		5,684	5,760	
Other	6.6		6.5		295		2,324	1,918	
North Carolina	17.0		13.5		200		2,975	2,700	
Texas	11.0		10.5		210		3,000	2,205	
Total	76.5		72.2		314		24,433	22,663	

^{1/} 2004 Revised.

POTATO STOCKS, UP 2 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 238 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 59 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and round whites but a larger percentage of long whites and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 165 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 20.0 million cwt, is up 15 percent from last year and 10 percent above the same date in 2003.

Processors used 86.0 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon processing increased less than 1 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processed 1 percent less than last season. December usage, at 15.2 million cwt, is 1 percent below last year and down 2 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 17.0 million cwt of the

total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 13 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 163 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, up 4 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. California's potato stocks are up 33 percent from last year, while Idaho's and Montana's storages both hold 10 percent more. Stocks for potato sheds in Oregon are down 8 percent and Washington's and Colorado's sheds both stored 2 percent less than last year.

Central States accounted for 59.4 million cwt of potato stocks on January 1, down 4 percent from last year but 13 percent above two years ago. Ohio's potato stocks are down 37 percent, Michigan potato sheds stored 10 percent less than last year, and Minnesota's stocks decreased 6 percent. Nebraska's potato stocks went down 5 percent and Wisconsin's sheds stored 3 percent less. North Dakota's sheds are the only ones in the Central States storing more potatoes than last year, with an increase of 1 percent.

Eastern States stored 15.7 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, up 3 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago.

New York's stocks are up 13 percent from last year, while Maine stocks increased 6 percent. Pennsylvania's sheds' stocks decreased 27 percent from a year ago.

POTATOES: Quantity used for processing, nine States, 2002-2004 ^{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	Entire season
<i>1,000 cwt</i>									
Idaho & Malheur County, Oregon	2002	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240	63,840	71,280	85,390
	2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004	24,360	30,840						
Maine ^{2/}	2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
	2003	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004	1,555	1,985						
Washington and Other areas, Oregon	2002	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
	2003	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004 ^{3/}	32,305	38,130						
Other States ^{4/}	2002	12,675	15,530	18,735	21,780	24,810	27,405	30,655	38,700
	2003	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004	12,525	15,035						
Total	2002	76,965	92,595	107,470	126,205	144,265	160,770	179,320	211,035
	2003	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004 ^{3/}	70,745	85,990						
Dehydrated ^{5/}	2002	15,675	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,915	36,105	40,455	48,940
	2003	14,250	18,440	22,050	26,090	30,290	34,630	39,070	47,750
	2004	13,365	17,015						

^{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/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} December revised.

^{4/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

^{5/} Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

FALL POTATOES: Production and Stocks on January 1, 2004-2005 ^{1/}

State	Crop of 2003			Crop of 2004			
	Production	Stocks Jan 1, 2004	Percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2004	Stocks Jan 1, 2005	January as percent of production
	<i>1,000 cwt</i>			<i>Percent</i>			
California	3,528	2,100	60	3,876	3,200	2,800	72
Colorado	23,652	15,300	65	23,148	17,200	15,000	65
Idaho	123,180	76,500	62	131,970	93,500	84,500	64
Maine	17,030	12,100	71	19,220	15,000	12,800	67
Michigan	15,015	7,700	51	13,650	8,600	6,900	51
Minnesota	22,330	12,400	56	18,920	13,000	11,600	61
Montana	3,339	3,000	90	3,551	3,400	3,300	93
Nebraska ^{2/}	9,744	5,600	57	9,288	6,300	5,300	57
New York ^{2/}	6,510	1,600	25	5,184	2,500	1,800	35
North Dakota	27,440	17,300	63	26,765	19,600	17,500	65
Ohio	1,097	190	17	1,080	200	120	11
Oregon	20,991	15,800	75	19,775	17,000	14,500	73
Pennsylvania ^{2/}	3,375	1,500	44	2,640	1,300	1,100	42
Washington	93,150	44,000	47	93,810	50,000	43,000	46
Wisconsin	32,800	18,500	56	30,450	21,000	18,000	59
Total 15 States ^{2/}	403,181	233,590	58	403,327	271,800	238,220	59

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant the following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

^{2/} December 1, 2004 stocks revised.