

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 28, 1938

MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1938
WITH COMPARISONS

Based on reports from potato growers, dealers and buyers in the 37 late and intermediate States to the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, merchantable potatoes available for sale, on hand January 1, 1938, are estimated to have been 108,936,000 bushels. This is 26 percent greater than the 86,238,000 bushels on hand January 1, 1937, but about 1 percent smaller than the 5-year (1932-36) January 1 stocks. In the 18 surplus late States, the January 1 stocks are estimated to have been 101,509,000 bushels, compared with 81,263,000 bushels a year ago; in the 12 other late States, 5,613,000 bushels compared with 4,141,000 bushels last year; and in the 7 intermediate States, 1,814,000 bushels compared with 834,000 bushels on January 1, 1937.

Growing conditions during the 1937 season were unusually favorable in most sections of the country and resulted in a high yield per acre on an acreage slightly below average. For the country as a whole, yields averaged 123.1 bushels per acre, the highest since 1924, and the second highest on record. In most sections harvesting proceeded with small loss and the quality of this season's crop is reported to be good.

Potatoes fed to livestock, and those lost through shrinkage, decay and culling prior to January 1, 1938, amounted to 29,827,000 bushels, or 8 percent of the production in the 37 late and intermediate States. Last season 19,258,000 bushels, or 6 percent of production, had been disposed of in this manner by January 1. During the 1936-37 season, however, the relatively high prices resulted in unusually heavy sales of low-grade potatoes, ordinarily considered unmerchantable. Potatoes saved for food on farms where grown amounted to 52,804,000 bushels from the 1937 crop compared with 42,741,000 bushels from the 1936 crop; the quantity saved for seed for planting on farms where grown totaled 31,486,000 bushels this season compared with 30,611,000 bushels last season.

Potato prices have been relatively low since June 1937. This unfavorable price situation caused growers to hold a larger percentage of their merchantable potatoes on January 1, 1938 than was the case last season. With production in the 37 late and intermediate States amounting to 352,717,000 bushels in 1937, a total of 97,651 cars had been shipped by rail and boat through January 1, 1938. Last year the crop in these States was rather small - 305,838,000 bushels - but despite this small crop, 98,455 cars were shipped through January 2, 1937.

The 108,936,000 bushels of merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers and buyers on January 1, 1938 include quantities which are to be diverted from normal market channels under government programs. These programs include purchases for relief distribution and payments for merchantable potatoes to be diverted into starch, flour, and livestock feed. Prior to January 25, farmers had applied for and received authorizations to divert into livestock feed slight-

(Over)

ly more than 8 million bushels of potatoes grading U. S. No. 2 or better, of which an insignificant part was so diverted before January 1. From January 1 to January 24, inclusive, about 1 million bushels were actually diverted to livestock feed. Through January 22 starch manufacturers had applied for and received authorizations to divert to starch approximately 880,000 bushels of potatoes grading U. S. No. 2 or better. Actual diversions to starch manufacture through January 22 amounted to 355,000 bushels of which 105,000 bushels were diverted prior to January 1, and 250,000 bushels from January 1 to January 22, inclusive.

--ooOoo--

POTATOES: PRODUCTION, AVAILABLE FOR SALE, AND MERCHANTABLE STOCKS ON HAND
JANUARY 1 IN 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES, CROPS OF 1929 TO 1937

Crop of:	Production 37 States	Available for Sale 37 States	January 1 Stocks	
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Date	1,000 bushels
1929	304,194	200,289	Jan. 1, 1930	82,999
1930	309,191	201,342	Jan. 1, 1931	88,236
1931	344,723	227,340	Jan. 1, 1932	112,064
1932	343,148	220,802	Jan. 1, 1933	108,730
1933	313,749	210,936	Jan. 1, 1934	99,334
1934	369,454	248,132	Jan. 1, 1935	126,715
1935	352,581	232,453	Jan. 1, 1936	105,669
1936	305,888	213,278	Jan. 1, 1937	86,238
1937	352,717	238,600	Jan. 1, 1938	108,936

(Continued)

POTATOES: ESTIMATED MERCHANTABLE STOCKS HELD BY GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS AND
BUYERS, ON JANUARY 1, 1935, 1936, 1937 and 1938,
IN 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

STATE and GROUP	Stocks as percent of potatoes sold or available for sale				Merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers and buyers 1/			
	Jan. 1, 1935	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1935	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938
	Crop of 1934	Crop of 1935	Crop of 1936	Crop of 1937	Crop of 1934	Crop of 1935	Crop of 1936	Crop of 1937
	- Percent -	- Percent -	- Percent -	- Percent -	- Thousand bushels -	- Thousand bushels -	- Thousand bushels -	- Thousand bushels -
SURPLUS LATE STATES:								
Maine	68	67	65	34	31,657	21,086	24,903	26,179
New York	55	42	40	52	14,649	8,080	7,463	10,336
Pennsylvania	58	42	32	41	12,460	7,003	5,536	6,771
Michigan	63	53	52	62	14,848	9,860	8,517	10,455
Wisconsin	63	57	47	56	11,535	8,815	5,156	5,565
Minnesota	51	57	65	54	4,749	9,912	3,661	7,569
North Dakota	43	50	56	47	1,576	4,013	2,085	3,646
South Dakota	38	35	19	29	80	11	45	205
Nebraska	51	52	54	35	1,625	3,369	1,783	1,459
Montana	67	57	32	49	530	433	255	383
Idaho	50	51	41	51	10,258	9,407	7,569	11,800
Wyoming	46	62	57	56	277	1,092	524	1,009
Colorado	30	60	40	51	1,558	8,144	5,911	5,800
Utah	17	47	21	33	192	735	296	569
Nevada	67	50	45	35	177	159	110	174
Washington	50	40	40	50	3,570	2,518	2,353	3,553
Oregon	56	50	49	60	3,229	1,376	2,691	3,432
California	23	20	20	17	2,240	2,055	2,345	2,600
18 SURPLUS LATE	56.5	52.2	46.6	51.6	115,270	96,889	81,263	101,509
OTHER LATE STATES:								
New Hampshire	65	54	35	56	701	294	379	512
Vermont	70	59	33	52	1,196	595	475	605
Massachusetts	45	30	20	27	807	354	375	433
Rhode Island	35	38	25	28	201	224	152	191
Connecticut	58	34	17	44	1,456	615	393	1,039
West Virginia	36	29	21	33	252	241	103	386
Ohio	43	34	20	23	3,204	3,168	1,688	998
Indiana	53	46	22	41	1,370	961	385	833
Illinois	39	30	11	30	135	292	63	156
Iowa	33	24	6	30	471	567	77	369
New Mexico	22	15	12	17	35	44	41	55
Arizona	22	11	7	14	21	12	10	16
12 OTHER LATE ..	48.2	34.9	20.4	33.8	9,679	7,337	4,141	5,613
INTERMEDIATE STATES:								
New Jersey	8	7	4	6	600	553	324	528
Delaware	26	24	16	26	116	76	43	66
Maryland	12	9	9	12	286	191	171	284
Virginia	2	1	2	2	217	35	109	147
Kentucky	24	18	7	26	238	222	40	405
Missouri	14	13	8	15	58	188	83	312
Kansas	6	6	5	6	49	78	64	69
7 INTERMEDIATE ..	6.7	6.2	4.5	7.2	1,566	1,393	834	1,514
30 LATE STATES ..	55.7	50.4	44.1	50.2	125,149	104,276	85,404	107,122
37 LATE and INTERMEDIATE	51.1	46.1	40.4	45.7	126,715	105,669	86,238	108,936

1/ - Includes potatoes for sale to starch factories after January 1. The January 1, 1938 stocks also include merchantable potatoes which will be diverted from normal market channels under government diversion programs. (see text) (Over)

POTATOES: ESTIMATED UTILIZATION OF THE 1930 CROP IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

(All quantities shown in thousand bushels, i.e. 000 omitted)

STATE and GROUP	Estimated total production	Unfit for food or seed 1/	Saved for food on farms where grown	Saved for seed in locality where grown	Balance of crop, 2/ (available for sale)	
					Quantity	Percent of crop
SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:						
Maine	45,885	3,671	1,056	2,845	38,313	83
New York	26,400	1,056	3,520	3,116	18,708	71
Pennsylvania	25,212	1,008	3,780	3,125	17,299	69
Michigan	26,125	2,351	4,020	3,376	16,378	63
Wisconsin	20,090	2,009	4,176	2,935	10,970	55
Minnesota	12,502	875	3,304	2,691	5,632	45
North Dakota	6,105	366	759	1,256	3,724	61
South Dakota	783	39	300	206	238	30
Nebraska	4,730	236	840	352	3,302	70
Montana	1,520	76	450	196	798	52
Idaho	22,260	1,558	475	1,767	18,460	83
Wyoming	1,495	90	165	321	919	61
Colorado	18,500	1,665	416	1,641	14,778	80
Utah	1,830	73	216	130	1,411	77
Nevada	322	19	30	29	244	76
Washington	8,010	641	756	631	5,982	75
Oregon	7,310	512	700	606	5,492	75
California	12,985	390	168	701	11,726	90
18 SURPLUS LATE	242,064	16,635	25,131	25,924	174,374	72.0
OTHER LATE STATES:						
New Hampshire	1,666	83	390	109	1,084	65
Vermont	2,392	144	570	240	1,438	60
Massachusetts	2,496	100	442	80	1,874	75
Rhode Island	720	29	70	15	606	84
Connecticut	2,839	114	360	54	2,311	81
West Virginia	1,920	115	1,020	296	489	26
Ohio	14,430	722	3,952	1,318	8,438	58
Indiana	4,617	277	2,100	492	1,748	38
Illinois	2,666	133	1,740	218	575	22
Iowa	3,551	178	1,612	478	1,283	36
New Mexico	450	22	36	47	345	77
Arizona	180	5	12	15	148	82
12 OTHER LATE	37,927	1,922	12,304	3,362	20,339	53.6
INTERMEDIATE STATES:						
New Jersey	8,840	177	297	277	8,089	92
Delaware	475	24	175	35	241	51
Maryland	2,940	147	672	218	1,903	65
Virginia	7,380	148	1,456	330	5,446	70
Kentucky	1,692	68	816	233	575	34
Missouri	2,860	86	1,540	200	1,034	36
Kansas	1,710	51	350	32	1,277	74
7 INTERMEDIATE	25,897	701	5,306	1,325	18,565	71.7
30 LATE STATES	279,991	18,557	37,435	29,286	194,713	69.5
37 LATE and INTERMEDIATE ..	305,888	19,258	42,741	30,611	213,278	69.7

^{1/} - Includes potatoes fed to livestock to January 1 and lost through shrinkage, decay, dumping, or culling. ^{2/} - Includes potatoes sold to starch factories. (Continued)

POTATOES: ESTIMATED UTILIZATION OF THE 1937 CROP IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

- 5.

(All quantities shown in thousand bushels, i.e. 000 omitted)

STATE and GROUP	Estimated total production	Unfit for food or seed 1/	Saved for food on farms where grown	Saved for seed in locality where grown	Balance of crop ^{2/} (available for sale)	
					Quantity	Percent of crop
<u>SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:</u>						
Maine	48,503	3,880	1,120	2,912	40,591	84
New York	28,375	1,702	3,930	2,845	19,838	70
Pennsylvania	25,215	1,261	4,620	2,980	16,354	65
Michigan	28,634	3,436	4,958	3,285	16,955	59
Wisconsin	18,525	2,223	3,942	2,495	9,865	53
Minnesota	24,411	2,385	4,704	3,115	13,907	57
North Dakota	11,662	933	1,330	1,637	7,762	67
South Dakota	1,534	138	420	271	705	46
Nebraska	6,035	483	900	433	4,219	70
Montana	1,800	144	630	213	783	44
Idaho	29,520	3,838	635	1,816	23,201	79
Wyoming	2,592	311	205	337	1,739	67
Colorado	15,388	1,723	510	2,020	11,432	73
Utah	2,128	192	232	135	1,569	74
Nevada	345	24	24	28	269	78
Washington	9,400	940	868	539	7,053	75
Oregon	7,840	784	728	652	5,673	72
California	16,900	1,183	144	697	14,876	88
18 SURPLUS LATE	279,107	25,883	30,020	26,410	196,794	70.5
<u>OTHER LATE STATES:</u>						
New Hampshire	1,479	118	340	109	912	62
Vermont	2,194	154	337	258	1,155	53
Massachusetts	2,254	68	450	103	1,633	72
Rhode Island	838	42	81	24	691	82
Connecticut	2,890	87	405	59	2,339	81
West Virginia	3,264	228	1,500	350	1,186	36
Ohio	10,030	502	3,944	1,181	4,403	44
Indiana	5,400	378	2,484	505	2,033	38
Illinois	3,120	218	2,160	222	520	17
Iowa	5,040	403	2,730	568	1,289	26
New Mexico	432	17	38	47	330	76
Arizona	160	10	15	19	116	72
12 OTHER LATE	37,101	2,225	14,604	3,465	16,607	44.8
<u>INTERMEDIATE STATES:</u>						
New Jersey	10,080	202	392	308	9,178	91
Delaware	475	28	154	35	258	54
Maryland	3,480	209	700	207	2,364	68
Virginia	10,920	323	1,638	407	8,547	78
Kentucky	4,371	350	2,040	415	1,566	36
Missouri	4,350	446	2,240	207	2,057	42
Kansas	2,233	156	816	32	1,229	55
7 INTERMEDIATE	36,509	1,719	7,960	1,611	25,199	69.0
30 LATE STATES	316,208	28,108	44,824	29,875	213,401	67.5
37 LATE and INTERMEDIATE ..	352,717	29,827	52,804	31,486	238,600	67.6

- 1/ - Includes potatoes fed to livestock to January 1 and lost through shrinkage, decay, dumping, or culling.
2/ - Includes potatoes sold to starch factories.

(Over)

POTATOES: UNITED STATES PRODUCTION	
1924 - 1937	
Year	- Thousand bushels -
1924	384,166
1925	296,466
1926	321,607
1927	369,644
1928	427,249
1929	332,204
1930	340,572
1931	384,125
1932	376,425
1933	342,306
1934	406,105
1935	386,380
1936	331,918
1937	391,159