

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 24, 1940

MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1940
WITH COMPARISONS

Stocks of merchantable potatoes available for sale, in the hands of growers and local dealers and buyers, on January 1, 1940, are estimated by the Crop Reporting Board of the Agricultural Marketing Service, to have been 103,318,000 bushels. This total is only 232,000 bushels less than the 103,550,000 bushels on hand on January 1, 1939, but is 2 percent below the 5-year (1934-38) average of 105,369,000 bushels.

January 1 stocks in the 18 surplus late States are estimated to have been 95,296,000 bushels, compared with 95,669,000 bushels a year earlier. In the 12 other late States, stocks on January 1 were 6,786,000 bushels, compared with 5,870,000 bushels a year earlier, and in the 7 intermediate States 1,236,000 bushels compared with 2,011,000 bushels on the same date last year.

Growing conditions during the 1939 season were somewhat variable. The average yield for the 18 surplus States, as a group, was below that of 1938 but above the 10-year (1928-37) average. In the "other late" group of States, yields were better than average, and above those of the 1938 season. Yields were lower than in 1938 in all of the intermediate States, and below average in all of these States except Kentucky and Missouri.

In Maine, yields were below average, and the proportion of small sized tubers was relatively large. In spite of dry weather early in the season, yields were better than average in New York and Pennsylvania. Dry weather in southern Michigan and blight infestations on the upper peninsula reduced the crop in that State. In Nebraska, crops made excellent yields in irrigated areas, but dry-land crops were light. Some disease damage was reported in Colorado, but there was comparatively little loss from insect damage compared with last season.

After deducting from the total 1939 production in the 37 States, the quantities of sound and cull potatoes fed to livestock to January 1, loss from shrinkage, waste and decay to that date (including potatoes unfit for human consumption or seed still on hand), saved for household use on farms where grown, and saved for planting on farms where grown, the balance of the 1939 crop totaled 222,478,000 bushels. This total is the sum of sales in these States to January 1, 1940, and of merchantable potatoes on hand and available for sale after that date. It is slightly less than the estimated sales of 224,326,000 bushels from the 1938 crop.

The analysis of the 1939 crop in the 37 States indicates that potatoes fed to livestock, unfit for food or seed, and lost through shrinkage and waste to January 1, totaled 22,691,000 bushels compared with 28,346,000 bushels accounted for in this manner during the full marketing season for the 1938 crop. During the current marketing season, shrinkage, waste, and fed to livestock have been fairly heavy in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and California. But for the 37 States as a group, smaller quantities were fed to livestock to January 1, 1940, than to January 1, 1939, and shrinkage and waste appears to have been somewhat less.

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Fewer potatoes were saved for food in the farm household this year than last, the estimate for this item totaling 50,510,000 bushels from the 1939 crop compared with 53,524,000 bushels from the 1938 crop. The quantity saved for seed on farms where grown is slightly less than last year and is estimated at 29,929,000 bushels for this season compared with 30,513,000 bushels last season. Growers report that of the total seed for planting this spring, 65.3 percent will be home-grown seed. In 1939, growers indicated that 68.0 percent of the total seed to be planted would be home grown, and in 1938, the indication was 70.2 percent.

Sales to January 1 in the 37 late and intermediate States are estimated to have been 119,160,000 bushels from the 1939 crop compared with 120,776,000 bushels from the 1938 crop. Rail shipments to January 1, 1940, totaled 50,202,000 bushels compared with 54,303,000 bushels to the corresponding date in 1939. Reports from growers indicate that shipments by truck have increased this season over a year ago. On the basis of estimated sales and recorded rail shipments to January 1, truck shipments to January 1, 1940, accounted for 58 percent of sales to that date compared with 55 percent a year earlier.

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POTATOES (IRISH): PRODUCTION, SALES, AND MERCHANTABLE STOCKS ON HAND
JANUARY 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES, CROPS OF 1929 - 1939

Crop of:	Production 37 States	Sold (Season total) 37 States	January 1 Stocks
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Date : 1,000 bushels
1929	304,194	203,738	:Jan. 1, 1930 : 82,957
1930	309,191	207,695	:Jan. 1, 1931 : 88,388
1931	344,723	223,679	:Jan. 1, 1932 : 108,164
1932	348,148	220,540	:Jan. 1, 1933 : 109,314
1933	313,749	210,617	:Jan. 1, 1934 : 98,404
1934	369,454	234,700	:Jan. 1, 1935 : 123,739
1935	352,581	226,535	:Jan. 1, 1936 : 106,127
1936	305,888	213,561	:Jan. 1, 1937 : 85,418
1937	357,158	245,408	:Jan. 1, 1938 : 113,155
1938	336,709	224,326	:Jan. 1, 1939 : 103,550
1939	325,608	* 222,478	:Jan. 1, 1940 : 103,318

* Sold and available for sale.

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POTATOES (IRISH): MERCHANTABLE STOCKS ON HAND JANUARY 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES,

CROPS OF 1929 - 1935 1/

GROUP and STATE	Jan. 1, 1930	Jan. 1, 1931	Jan. 1, 1932	Jan. 1, 1933	Jan. 1, 1934	Jan. 1, 1935
	Crop of 1929	Crop of 1930	Crop of 1931	Crop of 1932	Crop of 1933	Crop of 1934
Thousand bushels						
<u>SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:</u>						
Maine	23,492	20,653	27,618	22,152	22,494	31,657
New York	7,035	7,372	8,628	11,021	8,988	14,649
Pennsylvania	6,307	5,514	8,715	6,181	6,266	12,460
Michigan	5,227	3,779	8,933	12,259	8,671	14,848
Wisconsin	5,816	5,090	7,640	7,226	4,983	11,535
Minnesota	6,603	6,041	10,110	10,111	6,050	4,749
North Dakota	1,445	1,093	2,026	3,247	2,571	1,576
South Dakota	463	292	82	704	210	80
Nebraska	1,751	2,603	2,908	2,425	3,646	1,625
Montana	414	445	450	753	677	590
Idaho	6,289	12,915	11,033	10,169	11,478	9,027
Wyoming	376	1,005	1,016	728	1,264	295
Colorado	4,758	6,877	3,055	4,934	5,500	1,350
Utah	406	451	496	716	563	192
Nevada	211	320	131	202	182	177
Washington	2,867	3,754	3,073	3,444	3,649	3,284
Oregon	1,329	2,674	3,196	2,882	3,510	3,229
California	1,601	1,390	1,448	1,114	1,347	1,948
TOTAL 18	76,390	82,268	100,556	100,268	92,049	113,271
<u>OTHER LATE POTATO STATES:</u>						
New Hampshire	382	555	555	491	590	647
Vermont	507	778	775	683	626	1,059
Massachusetts	164	389	324	432	539	628
Rhode Island	38	78	70	96	120	172
Connecticut	185	526	585	658	661	878
West Virginia	530	42	247	335	218	252
Ohio	1,437	1,232	2,033	2,413	1,310	3,204
Indiana	559	520	716	1,097	525	1,370
Illinois	269	139	295	352	45	165
Iowa	516	124	73	657	348	471
New Mexico	28	33	38	102	128	35
Arizona	20	45	49	67	48	21
TOTAL 12	4,635	4,461	5,760	7,383	5,156	8,902
30 LATE STATES	81,025	86,729	106,318	107,651	97,207	122,173
<u>INTERMEDIATE POTATO STATES:</u>						
New Jersey	398	663	608	443	549	600
Delaware	36	13	66	84	59	116
Maryland	228	146	270	185	152	288
Virginia	380	123	216	77	67	217
Kentucky	337	134	240	275	125	238
Missouri	232	324	271	344	114	58
Kansas	261	256	175	255	131	49
TOTAL 7	1,932	1,659	1,846	1,663	1,197	1,566
37 LATE AND INTER- MEDIATE STATES	82,957	88,388	108,164	109,314	98,404	123,739

1/ Merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers and buyers. Includes potatoes for sale to starch factories after January 1.

(Over)

POTATOES (IRISH): MERCHANTABLE STOCKS ON HAND JANUARY 1 IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES,
CROPS OF 1936 - 1940 1/

GROUP and STATE	Jan. 1, 1936	Jan. 1, 1937	Jan. 1, 1938	Jan. 1, 1939	Jan. 1, 1940
	Crop of 1935	Crop of 1936	Crop of 1937	Crop of 1938	Crop of 1939
Thousand bushels					
<u>SURPLUS LATE STATES:</u>					
Maine	20,923	24,903	26,535	23,040	21,811
New York	8,107	7,483	8,598	7,779	8,561
Pennsylvania	7,042	5,536	7,002	6,020	6,775
Michigan	9,860	8,517	11,498	11,851	8,916
Wisconsin	6,816	5,156	5,602	5,241	5,234
Minnesota	9,912	3,661	7,603	6,906	6,784
North Dakota	4,198	2,085	3,897	3,958	3,685
South Dakota	594	45	182	194	416
Nebraska	3,700	1,717	2,500	2,279	2,091
Montana	454	255	601	400	438
Idaho	9,447	7,753	14,408	12,767	13,195
Wyoming	1,112	524	751	398	511
Colorado	8,508	5,911	5,800	4,055	5,790
Utah	735	293	598	706	604
Nevada	156	110	192	178	75
Washington	2,354	2,393	3,553	2,816	2,521
Oregon	2,006	2,691	3,488	3,518	3,094
California	1,438	1,407	2,700	3,563	4,795
18 SURPLUS LATE	97,362	80,443	105,508	95,669	95,296
<u>OTHER LATE STATES:</u>					
New Hampshire	325	379	511	398	501
Vermont	598	475	661	573	652
Massachusetts	350	375	429	261	507
Rhode Island	143	152	172	128	158
Connecticut	615	393	749	575	858
West Virginia	290	103	361	220	302
Ohio	3,020	1,688	1,248	2,017	2,105
Indiana	964	385	922	833	793
Illinois	328	63	198	329	294
Iowa	587	77	298	369	485
New Mexico	44	41	70	92	81
Arizona	25	10	30	75	50
12 OTHER LATE	7,294	4,141	5,649	5,870	6,786
30 LATE STATES	104,656	84,584	111,157	101,539	102,082
<u>INTERMEDIATE STATES:</u>					
New Jersey	552	324	671	658	468
Delaware	64	43	71	57	46
Maryland	191	171	279	246	151
Virginia	86	109	132	158	96
Kentucky	202	40	403	414	254
Missouri	266	83	301	275	145
Kansas	110	64	141	203	76
7 INTERMEDIATE	1,471	834	1,998	2,011	1,236
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	106,127	85,418	113,155	103,550	103,318

1/ Merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers and buyers. Includes potatoes for sale to starch factories after January 1.

(Continued)

POTATOES (IRISH): PRODUCTION AND FARM DISPOSITION IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

1938 CROP

GROUP and STATE	: PRODUCTION	FARM DISPOSITION					
		: Fed to live- : stock, shrink- : age, and loss : : after harvest :	: Used in : farm : household :	: Used for : seed on : farms where : grown :	: Balance of crop (Sold)		
					: Quantity	: Percent : of crop	
Thousand bushels							
<u>SURPLUS LATE STATES:</u>							
Maine	40,414	3,105	1,109	2,808	1/ 33,392	83	
New York	26,840	2,684	4,070	2,802	17,284	64	
Pennsylvania	22,002	2,200	4,340	2,369	13,093	60	
Michigan	30,000	2,700	4,392	3,157	19,751	66	
Wisconsin	19,080	3,244	3,750	2,198	9,888	52	
Minnesota	20,700	1,242	4,620	3,328	11,510	56	
North Dakota	12,070	724	1,230	2,199	7,917	66	
South Dakota	1,624	81	594	343	606	37	
Nebraska	6,240	250	1,340	581	4,069	65	
Montana	1,620	130	538	250	702	43	
Idaho	28,750	3,738	564	1,851	22,597	79	
Wyoming	1,200	144	118	227	711	59	
Colorado	11,830	1,183	358	1,473	8,816	75	
Utah.....	2,244	157	227	94	1,766	79	
Nevada	336	24	27	29	256	76	
Washington	7,568	605	728	488	5,747	76	
Oregon	7,740	619	608	649	5,864	76	
California	19,800	1,386	180	1,269	16,965	86	
18 LATE SURPLUS	260,058	24,216	28,793	26,115	180,934	69.6	
<u>OTHER LATE STATES:</u>							
New Hampshire ...	1,296	104	384	57	751	58	
Vermont	1,884	151	601	177	955	51	
Massachusetts ...	2,041	143	454	68	1,376	67	
Rhode Island	624	37	62	12	513	82	
Connecticut	2,310	185	403	31	1,691	73	
West Virginia ...	2,720	190	1,500	296	734	27	
Ohio	12,626	631	4,216	1,055	6,724	53	
Indiana	4,940	296	2,314	436	1,894	38	
Illinois	3,724	223	2,332	302	867	23	
Iowa	5,684	341	3,600	376	1,367	24	
New Mexico	525	16	38	33	438	83	
Arizona	275	14	12	22	227	83	
12 OTHER LATE	38,649	2,331	15,916	2,865	17,537	45.4	
30 LATE STATES	298,707	26,547	44,709	28,980	198,471	66.4	
<u>INTERMEDIATE STATES:</u>							
New Jersey	10,530	316	400	421	9,393	89	
Delaware	368	18	136	18	196	53	
Maryland	2,990	120	602	218	2,050	69	
Virginia	10,428	417	1,767	368	7,876	76	
Kentucky	4,635	417	2,080	340	1,798	39	
Missouri	5,832	350	3,080	113	2,289	39	
Kansas	3,219	161	750	55	2,253	70	
7 INTERMEDIATE STATES	38,002	1,799	8,815	1,533	25,855	68.0	
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	336,709	28,346	53,524	30,513	224,326	66.6	

1/ Includes potatoes sold to starch factories.

(Over)

POTATOES (IRISH): PRODUCTION AND FARM DISPOSITION IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES
1939 CROP

GROUP and STATE	PRODUCTION	FARM DISPOSITION (Preliminary)				
		Fed to live-	Used and	Saved for	Balance of crop	Percent
		stock, shrink-	said for	seed on	(Sold or for sale)	
		age, and loss	use in farm	farms where	Quantity	
		after harvest	household	grown		of crop
Thousand bushels						
<u>SURPLUS LATE STATES:</u>						
Maine	38,250	2,066	1,033	2,598	2/ 32,553	85
New York	26,797	1,340	3,564	2,968	19,025	71
Pennsylvania	22,440	1,122	4,270	2,720	14,728	66
Michigan	24,250	2,425	4,026	3,182	14,617	60
Wisconsin	17,336	1,734	3,600	2,310	9,692	56
Minnesota	20,315	1,625	3,920	3,271	11,499	57
North Dakota	11,880	713	1,485	2,457	7,225	61
South Dakota	2,400	120	632	387	1,261	53
Nebraska	7,695	308	1,564	595	5,228	68
Montana	1,530	92	492	204	742	48
Idaho	29,670	3,560	594	1,741	23,775	80
Wyoming	1,600	96	132	211	1,161	73
Colorado	14,400	1,206	371	1,406	11,327	79
Utah	2,016	121	232	152	1,511	75
Nevada	280	20	30	22	208	74
Washington	7,350	588	714	446	5,602	76
Oregon	7,200	648	598	620	5,334	74
California	22,644	2,038	203	825	19,573	86
18 LATE SURPLUS	258,053	19,912	27,465	25,615	185,061	71.7
<u>OTHER LATE STATES:</u>						
New Hampshire	1,395	56	378	50	911	65
Vermont	1,950	78	587	121	1,164	60
Massachusetts	2,635	105	498	81	1,951	74
Rhode Island	779	31	78	13	657	84
Connecticut	3,238	97	414	47	2,680	83
West Virginia	3,040	182	1,500	385	973	32
Ohio	12,600	504	3,864	1,216	7,016	56
Indiana	4,560	182	2,150	384	1,844	40
Illinois	3,441	206	2,080	205	950	28
Iowa	5,600	224	3,038	368	1,940	35
New Mexico	480	14	38	40	388	81
Arizona	220	11	12	19	178	81
12 OTHER LATE	39,938	1,690	14,667	2,929	20,652	51.7
30 LATE STATES	297,991	21,602	42,132	28,544	205,713	69.0
<u>INTERMEDIATE STATES:</u>						
New Jersey	7,480	150	330	330	6,680	89
Delaware	320	19	130	23	148	46
Maryland	2,375	95	559	209	1,512	64
Virginia	6,786	271	1,395	237	4,833	71
Kentucky	3,864	193	2,144	317	1,210	31
Missouri	4,664	233	3,036	189	1,206	26
Kansas	2,128	128	784	40	1,176	55
7 INTERMEDIATE	27,617	1,069	8,378	1,385	16,765	60.7
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	325,608	22,691	50,510	29,929	222,478	68.3

1/ Fed to livestock and loss to January 1, 1940. Includes shrinkage, waste, and decay to that date and quantities unfit for food or seed still on hand.

2/ Includes potatoes sold to starch factories.