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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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DESPITE HEAVY JANUARY MOVEMENT STOCKS OF MERCHANTABLE
POTATOES UNUSUALLY LARGE ON FEBRUARY 1 1/

Despite a heavy movement during January, holdings of merchantable potato stocks on February 1 by growers and local dealers in or near areas of production were unusually large, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. Combined grower and dealer holdings of 125,740,000 bushels were 2 percent larger than the 123,330,000 bushels held in these storages on February 1, 1950. Potatoes held for use as food, seed or livestock feed on farms where grown and those purchased by the Government under the price support program but resold to the grower are not included in these estimates of merchantable stocks.

Estimates of February 1 stocks are based primarily on the estimates of January 1 stocks less estimated marketings in January. In estimating January marketings, consideration was given quantities purchased by the Government under price support, recorded rail and boat movement, deliveries to processing plants, inspection data and truck shipments including an allowance for local sales. An allowance for expected storage losses was made in preparing estimates of merchantable stocks held January 1. Losses in storage during January were about in line with expectations.

Compared with a year earlier, February 1, 1951 stocks are smaller in the East, about the same in the central part of the country, but larger in the West. Except in Wyoming and Nevada, holdings in each of the Western States are larger than the February 1, 1950 stocks. Idaho holdings are the largest February 1 stocks of record, despite a heavy January movement.

For the 37 late and intermediate potato States, disappearance during the past month is estimated at 34,910,000 bushels, compared with marketings of 27,260,000 bushels in January 1950 and 30,460,000 bushels in January 1949. Included in these quantities are Government purchases of about 10.6, 5.8 and 9 million bushels during January of the respective years. Thus, excluding Government purchases, about 24.3 million bushels of potatoes were marketed during the past month, compared with totals of 21.5 million bushels during January 1950 and January 1949. Total shipments of old-crop potatoes in carlot quantities by rail and boat during the past month amounted to 11,782,000 bushels compared with 13,150,000 bushels in January 1950. Government purchases that moved by rail are included in these quantities. Except for a few days, January weather was generally favorable for crop movement. During January 1951, processors in Maine and Idaho utilized large quantities of potatoes. There was also a good movement through local market outlets in most States.

1/ This special report of merchantable potato stocks is made possible under funds provided by the Research and Marketing Act of 1946.

GROUP AND STATE	Quantity of : Quantity of :						Merchantable stocks held by						
	potatoes sold			potatoes sold:			growers and local dealers						
	From	: crop of	From	:	and for sale:	:	January 1			February 1			
	: crop of	: 1948	: 1949	:	: from crop	: 1949	:	: 1950	: 1951	:	: 1949	: 1950	: 1951
<u>Thousand bushels</u>													
SURPLUS LATE													
STATES:													
Maine	68,044	63,141			55,621	41,440		50,020	42,260		35,210	43,940	34,930
N. Y.	33,628	26,486			29,796	9,000		11,700	9,680		6,270	8,640	6,600
Pa.	15,688	15,089			14,479	7,060		8,000	9,120		4,390	5,400	6,850
Vich.	11,161	11,633			12,215	6,470		7,400	7,820		5,480	6,400	6,620
Wis.	8,448	9,290			10,553	2,700		3,160	4,600		1,890	2,410	3,800
Minn.	13,202	12,974			13,458	7,790		9,200	9,690		6,100	8,150	8,060
N. Dak. . . .	16,447	18,231			18,342	8,900		11,390	10,710		7,080	10,410	8,500
S. Dak. . . .	1,832	813			1,505	980		540	1,100		810	480	970
Nebr.	8,226	6,895			9,397	4,240		4,200	5,830		3,360	2,950	4,230
Mont.	1,745	1,683			1,839	1,340		1,220	1,430		1,180	1,070	1,250
Idaho	39,852	30,055			40,985	20,720		16,600	25,820		15,600	13,260	19,800
Wyo.	1,752	1,455			1,696	1,090		1,040	1,030		920	800	680
Colo.	18,308	15,344			15,639	6,660		7,370	7,980		4,820	5,470	6,000
Utah	2,624	2,778			2,739	1,190		1,420	1,670		1,030	1,170	1,370
Nev.	275	302			358	130		250	260		150	220	200
Wash.	11,274	8,895			10,691	2,250		1,780	3,310		1,550	1,380	2,860
Oreg.	10,920	9,617			11,098	3,940		4,600	5,200		3,050	3,750	3,900
Calif. (Late)	13,918	14,669			15,767	2,860		3,370	4,720		1,960	2,200	3,250
TOTAL 18													
SURPLUS LATE	277,344	249,350			266,178	128,810		143,260	152,230		100,850	118,100	119,870
TOTAL 11													
OTHER LATE	17,543	15,727			18,554	6,270		6,610	7,520		4,170	4,800	5,370
TOTAL 8													
INTERMEDIATE	27,408	19,610			24,775	800		720	900		400	430	500
TOTAL 37 LATE AND INTER-													
MEDIATE STATES	322,295	284,637			309,507	135,880		150,590	160,650		105,420	123,330	125,740