

TOTAL POTATO STOCKS
ON DECEMBER 1, 1956

December 20, 1956

Total storage stocks of potatoes in hands of growers and local dealers on December 1, 1956 amounted to 118.8 million hundredweight--13 percent larger than the 104.8 million hundredweight on hand December 1, 1955--according to the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The estimates of total stocks held by growers and local dealers in and near producing areas in the 26 fall producing States represent all potatoes on hand December 1. They include quantities to be sold for table use, starch, other processing, feed for live-stock, seed for 1957 crop and to be used on farms where grown for feed, seed, and household use. The stocks figures also include potatoes that will be lost through shrinkage, decay, and dumping after December 1.

This is the first report of potato stocks ever issued by the Crop Reporting Board for December 1. It is also the first time that the report has carried total stocks. Previous stocks reports (as of January 1) were made in terms of "merch-
chantable" stocks on hand. Merchantable stocks were defined as potatoes on hand that were available for sale for all purposes. Though no estimates of merchant-
able stocks have been prepared for December 1, it is calculated on the basis of
available information, that estimates of December 1 "merchantable" stocks would
be approximately 15 percent less than the total stocks estimates shown in this re-
port for December 1, 1956 and December 1, 1955.

The stocks estimates for December 1, 1956 were based upon a survey of growers and warehousemen. The estimates of total stocks on hand December 1, 1955 were prepared on the basis of total fall production less sales to December 1, and less farm use and losses from shrinkage and decay to that date. These esti-
mates are believed to be fairly dependable because they were made largely on the
basis of reported marketings and utilization of the crop at the end of the season.
These are included to enable users of this new stocks report to make comparisons
with supplies a year earlier.

Production of fall potatoes in 1956 amounted to 166.0 million hundredweight or 12 percent above the 1955 fall crop of 148.4 millions. Disappearance of the 1956 crop of fall potatoes to December 1 amounted to 47.2 million hundredweight com-
pared with a disappearance of 43.6 millions from the 1955 fall crop to December 1.

The estimate of total stocks on hand January 1, 1956 (calculated on the basis of January 1 merchantable stocks plus estimated farm use and shrinkage after that date) indicates that disappearance during December 1955 was about 18.0 million hundredweight. Based on the same type of calculations, the average December dis-
appearance for the 6 crops preceding 1955 was approximately 16.0 million hundred weight. December disappearance during these seasons ranged from about 14.0 mil-
lion hundredweight for the crop of 1949, when production was 163.0 million hundred weight, to about 17.5 millions for the crop of 1950, when production was 174.0 mil-
lion hundredweight.

U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F A G R I C U L T U R E
Agricultural Marketing Service Crop Reporting Board

TOTAL STOCKS ^{1/} OF "FALL" POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS
AND LOCAL DEALERS ON DECEMBER 1, 1956

State	Crop of 1955			Crop of 1956	
	Production		Total Stocks ^{1/}	Production	
	Dec. 1, 1955	Jan. 1, 1956	Dec. 1, 1956	Dec. 1, 1956	Jan. 1, 1956
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Maine	35,814	30,000	26,000	40,600	33,300
New Hampshire	416	300	260	414	300
Vermont	465	350	300	448	320
Massachusetts	724	390	300	822	530
Rhode Island	810	430	320	718	320
Connecticut	1,122	930	800	1,280	1,050
N.Y. - L. I.	7,955	3,100	1,600	7,200	3,100
N.Y. - Upstate	6,720	4,700	3,750	7,220	4,700
Pennsylvania	7,569	5,500	4,800	7,706	5,100
Ohio	2,248	1,000	750	1,938	1,000
Indiana	969	440	300	1,120	420
Michigan	4,896	3,100	2,600	7,360	5,000
Wisconsin	4,297	2,900	2,600	3,968	2,900
Minnesota	7,600	5,600	4,900	10,400	7,700
Iowa	450	230	190	432	190
North Dakota	7,830	5,000	4,100	12,420	8,800
South Dakota	690	430	400	950	600
Nebraska	2,340	1,600	1,200	2,265	1,700
Montana	1,350	1,150	1,050	1,320	1,100
Idaho	31,200	23,600	19,200	32,930	25,000
Wyoming	450	350	270	705	500
Colorado	7,095	4,700	4,000	7,525	5,050
Utah	1,598	920	670	1,632	1,000
Nevada	352	290	240	432	290
Washington ^{2/}	4,845	1,650	1,360	3,655	1,550
Oregon	5,500	4,050	3,300	6,240	4,600
California	3,078	2,100	1,500	4,290	2,700
Total 26 Fall States	148,383	104,810	86,760	165,990	118,820

^{1/}Total stocks consist of "production less total disappearance to date."
Disappearance includes all sales for all purposes to date, all potatoes eaten or fed on farms where produced to date, and all losses to date through shrinkage, decay, dumping, etc.

^{2/}Production includes 344,000 cwt. of fall potatoes in Washington which were not harvested or not marketed because of low prices.

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