

potato stocks



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RECORD POTATO STOCKS December 1, 1974

Stocks of Irish potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record 187.4 million cwt. on December 1, 1974; according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 29.6 million cwt. (19 percent) more than the 157.8 million cwt. on hand a year earlier and above the previous record of 176.3 million in 1971.

The eight eastern States' December 1 potato stocks of 42.4 million cwt. were 40 percent above the 30.3 million on hand a year earlier. Stocks were up in all States. Maine's stocks of 29.5 million cwt. compare with 21.3 million a year earlier.

Stocks in the eight central States totaled 42.6 million cwt., 24 percent greater than the 34.5 million on hand a year earlier. Significant frost damage occurred to potatoes during harvest in North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ohio. Shrink and loss for potatoes remaining in storage is expected to be above normal.

December 1 stocks in the eight western States totaled 102.4 million cwt., a 10 percent increase from the 93.1 million cwt. on hand a year earlier.

Disappearance by December 1 from the 1974 fall production was 100.3 million cwt., 4 percent more than the 96.1 million cwt. disappearance by the same date a year ago.

The quantities of potatoes processed to December 1, 1974 in seven major States totaled 41.7 million cwt., representing an increase of 10 percent from the 37.8 million processed for the comparable period a year earlier.

Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all **purposes** and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. The remaining 10 percent are primarily lost due to shrink. Although frost injury is apparent in some storages in the Central and Eastern Regions no attempt is made at this date to estimate potential losses to current storage stocks. A comparison of the quality of 1974 crop potato stocks with 1973 in the Red River Valley at harvest time is presented in this report **on page 4.**

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1, TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1964-74 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	T O T A L S T O C K S				
		DECEMBER 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
			JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 1	APRIL 1
		1,000 CWT.				
1964	174,491	114,550	94,205	73,120	54,535	
1965	216,749	147,780	124,170	98,670	74,905	
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632	
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405	
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	239,460	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780	
1971 1/	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480	
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305	2/58,185
1973 3/	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150	55,865
1974	287,710	187,385				

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971 LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

3/ REVISED AUGUST 1974 POT 6 (74).

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING, 1/ SEVEN STATES, 1973 AND 1974 CROPS

STATE AND AREA	FROM 1973 CROP 2/		FROM 1974 CROP
	ENTIRE SEASON	TO DECEMBER 1, 1973	TO DECEMBER 1, 1974
		1,000 CWT.	
IDAHO AND			
MALHEUR CO., OREGON	55,506	17,849	19,742
MAINE	7,288	3,374	2,828
WASHINGTON AND OTHER			
AREAS, OREGON	30,140	12,673	15,269
OTHER STATES 3/	9,937	3,884	3,878
SEVEN STATE TOTAL	102,871	37,780	41,717

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE AND MICHIGAN.

2/ REVISED.

3/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES
HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON DECEMBER 1, 1973
AND DECEMBER 1, 1974 1/

STATE	CROP OF 1973		CROP OF 1974	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC. 1, 1973	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC. 1, 1974
	1,000 CWT.			
CALIF	6,253	3,500	6,324	4,000
COLO	8,235	5,550	8,840	6,200
CONN	572	202	598	330
IDAHO	78,965	55,500	80,045	56,500
IND	1,238	230	1,272	295
MAINE	28,770	21,300	36,400	29,500
MASS	592	320	800	470
MICH	7,520	4,300	8,330	4,500
MINN	13,120	9,500	15,300	11,700
MONT	1,462	1,400	1,750	1,600
NEBR	1,012	640	1,152	930
NEV	3/	3/	3,188	3/
N H	102	50	144	80
N Y-LONG ISLAND	5,375	1,900	6,750	3,000
-UPSTATE	6,670	3,100	7,236	4,450
N DAK	19,140	13,000	22,950	16,700
OHIO	1,800	850	1,995	1,000
OREG	15,929	6,950	17,482	9,300
PA	6,300	3,300	7,360	4,250
R I	796	2/	1,034	140
S DAK	770	450	371	320
UTAH	1,100	800	1,481	1,010
VT	150	110	220	135
WASH	35,260	18,600	41,160	22,500
WIS	11,515	5,500	14,000	7,200
WYO	1,220	750	1,528	1,275
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	253,866	157,802	287,710	187,385

1/ TOTAL STOCKS CONSIST OF "PRODUCTION LESS TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE TO DATE."

2/ R I STOCKS INCLUDED IN CONN.

3/ NOT AVAILABLE.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

Potatoes placed in warehouses in the Red River Valley show a decline in quality for the 1974-75 season as compared to a year earlier. Red and white varieties contained 7 percent and 6 percent fewer No. 1's respectively at harvest than at harvest a year ago. Russet varieties show the largest decline in grade and average 10 percent fewer No. 1's than the comparable period last year. Red, white and russet varieties at harvest time averaged 2, 4 and 5 percent more culls respectively than a year earlier.

The quality information contained in this report is based on a special survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. Samples selected on a random basis have been placed in storage at the time of harvest and subsequent reports will be issued each month during the 1974-75 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potatoes removed from storage.

Averages (after storage) shown in the tables for the 1973-74 storage season reflect the quality and weight loss of the potatoes shipped during the entire season. For potatoes being removed from storage, the proportion meeting the various U S grade standards may vary from month to month. If lower quality (grade) potatoes are shipped early in the season, the proportion grading U S No. 1's will be lower than in later months when relatively higher quality potatoes are shipped.

AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

VARIETAL TYPE	NO. 1		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1	WEIGHT
	INCLUDING B'S						B'S	LOSS 2/
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	1/	
	HARVEST	STORAGE 2/	HARVEST	STORAGE 2/	HARVEST	STORAGE 2/		
	-----PERCENT-----							
	1974-75 STORAGE SEASON							
RED	86		9		5		2	
WHITE	77		11		12		2	
RUSSET	73		15		12		8	
	1973-74 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL							
RED	93	88	4	6	3	6	4	2
WHITE	83	76	9	11	8	13	3	3
RUSSET	83	83	10	8	7	9	9	2

1/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U S NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGH LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

2/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1974-75 SEASON. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1.