

POTATO OUTLOOK- 5-16-11

The 13 major potato states held 65.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, down 27% from a year ago, noted USDA. Potatoes in storage accounted for 19% of the 2010 fall storage states' production, four percentage points below the year prior. Processors in the nine major states used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 1% from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 22.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 15% from last year.

Released May 13, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Potato Stocks Down 27 Percent From May 2010

The 13 major potato States held 65.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2011, down 27 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 19 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, four percentage points below May 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 520 thousand cwt on May 1, 2011, down 32 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 286 million cwt, was 3 percent below May 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.1 million cwt, was down 17 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 144 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 1 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 22.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: May 1, 2010-2011

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2010 totaled 23.7 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2009			Crop of 2010			
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2010 ¹	May stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks April 1, 2011	Stocks May 1, 2011	May stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,960	600	15	2,280	600	350	15
Colorado	22,080	4,900	22	21,528	7,200	4,300	20
Idaho	132,500	38,500	29	114,440	42,500	30,000	26
Maine	15,263	3,900	26	15,892	5,900	3,800	24
Michigan	15,660	(D)	(D)	15,660	2,300	900	6
Minnesota	20,700	4,800	23	17,010	5,500	3,300	19
Montana	3,298	700	21	3,673	2,000	500	14
Nebraska	8,756	1,100	13	7,719	2,100	1,100	14
New York	4,950	(D)	(D)	5,120	500	200	4
North Dakota	19,125	3,300	17	22,000	5,900	3,700	17
Oregon	21,460	5,300	25	20,058	7,700	4,900	24
Washington	87,230	22,300	26	81,740	17,800	10,300	13
Wisconsin	28,980	3,800	13	24,293	5,300	2,300	9
Other States	-	410	(X)	-	-	-	(X)
United States	383,962	89,610	23	351,413	105,300	65,650	19
Klamath Basin ² .	(NA)	770	(NA)	(NA)	1,200	520	(NA)

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Missing stocks combined into "Other States."

² Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13 States total.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks - 13 Major States: 2001-2010

[For 2001-2004, data accounts for 15 major producing States. Beginning in 2005 data accounts for 13 major producing States]

Crop year	Production	December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,566	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	404,017	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005	375,118	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006	389,527	258,900	225,800	192,200	159,500	120,900	79,050	44,460
2007	397,753	265,500	232,300	199,300	163,400	125,500	83,960	50,420
2008	369,866	243,700	213,200	183,900	152,700	115,800	78,100	45,300
2009	383,962	265,800	234,300	203,500	169,700	128,700	89,610	55,120
2010	351,413	234,700	204,500	175,700	143,200	105,300	65,650	

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2008-2010

[Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced]

State and crop year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1	Season
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Idaho and Oregon, Malheur								
2008	22,380	28,980	35,430	42,150	49,030	55,570	62,940	77,340
2009	23,110	29,180	35,170	42,050	49,200	56,100	62,930	79,400
2010	21,040	26,840	32,700	39,240	46,180	52,790		
Maine ¹								
2008	1,555	2,130	2,765	3,355	3,815	4,565	5,265	7,120
2009	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,550	5,260	7,160
2010	1,915	2,460	3,090	3,725	4,420	5,080		
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2008	32,560	38,050	42,795	49,865	56,350	62,635	70,625	81,260
2009	25,395	31,245	36,530	43,780	50,130	56,700	64,805	75,690
2010	27,670	33,570	38,815	46,700	53,280	60,145		
Other States ²								
2008	12,480	15,120	18,165	21,030	24,025	26,515	29,590	37,285
2009	10,865	13,565	16,305	18,995	21,600	24,355	27,375	34,240
2010	11,660	14,605	17,240	20,165	23,000	25,535		
Total								
2008	68,975	84,280	99,155	116,400	133,220	149,285	168,420	203,005
2009	60,945	76,050	90,685	108,090	124,845	141,705	160,370	196,490
2010	62,285	77,475	91,845	109,830	126,880	143,550		
Dehydrated ³								
2008	10,675	14,490	18,335	21,465	24,875	28,195	31,870	39,345
2009	10,985	14,035	17,150	19,895	23,155	26,630	30,045	38,915
2010	7,845	10,795	13,640	16,485	19,415	22,710		

¹ Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

² Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

³ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2007-2010

Crop year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2007	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3
2008	12.7	14.9	16.8	18.7	20.6	22.3	23.8
2009	14.3	16.5	18.8	21.1	24.4	26.5	28.5
2010	12.7	14.7	16.6	18.6	20.4	22.1	

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for nearly 88 percent of the United States all potato production. Growers, processors, and storage facilities are contacted each month from December through June to obtain the quantity of potatoes stored as of the first of the month, as well as shrinkage and loss information. Processing data is collected in nine States (Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin).

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the potato stocks surveys along with federal administrative data is used to establish estimates of stocks, shrinkage and loss, and processing usage. These estimates are reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates.

Revision Policy: Stocks, processing, and shrinkage and loss estimates for the previous month are subject to revision based on late and/or updated information. At the end of the marketing season, all information available, including disposition data, will be thoroughly reviewed and any necessary revisions for the entire crop year will be published in the *Potatoes Annual Summary*.

Reliability: Survey indications are subject to sampling variability because all operations holding potato stocks are not included in the sample. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the May 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20 year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current estimate relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 6.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 65.7 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.9 percent, or approximately 4.53 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 11.9 percent, or approximately 7.81 million cwt.

Changes between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.11 million cwt, ranging from 140,000 cwt to 11.5 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 15 times and above 5 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final May 1 Stocks – United States: 2000-2010 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
2000	111,425	102.1	109,160
2001	91,140	112.2	81,200
2002	83,180	100.2	83,040
2003	84,800	99.8	85,000
2004	86,990	98.2	88,550
2005	72,950	96.1	75,900
2006	73,200	92.6	79,050
2007	92,710	110.4	83,960
2008	75,400	96.5	78,100
2009	87,030	97.1	89,610
2010	65,650	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch	(202) 720-2127
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section	(202) 720-2127
Debbie Flippin – Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions, Strawberries.....	(202) 720-2157
Fred Granja – Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Plums, Prunes, Tobacco.....	(202) 720-4288
Chris Hawthorn – Citrus, Coffee, Grapes, Tropical Fruits.....	(202) 720-5412
Dan Norris – Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mints, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas, Dry Beans	(202) 720-3250
Kim Ritchie – Hops.....	(360) 709-2400
Daphne Schaubert – Berries, Cranberries, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes.....	(202) 720-4285
Erika White – Floriculture, Maple Syrup, Nursery, Tree Nuts	(202) 720-4215

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.