NASDA Survey Training

Potato Processing Inquiry – December 1, 2021
(POTATO PROC PROD)

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

NOD-Training Group
October 2021
General Survey Information

- Project Code: 195-Potato and Stocks Survey
- States:
  - Records across CO ID ME MN ND OR WA WI
- Mailed around November 22
- Release:
  - Potatoes Annual Summary, September 2022
A Sack Full of Information

• In 2020, there were 911,700 acres of potatoes harvested, producing 420 million cwt
• Processors used 280 million cwt of those potatoes
  – Frozen French fries/frozen products: 167 million cwt
  – Chips and shoestrings: 59.2 million cwt
• Fresh market sales accounted for 101 million cwt of total production
• Approximately 23.5 million cwt were lost due to shrink, dump and other losses
Survey Overview

• The Potato Processing Inquiry:
  – Allows processors to analyze areas of production and estimate product availability
  – Helps producers develop marketing plans for their operations
  – Enables the industry to forecast transportation need and evaluate export potential
  – Grower organizations use the information to help form their policy positions
Survey Questions

• How many total 2021 crop potatoes were processed prior to December 2021?
• Of those, how many were processed for:
  – Potato Chips
  – Frozen French Fries
  – Other Frozen Products
  – Canned Potatoes
  – Other Canned Products
  – Dehydrated Potatoes: Starch and Flour
  – Dehydrated Potatoes: Other Dehydrated Products
  – Other Potato Products
Survey Questions

• Finished processing 2021 crop potatoes yet?
  – We will be re-contacting some of the processors in coming months who are not done yet
Survey Questions

• Potatoes purchased or received BUT not processed. How many were:
  – Sold for fresh market
  – Transferred/sold to other processors
    • In home state, In other states
  – Other uses:
    • Used/sold for seed
    • Used/sold for livestock feed
    • Shrink
    • Dumped
    • Other use
Things to Watch Out For

• OOB
  – IF operation is Out Of Business:
    • Verify that operation is TRULY out of business
      – Or are they just not processing potatoes?
      – Will they process any in the future?
    • Collect new operator's information

• Total processed (item 1) does not equal the sum of potatoes processed (item 2a-e)
Things to Remember

• Probe if “0” or “None” reported for Other Disposition: Shrink

• Weights should be reported in hundredweight *not* tons
  – If they report in tons make a note
Conclusion

• Different target population than other surveys
  – May encounter more secretaries, accountants, etc who will be reporting
    • May also be a “challenge” to reach the plant manager

• Notes, Notes, and more Notes
  – When in doubt, comment it out.

• Practice and get familiar