

# Potato Stocks Survey Information Sheet

## Overview/Data Use

Potato Stocks reports are used by all parts of the potato industry to aid in the orderly movement of the crop. Farmers can use the reports to determine when to sell. Shippers, processors, and brokers monitor crop movements to help them decide when to buy and ship. The chipping industry needs information on stocks by type to gauge the supply of suitable potatoes for their products. The United Potato Growers of America use stocks data to update and improve their marketing plan as the season progresses.

## Survey

- Conducted in December, February, April, and June.
- States involved: CA, CO, FL, ID, ME, MI, MN, NE, ND, OR, TX, WA, and WI.
  - These are the major potato producing states, accounting for 90% of all potato production
- Random sample of growers with on-farm capacity, plus a census of non-grower agribusinesses. (potato shippers, processors, warehouses)
- Potato capacity and quantity is measured in hundredweight (CWT)
- First, collect the total potato storage capacity
  - Remember, capacity must be “on farm/operation”
- Next, what was the total quantity of potatoes stored on the operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month
- What was the total quantity lost from shrinkage, cull, or dumping?
  - Include unusable potatoes hauled out of the field
- Then, record potatoes in storage according to variety
  - Measured in Percent (%), sum of categories must equal 100%
    - Russet
    - White
    - Yellow
    - Red or Blue
- Comment space provided for operator to supply any information about their potato crop/ potatoes in storage.
  - These comments aide in making more accurate estimates and are notably important for specialty crops.