

NASS Survey Training

Potato Processing Inquiry – August 1, 2025 (POTATO PROC ANNUAL PROD)



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



Workforce Performance and Staff Development Section



Survey Overview

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

General Survey Information

- Project Code: **195-Potato and Stocks Survey**
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed July 24th
- Release:
 - *Potatoes Annual Summary*
 - September 26, 3PM (EST)

A Sack Full of Information

- In 2023, there were 961,100 acres of potatoes harvested, producing 440 million cwt
- Processors used 287 million cwt of those potatoes
 - Frozen French fries/frozen products: 176 million cwt
 - Chips and shoestrings: 57.8 million cwt
- Fresh market sales accounted for 99.6 million cwt of total production
- Approximately 28 million cwt were lost due to shrink, dump and other losses

Survey Questions

- **Hundredweight of 2024 crop potatoes processed at your plant?**
- **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

- Quantity of **2024** potatoes purchased/received and NOT processed, how many were:
 - Sold for Fresh Market
 - Transferred/sold to other processing plants:
 - In this state
 - Other states (specify state)
 - **Other Disposition**
 - Used/sold for Seed
 - Used/sold for Livestock Feed
 - Shrink
 - Dumped
 - Other use (specify)
- **Any comments about crop**

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

- We are asking for TOTAL not just a portion of processed crop
- 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
- Encounter anything odd or unexpected:
 - Leave good notes
- Any questions ask your supervisor or RFO
- Practice on your iPad
- Thanks and have a great survey!