



December Potato Stocks 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

- Mails out around November 21
- Conducted in December, February, April, and June
- Potato capacity and quantity is measured in hundredweight (CWT)
- Collect the total potato storage capacity (December only)
 - Remember, capacity must be “on farm/operation”
- Total quantity of potatoes stored on the operation on the 1st of the month
- Quantity of potatoes lost from shrinkage, cull, or dumping through the first of December
 - Include unusable potatoes hauled out of the field
- Comment space provided for operator to supply any information about their potato crop/potatoes in storage
 - These comments aid in making more accurate estimates and are notably important for specialty crops

Things to Watch Out For

- Leave notes if they tell you they have downsized or expanded their operation
- Potatoes in storage cannot be greater than storage capacity
- If they had a large amount of loss, leave notes. A loss of about 2% of the total amount of potatoes in storage each month is normal
- Some producers may report in total pounds instead of hundred weight (CWT). We need answers in CWT