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MARKETING POTATOES

FLORIDA, ALABAMA AND NORTH CAROLINA

SUMMARY
1979 Season

P R E F A C E

This is a summary of marketing Florida, Alabama and North Carolina potatoes for the 1979 season. The information was compiled from daily reports issued from the Federal-State Market News Offices at North Palm Beach, Florida; Thomasville, Georgia and Faison, North Carolina. These offices are operated cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Division, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Information on acreage and production was taken from reports of the Crop Reporting Board of the United States Department of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service.

Truck shipments are shown in 10,000 pound units.

We wish to thank the various segments of the potato industry for their cooperation in supplying the information that made these reports possible.

Additional copies of this summary may be obtained on request from:

Federal-State Market News Service
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North Palm Beach, FL. 33408

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SOUTH FLORIDA

South Florida winter potato acreage harvested was 8,600 acres in 1979 compared with 9,900 in 1978. Harvested acreage was 8,900 in 1977. Production in 1979 was estimated at 1,591,000 compared with 1,932,000 cwt. in 1978. Yields in 1979 and 1978 were 185 and 195 cwt. per acre respectively; compared with 180 cwt. per acre in 1977.

Growing conditions were generally favorable during 1979. Land preparation and planting operations ran relatively smooth. The main exceptions would include the excessive moisture that caused some delay in land preparation, but planting began on schedule during the first week of January 1979; although, damage was light. About two hundred acres were abandoned in the Everglades due to disease problems.

The Everglades began harvesting in early January in 1979. The Fort Myers and Martin County areas followed in late January. Dade County began harvesting a light volume in early February, but it was March before normal supplies were available. April was the peak shipping month for South Florida. The harvesting season was stopped abruptly by excessive rain the last week of April in 1979. It was estimated that 1,000 acres were abandoned due to flooded fields. Some light salvage harvesting followed, but most commercial harvest was complete when the rains hit.

Shipping point prices held fairly stable during 1979. Prices ranged from \$3.00 - 5.50 per fifty pound sack of size A Round Reds, although most of the volume sold from \$3.00-\$3.50. The market opened in early January at \$5.50, when only light supplies were available. Prices dropped sharply in February when the volume increased. Trading was active from January through March. Prices during February and March were mostly \$3.00 - 3.50 per fifty pound sack. Prices jumped sharply after the heavy rains in April, but supplies were limited at that period of the deal.

There was little change in packaging during the 1979 season. The main container was a fifty pound paper sack. Master film containers, holding five ten-pound, or ten five-pound bags were the most common consumer packages. Trucks moved all of South Florida potatoes to market. A light volume of processing stock was shipped by "bulk" loaded trucks.

HASTINGS

ACREAGE planted in the Hastings area for the 1979 potato crop totaled 20,000 acres. Acres harvested were put at 18,500 by the Crop Reporting Service with 1,500 acres abandoned due to poor market conditions and low prices. The 20,000 acres compares with 20,500 in 1978 and 19,500 in 1977. Yield per acre was estimated at 230 cwt. compared with 170 in 1978 and 220 in 1977. Total production was estimated at 4,255,000, nearly 18 percent up from the 3,490,000 cwt in 1978. Production in 1977 was 4,200,000 and 4,053,000 cwt in 1976.

GROWING CONDITIONS were generally good throughout the season although the earliest plantings in late December were lost on account of rains and had to be replanted, with no significant loss in production. Stands in most areas were considered good to excellent.

HARVESTING began very lightly during mid-April with the first significant volume in early May. First yields were fairly good although skinning was an early quality problem. Weather was generally favorable during harvesting although there were some rains in late May and early June.

SHIPMENTS peaked during the week of May 28 which was nearly two weeks later than normal. Figures for that week totaled 656,800 cwt (inter-and intrastate) shipped. Shipments continued through the month of June and on into the first week of July. Shipments are normally completed by the first of June. Practically all movement was by truck although a small amount was shipped by rail.

MARKETING was fairly slow throughout the 1979 season as a result of heavy overall U.S. supplies, particularly processing potatoes in the Red River Valley area of Minnesota-North Dakota. This precipitated light demand for processing potatoes not sold on pre-season contracts. Additional supplies were therefore made available for table stock causing the opening FOB price of \$7.50 per 100 lb sack on April 30 to decline to \$3.50 or less by the end of the season. Prices for processing potatoes (85 percent or more U.S. No. 1, generally 1 7/8" min) on the open market started at \$4.00 per cwt and declined throughout the season to \$1.25-1.50 by season's end with light demand. The truck strike in early June caused some shipments to be delayed. An export sale of some 100,000 cwt in late June to Chile was helpful in marketing some of the available supplies.

PACKAGING for table stock was mostly in 50 lb paper sacks followed by 50 and 100 lb bur-lap sacks. Consumer packs of 5 and 10 lb paper sacks were shipped occasionally and some table stock was moved bulk of repacking into consumer packages of 5 & 10 lbs. Processing potatoes were bulk loaded into trucks and an occasional rail car or rail trucks.

ALABAMA

ACREAGE: Area harvested in the spring of 1979 declined by 19 percent from the previous year. In the spring of 1979 a total of 8,000 acres were harvested while at the same time last year harvested acreage totalled 9,500. The 1979 summer crop was 8,300 acres, a slight increase from the 8,000 acres harvested in 1978.

PRODUCTION: Increased yields per acre were common in 1979. The 1979 spring crop averaged 125 hundredweight per acre compared to 100 cwt. per acre in 1978. Total 1979 production was 1 million hundredweight, while in 1978, 950 thousand cwt. were produced. The 1979 summer crop averaged 180 cwt. per acre and a total production of 1.5 million cwt. This compares with 1978 yields of 150 cwt per acre and a total production of 1.2 million cwt.

GROWING CONDITIONS: Despite some problems, fairly good growing conditions existed during the 1979 season. In South Alabama growers got a slow start in planting due to frequent rains. Growers would normally have had most of the crop planted by the first week of March but rainfall early in the planting period slowed progress considerably. With very heavy rains of 10 to 15 inches over the weekend of March 3-4, planting progress was set back even further. Some acreage was replanted. Growing conditions improved after the storm, and potatoes made ideal growth. In Northeastern Alabama most of the acreage was planted by the third week of April. Periodic rains helped the crop develop good yields.

HARVEST: Light harvesting began in South Alabama in the middle of May and good volume was available by the beginning of June. Peak harvest was spread over the last three weeks of June. Shipments from South Alabama finished early in July. The Sand Mountain area in Northern Alabama began harvesting in late June and good volume was obtained early in July. Heavy, persistent rainfall curtailed harvesting during the week of July 23rd and Shipments were very light. Harvest resumed almost a week later, and shipments for the week which followed were the heaviest of the season. Due to the delay by rain and to heavy production, harvesting continued well into August, about two weeks longer than usual. Quality of Alabama potatoes was generally good.

MARKETING: Trading was fairly slow during much of the 1979 season and prices were much lower than in 1978. The Florida crop lasted longer than usual and provided competition early in the season. South Alabama U.S. No. 1 Size A Round Red potatoes started the season at \$8.00 per cwt. in late May but declined to \$6.00 a week later. Prices continued to drop and leveled at \$5.00 for the rest of the season. Table stock Round White potatoes began the season at \$6.00 per cwt., dropped to \$5.00 per cwt., and remained there most of the season, ending the year at \$4.00 to \$5.00. Sales of chipping stock to processors on the open market were very light in 1979, and most shipments were under contract. Towards the end of the season open market processing stock (85 percent or more U.S. NO.1, generally 1 5/8 inch and up) sold bulk from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt. The truck strike in June delayed many shipments in South Alabama.

Sales of summer crop in Northeast Alabama got underway in early July at \$5.00 to \$5.50 per cwt. for Round Reds. Prices slipped to \$5.00 in June and continued to decline in July. The season ended at \$3.50 to \$4.00 per cwt. when several other competitive areas were actively harvesting. Round Whites started the Sand Mountain season at \$4.50 to \$5.00, declined gradually, and like Round Reds, ended the season at \$3.50 to \$4.00. Chipping stock potatoes were mostly shipped on contract. Open market sales started at \$2.00 to \$2.25 but dropped to \$1.50 per cwt by the end of the season.

PACKAGING: Practically all shipments were made by truck and only an occasional rail shipment was reported. Containers used were 100 lb. burlap sacks, 50 lb. paper sacks, and consumer packs of 5, 10, and 20 lbs. Most processing stock was shipped bulk in trucks. Alabama table stock potatoes were inspected by the Federal-State Inspection Service prior to shipment.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA, 1979 SEASON

The Crop Reporting Board's indicated production of potatoes in Eastern North Carolina for 1979 was 2.3 million cwt., up 16% from 1978's 1.9 million cwt. 1979's acreage for harvest was 13,700 acres, up 700 acres from 1978. Yield per acre was estimated at 165 cwt., 15 cwt. per acre over 1978's estimate.

Planting started in early March, later than normal due to wet weather conditions. Dry weather prevailed in late March with planting back on schedule by March 24th and completed by the first week of April.

Growing conditions were good to ideal for most of the growing season. The crop was rated fair to mostly good during the period between April 7th and May 20th. However, heavy rains in late May and early June caused minor damage due to water related problems, the most prominent being early and late blight, and nutrient loss (especially nitrogen) due to leaching of the soil by excess water.

Harvest got underway during the second week of June with occasional slowdown due to wet fields. Harvesting was generally completed by July 24th. Weather conditions were more favorable in July.

The first reported shipping point prices for tablestock potatoes was \$4.50 per 100 lb sack and \$2.50 per 50 lb sack, reported on June 15th. First reports of prices for open market chipstock was \$2.25-2.50 per cwt. on June 18th. Prices showed a gradual decline through the season with 100 lb sacks finishing at \$4.00, 50 lb sacks at \$2.00, and chipstock at \$1.50-1.75 per cwt. Most chipstock moved on pre-season contracts at \$4.25-4.50 per cwt. The principle shipping containers were 100 lb burlap sacks, 50 lb paper sacks, and 20, 10, and 5 lb paper sacks and film bags.

Shipments also began on June 15th and were obtained through the cooperation of individual shippers and the Federal-State Inspection Service. The heaviest shipping period was during the last two weeks of June and first two weeks of July. During this time there was a nationwide truck strike which caused moderate to sometimes severe problems in obtaining trucks. Shipments began a seasonal decline in mid July but were well behind 1978's pace due to the truck strike. Final shipments were reported on July 25th. The season's total shipments in 50,000 lb. units (1,000 fifty lb sacks) totalled 2,564. Virtually all shipments were by truck.

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS

SHOWN IN 10,000 POUND UNITS

January 1 - July 28, 1980

WEEK	FLORIDA		ALABAMA		ARIZONA		NORTH CAROLINA		CALIFORNIA	
	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>
Jan. 6	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	959
13	-	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	1170
20	-	137	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	803
27	-	161	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	839
Feb. 3	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	859
10	-	366	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	921
17	-	457	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	658
24	-	421	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	625
Mar. 3	-	718	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	598
10	-	746	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	777
17	-	817	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	596
24	-	920	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	567
31	-	1122	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	629
Apr. 7	-	1166	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	765
14	-	1184	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	620
21	-	1432	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	436
28	-	1425	-	-	-	55	55	-	26	927
May 5	-	2645	-	-	-	-	-	95	52	1095
12	-	3556	-	-	-	277	-	-	598	2509
19	-	5820	-	178	-	804	-	-	2501	3410
26	-	6022	-	265	-	776	-	-	4074	4176
June 2	-	6336	-	994	222	1188	-	-	4432	3742
9	-	5303	-	1460	197	1674	-	-	5636	4355
16	-	2757	-	1736	274	1763	-	514	15514	3989
23	-	848	40	1707	124	1855	-	2836	4314	3946
30	-	199	40	2373	73	1529	-	3801	4720	3533
July 7	-	12	16	1745	7	981	-	2068	4803	4557
14	-	-	-	1667	7	697	-	2075	4074	4321
21	-	-	-	1645	-	53	-	662	1456	3526
28	-	-	-	677	-	-	-	410	506	2900

NOTE: Totals on page 10

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS

SHOWN IN 10,000 POUND UNITS

January 1 - July 28, 1979

WEEK	TEXAS		VIRGINIA		OTHERS		TOTALS	
	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>	<u>Rail</u>	<u>Truck</u>
ENDING:								
Jan. 6	-	-	-	-	2645	15686	2654	16664
13	-	-	-	-	4768	20677	4786	21917
20	-	-	-	-	6698	18820	6715	19760
27	-	-	-	-	5624	19909	5642	20909
Feb. 3	-	-	-	-	3726	19119	3744	20211
10	-	-	-	-	4401	19302	4410	20589
17	-	-	-	-	4134	18480	4143	19595
24	-	-	-	-	4543	18622	4552	19668
Mar. 3	-	-	-	-	4749	20137	4784	21453
10	-	-	-	-	5309	20579	5335	22101
17	-	-	-	-	5153	20683	5188	22096
24	-	-	-	-	4934	21157	4943	22644
31	-	-	-	-	4732	24019	4775	25770
Apr. 7	-	-	-	-	4991	23392	5042	25324
14	-	-	-	-	4931	21822	4943	23626
21	-	115	-	-	4678	20786	4678	22769
28	-	361	-	-	3787	19292	3868	22060
May 5	-	-	-	-	3744	19275	3796	23110
12	-	-	-	-	3297	17131	3895	23473
19	-	-	-	-	3319	15013	5820	25225
26	-	-	-	-	3486	12488	7560	23727
June 2	-	-	-	-	2768	9589	7422	21849
9	-	99	-	-	3643	8405	9476	21296
16	-	139	-	15	3920	5617	19708	16557
23	-	89	-	695	3774	3560	8252	15536
30	-	72	-	2610	3274	2950	8107	17067
July 7	-	55	-	3785	2097	2431	6923	15634
14	-	735	-	4190	1786	3048	5867	16733
21	-	1303	-	3500	1367	3114	2823	13903
28	15	2381	-	3225	1169	5662	1690	15255

1979 SHIPMENTS POINT PRICES

SOUTH FLORIDA

ROUND REDS

50-lb. Sacks, US #2 Washed

<u>DATE</u>		<u>SIZE A</u>	<u>SIZE B</u>
JAN.	5	5.50	6.00
	12	5.50	6.00
	19	5.50	6.00
	26	5.50	6.00
FEB.	2	4.50	6.00
	9	3.00	6.00
	16	3.50	4.50-5.00
	23	3.00	4.00
MAR.	2	3.00	4.00
	9	3.00	4.00
	16	3.50	4.50
	23	3.50	4.00
	30	3.50	4.00
APR.	6	3.50	4.00
	13	3.50	4.00
	20	3.50	4.00
	27	4.50-5.00	5.00
MAY	4	6.00	6.00

1979 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

HASTINGS, FLORIDA

<u>DATE</u>		<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u>	<u>ROUND WHITES</u>	<u>TABLE STOCK</u>	<u>ROUND REDS</u>
		<u>85% or more U.S. #1</u> <u>generally 1-7/8" & up</u>	<u>U.S. #1-Size A</u>		<u>U.S. #1-Size A</u>
		<u>CHIP BULK</u>	<u>50 lb. Sacks</u>	<u>100 lb. Sacks</u>	<u>50 lb. Sacks</u>
APRIL	30	--	4.00	7.50	--
MAY	1	--	4.00	7.50	--
	2	4.50	4.00	7.50	--
	3	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	4	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	7	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	8	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	9	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	10	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	11	4.50	3.50	6.50	--
	14	4.50	3.50	6.50	6.00
	15	4.50	3.25	6.00	5.00
	16	4.50	3.00-3.25	5.50-6.00	5.00-6.00
	17	4.50	3.00-3.50	5.50-6.00	--
	18	4.50	3.00	5.50	5.00
	21	4.50	3.00	5.50	5.00
	22	4.50	3.00	5.50	4.50-5.00
	23	4.50	3.00	5.50	--
	24	4.50	2.50	4.50	4.00-4.50
	25	4.50	2.50	4.50	4.00
	*28	--	--	--	--
	29	4.50	2.25	4.00	4.00
	30	4.50	2.25	4.00	4.00
	31	4.50	2.25	4.00	4.00
JUNE	1	4.50	2.25	4.00	--
	4	4.50	2.00	3.50-4.00	3.50
	5	4.50	2.00	3.50-4.00	--
	6	4.50	2.00	3.50-4.00	3.50
	7	4.50	2.00	3.50-4.00	--
	8	4.50	2.00	3.50	--
	11	4.50	2.00	3.50	3.00
	12	4.50	2.00	3.50	3.00
	13	4.50	2.00	3.40	--

1979 ALABAMA SHIPPING POINT PRICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>100 lb. sacks U.S. #1 Size A</u>		<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u>	
	<u>ROUND REDS</u>	<u>ROUND WHITES</u>	<u>Bulk per cwt. 85% or more US #1</u> <u>generally 1-5/8" & up</u>	
		<u>SOUTH ALABAMA</u>		
MAY	29	8.00	6.00	-
	30	8.00	6.00	-
	31	8.00	5.00-6.00	-
JUNE	1	7.00-8.00	5.00-6.00	-
	4	6.00	5.00	-
	5	6.00	5.00	-
	6	6.00	5.00	-
	7	6.00	5.00	-
	8	6.00	5.00	-
	11	6.00	5.00	-
	12	6.00	5.00	-
	13	6.00	5.00	-
	14	6.00	5.00	-
	15	6.00	5.00	-
	18	5.00-5.50	5.00	-
	19	5.00	5.00	-
	20	5.00	5.00	-
	21	5.00-5.50	5.00	-
	22	5.00-5.50	5.00	-
	25	5.00	4.50-5.00	-
	26	5.00	4.50-5.00	2.00-2.50
	27	5.00	4.50-5.00	2.00-2.50
	28	5.00	4.50-5.00	2.00-2.50
	29	5.00	4.00-5.00	2.00-2.50
			<u>NORTHEAST ALABAMA</u>	
JULY	2	5.00-5.50	4.50-5.00	-
	3	5.00-5.50	4.50-5.00	-
	5	5.00	4.50	-
	6	5.00	4.50	-
	9	5.00	4.50	2.00
	10	5.00	4.50	-
	11	5.00	4.50	-
	12	5.00	4.50	2.00-2.25
	13	5.00	4.50	-
	16	4.50-5.00	4.00-4.50	-
	17	4.50	4.00-4.50	-
	18	4.00-4.50	4.00-4.50	1.75-2.00
	19	4.00-4.50	4.00-4.50	1.75-2.00
	20	4.00	4.00	1.75-2.00
	23	-	-	-
	24	4.00-4.50	-	-
	25	-	-	-
	26	-	-	-
	27	-	-	-
	30	4.00-4.25	4.00-4.25	-
	31	4.00-4.25	4.00	-
AUGUST	1	4.00-4.25	4.00	1.75-2.00
	2	4.00-4.25	4.00	1.75-2.00
	3	4.00	4.00	-
	6	4.00	4.00	1.50-1.75
	7	4.00	4.00	1.50-1.75
	8	4.00	4.00	1.50-1.75
	9	3.50-4.00	3.50-4.00	1.50
	10	3.50-4.00	3.50-4.00	-
	13	3.50-4.00	3.50-4.00	1.50-1.75
	14	3.50-4.00	3.50-4.00	-
	15	3.50-4.00	-	1.50
	16	3.50-4.00	-	1.50
	17	3.50-4.00	-	1.50

1979 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TABLE STOCK</u>		<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u>
	<u>US #1, Size A, Washed</u>		<u>Bulk CWT 85% or More US #1</u>
	<u>ROUND WHITES</u>		<u>ROUND WHITES</u>
	<u>100 lb. sacks</u>	<u>50 lb. sacks</u>	<u>1-5/8" Min., Unwashed</u>
June 15	4.50	2.50	
18	4.50	2.50	2.25-2.50
19	4.50	2.50	2.50
20	4.50	2.50	2.50
21	4.50	2.50	2.50
22	4.50	2.50	2.50
25	4.50	2.50	—
26	4.50	2.25-2.50	—
27	4.50	2.25-2.50	2.25-2.50
28	4.50	2.25-2.50	—
29	4.50	2.25-2.50	—
July 2	4.50	2.25-2.50	—
3	4.00-4.50	2.25-2.50	2.00-2.25
4	—	—	—
5	4.00-4.50	2.00-2.50	2.00-2.25
6	4.00	1.90-2.00	1.75-2.00
9	4.00	2.00	1.75-2.00
10	4.00	2.00	1.75-2.00
11	4.00	2.00	1.50-2.00
12	Too Few Sales To Quote		1.50
13	"	"	1.50-1.75
16	"	"	1.75
17	"	"	1.50-2.00
18	"	"	1.50-2.00
19	"	"	Too Few To Quote
20	"	"	Too Few To Quote
23	"	"	1.50
24	"	"	1.50-1.75
25	"	"	1.50-1.75

SHIPMENTS OF EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES, 1979 CROP

	<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>10,000 lb Units</u>	<u>50,000 lb Units</u>
June	17th	514	103
	24th	2836	567
July	1st	3801	760
	8th	2575	515
	15th	2075	415
	22nd	662	132
	29th	410	82
		<u>12,873</u>	<u>2574</u>

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR FLORIDA POTATOES
AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS
50 lb. SACKS, US#1, SIZE A WASHED

PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR FIRST TRADING DAY OF WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

ROUND REDS

WEEK BEGINNING	ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	CHICAGO	CLEVELAND	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA
FEB. 5	6.50-7.00	6.50	7.00-7.50	5.50-6.00	7.00-7.50	--
12	6.50-7.00	5.50-6.00	6.00-6.50	4.75-5.00	--	5.00
20	4.50-5.00	5.50	5.75-6.00	4.75-5.00	6.50-7.50	--
26	4.50-5.00	5.50	5.50-6.00	4.75-5.00	--	6.00-6.50
MAR. 5	4.00-4.50	5.00	5.50-6.00	4.75-5.00	--	5.25-5.50
12	4.00	5.00	5.50	4.75-5.00	--	5.00-5.50
19	4.00-4.50	5.50	5.50-5.75	5.00-5.50	5.50	4.50-5.50
26	4.50	5.25-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.00-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.25-5.50
APR. 2	4.50	5.25-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.25-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.25-6.00
9	4.50	5.25-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.25-5.50	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00
16	4.50-4.75	5.75-6.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.50	--
23	4.50-4.75	5.75	6.00-6.50	5.50-5.75	5.50-6.00	6.00-6.50
30	--	6.75	7.50-8.00	--	7.00-7.50	--
MAY 7	--	8.00	8.00	--	--	9.00-9.50
14	7.50	7.00	--	--	--	--
21	6.00-6.50	7.00	8.00-8.50	--	8.00-9.00	7.50
29	6.00-6.50	--	7.00	--	6.00-7.00	7.00-7.25
JUNE 4	5.25-6.00	--	6.00	--	6.00-7.00	5.00
11	4.25-5.50	--	5.50	--	--	--
18	4.50	--	--	--	--	--
25	4.00	--	--	--	--	--

ROUND WHITES

WEEK BEGINNING	ATLANTA	BALTIMORE	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA
APR. 6	--	--	--	--
13	--	6.00-6.25	--	7.00
20	--	--	--	--
27	5.00	--	--	--
MAY 4	--	6.50	6.00-6.25	--
11	4.00-4.25	6.00	5.00-5.50	4.50-5.00
18	4.00-4.25	6.00	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00
25	3.75-4.00	5.50	4.50-5.00	5.00-5.50
JUNE 1	3.50-3.75	4.50-4.75	5.00-5.50	4.50
8	3.25	4.00	4.50-5.00	4.75-5.00
15	3.25	3.50-3.75	4.50	4.00-4.50

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR ALABAMA POTATOES

AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS

50 LB SACKS, US#1 SIZE A WASHED

MONDAY'S PRICES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

ROUND REDS

WEEK ENDING	ATLANTA	CINCINNATI	CLEVELAND	LOUISVILLE	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH
May 14	-	-	-	8.00	-	-	-
21	-	-	8.25	7.50	9.00-9.50	-	-
28	-	-	7.00-7.50	6.00-6.25	5.00-5.50	-	6.00-6.25
June 4	-	-	6.00-6.25	6.00	5.50-6.00	-	5.00
11	-	5.00-5.50	5.75	5.50	4.00-4.50	-	6.50
18	4.50	5.50-5.75	5.00	4.75-5.00	-	-	-
25	4.50	5.00-5.50	-	4.50-5.00	-	-	-
July 2	4.25-4.50	-	-	4.50	5.50	6.00-6.50	-
9	4.00-4.25	4.50	-	4.50-5.00	5.00-5.50	-	-
16	4.00	4.00-4.50	-	4.50	-	-	-
23	3.75-4.00	4.00-4.50	4.25-4.50	3.75	-	-	-
30	3.75-4.00	4.00-4.25	4.00-4.50	3.50-3.75	4.00-4.50	-	-

ROUND WHITES

WEEK ENDING	ATLANTA	CINCINNATI	LOUISVILLE
June 4	-	-	4.25-4.50
11	-	-	-
18	-	4.75	4.75-5.00
25	3.50	-	4.25-4.50
July 2	3.50	-	4.15-4.50
9	3.25	4.50-5.00	4.00
16	3.25	3.75-4.50	3.50-3.75
23	3.00	3.50-4.00	3.50-3.75
30	-	3.50-3.75	-
Aug. 6	3.00	3.00-3.50	-
13	2.75-3.00	2.75-3.00	-
20	2.75-3.00	3.25-3.50	-
27	-	2.75-3.25	-

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA POTATOES
 AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS
 50 lb. SACKS, US#1, SIZE A WASHED
 PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR FIRST TRADING DAY OF WEEK UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
ROUND WHITES

WEEK BEGINNING	BALTIMORE	ATLANTA	NEW YORK CITY	PHILADELPHIA	PITTSBURGH
MAY 28	4.00-4.50	-	-	-	-
JUNE 4	4.00	-	-	-	3.50-4.00
11	3.25-3.50	-	-	-	-
18	3.25	-	3.50-4.00	3.75-4.00	4.00
25	3.25-3.50	3.75	3.50-4.00	3.50-3.75	4.00
JULY 2	3.00-3.50	3.25-3.50	-	-	3.75-4.00
9	2.75-3.00	3.25	-	-	3.50
16	2.50-2.75	-	-	-	3.25
23	-	3.00	-	-	3.00-3.25

POTATOES

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA					
	PLANTED			HARVESTED		
	1978	1979	IND 1980	1978	1979	IND 1980
1,000 ACRES						
<u>WINTER:</u>						
CALIF	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0
FLA	10.0	9.7	8.7	9.9	8.6	8.5
TOTAL	13.0	13.0	11.7	12.9	11.9	11.5
<u>SPRING: 1/</u>						
ALA	11.0	8.0		9.5	7.3	
ARIZ	6.0	6.2		6.0	6.2	
CALIF	29.0	30.0		29.0	28.0	
FLA - HASTINGS	20.8	20.0		20.6	18.5	
- OTHER	2.0	1.0		1.8	0.9	
LA	2.6	2.4		2.3	2.1	
MISS 2/	1.3			1.2		
N C	13.1	13.8		13.0	13.7	
TEX	7.6	7.5		7.5	7.1	
TOTAL	93.4	88.9		90.9	83.8	
YIELD : PRODUCTION						
	1978	1979	IND 1980	1978	1979	IND 1980
CWT			1,000 CWT			
<u>WINTER:</u>						
CALIF	230	240	240	690	792	720
FLA	195	185	190	1,931	1,591	1,615
TOTAL	203	200	203	2,621	2,383	2,335
<u>SPRING: 1/</u>						
ALA	100	140		950	1,022	
ARIZ	265	210		1,590	1,302	
CALIF	285	395		8,265	11,060	
FLA - HASTINGS	170	230		3,502	4,255	
- OTHER	125	180		225	162	
LA	75	70		173	147	
MISS 2/	90			108		
N C	150	165		1,950	2,261	
TEX	160	160		1,200	1,136	
TOTAL	198	255		17,963	21,345	

1/ 1979 REVISED.

2/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1978 CROP.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1979 AND JANUARY 1, 1980

STATE	CROP OF 1978			CROP OF 1979		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS
	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1979	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1980	AS % OF PRODUCTION
		PERCENT			PERCENT	
CALIF	6,055	3,300	55	6,364	3,650	57
COLO	11,275	7,150	63	11,455	7,000	61
CONN	1/	1/		1/	1/	
IDAHO	100,310	71,000	71	88,200	62,000	70
IND	936	165	18	1,071	230	21
MAINE	25,960	17,300	67	28,750	22,000	77
MASS	810	380	47	748	330	44
MICH	8,500	5,000	59	8,000	4,200	53
MINN	14,910	10,700	72	12,920	9,500	74
MONT	2,088	1,870	90	1,800	1,630	91
NEBR	1,800	1,100	61	1,482	950	64
N Y - L I	6,175	2,250	36	6,431	2,400	37
- UPSTATE	6,500	2,400	37	6,463	2,500	39
N DAK	22,400	14,700	66	18,240	10,700	59
OHIO	2,215	700	32	2,400	850	35
OREG	28,488	15,400	54	25,310	14,600	58
PA	6,250	3,750	60	6,000	3,200	53
R I	1/	1/		1/	1/	
S DAK	1,190	710	60	1,203	600	50
UTAH	1,127	700	62	1,300	900	69
VT	1/	1/		1/	1/	
WASH	50,685	28,800	57	48,925	27,300	56
WIS	17,325	7,900	46	17,010	7,400	44
WYO	1,462	560	38	1,144	630	55
OTHER STATES	1,597	245	15	1,462	185	13
23 STATE TOTAL <u>2/</u>	318,058	196,080	62	296,678	182,755	62

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES. 2/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT AND 1979 PRODUCTION 4,950,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1980 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1960-79 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary 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' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1980 potato stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 183 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 4.20 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent or approximately 7.31 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.7 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 1.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate each year during the past 10 years.