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MARKETING POTATOES

FLORIDA AND ALABAMA

SUMMARY
1980 Season

P R E F A C E

This is a summary of marketing Florida, Alabama potatoes for the 1980 season. The information was compiled from daily reports issued from the Federal-State Market News Offices at North Palm Beach, Florida; Thomasville, Georgia. These offices were operated 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.

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
P.O. Box 14697
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Federal-State Market News Service
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C O N T E N T S

	<u>PAGE</u>
MARKETING REVIEW SOUTH FLORIDA	5
MARKETING REVIEW HASTINGS, FLORIDA	6
MARKETING REVIEW ALABAMA	7-9
WEEKLY RAIL AND TRUCK SHIPMENTS	10-11
SHIPPING POINT PRICES-SOUTH FLORIDA	12
SHIPPING POINT PRICES-HASTINGS, FLORIDA	13
SHIPPING POINT PRICES-ALABAMA	14
TERMINAL PRICES-FLORIDA	15-17
TERMINAL PRICES-ALABAMA	18
PRODUCTION-WINTER AND SPRING	19
PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES	20

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SOUTH FLORIDA

South Florida winter potato acreage for harvest was 8,500 in 1980, compared with 8,600 in 1979. This was down from the 9,900 acres harvested in 1978. Production was 1,658,000 cwt in 1980, compared with 1,591,000 cwt 1979. Yields were up slightly in 1980. The yields were 195 cwt per acre in 1980, compared with 185 in 1979.

Growing conditions were generally good in South Florida during the fall of 1979 and winter of 1980. Planting was about finished in the Fort Myers area by November 1. Dade County planting was delayed by wet fields, but was active the last half of November. Light planting continued through December. Excellent growing conditions prevailed during January of 1980. Vines were "killed" around January 20th in the Fort Myers area. Heavy rains the middle of April caused harvesting to be delayed, with some minor condition problems resulting.

Harvesting began the last week of January in the Martin County and Fort Myers areas. Harvesting was active during February in these areas. Digging began in Dade County in early February, but it was March before volume supplies were available. Heavy supplies continued into April. Most growers finished digging by May 1 in the Dade County.

Marketing of the 1980 crop was fairly successful, but there were periods when the demand was sluggish. Shipping point prices on 50-pound sacks of U.S. No. One Size A Round Reds ranged from \$3.50-5.50 during the season. Prices held steady at \$5.50 during the light shipping period in February, but dropped to \$3.50 in late March, when supplies peaked. The market improved some in April, closing out that month on a \$5.00 market. The main type of package continued to be fifty pound paper sacks. Master film containers holding five ten-pound, or ten five-pound bags were the most common consumer packages. A fair volume of processing stock was shipped in "bulk" loaded trucks.

HASTINGS

ACREAGE planted in the Hastings area totaled 20,000 as reported by the Crop Reporting Service. Acreage harvested was reduced by unfavorable growing conditions to 18,000. The harvested acreage was down 500 acres from the 18,500, 1979 figures, and 2,600 acres less than 1978. Yields per acre was 195 per cwt in 1980 compared with 230 cwt in 1970 cwt in 1978.

GROWING CONDITIONS were unfavorable early in the season but improved later. An early February frost caused only minimal damage, but a hard freeze on March 2nd caused some early planted acreage to be totally lost. A hail storm damaged the Bunnell area on April 19th, forcing a salvage operation that began on April 25th. The majority of producers were digging by May 12th. This year's crop was delayed about 2 weeks due to the loss of early plantings. The weather was favorable for the remainder of the marketing season.

INTERSTATE SHIPMENTS for the season totalled 3,308,800 cwt. Harvesting began in late April. The deal peaked the week of May 31st with interstate shipments of 620,000 cwts. Most growers were finished digging by June 30th. Although a few were digging a small amount until the end of July. Practically all shipments were made by truck.

MARKETING was slowed early in the season by the large carry over of Maine and Red River Valley Potatoes. California began digging White Rose Long Whites 2 weeks earlier than normal with a near record 390 cwt per acre yield. Thus the demand for chip potatoes (85% or more U.S. No. 1, generally 1 5/8" minimum) and table stock potatoes was limited. FOB shipping point prices for open market chip potatoes early in the season were \$5.00 per cwt on bulk and \$4.50 per 50 lb sack table stock Round Whites. The market declined, but not as substantially as in the previous years, to \$3.50-4.00 per cwt bulk on chip stock, and \$4.00 per 50 lb sack for table stock Round Whites.

ALABAMA

ACREAGE: Area harvested during the spring potato season in South Alabama was put at 6,000 acres by the Crop Reporting Board. This compares with 7,300 acres during the spring of 1979 and 9,500 in 1978. The 1980 acres harvested represents a 18 percent decline from the 1979 crop. Large amount of rainfall limited, somewhat, the acreage that producers were able to plant in 1980. Acreage has been reduced sharply over the last few years. There were some 11,000 acres harvested as recent as 1977. This decline was due partly to the improved storage and larger crops of fall potatoes in other areas. These areas, such as the Red River Valley of Minnesota-North Dakota, compete for both the processors' and the table stock demand.

The 1980 summer crop in the Sand Mountain region of Northeast Alabama consisted of some 9,500 acres harvested. This compares with 9,000 in 1979 and was a 5 percent increase. Acreage harvested in 1978 was put at 8,000. Harvested acreage of summer potatoes has shown an upward trend over recent years although the figures for 1977 and 1976 were 8,000 and 8,200 respectively.

PRODUCTION: Weather sharply reduced yields in both South and Northeast Alabama but for opposite reasons. Heavy rainfall caused problems for the spring crop in the South while the 1980 drought drastically affected the summer crop in the Northeast. Preliminary estimates put spring crop production at 630,000 cwt. with an average yield of 150 cwt. per acre. This compares with 1979 production of 1,022,000 cwt. and yield of 140 cwt. per acre. The decline in production amounted to some 38 percent from 1979.

The 1980 production of summer crop potatoes in Northeast Alabama was put at 475,000 cwt. with a yield of 50 cwt. The production in 1979 was 1,530,000 cwt. with a yield of 170 cwt. per acre. Sharply reduced yields were caused by the severe drought conditions.

The 1980 crop production was down 69 percent from the 1979 crop as a direct result.

GROWING CONDITION: Conditions were generally poor during the 1980 potato season. Heavy rains during the normal planting season in South Alabama delayed planting operation and probably reduced the actual number of acres planted. Heavy rains continued throughout the growing season and into the early part of the harvest. Rains totalled 51 inches in Mobile as of May 1 from the first of the year. Nutrients were leached from the soil and potatoes failed to size up normally as a result.

Dry, hot weather in the Sand Mountain region was the predominant factor in the poor 1980 growing season for summer potatoes in Northeast Alabama. A small percentage of growers in the area had irrigation systems. The bulk of the producers, however, experienced very poor yields as there was very little rainfall throughout the season. Quality was variable from the area most of the 1980 season. Heavy skinning was the most notable factor affecting quality.

HARVEST: Light harvesting began in South Alabama around the middle of May. Harvest was delayed shortly after it began due to heavy rains. Harvest resumed with 5 to 7 days. Peak harvest was underway by the last of May through the first part of June. Shipments of table stock continued through mid June. Chip stock shipments continued through the latter part of June. In Northeast Alabama, harvest began in late June with moderate volume by early July. Harvest was completed by the first of August.

MARKETING: The first F.O.B. report in 1980 for South Alabama potatoes was issued May 28. Round Reds opened at \$8.00 for U.S. No. 1 size A in 100 lb sacks. Round Whites started at \$7.50-8.00 for U.S. No. 1 size A per cwt in 100 lb. sacks. Prices fell to a seasonal low on June 5 at \$7.00-7.50 for Reds and \$7.00-8.00 for Whites. The market recovered quickly as the season ended with prices about unchanged from the opening levels.

In the Sand Mountain area of Northeast Alabama, the first F.O.B. for the 1980 season was issued on July 14. Round Reds opened up at extremely high prices due to light supplies as a result of the drought. Prices were \$16.00 for U.S. No. 1 size A per cwt in 100 lb. sacks. The market declined to \$12.00 by July 29 but recovered to close at \$13.00 in the first week of August. The supply of Round Whites was very light for the entire 1980 season. F.O.B. prices were quoted on July 16 and 17 only. Prices were \$9.00-9.50 for U.S. No. 1 size A in 50 lb. sacks for Round Whites.

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

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS

SHOWN IN 10,000 POUND UNITS

January 5 - August 19, 1980

WEEK ENDING:	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. 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	638
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	922
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	659
26	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	942
Feb. 2	-	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	783
9	-	171	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1007
16	-	227	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	624
23	-	286	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	721
Mar. 1	-	373	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	833
8	-	660	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	656
15	-	832	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	733
22	-	875	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	520
29	-	1062	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	606
Apr. 5	-	1087	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	744
12	-	978	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	890
19	-	1250	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	891
26	-	1428	-	-	-	-	-	-	387	1363
May 3	-	1153	-	-	14	103	-	-	1147	1631
10	-	2030	-	5	40	477	-	-	1890	4328
17	-	4970	-	115	216	866	-	-	2611	2642
24	-	5433	-	149	301	801	-	-	2994	3306
31	-	6200	-	980	248	1241	-	-	2356	2894
June 7	-	5348	-	1839	157	1349	-	-	3508	3523
14	-	5235	-	1157	223	1586	-	56	4118	3877
21	-	2785	-	686	74	1711	-	1603	5401	4312
28	-	385	-	130	20	1243	-	3287	5134	5186
July 5	-	13	-	100	-	434	-	3526	3492	8967
12	-	20	-	1025	-	76	-	2879	2836	4410
19	-	12	-	832	-	-	-	819	1946	2956
26	-	9	-	1008	-	-	-	55	633	1861
Aug. 2	-	2	-	873	-	-	-	-	413	1880
9	-	-	-	242	-	-	-	-	190	1925
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	2065

WEEKLY RAIL & TRUCK POTATO SHIPMENTS

SHOWN IN 10,000 POUND UNITS

January 5-August 19, 1930

WEEK ENDING:	TEXAS		VIRGINIA		OTHER		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>
Jan. 5	-	-	-	-	2092	13565	2101	14203
12	-	-	-	-	3583	21490	3592	22412
14	-	-	-	-	3490	20632	3490	21291
26	-	-	-	-	3030	18298	3065	19263
Feb. 2	-	-	-	-	2627	18869	2636	19744
9	-	-	-	-	3494	22686	3494	21561
16	-	-	-	-	3253	20710	3271	21561
23	-	-	-	-	3300	20571	3309	21578
Mar. 1	-	-	-	-	4090	19831	4099	21637
8	-	-	-	-	5301	19634	5353	20950
15	-	-	-	-	4975	20724	4984	22289
22	-	-	-	-	4885	21114	4911	22509
29	-	-	-	-	4452	23056	4487	24724
Apr. 5	-	-	-	-	2486	23771	2495	25602
12	-	-	-	-	3094	24936	3138	26804
19	-	78	-	-	2559	24048	2621	26267
26	-	438	-	-	2775	22974	3162	26203
May 3	-	747	-	-	2918	19555	4079	23189
10	-	877	-	-	3444	15621	5382	23338
17	-	434	-	-	3297	15797	6124	25024
24	-	342	-	-	3142	8622	6437	18653
31	-	479	-	-	2126	9715	4730	21509
June 7	-	108	-	-	2610	10529	6275	22696
14	-	18	-	-	2163	8197	6504	20126
21	-	20	-	15	2590	5996	8125	17128
28	-	2	-	740	2518	5481	8125	16454
July 5	-	277	-	1845	1513	2894	5005	13056
12	-	1042	-	3395	1693	2655	4529	15702
19	-	1246	-	2750	1191	4827	3137	13442
26	24	1400	-	1095	985	10067	1642	15495
Aug. 2	15	2592	-	1625	1395	10717	1823	17689
9	-	2217	-	795	1407	12296	1597	17475
16	-	1505	-	145	985	13452	1235	17167

1980 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

SOUTH FLORIDA

ROUND REDS

50 lb. Sacks, U.S. #1 Washed

<u>DATE</u>		<u>SIZE A</u>	<u>SIZE B</u>
FEB.	1	5.50	6.50
	8	5.50	6.50
	15	5.50	6.50
	22	5.50	7.00
	29	5.50	7.00
MAR.	7	5.50	7.00
	14	4.50-5.00	5.50-6.00
	21	4.50	5.50
	28	3.50	4.50
APR.	4	3.50	4.00
	11	4.50	5.00
	18	5.00	5.50
	25	5.00	5.50
MAY	2	5.00	5.50

1980 SHIPPING POINT PRICES

HASTINGS, FLORIDA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u> 85% or more U.S. #1 generally 1-5/8" & up		<u>TABLE STOCK</u>	
	<u>CHIP BULK</u>	<u>ROUND WHITES</u> U.S. #1-Size A 50 lb Sacks	<u>100 lb Sacks</u>	<u>ROUND REDS</u> U.S. #1-Size A 50 lb Sacks
MAY 5	4.50	—*	—	—*
6	4.00-4.50	5.00	—	—*
7	4.50	4.50-5.00	—	5.50*
8	4.50	4.50	—	5.50
9	—*	4.50	—	5.50
12	4.50	4.50	—	5.50
13	4.50	4.50	—	5.50
14	4.50	4.50	—	5.50
15	4.50	4.00	7.00	—*
16	4.50	3.50	—	5.00
19	4.50	3.50	7.00	5.00
20	4.50	3.50	—	5.00
21	4.50	3.25	6.50	5.00
22	4.50	3.00-3.25	6.50-7.00	5.00
23	4.50	3.50	—*	4.50-5.00
26	—**	—**	—**	—**
27	4.50	3.00	6.00	4.00
28	4.50	3.00	6.00	4.00-4.25
29	4.50	3.00	6.00	4.00
30	4.50	3.00	6.00	4.00
JUNE 2	4.50	3.50	7.00	4.00
3	3.75-4.00	3.50	7.00	4.00
4	4.00	3.00	6.25-6.50	4.00
5	3.50-3.75	3.25	6.25-6.50	4.00
9	3.50-3.75	3.25	6.50	4.00
10	3.50-3.75	3.25	6.50	4.00
11	3.50-3.75	3.25-3.50	6.50-7.00	4.00
12	3.75-4.00	3.50	7.00	4.00
13	3.75-4.00	4.00	8.00	4.00

* SUPPLIES INSUFFICIENT TO QUOTE.

** NO FOB ISSUED DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

1980 ALABAMA SHIPPING POINT PRICES

	<u>TABLE STOCK</u>		<u>PROCESSING STOCK</u>
	<u>ROUND REDS</u>	<u>100 lb. sacks U.S. #1 Size A</u>	<u>Bulk per cwt. 85% or more US #1</u> <u>generally 1-5/8" & up</u>
		<u>ROUND WHITES</u>	
		<u>SOUTH ALABAMA</u>	
May 28	8.00	-	-
29	8.00	7.50-8.00	-
30	8.00	7.50-8.00	-
June 2	7.50-8.00	7.00-8.00	-
3	7.50-8.00	7.00-8.00	-
4	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	-
5	7.00-7.50	7.00-8.00	-
6*	-	-	-
9	8.00	8.00	-
10	8.00	8.00	-
11	8.00	8.00	-
12	8.00	8.00	-
13	8.00	8.00	-
16 1/	-	-	-

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

July 14	16.00	-	6.50-6.75
15	16.00	-	6.75
16	16.00	9.00-9.50 3/	-
17	14.00-15.00	9.00-9.50 3/	7.00
18	14.00-15.00	-	7.00
21	13.00-14.00	-	7.00
22	13.00-14.00	-	6.75-7.00
23	13.00-14.00	-	-
24	12.00-13.00	-	6.75-7.00
25	12.00-13.00	-	6.75
28 2/	-	-	-
29	12.00	-	-
30	12.00	-	-
31	12.00-13.00	-	-
Aug 1	12.00-13.00	-	-
4	13.00	-	-
5 1/	13.00	-	-

* No report issued

1/ Last report

2/ Rain curtailed harvesting; supplies insufficient to quote

3/ 50 lb sacks; no 100 lb quoted

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
FEB. 5	--	7.50	8.00	7.00-7.50
11	5.50	--	8.00	7.00-7.50
19	5.50	--	8.00	6.50-7.00
25	6.75-7.00	--	8.00	6.50-7.00
MAR. 3	6.75-7.00	7.50	8.00	6.50-7.00
10	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	8.00	6.50-7.00
17	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	8.00	6.50-7.00
24	6.50-7.00	6.50	8.00	5.50-6.00
31	5.00-5.50	--	7.00	5.50-5.75
7	5.00-5.50	5.50-6.00	7.00	5.50-5.75
14	5.00-5.50	6.00-6.25	--	7.00
21	6.00-6.50	7.50	8.00	6.75-7.00
28	--	7.50	8.00	7.00
MAY 5	6.00-6.50	7.50	8.00-8.50	7.00
12	--*	8.00	8.00	7.00
19	6.50	7.50-8.00	7.50	7.00
26	--	7.50-7.75	--	7.00
JUNE 2	5.75-6.25	--	--	--
9	--	--	--	--
16	--*	--	--	--
23	--*	--	--	--
30	--	--	--	--

PLIES INSUFFICIENT TO QUOTE.

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	<u>NEW YORK CITY</u>	<u>PHILADELPHIA</u>	<u>PITTSBURGH</u>
FEB. 4	--	--	7.15-7.25
11	7.50-8.00	--	7.00-7.50
19	8.00	7.50-8.00	7.25-7.50
25	--	--	7.25-7.35
MAR. 3	8.00-8.50	7.50	7.00-7.25
10	7.00-8.00	7.00-7.50	6.75-7.25
17	7.00-8.00	6.50	6.50-7.00
24	6.50-7.00	6.00-7.00	6.25-6.50
31	6.00-6.50	--	--
APR. 7	6.00-6.50	6.00	5.75-6.25
14	6.00-6.50	6.00-6.50	6.25
21	7.50	7.00	--
28	7.50-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.50
MAY 5	7.50-8.00	7.25-7.50	7.00-7.50
12	--	7.50-8.00	7.50-7.75
19	--	7.50-8.00	8.00
26	---**	--	7.50-7.75
JUNE 2	5.00-6.00	5.00-5.50	--
9	--	--	--
16	--	--	--
23	--	--	--
30	--	--	--

** NO REPORT ISSUED DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

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 WHITES

<u>WEEK</u> <u>BEGINNING</u>	<u>ATLANTA</u>	<u>BALTIMORE</u>	<u>DETROIT</u>	<u>NEW YORK CITY</u>	<u>PHILADELPHIA</u>	<u>PITTSBURGH</u>
MAR. 6	6.75-7.00	--	--	--	--	--
13	--	--	--	--	--	--
20	6.50-7.00	--	--	--	--	--
27	5.50-6.00	--	--	--	--	--
APR. 3	5.00-5.50	--	--	7.00	--	--
10	5.00-5.50	7.00-7.50	5.50-5.75	5.50-6.00	--	5.00
17	--	7.00-7.25	5.50-5.75	--	8.00	--
24	--	8.50	7.00	9.50-10.00	9.00-9.50	--
MAY 1	--	8.50	6.75-7.00	8.00-8.50	9.50	--
8	5.00	8.50	7.00	8.00-8.50	6.00-6.50	--
15	4.75-5.00	5.00-5.50	7.00	--	6.26-6.50	--
22	4.00-4.25	4.50-5.50	7.00	--	4.50-5.00	--
29	4.00	5.00	--	--	5.50-6.00	5.50-6.00
JUNE 5	4.00-4.50	5.25	7.25	--	5.00-5.50	6.00-6.25
12	3.85-4.00	5.50	--	--	5.00-6.00	5.50-6.00
19	5.50-6.00	6.50	8.00	--	7.00-7.50	6.50
26	7.00	--	--	--	--	--
JULY 3	7.00	--	--	--	--	--
10	--	--	--	--	--	--
17	--	--	--	--	--	--
24	--	5.25-6.00	--	--	--	--
31	--	5.50	--	--	--	--

WHOLESALE PRICES FOR ALABAMA POTATOES
 AT SELECTED TERMINAL MARKETS
 50 LB SACKS, ROUND REDS US#1 WASHED
 MONDAY'S PRICES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

WEEK ENDING	ATLANTA SIZE A	CINCINNATI SIZE A	LOUISVILLE SIZE A	NEW YORK CITY SIZE A	PHILADELPHIA SIZE A
May 19	6.50	-	-	-	8.00
27	**	**	**	7.00	**
June 2	-	6.00-6.50	5.25-5.50	8.00	7.00-7.50
9	5.00-5.50	6.00	-	7.00	7.50
16	-	-	5.75-6.00	-	-
23	-	8.00	7.50	-	5.00-5.50
30	-	-	-	-	-
July 7	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	-	-	-
21	-	10.00	-	-	-
28	-	-	-	11.00-12.00	7.50-8.00
Aug. 4	-	-	-	-	-

** NO REPORT ISSUED DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.

POTATO ACREAGE

SEASONAL GROUP AND STATE	AREA						
	PLANTED			HARVESTED			
	1979	1980	IND 1981	1979	1980	IND 1981	
	1,000 ACRES						
<u>WINTER:</u>							
CALIF	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.0	
FLA	9.7	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	
TOTAL	13.0	11.6	11.6	11.9	11.5	11.6	
<u>SPRING: 1/</u>							
ALA	8.0	6.0		7.3	6.0		
ARIZ	6.2	4.4		6.2	4.4		
CALIF	30.0	22.5		28.0	22.5		
FLA - HASTINGS	20.0	20.0		18.5	18.0		
- OTHER	1.0	1.0		.9	.8		
LA	2.3	2.1		2.0	1.7		
N C	13.8	13.2		13.7	13.0		
TEX	7.5	6.5		7.1	6.2		
TOTAL	88.8	75.7		83.7	72.6		
	YIELD			PRODUCTION			
	1979	1980	IND 1981	1979	1980	IND 1981	
	CWT			1,000 CWT			
<u>WINTER:</u>							
CALIF	240	235	240	792	705	720	
FLA	185	195	195	1,591	1,658	1,677	
TOTAL	200	205	207	2,383	2,363	2,397	
<u>SPRING: 1/</u>							
ALA	140	105		1,022	630		
ARIZ	210	290		1,302	1,276		
CALIF	395	390		11,060	8,775		
FLA - HASTINGS	230	195		4,255	3,510		
- OTHER	180	170		162	136		
LA	75	70		150	119		
N C	165	140		2,261	1,820		
TEX	160	130		1,136	806		
TOTAL	255	235		21,348	17,072		

1/ 1979 AND 1980 REVISED.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON JANUARY 1, 1980 AND JANUARY 1, 1981

STATE	CROP OF 1979			CROP OF 1980		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS:	JAN 1 STOCKS:	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS:	JAN 1 STOCKS:
	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1980	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1981	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,364	3,700	58	6,438	3,300	51
COLO	11,455	7,100	62	10,950	6,500	59
IDAHO	85,050	58,500	69	78,455	51,500	66
MAINE	27,685	21,200	77	24,960	16,100	65
MICH	8,000	4,400	55	7,403	3,300	45
MINN	12,920	9,500	74	9,920	7,000	71
MONT	1,800	1,690	94	1,725	1,610	93
NEBR	1,482	930	63	1,876	1,150	61
N Y - L I	6,431	2,400	37	4,418	950	22
- UPSTATE:	6,463	2,500	39	6,250	2,150	34
N DAK	18,240	10,700	59	15,680	8,900	57
OHIO	2,400	800	33	1,948	300	15
OREG	25,310	14,600	58	19,745	11,300	57
PA	6,000	3,300	55	4,180	2,500	60
WASH	48,450	27,300	56	43,935	22,000	50
WIS	17,010	7,400	44	16,000	5,400	34
15 STATE TOTAL	285,060	176,020	62	253,883	143,960	57

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1981 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 1961-80 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, 1981 potato stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 144 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 3.31 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent or approximately 5.76 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.5 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.9 and the smallest was 1.2 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.