

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
and
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Foods & Standards Cooperating

MARKET NEWS SERVICE ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

MARKETING THE MICHIGAN POTATO CROP
Brief Review of the 1943-44 Season

by

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Market reports on potatoes were issued from the Benton Harbor, Michigan office from October 15 to October 31, and from the Grand Rapids, Michigan office from November 4, 1943 to April 14, 1944.

NATIONAL SITUATION

The national 1943 potato crop was the largest on record. A late spring delayed movement of the early crop in Southeastern States and supplies were light, but from mid-June to date offerings have been liberal. The Crop Reporting Board estimated the 1943 crop December 1 at 464,656,000 bushels, 26% above the 1942 yields of 370,489,000 bushels and 28% above the previous 10-year (1932-41) average of 363,332,000 bushels. Maine, Idaho, California and North Carolina had especially large increases, while most of the remaining areas of the major potato producing States had moderate increases and in a few instances average crops.

Rail shipments reflect the heavy crop with a total 1943-44 crop season shipments to April 15, 1944 amounting to 267,245 cars compared to final shipments for the 1942-43 crop of 211,975 cars and 199,217 cars for the 1941-42 season.

MICHIGAN SITUATION:

Michigan Potato Crop 35% above 1942 Harvest But 11% Under 1932-41 Average:-
Michigan's 1943 potato harvest was estimated by the Crop Reporting Board at 22,365,000 bushels as compared to 16,562,000 bushels in 1942 and 25,135,000 bushels for the previous 10-year average. Average yields were above a year ago and average being placed at 105 bushels per acre as compared to 98 bushels per acre in 1942 and 97 bushels for the 10-year average. The harvested acreage was placed at 213,000 acres as compared to 169,000 acres in 1942 and 261,000 acres for the 10-year average. An early frost in some central sections curtailed yields on many fields. Other than this, the 1943 season was the best in several seasons for above average yields.

Quality & Condition Above Average:-

A long, open, dry Fall allowed stock to be harvested in prime condition. There was little blight or loss from field frost. Due to a dry Fall there was less hollow-heart, second growth, and cracks than usual. Quality and condition was the best in recent years.

Shipments Via Rail & Truck:-

Rail shipments to date, April 15, amounted to 3,566 cars as compared to 2,808 cars in 1942 to date, and final shipments of 3,001 cars for the 1942 season. Truck shipments Federal-State Inspected reduced to carlot equivalents amounted to 2,656 cars to date as compared to 3,735 cars a year ago to date and final shipments of 3,938 cars. Rail shipments are 758 cars above a year ago while truck shipments are 1,079 cars behind last season. Most truck movement was to nearby markets. Movements were light to more distant points. With large holdings still remaining to be moved, final shipment figures will show considerably higher totals. Ample cars and trucks were available for handling the crop, except for a few instances where quick delivery was needed.

Mild, Open Winter Allowed Free Farm Deliveries:-

Usually Michigan, as well as other Northern States has heavy snows and long cold spells in January and February, especially that impedes delivery and holds back supplies. A "weather market" occurs and stocks stored at rail sidings and accessible loading points sell at improved values. This season there was no appreciable weather market bulge due to open weather.

F.o.b. Price Situation Dull:-

F.o.b. values have been only moderate all season, with rather heavy holdings still remaining to be moved to market at this late date in the storage season. Top f.o.b. sales have been around and slightly above prices set for floor support levels and for about half of the storage season to date, have been somewhat below support level except for limited support purchases during this period. F.o.b. sales for U. S. #1 Russet Rurals in 100-lb. sacks Cadillac rate ranged for the season as follows, by months: October \$2.05-2.40, November \$2.28-2.50, December \$2.25-2.30, January \$2.10-2.35, February \$2.05-2.30, March \$1.75-2.15, and April 1-10, \$1.90-2.15. Chippewas and Katahdins were generally 10¢ higher if quality was good. Demand was active at harvest time, but has been slow and dull ever since. The effects of the huge supply of late crop potatoes has been strongly evident. Offerings have exceeded demand. In Michigan's normal outlets, nearby markets had more liberal homegrown and garden supplies than normal, while larger markets and more distant outlets which Michigan normally supplies have been liberally supplied with stock from competing producing areas. The slow demand has resulted in delay in moving storage supplies. The Mar. 1 stocks on hand report indicated 6,000,000 bushels remaining in Michigan to be moved in commercial channels. Shipments since March and early April have continued relatively light. The California early crop was injured by frost damage. Southeastern States report an increased acreage, with some damage from too much rain. Maturity on early crop appears to be about normal.

POTATO CARLOT SHIPMENTS 18 SURPLUS LATE STATES 1938-43 SEASONS:

18 Surplus Late States	Crop Movement Season 1/					
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943 #
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars	Cars
Maine.....	39,805	37,167	36,994	43,906	43,957	56,195
New York.....	5,122	3,583	5,337	5,611	8,476	2,553
Pennsylvania.....	304	296	429	533	334	492
MICHIGAN.....	7,091	3,790	1,666	3,573	3,001	3,566
Wisconsin.....	4,751	3,949	1,489	3,413	1,989	3,901
Minnesota.....	11,484	11,305	12,665	9,310	9,867	10,521
North Dakota.....	11,366	13,346	20,155	16,311	15,892	18,278
South Dakota.....	66	372	156	289	682	1,301
Nebraska.....	4,970	10,435	10,445	9,035	10,434	7,991
Montana.....	184	124	463	468	404	748
Idaho.....	33,808	32,125	32,630	30,985	28,190	36,753
Wyoming.....	619	1,420	2,127	1,483	1,498	1,345
Colorado.....	4,227	5,888	4,856	5,737	12,591	12,487
Utah.....	1,198	855	480	505	891	1,800
Nevada.....	133	66	70	128	204	269
Washington.....	2,496	2,394	2,892	2,793	3,370	4,568
Oregon.....	5,440	4,922	6,163	6,185	5,152	7,526
California, late..	/	/	/	6,151	6,702	5,899
TOTAL 18 LATE STATES					153,612	183,227
TOTAL UNITED STATES	209,757	196,733	206,588	199,217	211,975	267,245

Notes: 1/ Crop movement season covers 19 months, from December through the second following June, i. e., the 1939 season begins in Dec. 1938 and ends June 1940. (#) Figures are through April 15, subject to revision.
(/) Unavailable.

WEST MICHIGAN CASH TO GROWER POTATO PRICES PAST SEVEN SEASONS:

Sales arranged weekly, dates as of the 1943-44 season. Prices for seasons prior to 1943-44 season are for Russet Rurals, U. S. No. 1, bulk per cwt.

Week		S E A S O N S:												
Ending	:	1938-39	:	1939-40	:	1940-41	:	1941-42	:	1942-43	:	1943-44	:	1943-44
													R. Rurals	Chippewas
Oct.	22	\$.50		.75-.90		.60-.75		.65-.75		1.15-1.30		1.65-1.70	1.80-1.90	
	28	.45-.50		.80-.90		.60-.75		.70-.80		1.15-1.30		1.65-1.75	1.80-1.95	
Nov.	6	.45-.55		.75-.90		.60-.75		.70-.85		1.20-1.35		1.80-1.85	1.90-2.00	
	13	.55-.60		.75-.90		.65-.75		.70-.85		1.20-1.35		1.75-1.90	1.85-2.00	
	20	.55-.65		.75-.90		.65-.75		.85-.95		1.25-1.35		1.75-1.85	1.85-2.00	
	27	.60-.65		.85-.90		.65-.70		.90-1.00		1.30-1.35		1.75-1.90	1.75-2.00	
Dec.	4	.65-.75		.80-.90		.65-.70		.85-1.05		1.30-1.40		1.75-1.80	1.75-2.00	
	11	.65-.75		.85-1.00		.70-.75		.90-1.10		1.35-1.50		1.75-1.80	1.75-2.00	
	18	.70-.80		.90-1.05		.70-.75		.95-1.10		1.40-1.50		1.75	1.75-2.00	
	24	.70-.90		.90-1.05		.65-.75		1.10-1.30		1.50-1.65		1.75	1.75-1.90	
	30	.80-.90		1.00-1.10		.65-.70		1.20-1.50		1.60-1.67		1.75	1.75-1.85	
Jan.	8	.85-1.00		1.05-1.10		.65-.70		1.50-1.75		1.60-1.67		-	-	
	15	.75-.85		1.05-1.15		.65-.70		1.65-1.90		1.65-1.75		-	-	
	22	.70-.85		1.10-1.20		.60-.70		1.55-1.75		1.65-1.80		-	-	
	29	.75-.83		1.05-1.15		.60-.70		1.50-1.65		1.75-1.80		1.60-1.75	1.70-1.95	
Feb.	5	.70-.85		1.00-1.10		.60-.85		1.40-1.65		1.85-2.00		1.60-1.65	1.65-1.95	
	12	.75-.85		.90-1.00		.60-.65		1.40-1.65		1.85-2.00		1.60-1.95	1.60-1.95	
	19	.70-.75		.85-.95		.55-.60		1.50-1.65		1.85-2.15		1.60-1.95	1.60-1.95	
	26	.65-.75		.85-.95		.55-.60		1.50-1.70		2.10-3.00		1.50-1.95	1.60-1.95	
Mar.	4	.65-.75		.90-1.00		.50-.60		1.40-1.55		2.10-3.00		1.50	1.60-1.95	
	11	.70-.75		1.00-1.05		.55-.65		1.45-1.60		2.10-3.50		1.50	1.65	
	18	.75-.90		1.00-1.10		.55-.60		1.45-1.65		2.15-3.00		1.50-1.95	1.50-1.95	
	25	.80-.90		1.05-1.15		.55-.65		1.25-1.50		2.15-3.00		1.40-1.95	1.40-1.95	
Apr.	1	.75-.85		1.10-1.20		.55-.65		1.25-1.45		2.15-3.00		1.40-1.55	1.40-1.65	
	8											1.25-1.95	1.35-1.95	

WEEKLY PRICE RANGES MICHIGAN POTATOES IN CHICAGO:

(Quotations for only the dates Michigan stock reported sold on the Chicago market)

Date	: 100 lbs	: 100 lbs	: 100 lbs	: Date	: 100 lbs	: 100 lbs
Oct. 29	\$2.35	\$2.40		Mar. 14	\$2.15-2.25	
Nov. 10			\$2.75	16	\$2.00	
11	2.50			21		2.10-2.35
24	2.40			22		2.25
Jan. 13	2.60			24	2.00-2.10	2.35
14	2.60			27	2.00	2.35
18	2.60			30	2.00	2.00
Feb. 4		2.10	2.22-2.25	Apr. 6		2.25
15	2.25-2.40		2.50			
21			2.25			
22	2.20-2.25					
28	2.25					
Mar. 3	2.20					
6		2.35				

SHIPPING POINT PRICES OF MICHIGAN POTATOES SEASONS 1940-41 TO 1943-44:

Sales arranged weekly, dates of 1943-44 season. Sales are for delivered sales, shipping point basis, sacked per cwt., U. S. No. 1, Cadillac rate.

Week	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Ending	Russet Rural	Russet Rural	Russet Rural	Chippewas Russet Rural Chippewas
Oct. 15	.80-.85	1.00-1.10	1.50-1.65	1.60-1.80 2.05-2.10 2.15-2.30
22	.75-.85	1.00-1.10	1.55-1.65	1.65-1.75 2.05-2.25 2.25-2.40
28	.80-.87	1.00-1.10	1.60-1.70	1.68-1.88 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.45
Nov. 6	.80-.95	1.05-1.25	1.65-1.80	1.80-1.90 2.30-2.50 2.35-2.55
13	.90-.95	1.15-1.30	1.75-1.82	1.85-1.95 2.40-2.48 2.40-2.55
20	.95-1.00	1.15-1.25	1.80-1.90	1.90-2.00 2.30-2.45 2.40-2.50
27	.97-1.05	1.25-1.30	1.80-1.85	1.95-2.05 2.30-2.37 2.45
Dec. 4	1.00-1.05	1.25-1.30	1.85-1.95	1.92-2.10 2.25-2.35 2.35-2.45
11	1.00-1.05	1.25-1.40	1.85-1.90	1.95-2.05 2.20-2.35 2.30-2.50
18	.97-1.05	1.35-1.55	1.90-1.95	2.00-2.10 - -
24	.95-1.00	1.55-1.60	1.90-1.95	2.05-2.10 2.30 2.40
31	.95-1.00	1.60-2.00	1.90-2.00	2.05-2.10 2.30 2.40
Jan. 8	.95	1.85-2.10	1.95-2.05	2.10-2.20 2.30-2.35 2.30-2.45
15	.92-1.00	2.00-2.10	2.05-2.20	2.20-2.25 2.30-2.35 2.30-2.50
22	.92-1.00	1.90-2.03	2.10-2.28	2.20-2.25 2.25-2.35 2.30-2.50
29	.90-.95	1.85-2.00	2.20-2.27	2.20-2.35 2.10-2.25 2.35-2.40
Feb. 5	.90-.94	1.85-2.00	2.15-2.28	2.30-2.40 2.00-2.15 -
12	.80-.90	1.80-2.00	2.15-2.27	2.25-2.45 2.05-2.30 -
19	.80-.85	1.85-2.00	2.35-2.45	2.35-2.45 2.10-2.20 2.30-2.35
26	.80-.85	1.85-1.95	-	- 2.10-2.15 2.25-2.35
Mar. 4	.80-.85	1.80-1.90	2.40-2.50	2.40-2.50 2.00-2.15 -
11	.80-.85	1.80-1.90	2.75-3.15	2.75-3.15 1.95-2.05 -
18	.80-.85	1.80-1.90	2.50-3.50	2.50-3.50 1.80-1.90 -
25	.80-.90	1.80-1.85	2.50-3.25	2.50-3.25 1.75-1.85 -
Apr. 1	.80-.90	1.80-1.85	3.25-3.50	3.25-3.50 1.90-2.10 2.00-2.15
8	-	-	3.30	3.30 1.90-2.15 2.00-2.15

ACREAGE HARVESTED, YIELD PER ACRE, AND PRODUCTION POTATOES 1/ BY STATES, 1943 SEASON WITH COMPARISONS:

GROUP AND STATE	Acreage harvested			Yield per acre			Production		
	1932-41	1942	1943	1932-41	1943	1932-41	1942	1943	
	- Thousand Acres -			- Bushels -			- Thousand Bushels -		
SURPLUS LATE POTATO STATES:									
Maine	158	158	207	270	355	42,805	42,660	73,485	
New York	223	187	209	131	142	29,098	27,676	29,678	
Pennsylvania	194	157	176	121	106	23,443	17,584	18,656	
3 Eastern	576	502	592	165.8	205.8	95,346	87,920	121,819	
Michigan	261	169	213	97	105	25,135	16,562	22,365	
Wisconsin	230	150	186	83	88	19,083	10,050	16,368	
Minnesota	284	190	243	77	97	21,366	18,050	23,571	
North Dakota	137	133	170	82	130	11,133	17,955	22,100	
South Dakota	36	32	46	55	80	2,025	2,816	3,680	
5 Central	949	674	858	83.9	102.7	78,742	65,433	88,084	
Nebraska	91	74	93	98	130	8,504	12,876	12,090	
Montana	18	15	23	94	115	1,690	1,725	2,645	
Idaho	120	133	189	219	230	26,315	30,590	43,470	
Wyoming	22	14	15	98	145	2,000	2,240	2,175	
Colorado	89	74	87	151	215	13,213	17,020	18,705	
Utah	13.3	12.5	19.6	154	175	2,055	2,312	3,430	
Nevada	2.3	2.3	3.4	162	200	361	483	680	
Washington	46	39	60	184	220	8,365	7,800	13,200	
Oregon	40	35	53	172	195	6,758	6,825	10,335	
California 2/	30.8	34	41	265	280	8,272	10,880	11,480	
10 Western	472.7	432.8	584.0	166.3	202.4	77,534	92,751	118,210	
TOTAL 18	1,997.2	1,608.8	2,034.0	127.4	161.3	251,621	246,104	328,113	
OTHER LATE POTATO STATES:									
5 New England	60.5	58.7	77.0	150.3	142.2	9,077	9,497	10,947	
5 Central	327	258	257	91.0	88.8	29,273	29,596	22,833	
2 Southwestern	6.6	6.5	12.5	87.2	132.0	577	902	1,650	
TOTAL 12	393.8	323.2	346.5	100.1	102.3	38,927	39,995	35,430	
30 LATE STATES	2,390.9	1,932.0	2,380.5	122.9	152.7	290,548	286,099	363,543	
INTERMEDIATE POTATO STATES:									
Total 7	293.8	264.5	304.9	109.0	114.1	31,812	31,165	34,774	
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE									
TOTAL U. S.	2,684.8	2,196.5	2,685.4	121.3	148.3	322,360	317,264	398,317	
EARLY POTATO STATES:									
Total 12	446.4	509	636.6	91.2	104.6	40,972	53,225	66,339	
TOTAL U. S.	3,131.2	2,705.5	3,322.0	116.9	139.9	363,332	370,489	464,656	

Notes: 1/Except for Calif., the estimates shown for each State under a particular group cover the entire crop, whether commercial or noncommercial, early or late. 2/Estimates shown for Calif. under the surplus late States do not include the early commercial crop.

Months	MICHIGAN TRUCK MOVEMENT POTATOES FEDERAL-STATE INSPECTED /				
	1943-44	1942-43*	1941-42	1940-41	1939-40
July	13	265	256	87	239
August	310	465	584	667	227
September	377	387	656	709	667
October	487	597	967	662	771
November	300	453	763	572	851
December	222	301	813	464	645
January	316	353	655	447	704
February	212	344	642	373	723
March	260	360	681	470	723
April	159##	319	563	446	834
May		55	415	424	575
June		34	26	235	51
##GRAND TOTALS	2,656	3,938	7,021	5,566	7,013

(*) Corrected. (/) Reduced to Carlot equivalents.
 (#) includes only half of April. (##) Totals subject to correction.

PRIMARY DESTINATIONS TRUCK SHIPMENTS MICHIGAN POTATOES 1943-44 SEASON:

(Figures compiled from Federal-State Inspection short forms for period Nov. 5-Apr. 12.

State & City	C/L Equiv.	State & City	C/L Equiv.	State & City	C/L Equiv.
<u>Georgia</u>		<u>Michigan (Cont'd)</u>		<u>Ohio</u>	
Atlanta	1	Ft. Custer	8	Adrian	1
<u>Illinois</u>		Galien	4	Cincinnati	2
Chicago	16	Grand Rapids	164	Dayton	1
Hinsdale	*	Grand Haven	2	Deshler	27
Peoria	13	Grand Ledge	1	Ironton	3
Waukegan	*	Grant	*	Pomeroy	4
Total	29	Greenville	25	Toledo	30
<u>Indiana</u>		Holland	*	Warren	*
Anderson	1	Ishpeming	2	Waverly	*
Ashland	1	Inkster	*	Youngstown	*
Bloomington	6	Jackson	24	Total	68
Bowling Green	1	Kalamazoo	9	<u>West Virginia</u>	
Brazil	2	Lake Odessa	4	Huntington	37
Center Point	1	Lake Leelanau	*	<u>Wisconsin</u>	
Columbia City	1	Lansing	90	Amherst Jct.	1
Elkhart	6	Langston	*	Appleton	1
Elwood	1	Lapeer	10	Green Bay	3
Ft. Wayne	23	Lowell	*	Milwaukee	7
Indianapolis	120	Maysville	1	Stevens Point	1
Kokomo	1	Midland	2	Waupaca	1
Lafayette	1	Millington	7	Total	14
LaPorte	*	Moline	*	TOTAL	1432
Lynn	1	Mt. Clemens	2	<u>SUMMARY BY STATES:</u>	
Marion	*	Mt. Pleasant	*	State	C/L Equiv.
Mishawaka	*	Mt. Vernon	220	Georgia	1
Montpelier	2	Munger	1	Illinois	29
Muncie	12	Muskegon	26	Indiana	186
Portland	*	Nashville	1	Kentucky	21
South Bend	7	Owosso	2	Michigan	1075
Winchester	*	Oxford	4	Minnesota	1
Total	186	Pontiac	5	Ohio	68
<u>Kentucky</u>		Port Huron	2	West Virginia	37
Bowling Green	1	Reese	*	Wisconsin	14
Lancaster	*	Rockford	*	Total	1432
Loufsville	20	Royal Oak	*	Unknown	1224
Total	21	Roscommon	*	GRAND TOTAL	2,656
<u>Michigan</u>		Saginaw	11		
Adrian	4	Sault Ste. Marie	1		
Alma	*	Sand Lake	*		
Ann Arbor	3	Spring Arbor	1		
Bad Axe	1	Spring Lake	1		
Battle Creek	14	Sturgis	1		
Bay City	7	Traverse City	72		
Benton Harbor	3	Ypsilanti	2		
Big Rapids	*	Total	1075		
Cass City	1	<u>Minnesota</u>			
Cedar	*	Duluth	1		
Charlotte	4				
Chippewa Lake	*				
Clayton	1				
Coopersville	2				
Deerfield	1				
Detroit	303				
Edmore	*				
Flint	30				
Fowler	*				

(/) Carlot equivalents figured on basis of 360 hundred pound sacks per car.