



Alaska Farm Reporter



PO Box 799 · Palmer, AK 99645
(907) 745-4272 · (907) 746-4654 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/ak

RELEASED: April 19, 2012

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of April 1, 2012 totaled 49,000 cwt. This was 37 percent of the total 2011 production of potatoes and compares with 75,000 cwt and 50 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2009 level for the April 1 stocks was 64,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for April 1 is 70,600 cwt.

Disappearance since March 1 was 10,000 cwt, compared with 9,000 cwt last year, and the five year average of 9,800 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to April 1 totaled 85,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 75,000 cwt; the five year average is 86,200 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 Major Potato States** held 116 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below April 1, 2011. Potato disappearance, at 264 million cwt, was 7 percent above April 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.8 million cwt, was up 12 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 11 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.1 million cwt of the total processing, up 45 percent from last year.

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – APRIL 1, 2012

Year	Stocks					Production	April 1 Stocks as a Percent of Production
	Apr. 1*	Mar. 1*	Feb. 1*	Jan. 1*	Dec. 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----						-- Percent --
2011	49.0	59.0	67.0	89.0	102.0	134.0	37%
2010	75.0	84.0	91.0	104.0	117.0	150.0	50%
2009	64.0	73.0	82.0	92.0	103.0	137.0	47%
2008	52.0	61.0	71.0	82.0	92.0	135.0	39%

*following year.

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: Milk production for January through March of 2012 was 1.7 million pounds, unchanged from the 1.7 million pounds in October through December of 2011, but down 5.6% from January through March of 2011. The average number of milk cows at 500 head, were unchanged from last quarter, but down 100 head from a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 51.0 billion pounds, up 5.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 86,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk production in the **23 major States** during March totaled 16.5 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from March 2011. February revised production at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 2011. The February revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Adjusting February production for the additional day due to leap year causes February revised production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,931 pounds for March, 59 pounds above March 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.52 million head, 94,000 head more than March 2011, and 9,000 head more than February 2012.

USDA/NASS/Alaska Field Office
PO Box 799
Palmer, AK 99645