

Potato Summary, 1998

By J. Scott Lemmons

Potato Acreage: Pennsylvania growers planted 14,500 acres in 1998, up from the 14,000 acres planted in 1997. Harvested acreage was estimated at 14,000 acres, up 500 from last year. Average yield per acre increased 5 cwt. per acre from last year to 240 cwt. Total production was 3,360,000 cwt., up 6 percent from the previous year. Acres entered for certified seed potatoes were 156, compared with 183 in 1997. The marketing year average

price for the 1998 crop is estimated at \$7.35 per cwt., \$0.85 below the average price in 1997.

Potato Stocks: Stocks held by processors included potatoes produced in other states. Processor stocks as a percent of total held in storage were: December, 37 percent; January, 37 percent; February, 16 percent; March, 58 percent; April, 49 percent; and May, 54 percent.

Pennsylvania: Potatoes - Acreage, Yield, Production, & Value, 1989-1998

Year	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	Season Average Price ¹	Value of Production	Value of Sales
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Cwt.</i>			<i>Dollars</i>	
1989	21,000	20,500	230	4,715,000	8.55	40,313,000	38,295,000
1990	23,000	22,500	240	5,400,000	7.55	40,770,000	38,082,000
1991	21,000	20,000	175	3,500,000	7.50	26,250,000	24,810,000
1992	20,000	19,000	260	4,940,000	6.75	33,345,000	29,660,000
1993	21,000	20,000	230	4,600,000	8.15	37,490,000	36,031,000
1994	19,000	18,000	210	3,780,000	7.60	28,728,000	25,848,000
1995	18,000	17,000	240	4,080,000	7.20	29,376,000	28,498,000
1996	16,500	16,000	260	4,160,000	6.95	28,912,000	26,125,000
1997	14,000	13,500	235	3,173,000	8.20	26,019,000	23,936,000
1998	14,500	14,000	240	3,360,000	7.35	24,696,000	22,476,000

¹Marketing year average price beginning in 1986.

Pennsylvania: Potato Production & Farm Disposition, Crops of 1989-1998

Year	Production	Total Used for Seed	Used on Farms Where Grown		Sold
			For Seed, Feed & Household Use	Shrinkage & Loss	
	<i>(000) Cwt.</i>				
1989	4,715	437	71	165	4,479
1990	5,400	399	76	280	5,044
1991	3,500	380	38	154	3,308
1992	4,940	420	83	463	4,394
1993	4,600	380	36	143	4,421
1994	3,780	342	17	362	3,401
1995	4,080	314	20	102	3,958
1996	4,160	266	81	320	3,759
1997	3,173	276	78	176	2,919
1998	3,360	261	50	252	3,058

Pennsylvania: Potato Production & Stocks During Marketing Months, Crops of 1989-1998

Year	Production	December 1	Following Year				
			January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1
	<i>(000) Cwt.</i>						
1989	4,715	2,900	2,200	1,600	1,100	750	250
1990	5,400	2,900	2,350	1,800	1,150	600	200
1991	3,500	1,900	1,600	1,400	900	600	300
1992	4,940	2,600	2,200	1,600	1,100	570	300
1993	4,600	2,600	1,800	1,400	900	400	100
1994	3,780	2,200	1,600	1,100	700	420	135
1995	4,080	2,400	1,900	1,200	800	400	180
1996	4,160	2,800	1,800	1,300	880	410	160
1997	3,173	2,000	1,500	1,200	890	480	190
1998	3,360	2,000	1,500	900	700	420	130