



**WASHINGTON'S POTATO
ESTIMATING PROGRAM**
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250
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The estimating program for potatoes includes a number of estimates that span more than a year. Nationally, potatoes are estimated by seasonal groups: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Washington is one of the 7 major fall potato states. Stocks estimates are made for the 13 major states that account for about 97 percent of the fall production total. Washington is the number 2 producing state of fall potatoes and accounts for about one-fifth of the nation's total.

Estimates for potatoes are made using information collected from producers, potato processors, and other agribusinesses. Data from growers are used for acreage, yield, production, and stock estimates. Data obtained from the potato processors are used for the potato processing report, stocks, prices, and cold storage. Secondary information is used as check data, such as marketings and grower disposition surveys. Acreage estimates are set with a combination of survey indications that come from both a probability survey and a non-probability survey. A general description of a probability sample is where each operation in the state has a chance of being selected and a response is necessary for each operation selected. Potato growers are surveyed for acreage planted as of June 1, and the estimates are released in the July Crop Production Report. The next estimates of planted and harvested acreage are released in the November Crop Report and the December Potato Stocks Report. A grower survey is done in conjunction with the fall acreage and production survey in November and any revisions to the June estimate are based on information obtained from this survey and the December Agricultural Survey. Preliminary end-of-season estimates are published in the Crop Production Annual Summary published in mid-January. The final end-of-season estimates are published in the Potato Report released in late September the following year.

Yield estimates for fall potatoes are forecast as of November 1 and December 1. A final estimate is made at the end of December. Washington has the highest average yield in the United States. Survey indications from potato producers are used in conjunction with an objective yield survey. The objective yield survey is relatively easy to understand in

principle. Two units are laid out for each sample. Row widths and plant counts are taken in a 20 foot section of the row to establish an estimate of plants per acre. Three hills are dug from each unit and the potatoes are weighed. The average weight per hill multiplied by the plant population produces an indication of gross yield. A post-harvest sample is used to estimate the quantity of potatoes left in the field after harvest and is deducted from the gross yield to determine the net yield, the actual quantity taken from the field. Although the procedure is straightforward, the key is randomly placing the samples in fields so that the 200 samples selected in Washington will represent the state's acreage accurately. Information regarding varieties is also collected during the potato objective yield survey. In Washington, Russet Burbank is the most popular variety, as it can be used for both processing and fresh market.

Harvest begins in July for the early varieties of Shepody and Norkotah. Harvest of the Russet Burbanks usually lasts through the middle of November. Monthly stocks estimates begin on December 1 and run through June 1. Potato storage operators are surveyed beginning December 1 and these data, along with disposition information collected from processors, is used to set the December 1 stocks estimate. Idaho, Washington, and Oregon complete a Tri-State balance sheet for stocks each month from December 1 through June 1, where inshipments, outshipments, and the total disposition of potatoes within each state and the Tri-State area are tabulated. Processing data are published from October 1 through June 1. Due to disclosure problems, processing data for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are published as two estimates. Idaho and Malheur County Oregon, and Washington and Other Counties, Oregon. Potato stocks reports, which also include processing, acreage, and production estimates, are published from December 1 through June 1, at both the national and state levels. Each year, a survey on disposition of the previous year's crop is done during June in conjunction with the acreage survey for the current year's planted acreage. The annual disposition and processing estimates are published at the end of September in the Annual Potato Report.

For the most current Washington State releases you can visit our web site at www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington or call (800)435-5883

State Rankings, 2005 Crop Year
Top Ten States and the United States, Based on Production

State	Rank	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
		1,000 Acres	1,000 Acres	Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.
Idaho	1	325.0	323.0	366.0	118,288
Washington	2	154.0	154.0	620.0	95,480
Wisconsin	3	68.0	68.0	410.0	27,880
Colorado	4	58.2	58.0	395.0	22,910
Oregon	5	37.3	37.1	594.0	22,023
North Dakota	6	92.0	82.0	250.0	20,500
Minnesota	7	46.0	43.0	410.0	17,630
Maine	8	57.5	56.2	275.0	15,455
Michigan	9	43.0	42.8	325.0	13,910
Nebraska	10	19.5	19.4	425.0	8,245
United States		1,109.1	1,086.9	390.0	423,926

Potatoes: Acreage, Yield, & Production, By Counties, Washington, 2004-2005

County and District	2004				2005			
	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production	Planted	Harvested	Yield Per Harvested Acre	Production
	Acres		Cwt.		Acres		Cwt.	
COUNTY								
Adams	30,500	30,500	604	18,410,000	29,000	29,000	602	17,444,000
Benton	31,000	31,000	662	20,528,000	32,200	32,200	700	22,540,000
Franklin	30,000	30,000	583	17,500,000	30,500	30,500	643	19,602,000
Grant	36,000	35,800	589	21,100,000	30,800	30,800	635	19,563,000
Kittitas	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Klickitat	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
Lincoln	4,500	4,500	558	2,510,000	5,200	5,200	610	3,172,000
Skagit	10,700	9,900	337	3,333,000	9,500	9,500	354	3,360,000
Walla Walla	10,500	10,500	725	7,615,000	9,500	9,500	700	6,650,000
Whatcom	1,900	1,900	380	722,000	2,000	2,000	357	714,000
Yakima	1,800	1,800	390	702,000	1,800	1,800	422	760,000
Other Counties	3,100	3,100	448	1,390,000	3,500	3,500	479	1,675,000
DISTRICT								
Western	13,100	12,300	345	4,245,000	12,000	12,000	354	4,249,000
Central	34,500	34,500	640	22,097,000	36,000	36,000	681	24,500,000
Northeast	900	900	370	333,000	1,000	1,000	300	300,000
East Central	101,000	100,800	590	59,520,000	95,500	95,500	626	59,781,000
Southeast	10,500	10,500	725	7,615,000	9,500	9,500	700	6,650,000
STATE TOTAL	160,000	159,000	590	93,810,000	154,000	154,000	620	95,480,000

1/ Included in "Other Counties" category to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

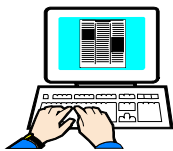
County Rankings, 2005 Crop Year: All Estimating Counties, Based on Production *

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
1	WA	Benton	32,200	32,200	700	22,540,000	5.32%	5.32%
2	WA	Franklin	30,500	30,500	643	19,602,000	4.62%	9.94%
3	WA	Grant	30,800	30,800	635	19,563,000	4.61%	14.56%
4	ID	Bingham	52,500	52,200	346	18,080,000	4.26%	18.81%
5	WA	Adams	29,000	29,000	602	17,444,000	4.11%	22.92%
6	ID	Power	40,500	40,200	369	14,850,000	3.50%	26.42%
7	ID	Cassia	30,200	30,000	405	12,160,000	2.87%	29.29%
8	ID	Jefferson	24,500	24,300	385	9,360,000	2.20%	31.49%
9	ID	Madison	29,200	29,000	319	9,250,000	2.18%	33.67%
10	ID	Fremont	27,000	26,800	330	8,840,000	2.09%	35.76%
11	ID	Minidoka	21,300	21,100	416	8,780,000	2.07%	37.83%
12	OR	Morrow	12,500	12,400	690	8,556,000	2.02%	39.85%
13	WI	Portage	19,900	19,900	425	8,489,000	2.00%	41.85%
14	ID	Bonneville	26,800	26,600	310	8,250,000	1.95%	43.80%
15	CO	Rio Grande	20,500	20,500	400	8,220,000	1.94%	45.74%
16	CO	Alamosa	17,400	17,300	400	6,890,000	1.63%	47.37%
17	WA	Walla Walla	9,500	9,500	700	6,650,000	1.57%	48.94%
18	OR	Umatilla	9,500	9,400	680	6,392,000	1.51%	50.45%
19	CO	Saguache	15,100	15,000	395	5,960,000	1.41%	51.86%
20	WI	Adams	10,800	10,800	440	4,760,000	1.12%	52.98%
21	ND	Walsh	27,800	25,800	179	4,610,000	1.09%	54.07%
22	ID	Twin Falls	11,300	11,200	403	4,510,000	1.06%	55.13%
23	ID	Jerome	9,900	9,800	437	4,280,000	1.01%	56.14%
24	ID	Elmore	8,700	8,700	469	4,080,000	0.96%	57.10%
25	WI	Langlade	11,300	11,300	350	3,952,000	0.93%	58.03%
26	ID	Canyon	7,600	7,600	489	3,720,000	0.88%	58.91%
27	WI	Waushara	8,100	8,100	445	3,615,000	0.85%	59.76%
28	WA	Skagit	9,500	9,500	354	3,360,000	0.79%	60.55%
29	ND	Grand Forks	11,900	10,200	315	3,214,000	0.76%	61.31%
30	WA	Lincoln	5,200	5,200	610	3,172,000	0.75%	62.06%
31	ND	Kidder	7,900	7,600	417	3,170,000	0.75%	62.81%
32	ND	Pembina	23,300	18,200	168	3,050,000	0.72%	63.53%
33	OR	Klamath	5,600	5,600	480	2,688,000	0.63%	64.16%
34	ID	Gooding	6,300	6,300	394	2,480,000	0.59%	64.75%
35	MN	Sherburne	5,600	5,500	380	2,090,000	0.49%	65.24%
36	ID	Caribou	6,900	6,900	274	1,890,000	0.45%	65.69%
37	OR	Malheur	3,800	3,800	450	1,710,000	0.40%	66.09%
38	ID	Teton	6,300	6,300	235	1,480,000	0.35%	66.44%
39	OR	Baker	2,900	2,900	480	1,392,000	0.33%	66.77%
40	ID	Bannock	3,500	3,500	377	1,320,000	0.31%	67.08%
41	WI	Juneau	2,600	2,600	480	1,250,000	0.29%	67.37%
42	CO	Yuma	3,300	3,200	390	1,240,000	0.29%	67.66%
43	MT	Gallatin	3,720	3,680	335	1,238,000	0.29%	67.95%
44	ID	Owyhee	2,700	2,700	448	1,210,000	0.29%	68.24%
45	MN	Polk	5,200	4,800	200	960,000	0.23%	68.47%
46	ND	McHenry	2,200	2,200	380	835,000	0.20%	68.67%
47	MT	Lake	2,420	2,390	335	797,000	0.19%	68.86%
48	WA	Yakima	1,800	1,800	422	760,000	0.18%	69.04%
49	NC	Pasquotank	4,000	3,925	185	735,000	0.17%	69.21%
50	WA	Whatcom	2,000	2,000	357	714,000	0.17%	69.38%

County Rankings, 2005 Crop Year: All Estimating Counties, Based on Production *

Rank	State	County	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	% of U.S.	Accum. % of U.S.
			Acres	Acres	Cwt.	Cwt.		
51	ID	Lincoln	1,800	1,800	378	680,000	0.16%	69.54%
52	OR	Union	1,500	1,500	450	675,000	0.16%	69.70%
53	NC	Camden	3,000	3,000	215	645,000	0.15%	69.85%
54	ID	Payette	1,300	1,300	431	560,000	0.13%	69.98%
55	ND	Dickey	1,500	1,500	351	527,000	0.12%	70.10%
56	ND	Ransom	1,300	1,300	396	515,000	0.12%	70.22%
57	NC	Tyrrell	3,000	2,950	175	513,000	0.12%	70.34%
58	WI	Marathon	1,400	1,400	340	479,000	0.11%	70.45%
59	ND	Stutsman	1,300	1,300	359	467,000	0.11%	70.56%
60	ND	Traill	3,600	3,200	143	456,000	0.11%	70.67%
61	ID	Blaine	1,200	1,200	375	450,000	0.11%	70.78%
62	PA	Erie	1,800	1,750	246	430,500	0.10%	70.88%
63	PA	Schuylkill	1,600	1,540	279	430,000	0.10%	70.98%
64	PA	Cambria	1,900	1,860	228	425,000	0.10%	71.08%
65	ND	Sargent	1,200	1,100	350	385,000	0.09%	71.17%
66	WI	Oneida	1,200	1,200	305	368,000	0.09%	71.26%
67	NJ	Salem	1,300	1,300	265	345,000	0.08%	71.34%
68	ND	Emmons	800	800	421	337,000	0.08%	71.42%
69	NC	Pamlico	1,475	1,300	190	247,000	0.06%	71.48%
70	PA	Chester	700	700	323	226,000	0.05%	71.53%
71	ID	Ada	500	500	440	220,000	0.05%	71.58%
72	ND	Benson	700	700	310	217,000	0.05%	71.63%
73	NC	Washington	1,100	1,075	195	211,000	0.05%	71.68%
74	OR	Jefferson	500	500	410	205,000	0.05%	71.73%
75	NC	Beaufort	1,050	975	180	176,000	0.04%	71.77%
76	ID	Butte	700	700	243	170,000	0.04%	71.81%
77	NJ	Cumberland	600	600	268	161,000	0.04%	71.85%
78	PA	Lancaster	500	500	296	148,000	0.03%	71.88%
79	NC	Currituck	700	700	210	147,000	0.03%	71.91%
80	PA	Luzerne	500	480	290	139,000	0.03%	71.94%
81	NC	Carteret	800	750	160	120,000	0.03%	71.97%
82	PA	Potter	400	380	237	90,000	0.02%	71.99%
83	PA	York	300	300	285	85,600	0.02%	72.01%
84	AL	Jackson	445	440	189	83,000	0.02%	72.03%
85	PA	Lehigh	400	390	205	80,000	0.02%	72.05%
86	PA	Columbia	300	300	230	69,000	0.02%	72.07%
87	PA	Dauphin	300	300	230	69,000	0.02%	72.09%
88	AL	Baldwin	575	465	114	53,000	0.01%	72.10%
89	AL	DeKalb	495	313	160	50,000	0.01%	72.11%
90	AL	Cullman	78	75	113	8,500	0.01%	72.11%

* All states do not estimate potatoes at the county level. States which ranked in the top ten in potato production but did not estimate county-level data in 2005 included California and Maine.



Visit our Internet World Wide Web site at:
http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/