

## Pa. March Potato Stocks Are Down 53 pct. from '72

Storage stocks of potatoes held by Pennsylvania growers and local dealers totaled 800,000 cwt. on March 1, 1973. This was 53 percent less than the 1,500,000 cwt. on hand March 1, 1972. Potatoes held by processors in excess of normal supplies for current operation were included in the estimate.

Total stocks on hand February

1 amounted to 17 percent of the 4,800,000 cwt. produced in Pennsylvania during 1972. Pennsylvania's 1972 potato production was 39 percent below the 1971 production of 7,810,000 cwt.

Disappearance (sales, home use, shrinkage, etc.) during February was 450,000 cwt., compared with 900,000 cwt. for February of last year. Disap-

pearance from time of harvest to March 1 was 4,000,000 cwt. compared with 6,310,000 cwt. for the comparable period a year ago.

Stocks of Irish potatoes held in storage throughout the nation on March 1, 1973 for all uses by growers, local dealers and processors in fall production areas totaled 83.0 million cwt. Supplies this year are 16 percent less than the 98.5 million cwt. on hand a year earlier and 14 percent less than 98.6 million cwt. on hand March 1, 1971.

Stocks in the eight Eastern States March 1, 1973 totaled 16.9 million cwt., down 35 percent from the 25.8 million on hand a year earlier. Maine storages held 14.7 million cwt. this year compared with 21.0 million cwt. last year, or 30 percent less. Stocks in Upstate and Long Island, New York and in Pennsylvania also were below year-earlier levels.

For the eight Central States, March 1, 1973 stocks totaled 14.3 million cwt., 29 percent less than the 20.2 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. North Dakota with stocks of 5.7 million cwt. on hand this year was down 29 percent from 8.0 million on hand last year. Minnesota stocks of 4.2 million cwt. compare with 6.7 million on March 1, 1972. Stocks were less than last year in other Central States except for a slight increase in Michigan.

In the eight Western States, supplies totaled 51.8 million cwt., 1 percent less than the 52.2 million on hand a year earlier. Idaho with 35.0 million cwt. was slightly above the year-earlier level of 34.5 million cwt. Other States with somewhat larger stocks this year than last were Montana, Wyoming and Oregon. Washington supplies totaling 7.1 million cwt. were 5 percent less than the 7.5 million of a year earlier. Stocks in Colorado and California were also less than last year.

Disappearance to March 1, 1973 from the 1972 fall potato crop was 151.1 million cwt. Disappearance for the comparable period from

the 1971 production was 155.3 million cwt. and for the 1970 crop was 156.7 million cwt.

Processing usage of potatoes from the 1972 crop to March 1, 1973, in Maine, Idaho,

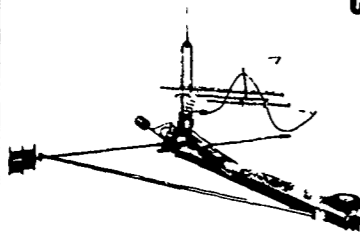
Washington, Oregon, Michigan, Minnesota and North Dakota totaled 61.3 million cwt. compared with 59.6 million cwt. for the corresponding period last year.

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Names and addresses available on request.

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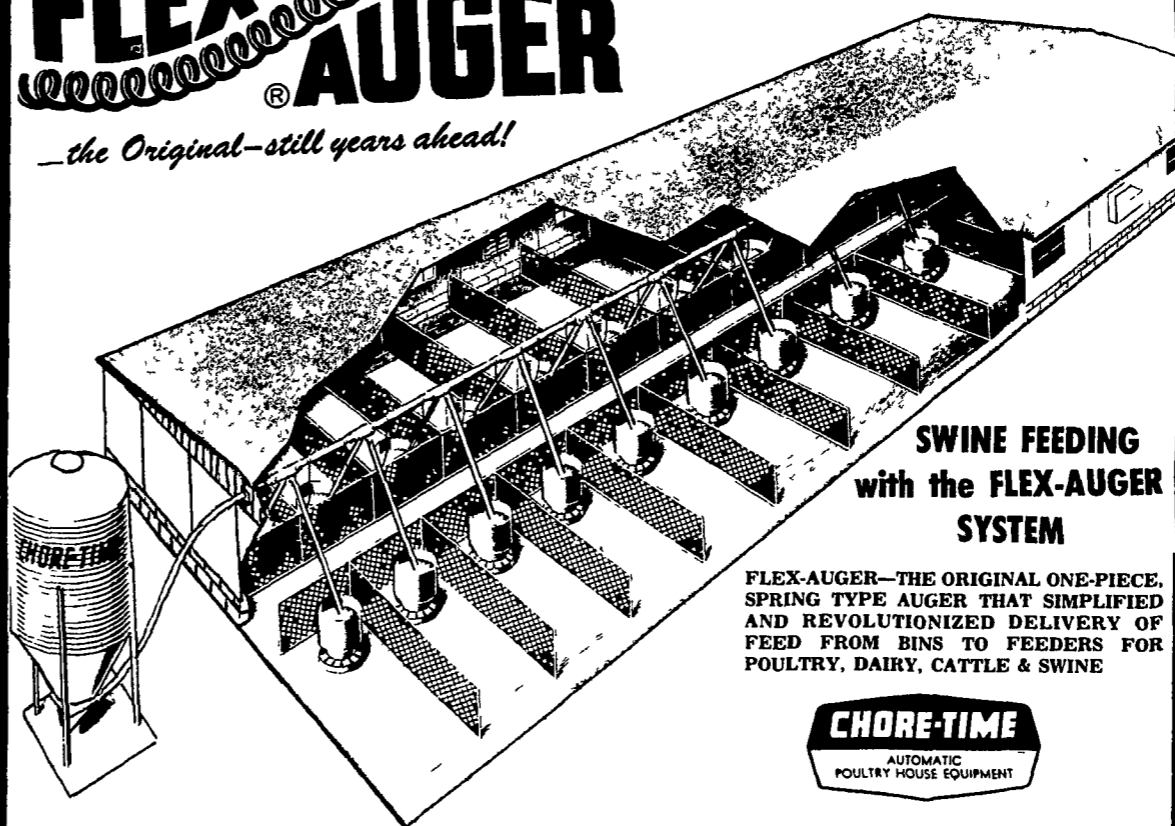


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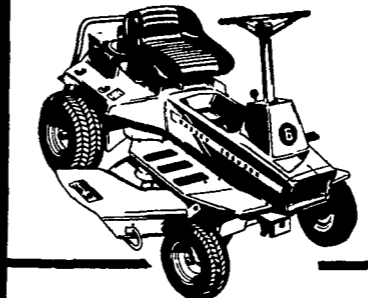
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