UNITED
POTATO GROWERS OF CANADA
LES PRODUCTEURS UNIS DE POMMES DE TERRE DU CANADA

May 2015 Newsletter

The second last Potato Storage Holdings Report for the 2014-15 season released on May 7th (Page 2) follows a pattern similar to previous months. Overall potatoes available for market are similar in May 2015 to that of May 2014 (+.7%). However, within the 30.7 million hundredweight left to go to market, there are several regional and categorical differences.

Regionally, the Maritime Provinces lead the way with incremental storage increases. Manitoba leads the Prairie Provinces with storage decreases. BC has the largest reduction percentage wise, followed by Quebec and Alberta.

Canadian potatoes available for the fresh market tally about 1.5 million hundredweight (42.8%) above that of 2014. Some potatoes, particularly some Reds and Goldrush may not maintain quality to be packed. Other russet varieties in long-term storages are keeping well for packing later in the summer.

The supply of potatoes destined for processing is down around 1.4% (21 million hundredweight), however the supply is again skewed across the country, with Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec down compared to last year, but PEI and NB up compared to May 2014. Due to excessive storms in the east this winter, plants were down for several days, either because staff could not get to work, raw product could not be delivered, or finished product could not get out. Overall one would expect processing stocks to be down more significantly in the country as plants have run hard. However excellent quality field run has produced higher recoveries in the factories, therefore producing a higher percentage finished product with less raw product.

The seed category contains about a million hundredweight less than a year ago, or down 17.3%. Although fewer potatoes were planted for seed usage this year, the low stock holdings of 4.6 million hundred weight left to be shipped, also reflects the earliness of the planting season in Western Canada as well as the US customer base. With Manitoba's rapid planting conditions in the last three weeks, their seed depletion is 93% ahead of the same time period in 2014.

May 1 2015 Potato Stocks by Intended Use (Thousand Cwt.) Source: AAFC Infohort

	2012	2013	2014	2015	Change
Fresh					
PEI	1,249	1,284	684	1,434	+109.6%
NB	1,078	758	576	925	+60.6%
Quebec	1,502	1,400	1,464	1,861	+27.1%
Ontario	225	311	292	341	+16.7%
Manitoba	315	179	389	366	-5.9%
Alberta	42	99	86	59	-31.4%
BC	17	11	14	20	+42.9%
Total	**4,428**	**4,042**	**3,505**	**5,006**	**+42.8%**
Processing					
PEI	5,151	5,529	6,247	7,311	+17.0%
NB	765	2,249	2,241	2,773	+23.7%
Quebec	1,015	988	1,176	997	-15.2%
Ontario	841	970	1,269	1,005	-20.8%
Manitoba	2,869	4,217	5,897	4,543	-23.0%
Alberta	3,411	4,595	4,518	4,414	-2.3%
BC	46	35	1	-	
Total	**14,098**	**18,583**	**21,349**	**21,043**	**-1.4%**
Seed					
PEI	1,798	1,731	1,814	1,873	+3.2%
NB	1,147	1,755	1,798	1,449	-19.4%
Quebec	226	413	457	549	+20.1%
Ontario	25	103	72	47	-34.7%
Manitoba	99	1,063	755	50	-93.4%
Alberta	200	598	719	662	-7.9%
BC	54	34	32	40	+25.0%
Total	**3,549**	**5,697**	**5,647**	**4,670**	**-17.3%**
All Stocks					
PEI	8,198	8,544	8,746	10,618	+21.4%
NB	2,990	4,762	4,616	5,147	+11.5%
Quebec	2,743	2,801	3,096	3,407	+10.0%
Ontario	1,091	1,384	1,633	1,393	-14.0%
Manitoba	3,283	5,459	7,041	4,959	-29.6%
Alberta	3,653	5,292	5,323	5,135	-3.5%
BC	117	80	47	60	+27.7%
Total	**22,075**	**28,322**	**30,502**	**30,719**	**+0.7%**

Provincial Updates (May 15 2015)

PEI The amount of crop planted is negligible (less than 1%). Hedgerows and field boundaries still contain snow, however planting should ramp up within the week. There is lots of seed available with excellent quality. For planting intentions, acreage is expected to be down but it is too early to predict how much. Fry contract have been settled and include language changes and changes to base prices valued at an increase of approximately 3% weighted across all varieties and delivery periods. Indications are that volume will be similar to last year. Movement on the fresh market is slow with additional pressure from extra processing and seed supplies. However, some of the open stock will not meet the quality required for the fresh market. PEI ran out of fresh supplies last year and was very tight the previous few years, so packers will be able to service the market with excellent quality for the remainder of this season.

New Brunswick Only 1-2% of the crop has been planted. Frost and wet spots have held up starting, but progress should pick up in the coming week. Seed deliveries will continue for a couple more weeks. There is lots of Russet Burbank seed available. Planting intentions are similar to 2014. Processing contracts have been settled with a 3% price increase on a weighted average across all varieties and a 5% volume increase. With holdings of old crop being high, there is potential for some potatoes not to be sold but it is too early to estimate a number, if any. Seed movement is picking up, processing is on par, but table movement is sluggish.

Quebec 20-25% of the crop has been planted. The Lanaudière area and southwest of Montreal are quite advanced. Temperatures have been above normal resulting in very dry soil conditions with spotty sandstorms. There is lots of good quality seed available for in province and out of province buyers. Planting intentions are expected to be similar to 2014. Processing contracts have not been settled yet and negotiations continue. Movement of old crop in April was good. Eventually there will be a shortage of reds and yellows. There will likely be a light surplus of Goldrush as some lots have had a bruising issue.

Ontario About 60% of the crop has been planted. Field conditions have been very good, if anything a bit dry. Early potatoes planted in April are doing well. Planting intentions are expected to be similar to last year. The old crop is keeping ok and a timely cleanup of storage spuds is expected in order to make way for new crop spuds.

Manitoba About 60-65% of the table acres and 95% of the processing acres have been planted in Manitoba. Field conditions have been excellent, allowing rapid planting. Seed availability is tight on table varieties. There is a bit of Russet Burbank and Umatilla left. Planting intentions will be flat for table and up 15% 0n processing to match contract volume requirements. Processing contracts have been settled with a 3.5% increase in price. Volume is up 18% at Simplot and McCain's and up 66% with Cavendish Farms. Old crop processing spuds are all spoken for and moving on schedule. Old crop table spuds are moving ahead of schedule and there will be a shortage of good quality yellows.

Saskatchewan 40% of the crop has been planted with excellent planting conditions. Seed movement has gone well with some varieties no longer available. Like other provinces there is still some Russet Burbank around. Planting intentions are expected to be similar to last year. There is very little old crop left.

Alberta 100% of the processing crop has been planted. Conditions have been very dry with irrigation pivots up and running. The seed area in the north got started planting but was delayed by a foot of snow last week. It was welcome moisture, as that area was dry as well. There is still a significant amount of russet seed available around the province. Planting intentions are expected to be down 5% for the processing acreage and yet to be determined on the seed acreage. Two out of three processing contracts have been settled. Details will be available after the third contract is settled with Cavendish. The old crop is storing well. With plants running hard it should be cleaned up by August 1.

British Columbia The crop is 80% planted on the upper valley and 20 % planted in the lower area. Field conditions have been very good. The season is very advanced with berry plants in bloom. Harvest on the early-planted Warba's will begin at the end of May. Overall planting intentions are expected to be flat. Some varietal shifts include Reds and Kennebec's up and Yukon Gold and Russets down in acreage. There is very little old crop left.

Conditions for European Planting

Planting nears completion in Great Britain. On May 2, 237,500 acres were in the ground compared with 245,000 acres (81%), on the same date a year ago. There has been some welcome rain recently but this has not slowed progress and planting should be virtually complete this week. With good conditions the early plantings in the Netherlands were about 80% complete at the end of April. In Poland and Germany, cool damp weather has pushed crop development back by an estimated two weeks.

Canadian Table Exports
Monthly by Province – Value ($000) and Volume (Tonnes)

Source: Statistics Canada, (CATSnet May 12 2015), AAFC
HS Code: 07019000

	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	Mar	Mar
Province	Can ($)	Tonnes	Can ($)	Tonnes	Can ($)	Tonnes	Can ($)	Tonnes
PEI	$5,453	11,652	$7,383	15,290	$6,651	13,648	$7,650	15,202
NS	$0	0	$0	0	$23	17	$28	75
NB	$3,277	7,025	$3,290	7,239	$3,853	7,690	$3,218	6,061
Quebec	$1,371	2,636	$1,180	2,455	$1,163	2,849	$1,117	2,600
Ontario	$1,638	5,707	$1,580	5,173	$1,347	4,551	$1,245	4,253
Manitoba	$2,963	6,196	$3,423	6,523	$2,673	5,677	$3,248	7,340
Sask.	$571	358	$466	633	$177	225	$374	435
Alberta	$693	443	$940	619	$897	554	$1,156	824
BC	$577	751	$383	503	$102	328	$73	180
Total	**$16,544**	**34,768**	**$18,645**	**38,435**	**$16,887**	**35,359**	**$18,110**	**36,970**

In the table above, Canada's monthly exports of Table Potatoes has backed off slightly from $18,645,476.00 in January to $18,110,330.00 in March.

In the table below Canada's monthly exports of seed has moved from $3,303,962.00 in December to $6,890,536.00 in March. Alberta leads the way in seed exports, followed by British Columbia.

Canadian Seed Potato Exports
Monthly by Province – Value ($000) and Volume (Tonnes)

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSnet May 12 2015), AAFC
HS Code: 07011000 (seed)

Province	Dec Can ($)	Dec Tonnes	Jan Can ($)	Jan Tonnes	Feb Can ($)	Feb Tonnes	Mar Can ($)	Mar Tonnes
PEI	$1,639	3,664	$171	267	$492	964	$704	1,134
NS	$.5	1	$.2	0	$.2	0	0	0
NB	$1,210	2,744	$1,739	4,852	$1,120	3,132	880	2,004
Quebec	0	0	$84	141	$265	436	$527	1,022
Ontario	$66	77	$63	73	0	0	$18	27
Manitoba	$11	0	$10	19	0	0	$95	157
Saskatchewan	$53	96	0	0	$41	79	$202	324
Alberta	$200	328	$542	1,072	$1,843	3,976	$3,188	7,889
BC	$124	199	$222	400	$340	659	$1,276	2,164
Total	**$3,304**	**7,109**	**$2,831**	**6,824**	**$4,101**	**9,242**	**$6,891**	**14,721**

Weekly Fresh Potato Imports into Canada by Province, Value, and Volume

	April 6		April 13		April 20		April 27	
Prov.	**$ Can**	**Tonnes**	**$ Can**	**Tonnes**	**$ Can**	**Tonnes**	**$ Can**	**Tonnes**
PEI	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**$7**	**0**
NS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**$40,070**	**43**	**$16,475**	**18**
NB	**$74,433**	**274**	**$55,417**	**586**	**$32,740**	**442**	**$45,027**	**495**
Que.	**$110,335**	**159**	**$104,909**	**123**	**$130,460**	**192**	**$166,081**	**324**
Ont.	**$384,602**	**476**	**$490,412**	**458**	**$391,173**	**368**	**$636,285**	**639**
Man	**$20,367**	**31**	**$22,219**	**40**	**$17,092**	**29**	**$39,457**	**67**
Sask.	**$35,870**	**64**	**$41,050**	**60**	**$28,775**	**43**	**$58,823**	**88**
Alta	**$185,614**	**379**	**$252,015**	**369**	**$214,539**	**309**	**$342,322**	**452**
BC	**$399,353**	**776**	**$742,731**	**1,336**	**$469,503**	**864**	**$696,366**	**1,137**
Total	**1,222,108**	**2,179**	**1,869,533**	**3,214**	**1,338,917**	**2,438**	**2,006,470**	**3,279**

The above table contains information that we monitor weekly on the volume and value of potato imports entering into each province of our country. It is collected by the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) and compiled by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada. The four weeks in April show the period when parts of the country, especially Western Canada start to deplete their supply of fresh potatoes. The largest fresh supplier is the state of Washington, followed by Maine, California, and Florida. Similar information is also collected for Processing, Chips, and seed, which we will report in future newsletters.

For more information on the content of this newsletter contact Kevin MacIsaac: Kevin@unitedpotatocanada.com