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## Producer owned stocks estimate

The AHDB/Potato Council estimate of on-farm storage of producer-owned stocks from the end-November is **3.28m tonnes**. This estimate is derived from a survey of 317 producers who were selected to be representative of the industry as a whole. The estimate has a potential sampling error of  $\pm 9.0\%$  ( $\pm 295,452$  tonnes), and does not include purchaser owned stocks which are discussed later.

## Methodology change

The methodology used to estimate stocks was peer reviewed by The Potato Council Market Information Committee in October 2011. As a result the methodology used to produce the estimate changed this year. The on-farm stock survey undertaken this year allows grower and purchaser stocks to be compared without duplication. However, as a result of this methodology change, the figure for this year is not directly comparable to that from last year. Having said this AHDB/Potato Council believes that on-farm stock levels are at similar levels to last year.

## Purchaser stocks

The 3.28m tonne estimate does not include stocks which are owned by purchasers. We will provide an overall stocks figure when reliable data on purchaser owned stocks is available. The 10 year average for purchaser owned stocks at the end of November is 204,000 tonnes. If this year's figures are in line with this average overall potato stocks would be **3.49m tonnes**.

## Production

AHDB/ Potato Council have also updated our production estimate for the 2011-12 season. GB Production is now estimated at **6m tonnes**. This updates the Potato Council's early November estimate of 6.05m tonnes. Stocks carried forward from 2010 were estimated at 309,000 tonnes, giving total 2011-12 GB supply of **6.32m tonnes**, which is 1.2% higher than the supply estimate for the 2010-11 season.

The 2011-12 production estimate is based on returns from the Potato Council's Grower Panel survey, which comprises 832 sample fields from 317 growers, weighted by variety, region and market sector. The updated production figure is based on 611 crops returned and validated samples for inclusion in this analysis, compared with 426 returns in the previous release last November.

## Further information

The stocks estimate will be updated for end-January stocks at the end of February, when sufficient survey responses have been received. Production with analysis by market sectors and variety are available to Levy Payers and other subscribers at <http://www.potato.org.uk/online-toolbox/data-centre>

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## Notes

1. **GB Production** is net production (after on farm grading), taken from current Grower Panel data at <http://www.potato.org.uk/online-toolbox/data-centre>
2. **Stocks from previous year** are estimated from actual first purchases reported on Potato Council Merchant Returns during July and August, with an allowance for waste and unreported movements.
3. **The Potato Council Market Information Committee** is made up of potato growers, packers, processors, industry bodies, government and seed suppliers to ensure the information provided continues to meet current industry needs. The committee also recommends new areas of focus as the potato industry develops.