Baca maintained its rank as the most popular variety of winter wheat seeded in Colorado. Producers seeded 18.8 percent of the 3.3 million acres planted last fall for harvest in 1986 to Baca, down from 19.7 percent of 3.7 million acres seeded for the 1985 crop. Hawk replaced Vona as the second most popular variety by accounting for 15.8 percent of the total acres for 1986, up from 10.0 percent a year ago. Vona ranked third, and was planted on 14.5 percent of the 1986 crop acres compared with 18.2 percent of the 1985 crop seedings. Sandy gained slightly in popularity by accounting for 9.7 percent of the acreage this year compared with 9.3 percent a year earlier. Scout 66 ranked fifth with 7.0 percent of the 1986 acreage.

The top five varieties were seeded on 66 percent of the 1986 crop acres of winter wheat. Those same varieties were also the top five last year, although not in the same order, and they accounted for nearly 65 percent of the 1985 acreage. A more detailed report is available upon request from the Colorado Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

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Fall potato stocks in the 15 major storage states as of January 1, 1986 totaled 201 million cwt., 16 percent above last year and 22 percent above two years ago. The latest stocks represented 59 percent of the fall potato production this year compared with 57 percent last year. Losses are also up sharply, running 32 percent higher than last year.

The three eastern states had 26.8 million cwt. in storage, 22 percent greater than the previous two years. Main stocks of 19.8 million were up 32 percent. The six central states held 45.5 million cwt., 12 percent above last year, with nearly all of the increase being stored in North Dakota and Wisconsin which were up 24 and 20 percent, respectively. Stocks in the six western states were up 17 percent to 129 million cwt. Idaho stocks were up 19 percent but the remaining stocks carry an estimated 12 percent that will not be marketed because of frost damage.

Disappearance from harvest to January 1 totaled a record 159 million cwt. this year compared with 130 million for the same period in 1984. Cullage, loss, and shrinkage totaled 24.9 million cwt. this year, up sharply from 18.9 million cwt. a year ago. Processing to January 1 in the eight major processing states was up 1 percent to 59.6 million hundredweight.

Colorado growers and commercial storage facilities had 12,900,000 cwt. of fall potatoes on hand as of January 1, 1986, nearly 18 percent above a year earlier. Early movement was much slower than usual and the latest stocks represented 72 percent of the 17,990,000 cwt. produced in 1985. A year ago, the 10,950,000 cwt. on hand represented 64 percent of the 17,225,000 cwt. produced. Recorded movement from harvest to January 1 was 23 percent below the comparable period last year.