

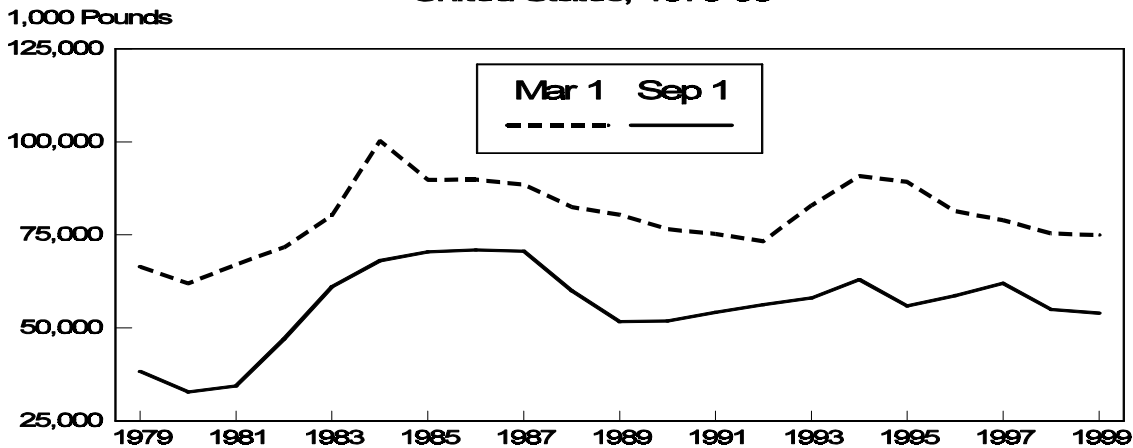
Released September 17, 1999, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Hop Stocks" call Harry Nishimoto at (360) 902-1940, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PT.

September 1 Hop Stocks Inventory Lowest Level Since 1990

The inventory of hops held by growers, dealers, and brewers on September 1, 1999, totaled 54.0 million pounds, 2 percent below September 1, 1998 and 13 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest September inventory since 1990 when 51.9 million pounds were stored in the United States.

Stocks held by brewers, at 39.5 million pounds, fell 4 percent from last year and 11 percent below September 1, 1997. Stocks held by growers and dealers on September 1, 1999 at 14.5 million pounds, was 4 percent above last year but 17 percent less than September 1, 1997.

**Hop Stocks, March 1 and September 1
United States, 1979-99**



**Hops: Stocks Held by Growers, Dealers, and Brewers,
United States, 1997-99**

Stocks ¹	Mar 1			Sep 1		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Stocks Held by:						
Dealers/Growers	26,000	25,000	25,000	17,500	14,000	14,500
Brewers	53,000	50,500	50,000	44,500	41,000	39,500
Total Stocks	79,000	75,500	75,000	62,000	55,000	54,000

¹ Includes equivalent pounds of dry hop held in form of extract or pellets.

The next "Hop Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on March 23, 2000.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Select "Today's Reports" or Publications and then Reports by Calendar or Publications and then Search, by Title or Subject.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

There are two options for subscribing via e-mail. All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. 1) Starting with the NASS Home Page at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>, click on **Publications**, then click on the **Subscribe by E-mail** button which takes you to the page describing e-mail delivery of reports. Finally, click on **Go to the Subscription Page** and follow the instructions. 2) If you do NOT have Internet access, send an e-mail message to: usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu. In the body of the message type the word: **list**.

AUTOFAX ACCESS

NASSFax service is available for some reports from your fax machine. Please call 202-720-2000, using the handset attached to your fax. Respond to the voice prompts. Document 0411 is a list of available reports.

PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)
Other areas, please call 703-834-0125 FAX: 703-834-0110
(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)

ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.