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Size Matters: A Statistical Look At Tuber Grade Change And Its Effects

What are the effects on SLV potato growers from the CPAC's change in the size/grade requirements for USDA #1 oblong russet potatoes from 1 7/8" to 2" diameter? The hypothesis I worked to prove was: I think that the effects of the change in potato sizing requirements will be to take potatoes off the fresh market. This will lower the number of fresh market potatoes, but raise the number of processed potatoes. The procedure I used was to collect statistical data for numbers of process loads and number of total loads for the last five years. Then compare and analyze my data by analyzing the data from both sources I was able to prove my conclusion that CPAC's rule change will lower the number of fresh market USDA #1 potatoes marketed from the 2007 crop. So my hypothesis was proved correct. I was also able to add an additional 5% which could be extrapolated to say that the new processed count would be 42% of the total shipped cwt loads. This is important to the SLV potato producers because the USDA #1 potatoes receive the best prices.