

This is the Muck Station Report for Wednesday February 11, 2009.

The Muck Station is presently working on a web page; we now have it up and running. If you would like to see it please go to www.uoguelph.ca/muckcrop we are working on several sections of information for the industry, Some of which include IPM, Agriphones, Our annual report, Variety Trial info just to mention a few, please check out the web page.

Canadian Carrot storage holdings for February are being reported but are still incomplete:

The Maritimes are reporting 64 thousand 50 pound bags of carrots in storage. This is a 50 thousand bags less from last month Compared to this time last year there is a drop of 31% of carrots in storage.

Quebec carrot storage holding numbers are 357 thousand 50 pound bags in storage. There are 161 thousand less bags in storage presently compared to this time last month.

Ontario is not reporting any numbers at this time.

Out west Manitoba is the only area reporting carrot storage holding numbers. The carrot storage numbers are reported to be 106 thousand 50 pound bags in storage. There are 65 thousand few carrots in storage compared to January.

Canadian Onion holdings are:

Maritimes are presently reporting 122 thousand 50 pound bags on hand. There has been a 44 thousand bag drop from January. This is a 57% decrease compared to this time last year.

Quebec has 846 thousand 50 pound bags of onions in storage. There has only been a 104 thousand bag drop since January 1st.

Ontario is not reporting any storage holding numbers.

The west is reporting approximately 65 thousand bags in storage with only Manitoba reporting any numbers. There has been a decrease of 27 thousand bags since January 1st.

USA onion storage holdings:

New York holdings are 2.2 million bags, a drop of 850 thousand bags from January. This is a drop of 27 percent.

The rest of the East is reporting 562 thousand bags in storage for February. There has been a drop of 398 thousand bags from January.

Out West the storage numbers are 16.6 million bags in storage. There has been and decrease of 9.6 million bags since January 1st holding numbers.

Some notes reported with the storage numbers are:

General Comments: January onion disappearance was significant, active to very active to retail and low cost quick service, while higher end food service was termed slow/sluggish.

East: Quality holding very good to excellent on all but a few scattered lots; size good. Movement active for most slow for a couple shippers. Feelings about market prospects generally positive.

West: Market mixed a little and movement slowed at month's end per some shippers; others expressed that business was active to very active. All things considered movement for past month was actually quite good. Other than a very few notable exceptions quality is holding well and sizes are normal. Several noted disappointment that pricing had not been and is not now at higher levels.

Now notes of interest to growers

There are now several grower pesticide safety course dates listed for both Newmarket and Bradford. Listings are available at the Muck Station.

Please remember the 58th annual Muck Vegetable Growers Conference is coming up on March 25 & 26. The speaker program is available from the Muck Station or check out the Muck Stations web page.

The Station report will be updated once per month usually around the 12th to 15th when storage data arrives.