

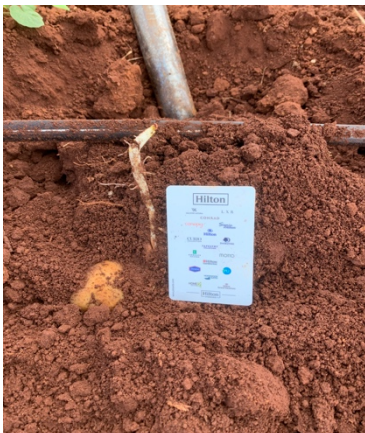
BADGER MEMO



February 2020

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Superiors shown Jan 21, had extreme delay in emergence.



Post Harvest Test

Our 2019 PHT was overall a great success. We arrived to start readings on January 2, 2020 and we were able to get right to work on January 3. We struggled a little with some slower growth on about 2/3's of our acreage, but after giving it a couple days to grow we were able to continue readings right to the end. We did have a couple rain delays! This is the 7th year of grow-outs in Hawaii and the 1st year we had more rain days than sunny days. Over the three weeks we were in Oahu, we only had maybe 5 days completely dry. So, growth was great on most varieties. But every year we seem to have one variety that just doesn't want to grow in the warm climate. Often that variety is Superior. Again, this season the Superiors struggled to emerge and when they did, they were slow to grow. We have some ongoing discussions on what the future holds for Superior. Could we treat them differently before they are gassed?? Do we try a different approach such as partial greenhouse grow-outs or dormant tuber testing?? These are all ideas we will explore as a program and decide how to proceed.

Our variety that struggled last year was the Snowden, but this year they were one of the strongest varieties there. Sometimes it is just hard to explain.

Another challenge we faced this season was low plant counts. We still struggle with the Montana planter we use in Hawaii. It likes to plant doubles, but we also feel the very warm spell the island experienced right after planting may have caused some tuber decay. Due to the low plant counts there will be a higher number of down-classed early generation lots. Please contact Alex to discuss a variance if you find yourself in this situation.

2019 Winter Test Results

Lots that meet Foundation tolerance = 71.5%
 Lots that meet Certified tolerance = 27.7%
 Lots that were Rejected = 0.8%

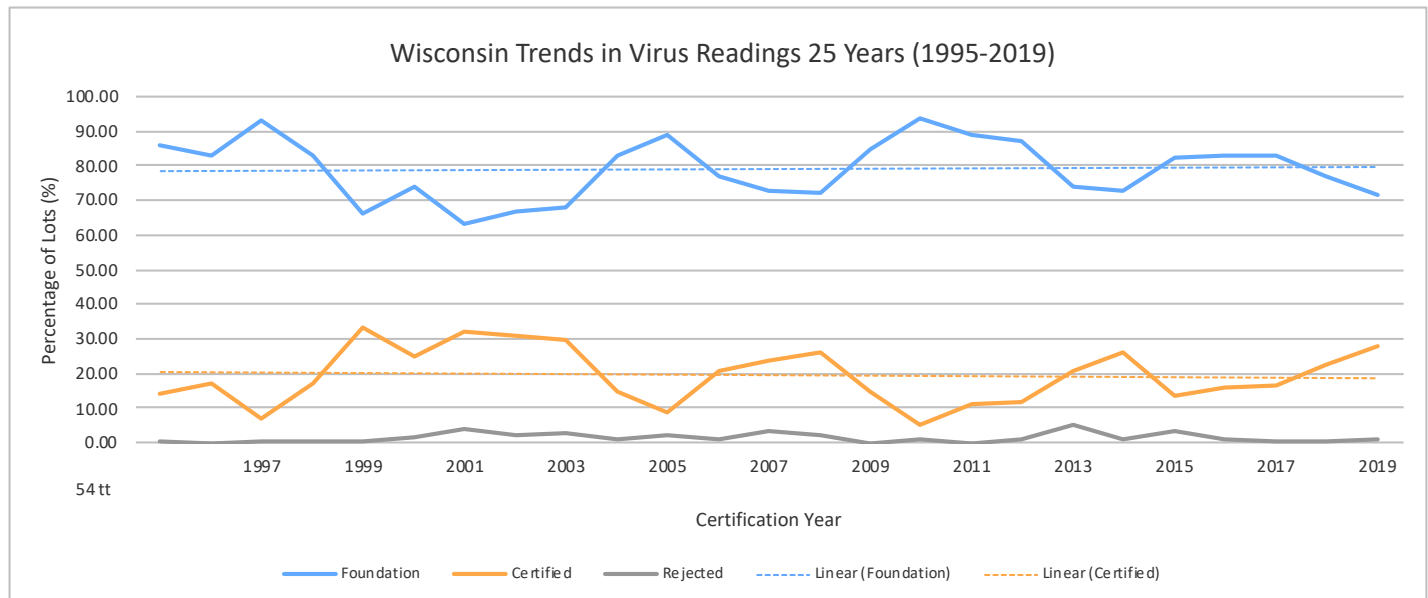
In comparison to 2018 Winter Test Results

Lots that met Foundation = 76.9%
 Lots that met Certified = 22.6%
 Lots that were Rejected = 0.5%

Inspection Training

New seed inspector Cole Lubinski had the opportunity to travel out to Hawaii for inspections. This opportunity is great for training inspectors on virus and variety identification. At the end of his time out there he was given a test where he needed to identify variety, state the percent of virus and mixture in that variety, and based on ATCP156 he needed to label each section (foundation, certified, or rejected). We are happy to say that he did very well, and his time spent out there was a useful learning experience.

Post Harvest Test Results Through Time



The Post Harvest Test Results plotted over time reflect the normal ups and downs of readings over the last decades. Within the last 10 years, the major strain type has changed from a predominance of PVY O (ordinary strain) to a predominance of PVY NO (recombinant strains). Also in the last decade, we've seen a significant increase in the tuber necrotic strain of PVY (NTN). What was a minor percentage of PVY strains, NTN has grown to represent over 30% of strains found in strains found in our program. Noteworthy, is that in our recent visual inspections of the mosaic virus in Wisconsin, no ordinary strain (PVY O) was observed at all. The level of rejections has remained low over recent years. Once common in Silverton, Norkotah, Atlantic, Goldrush, rejections due to PVY have become more the exception.

Requesting a Variance

Under ATP 156 a grower may request a variance to replant seed for certification. There are several conditions upon which a variance may be given.

1. Special conditions justify the certification
2. The lot will probably meet certification in the following season, which does not exceed 1% summer readings, and 5% post-harvest mosaic tests
3. Freedom from Bacterial Ring Rot
4. Causes no harm to seed quality, does not pose risk to potato industry and customers

Special conditions that justify variance for recertification are:

- This is the only source of this variety
- No other source exist (wide spread problems with a variety)
- Virus readings are very close to tolerances <0.75%

The likelihood that a lot will meet certification status the following year is variety dependent, is related to the field condition, and cultural practices used (rogue, tuber unit, crop protection). In general, for problem varieties (Silverton, Norkotah) lots with up to and including 0.75% will be eligible for recertification. For other lots, up to 1% mosaic is possible under special conditions listed above. All variances require a letter from the grower addressing the four conditions above. A sample format can be provided upon request.

Contact the office if you are considering a variance request, need guidance, or a form.

New Employee Profile: Renee Rioux

Renee Rioux was born and raised in Maine. As the daughter of two hospital medical technicians, she grew up learning about human pathogenic fungi and bacteria – often at dinner table conversations. This did nothing to fuel an interest in the sciences and she started college at Boston University with the plan of pursuing a double major in Latin and American History. After a semester in Boston, Renee tearfully declared to her mother that she ‘missed trees’ and transferred back to the University of Maine, where she bounced between majors and eventually settled on Biology, apparently overcoming her parents’ odd dining conversations.

Following completion of her undergraduate degree, Renee was not sure of where to go next and pursued a Masters degree under the direction of her Plant Genetics class professor, a plant pathologist. This turned out to be a lucky break for Renee and she discovered that she absolutely loved the field of plant pathology. She especially enjoyed the opportunity to be out in the field, seeing crops and disease firsthand. The fact that trips to the field were generally followed by a milkshake probably did not hurt.

Renee subsequently pursued a PhD in Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. She visited Madison the summer before applying and was so impressed by the city and university that she decided not to apply anywhere else! Lucky for Renee, she was accepted and completed a PhD in Turfgrass Pathology. Following graduate school, Renee and her husband, also a UW-Madison ag grad, pursued various private sector opportunities that brought them to St. Louis, MO and Raleigh, NC. Renee’s work focused on development of conventional and biological crop protection products.

When the opening for the Assistant Professor position with the WSPCP came open, Renee felt it was the perfect fit for her combination of academic and industry experience and knew she had to apply. She is thrilled to be a member of the Wisconsin seed potato industry and is looking forward to a strong future together.

When not working, Renee enjoys spending time outside with her husband, Nick, their 19-month old son, Craig (AKA CJ), and 9-year old yellow lab, Scotch. Her favorite activities include hiking (preferably with mountains, biking (usually to breweries), and running. French fries, potato chips, and baked potatoes are Renee’s favorite foods—and she swears that is 100% the truth.



Welcome Renee Rioux!

Shipping to Colorado? Late Blight Assay

A requirement for all seed sent to Colorado (San Luis Valley) is a Late Blight Incubation Test. This has been a requirement for years now, and without a test, their department of agriculture inspectors will not allow the seed truck or totes to be offloaded. We run this test within the department and may take up to 30 days to complete. The basic process is a 21 day incubation at temperatures conducive to late blight development.

Contact the office for details. This test is a part of Colorado’s broader Quarantine rule for Late Blight. For more information:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=8029>

Side note: Any lot entering Colorado with greater than 1% PVY virus also requires an NTN test, we can do this very easily in Hawaii.

Upcoming Events

Please plan ahead for certified seed tag printing. Looking forward to seeing you all at upcoming industry events.

February 4-6 UW Extension & WPVGA Grower Ed
<https://wisconsinpotatoes.com/events/2020-grower-education-conference-industry-show/>

February 24-27 Potato DC Fly-in, Washington, DC

March 10-12 Potatoes USA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

March 31-Apr 2 WPS Farm Show, EAA Grounds, Oshkosh, WI

FEBRUARY 2020						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29

State Farm Updates

The program is still working on the Spudnik dry grader. Thank you to the growers that have given their time and providing feedback on the process.

Also, the State Farm is looking to build temporary holding tanks in the future for grading purposes. A live bottom box or roost box in fair condition would work ideally. Any information regarding this can be directed to Matt Cogger (715)-525-1643.

During your upcoming planning for 2020 planting, please note that following State Farm FY2 seed lots had virus: Atlantic (0.25%), Snowden (0.125%), and Manistee (0.156%). Isolation of these lots from other seed lots is recommended, if possible. All other lots of FY2, and all FY1 lots were clean in the grow-out.

PCN Testing Update

PCN testing has been finalized by Dianna Kessler. She is glad to say that no suspect cysts have been found this season, so all is well. Seed lots from PCN tested fields that also have an accredited Bacterial Ring Rot test may be eligible for trade to Canada.

Open Seed Potatoes State Farm

The following seed is in excess from harvest or is available from a down adjustment in seed request.

Red Endeavor	30 cwt	Manistee	140 cwt
Megachip	320+ cwt	Oneida Gold	40 cwt
Red Norland	60+ cwt	White Pearl	30 cwt

Please contact Alex for further information and pricing.
abcrockford@wisc.edu or 715-610-4668. If there is no interest, seed will be made publically available in February.