

BADGER MEMO



April 2020

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Brooke and family

Employee Profile: Brooke Babler

Brooke grew up with her two younger brothers and parents in Viroqua, WI. She acquired her love for agriculture through helping with the family businesses- farming and landscaping. She joined the Wisconsin Seed Potato Tissue Culture Laboratory in 2007 with little experience in potato certification, micropropagation and diagnostics but a willingness to jump in and learn quickly. Since joining the program, she has truly enjoyed becoming part of the 'WSPCP family' and all the new learning opportunities her position has and continues to present.

After high school, she attended University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a degree in Microbiology. After a couple semesters of switching majors, she finished her undergraduate time with a bachelor's degree in Plant Pathology. Studying fungi, bacteria and viruses and how they interact with plant hosts was fascinating to Brooke (and still is!), and once she took her first Plant Pathology course, she knew what direction she wanted her professional career to take. To explore this interest in more depth, she went on to acquire a master's degree in Horticulture with an emphasis on pathogen control through wild potato breeding. Her main graduate research project was evaluating *Solanum raphnifolium*, a wild species found in Peru for Early Blight resistance.

When not working, Brooke enjoys spending time with her husband, Derick and their 2 ½ old son, Easton and 9-month old son, Fletcher. Derick also works at UW-Madison as a Digital Controls Specialist. Family life is a bit crazy with two children under the age of 3 but as a family, they enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking and swimming. Additionally, they enjoy relaxing activities like grilling out with friends, visiting the Henry Vilas Zoo and goodies from the Dane County Farmer's Market.

Pre-approval of seed lots

ATCP 156 requires the pre-approval of all seed lots entering our certification program. Please get your North American Seed Potato Health Certificates or Nuclear Material Affidavits to us as soon as possible. Thank you.

Licensed Varieties

Many new varieties developed by public breeding programs have new requirements for licensing and production. We request that you provide a license or communication with the licensor prior to requesting a variety for field production in our program. The crop directory has every variety requiring a license labeled as such.

We also will be requiring a copy of the license or material transfer agreement (MTA) be held by your farm prior to receiving the seed from our foundation seed program. Many of the new varieties being released from US and foreign programs require variety tracking. We appreciate your cooperation! This license requirement is always listed on the program's seed request form.

Caribou russet is amongst the new varieties required to have a license to obtain seed. No new licenses are being granted at this time.

Requesting a Variance

Under ATCP 156 a grower may request a variance to replant seed for 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. Cause 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.

Antigo Research Station Help

The Langlade county research station will be in need of an individual to assist in field operations throughout the planting, growing, and harvest seasons (May-Sep). Duties will include, assisting researchers with potato research plot establishment, upkeep of grounds/facilities, some record keeping, team tasks operating farm equipment including operating spray equipment. A pesticide applicator and safety training will be provided. This individual will also complete routine maintenance on farm equipment and operate the irrigation system. Tractor operation at harvest in mid-September is an absolute requirement of this position. Ability to lift 50-100 lbs necessary. Experience in horticulture or agronomy, familiarity with farm equipment/tractor operation, and some mechanical skills is preferred. This position is 20hrs/week competitive pay. To get further information about this position please contact Cole Lubinski (715)350-1691 or clubinski@wisc.edu

Upcoming Events

Please plan ahead for picking up seed orders from the State Farm!

April 8th WSPIA Board & Budget Meeting, WPVGA Office, Antigo, WI, 1:30pm

June 19th Spud Seed Classic WSPIA Golf Outing, Bass Lake Country Club

Open Seed Potatoes at the State Farm

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

Manistee 140 cwt **Megachip** 80 cwt

Please contact Alex for further information and pricing.
abcrockford@wisc.edu or 715-610-4668.

APRIL 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Holidays and Observances: 12: Easter Sunday, 13: Easter Monday, 15: Tax Day

www.wiki-calendar.com

State Farm Updates

Pre-loading Requirements for State Farm Seed

It is the seed growers responsibility prior to arrival to:

1. Clean, power wash and disinfect tires, chassis, frame etc., to be free of dirt.
2. Drivers side of cab to be cleaned and disinfected.
3. Clean, power wash and disinfect the bulk bed or pallet boxes.
4. Loading is the responsibility of the driver.

It is the State Farm responsibility to:

1. Inform the seed grower of the above requirements.
2. State Farm staff will power wash and disinfect the vehicle tires upon arrival
3. Provide plastic boots and gloves for the driver.

The State Farm staff has the right to refuse to load any truck that does not meet these requirements.

Grading Shed

The State Farm Is happy to announce that the grading shed addition to the farm is now complete and operating at its full capacity. This addition has been in the works for many years. With the new grading shed the farm is able to work from inside a controlled environment, meaning that they can load/unload and grade seed regardless of the weather conditions. Being able to have a sectioned off area also allows for better control of the storage temperature and humidity. This area can also be used as a storage for overflow seed or a secondary shop during the winter. The farms goal is to provide the growers with the best quality seed possible and this new addition aids in that goal.

