



BADGER MEMO

The Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program's goal is to provide potato farmers with seed potato planting stock that is healthy and without varietal mixture. We do this through inspections and laboratory testing of the seed potato crop and the expertise of Wisconsin seed potato growers. Early generation seed potato stocks produced in our potato tissue culture laboratory and at the Lelah Starks Elite Foundation Seed Potato Farm aid in this process by providing Wisconsin farmers with a reliable source of seed potatoes.

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Post Harvest Test & PVY Summary

2023 Post Harvest Test

624 Lots Submitted

15.2% Lots Down Classed from Foundation to Certified

5.3% Lots Rejected

Visual & Lab Testing was completed by January 26th

Tested 355 Winter Test Samples via ELISA

Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Colorado all had a high level of PVY during the post harvest test in Hawaii. As Dr. Russell Groves stated in his February letter from the Department of Entomology, aphid compositions in 2023 that were captured in the Midwest Suction Traps contained a significant fraction of potato-colonizing species (green peach, melon and potato aphids), and specifically a lot of green peach aphid. This likely resulted in very challenging conditions for virus transmission in potatoes last summer.

Variety	Foundation (%)	Certified (%)	Rejection (%)
Silverton	25	16.7	58.3
Goldrush	53.3	26.7	20
Norkotah's	26.7	66.7	6.6
Superior	6.6	80	13.3
Snowden	55	40	5





Spring 2024 Planting & Selling

To sell rejected lots, please fill out the 'Waiver Request Form' on the DATCP seed potato certification website.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SeedPotatoCert.aspx

To sell rejected seed lots outside Wisconsin, you as the seller would need to contact the farm receiving the seed lot. The receiving farm would need to contact their state agricultural department and determine what paperwork is required for the seed lot to be shipped into the state.

To purchase a seed lot with PVY levels greater than 5% from another state and grow in Wisconsin, please fill out the 'Waiver Request Form' on the DATCP seed potato certification website.

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SeedPotatoCert.aspx

To plant back a certified seed lot with a low level of PVY but higher than 0.5%, please reach out to WSPCP staff to see if the seed lot in question is eligible for a variance. Before requesting a variance, please look for any available seed with a virus level below 0.5%.

With this being an unprecedented year, our goal as a program is to work with all of you to ensure you have the necessary planting material and tools to have a successful 2024 season, while trying to minimize levels of PVY present in our seed growing region. We want to stress the importance of planting seed lots with low levels of PVY to try and keep inoculum levels down on individual seed farms.

Congratulations Brooke Babler and Dianna Kessler



1 - Congratulations to Brooke Babler on receiving the 2023 WPVGA Researcher of the Year Award!

Photo Credit: Joe Kertzman



2 - Congratulations to Dianna Kessler on receiving the 2023 Seed Potato Industry Leader Award!

Welcome New Employees!

Marjorie Hall

Hi, my name is Marjorie Hall! I moved to the Northwoods in 2020 from West Bend, WI, where I was raised as the second youngest of ten children, to be closer to my significant other, Tom and his son Caleb (12). Tom grew up and still lives adjacent to the State Seed Farm. After moving, I began at the State Seed Farm in early 2022 as a potato cutter, and my knowledge and interest in the potato seed growing process have continued to develop since then.

I graduated from UW-Madison and have a dual certification in Elementary and Cross Category Education. I have worked as a teacher most of my life, and my summers consisted of gardening, hiking and outdoor activities with my family. I have three daughters. Two are graduates of UW-Madison. Brianna (27) lives in Milwaukee and Mikala (24) lives in Madison. The youngest, Samantha (21) currently attends UWSP studying natural resources.



3 - MARJORIE HALL - GREENHOUSE

Shari Biesik

Shari started at the UW Seed Farm in March of 2022 working on the grading line. From there she went to helping cut seed, to planting, and helping with harvest in the fall. To pass time in the summer Shari helped pick in the greenhouses (where she fell in love with her job). She has also helped with setting up, planting, and tear down. Since then Shari has also learned how to mix the nutrients in the tanks, run the system, and working towards getting her pesticide certification. Shari is excited to learn and grow with her newest position as Greenhouse Supervisor.

Shari lives in Rhinelander but has strong ties to the Antigo area. Her grandma Margie Prasalowicz cooked and baked for the Country Club. Her Aunt and Uncle (Sue & David Incha) operated a potato farm on Hwy 64. Her cousins who ran Butches Super Value and also runs/owns Farmers Home Restaurant.

Shari is a mother to 4 daughters, Colleen (27), Krishell (24), Cassandra (19) and stepdaughter Katelynn (29). She also has 4 grandsons Talion, Atrayu, Waylon, Colton and a set of twins that are due to arrive in April. Being a newly Empty Nester, when Shari isn't working or loving up on her grandbabies, she is spending time with her fiancé Keith camping, fishing, trail riding and searching out waterfalls in the U.P.



4 - SHARI BIESIK - GREENHOUSE

Kevin Gallenberg

Kevin grew up on a seed potato farm a few miles West of Antigo, WI. He always enjoyed working on the family farm during school break in the summers. After high school Kevin attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and attained a degree in Biology.

At UW-Stevens Point Kevin met the love of his life, Shelly, and they married in 2007. Kevin and Shelly have four kids together and enjoy attending their children's sporting events. When not transporting children to different events and practices, Kevin and Shelly enjoy fishing, skiing, and traveling.

Kevin originally went to college to get away from the farm, but after graduating decided to move back to Antigo to work on the farm. A few years after working on the farm a decision was made to stop growing potatoes and Kevin started working at the Langlade County Research Station. After a few years working at the research station an opportunity presented itself managing a scouting team for Crop Care with Andy Merry and AgSource Laboratories. Kevin gained some invaluable knowledge working with AgSource and Andy and is looking forward to his next chapter with Seed Certification and the Langlade Research Station.



5 - KEVIN GALLENBERG - SEED CERTIFICATION/RESEARCH STATION

2024 Field Days

Hancock Agricultural Research Station Field Day - July 11th

Langlade Agricultural Research Station Field Day - July 18th

Rhineland Agricultural Research Station Field Day - July 31st

WSPCP is looking for recommendations for a reputable builder to put up an outbuilding addition for our greenhouses in Rhinelander. Please call the seed office if you have any recommendations. Thanks!

Thank you to Jeff Suchon for the donation of baking racks that will be used in the greenhouses!

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at <https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu>