WI SEED POTATO PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

BADGER MEMO

January 2020

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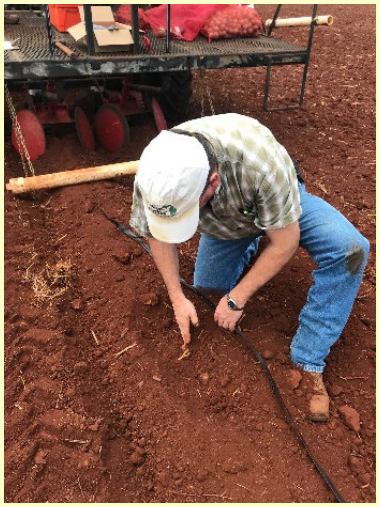
NPC/PAA Meeting Summary

The Canada-U.S. Potato Committee Annual Meeting, National Potato Council Certification Meeting, and Potato Association of America Certification Section Meeting all took place in Ottawa, Ontario on December 3rd-4th of this year. Highlights from the meetings included:

- State updates, which indicated an average to below average year across the US and Canada as a result of difficult weather conditions.
- A formal motion to extend the potato cyst nematode exemption period following two negative tests from three crop cycles to four. The motion carried and is moving on for formal approval by APHIS and CFIA.
- Continued movement towards implementation of the State-National Harmonization Program and updated Necrotic Virus Management Plan. Most states have now signed on and action from APHIS is needed for implementation.
- An update from the Strategic Planning Committee on their Vision 2025 initiative for the future of seed potato certification. They are working through a recently completed survey of industry stakeholders and will be presenting at the Expo on ways seed certification can best serve the industry.
- Discussion of novel methods for disease detection and ways they could be implemented by our industry, including a report from Nina Zidack on dormant tuber testing efforts in Montana.
- A presentation by Canadian colleagues on model for introducing true potato seed into the seed certification system. This was a lively discussion with many unknowns and challenges remaining.



Good soil conditions and good seed depth, drip-tape over every row.

Hawaii Planting

Wisconsin's seed potato sample container arrived in Hawaii without problems, temperatures stable at 65 F during entire transit. All pallets remained together in good condition with transloading and unloading.

Planting the post-harvest test in Hawaii was successful. Samples were prepped Sunday, December 1. Pallets needing gibberellic acid were dipped. Planting began first thing on Monday morning, December 2nd, and was completed Thursday, December 5th at noon. Rows were short, requiring many turn arounds, this pushed planting another day longer than usual. Fortunately, we had no rain until Thursday night. On Friday, we cleaned up our vehicle and packed away supplies into container. The farmer/cooperator was again very good to work with and supported our planting well with staff and repaired equipment as needed.

The quality of the Wisconsin seed was very good with very minimal soft rot throughout. The samples had peeps to ¼" sprouts, some sprouts of ½" on less dormant varieties. We have a very good process for breaking dormancy and shipping seed. We look forward to seeing the crop after New Year's.

Testing Requirements for Recertification in US and Canada

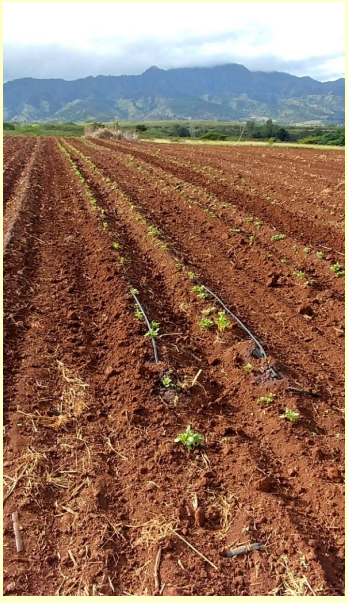
US Agency	Lab Test PVY: All Varieties	Lab Test PVY: Latent * Varieties	Soil sampling	Other Requirements to import into these states/provinces
Alaska	-	-		
California	-	-		
Colorado	✓[A]	-		Late blight incubation, PHT growout required all seed, [A] virus test for 1.0% PVY_{NTN} PHT Tolerance
Idaho	✓	✓		BRR G1 and later gen, PVY, PLRV (visual or ELISA)
Maine	-	✓		
Michigan	-	✓		
Minnesota	-	-		
Montana	NA	NA		Montana does not allow seed import into certification
North Dakota	-	-		
Nebraska/WY	✓	✓	CRKN	Columbia Root Knot Nematode from areas of known to be present/unknown, all russets must be PVY ELISA.
New York	-	-		
Oregon	-	-		
Washington	-	-		
Wisconsin	-	✓		Growout (field or greenhouse) required for recertification.
Canada Agency	-	-	PCN	BRR
-New Brunswick	✓	✓	PCN	BRR, PLRV
-PEI	✓	✓	PCN	BRR, PVY & PLRV testing 200 tuber/ 40 ac (16 ha) +20 add'nl tubers per ha over 16 ha. Total virus cap 3% max PLRV is 2%).

Above is the list of testing requirements for recertification in another State or Province. Additionally, the Potato Association of America maintains a list of latent varieties, varieties with poor virus symptoms. This list includes: Alpine Russet, Austrian Crescent, Banana, Blazer Russet, CalWhite, Caribou Russet, Chieftain, Chipeta, Classic Russet, Crestone Russet, Dakota Diamond, Easton, French Fingerling, Gem Russet, Green Mountain, Innovator, Ivory Russet, Keystone Russet, LaRatte, Mesa Russet, Pike, Purple Peruvian, Rose Finn Apple, Russet Norkotah, Sage Russet, Shasta, Shepody, Silverton Russet, Winema, Snowden

Contact the office if you require additional testing to be done. For example PLRV tests, if required can be completed in Hawaii from the same leaves.

Winter Testing Policy

Thanks in large part to your cooperation and support, we have one of the best grow-outs in US potato certification, a point in which we take great pride. In addition to the two visual inspections performed on all seed potato lots, latent varieties and lots planned for recertification are subject to ELISA testing. This combination of visual and ELISA testing has enhanced the accuracy of our program and is a major reason we have been so successful under current US virus and disease pressure. Rejections and down class of important seed lots for recertification are few, and we validate the data supporting all decisions with the best laboratory tools available for each situation. Follow up testing is allowed, but exceedingly rare and only performed in extenuating circumstances, such as when seed availability is limited and there are significant cost considerations. Under such circumstances, a repeat ELISA test can be submitted to our Madison-based Seed Potato Certification Lab from leaf tissue collected in Hawaii or a PCR test can be run from a sample of 400 tubers collected by certification staff. The costs for repeat testing are $200 for the leaf tissue/ELISA test and $500 for the tuber sample/PCR test. Any questions can be directed to Alex Crockford.



The first few rows popped up in Hawaii, photo taken on December 20, 2019.

New Employee Profile: Matt Cogger

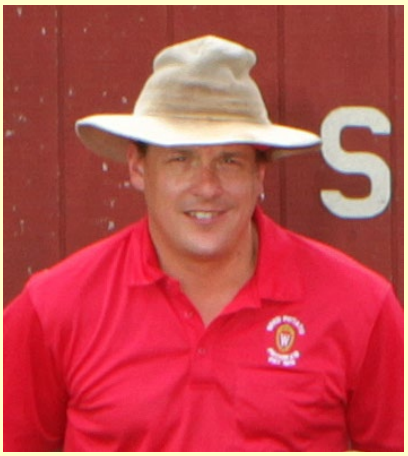
Matt Cogger grew up in Washburn Wisconsin on small farm that grew vegetables and raised hogs. Starting in high school Matt became interested in hydroponic tomato production. This led to studying horticulture at UW-River Falls (UWRF). Throughout his undergraduate studies Matt maintained his interest in agricultural research. In 2005 Matt applied for a competitive scholarship from UWRF to fund a research internship. Having read a variety of literature from Cornell University in Ithaca New York Matt decided that his goal would be to spend the summer of 2005 at Cornell involved in agricultural research. Thanks to help from two of the horticulture faculty at UWRF Matt was able to spend the summer working at a Cornell experiment station near Ithaca New York. This was a valuable experience since Matt was able to be involved in a variety of projects one of interest was reduced tillage in dry beans and sweet corn.

As a result of the internship in 2005 Matt decided that he wanted to pursue a graduate degree in horticulture with Cornell being his top choice of schools. After applying and being accepted in 2006 Matt discussed a path of study with his graduate advisor and was able to continue with the reduced tillage project he had been involved with the previous summer. While in graduate school Matt was also involved in the potato program at Cornell and gained experience in that area.

After completing graduate school in 2009 Matt moved back to Washburn Wisconsin to help with the family farm which had shifted away from vegetable production to raise primarily pigs and grain. The farm was a farrow to finish operation raised about 100-150 hogs each year. The pork was primarily sold in the Duluth Minnesota area. Also, during this time Matt worked for UW-Extension.

In 2015 Matt had the opportunity to travel to Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia as a representative of USAID (United States Agency for International Development). The purpose of this trip was to provide technical assistance to raspberry growers farming in a post-Soviet environment. Since then Matt has also traveled to Armenia and Georgia to work with raspberry growers.

In his spare time Matt enjoys driving and working on his 1984 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 and 1974 Chevrolet K10 truck. He also enjoys hunting, reading and traveling.



Welcome Matt Cogger!

PCN Testing Updates

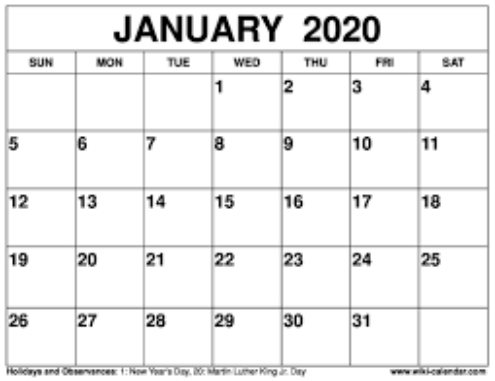
In 2019, a total of 1,285 acres were collected by Ben Osborne from KirK Engineering and Natural Resources after potato harvest was finished in each field. It was very wet this year so it took longer than usual. October 21st some of the seed staff attended a PCN training session hosted by Annetta Phibbs at the DATCAP Lab in Madison. Everything is coming along very well. All the washing, spinning, and reading of the soil will be finished by the beginning of January.

Seed lots from PCN tested fields that also have an accredited Bacterial Ring Rot test may be eligible for trade to Canada.

Upcoming Events

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

Winter Test Readings & Testing	Jan 3-24
Potato Expo	Jan 14-15
WSPIA Annual Meeting	Jan 29
UW Extension & WPVGA Grower Ed	Feb 4-6

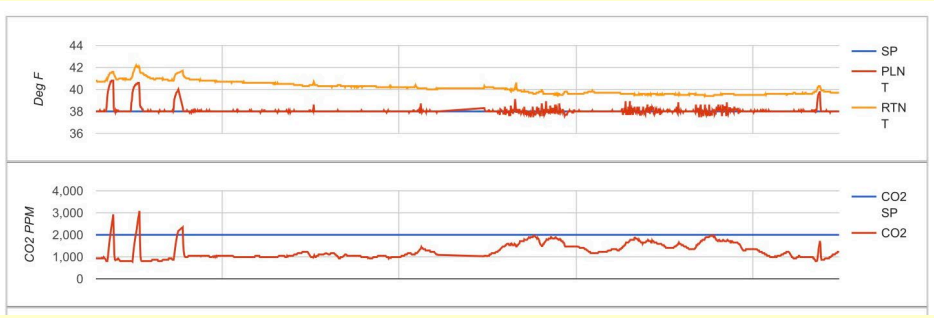


State Farm Thanks and Needs

Program is still working on the Spudnik dry grader thanks to growers that have given their time and providing feedback on the process.
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.

Updated Warehouse Panel and VFD

In early Spring of 2019 the State Farm updated a failed 7.5 HP motor to a 10 HP and added VFD. In August the farm also updated the 20 year old panel to a BTU XT. Just recently, text/email alerts have been added to add to the improvement/security of the crop.



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	**Hodag**	80 cwt
Megachip	320+ cwt	**Manistee**	140 cwt
Red Norland	60 cwt	**Oneida Gold**	40 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.