

# BADGER MEMO



**April 2022**

## Changes to the Seed Certification Program Personnel

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### Inside This Issue

- 1 Certification personnel changes
- 1 Pre-approval of Seed Lots
- 2 State Farm updates
- 2 Requesting a variance

As many have heard by now, I recently accepted a position outside the university and will be leaving my role as Administrative Director of the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program at the end of April. It has been a privilege to work with the state's potato industry and I appreciate all that I learned from you in my time with the program. I was excited to return to in-person meetings recently and will miss these opportunities to engage on-farm and outside the university setting. There is so much pride and passion in the Wisconsin seed potato industry and it was an honor to be a part of this, even if only for a short while.

As I prepare to depart, I am pleased to announce some recent personnel changes within the program:

- Cole Lubinski joined the team full-time in the role vacated by Clover Spacek. We are now in the process of filling the 50/50 Seed Certification/Extension position with the Langlade Airport Station, which he previously held.
- WSPCP would like to congratulate Brooke Babler on her well-deserved promotion. This advancement allows for improved integration of our tissue culture and diagnostic programs with our certification program. We are excited to welcome her as a Potato Research & Certification Manager. Brooke's contact information is [brooke.babler@wisc.edu](mailto:brooke.babler@wisc.edu) or (608) 886-6352. Feel free to reach out to welcome her into this position or to inquire on any matters pertaining to tissue culture, diagnostics, or certification.
- Alex Crockford will return from leave in his role as Program Director later this month. At that time, his efforts will be refocused on improving farm and greenhouse operations to meet current needs.
- Dr. Amanda Gevens will return as Interim Administrative Director for the seed certification program. Additionally, Dr. Gevens is working with the university and department to advance a faculty seed potato research position.

I want to share a huge **thank you** for welcoming me, teaching me, providing feedback on the seed certification program, and working with us to identify ways to better meet the needs of the industry. I will remain in my post as Administrative Director until the middle of April and am happy to answer questions and continue working with you all until that time.

## 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.

## State Farm Updates

Pre-loading Requirements for State Farm Seed

**It is the seed grower's 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.**

An 18 hole Iron Age planter carousel wheel (only need one, but would take additional for backup). Part number P172. The 15 hole is part P162. Please call Matt Cogger (715)525-1643 about any information regarding this item.

## 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. 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 exists (widespread 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. Please contact the office with any questions.