

# BADGER MEMO



September 2022

## Winter Test Sample Collection

### Inside This Issue

- 1 Winter Test Collection
- 1 Diagnostic Lab Update
- 2 Administrative Update
- 2 Tissue Culture Lab Update
- 3 BRR Submission Form

Winter test sample collection will be done on Wednesday October 26, 2022. Please bring your winter test samples to Servco FS main office loading dock between the hours of 12:00 pm to 4:30pm. Please call field inspector in advance if you cannot make the scheduled delivery period.

**Submit samples containing only 400 high quality tubers to ensure that all of the tubers you send can be planted and will grow normally. You must submit one 400-tuber sample for each 50 acres comprising an individual seed lot. The maximum number of samples required for a particular lot is four (1600 tuber). The breakdown is as follows:**

| <u>Seed Lot Size</u> | <u>No. of Samples</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Up to 50 acres       | 1 (400 tubers)        |
| 51 to 100 acres      | 2 (800 tubers)        |
| 101 to 150 acres     | 3 (1200 tubers)       |
| 151 to more acres    | 4 (1600 tubers)       |

PLEASE KEEP THE SAMPLES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE TO KEEP THE TUBERS FROM GOING INTO DEEP DORMANCY.

A few days before the samples are to be delivered to us, "grade" the tubers set aside down to a uniform-sized 400-tuber sample. The use of mesh bags is to increase the exposure of dormancy breaking gas to the tubers when they are already palletized. Use zip ties to ensure close bags. Be sure to attach the identification tag supplies to you. Please return any tags for lots that will not be sent to Florida.

Please pay close attention to the size of the tubers in your samples. Tubers larger than 2 inches (in any dimension – chose blocky russets!) may clog the planter we use, while those smaller than 1 ½ inches often result in small or weak plants in the field.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call us at the Certification Office.

## Diagnostic Lab Update

With harvest season upon us, we would like to remind everyone that the WI Seed Potato Certification Program Diagnostic Laboratory can now accept bacterial ring rot (BRR) samples for lots being shipped within the US or exported out of the Country. In addition, Dickeya sp. and D. dianthicola testing can be performed on the same 400-tuber sample.

As part of our new accreditation requirements, if a lot is being exported and requires a BRR test please contact your certification inspector as the 400-tuber sample will need to be collected by program staff. Staff will ensure lots collected are promptly delivered to the diagnostic lab. If the lot is being shipped within the US, growers can collect the BRR sample and submit to the certification office or directly to the diagnostic lab. Please note there are not specific sample collection requirements for Dickeya sp. or D. dianthicola samples. All results will be kept confidential and released to the sample submitter via the diagnostic lab.

The diagnostic lab staff asks that individuals submitting a 400-tuber sample fill out a diagnostic submission form. This form will be distributed with harvest tags but is also available on the program website: <https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu/potato-tissue-culture-lab/potato-tissue-culture-lab-services-2/>

If additional sample ID space is needed, please feel free to attach additional documentation.

Please reach out to Brooke Babler (608) 886-6352 with any questions.

## Administrative Updates by Amanda Gevens

Over this past year, the Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program (WSPCP) has weathered several changes across multiple facets of our program. As we continue to make the omelet from cracked eggs, we keep our mission out in the front to lead our decision-making as we advance our contemporary program. Our mission: **to provide potato farmers with seed potato planting stock that is healthy and without varietal mixture.**

We have a strong inspection team with expert knowledge and agency to continue developing innovative approaches to improve anomaly detection in sustaining the highest quality seed. Over the past few years, this team including Dianna Kessler, Jim Meyer, Kevin Bula, and Cole Lubinski has seen the addition of Niles Franc, and we are planning for additional hiring in this area to continue building our inspection capacity. Our headquarters office remains in downtown Antigo and is under the sound coordination of Josie Spurgeon.

We have an expert tissue culture and diagnostic laboratory which features state-of-the-art diagnostic and propagation techniques to both ensure that the seed crop is clean and that the integrity of potato culture remains sound. Under the stellar direction of Program Manager Brooke Babler and her expert staff including Sarah DeVeer and campus partners, the lab has successfully moved into temporary space at the Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center (WCIC). Please recall that the UW-Madison Biotron facility (our home for many decades) was aging and could no longer support our work. We are grateful to the Wisconsin growers, the WSPCP, the Department of Plant Pathology, the UW-Madison CALS, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education of UW-Madison for financially supporting this necessary transition. The move required renovation to the WCIC which should be completed in November 2022.

We have greenhouse and field resources to grow clean and earliest generation potato crops to serve the commercial industry. We continue to commit to minituber production and maintenance with our WSPCP program staff, and we are finalizing our new public-private partnership to grow early generation seed and store seed potatoes at the Lelah Starks Farm in Rhineland. While the agronomic management will change, the mission remains the same. We value this new partnership and appreciate the work and investment it takes to make such change. In this farming domain, we have lost several staff members over the past few months including Matthew Cogger, Bob Arndt, and most recently Alex Crockford. We appreciate the contributions of these employees over the years and we wish them well in their next professional endeavors. We are grateful for the commitment of our current program staff who are continuing to serve our mission. They are putting in extra hours and creativity to push on through to harvest and storage. Additionally, we have been honored to have the continued support of Keith Bennett, Sean Malone, and our seasonal help (new and returning) as well as several former and retired employees including Jerry Kuczumski and George Neuber, who will help us in harvesting this year's beautiful crop. Last but not least, thank you to our grower and industry partners for your ongoing support and grace in every aspect of this program's work.

## Tissue Culture Lab Update

The tissue culture laboratory recently completed their move to the Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center (WCIC) located in Middleton, WI which is approximately 20 min from the UW-Madison campus. The tissue culture collection is currently being maintained in a temporary space within WCIC, while renovations on the new lab space are underway. The renovation timeline is on schedule with a completion date being end of November. The staff is very excited about the new space and looking forward to moving in December.





## Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Program

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of Plant Pathology  
Tissue Culture & Diagnostic Laboratory

8520 University Green  
Middleton, WI 53562

Phone: (608) 886-6352  
brooke.babler@wisc.edu

### Sample Diagnostic Submission Form

#### Submitter Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Billing Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Samples Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Identification Info: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Common Testing Services Available: (Circle one or more)

☐ **BRR** (Bacterial Ring rot)-200 tuber sample size

☐ **Dickeya sp./D. dianthicola**-25 tuber sample size

☐ **PVY Dormant Tuber** (IC-PCR)-10 tuber sample size

☐ **Pectobacterium sp./P. parmentieri**-10 tuber sample size

☐ **P. caro subsp. caro/P. atrosepticum**-plant tissue

☐ **Other Potato Viruses** (ex: PLRV, TRV, PMTV, PVS, PVX, PVM, TSWV) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Dickeya sp./D. dianthicola**-100 tuber sample size

☐ **Dickeya sp./D. dianthicola**-plant tissue

☐ **PVY ELISA leaf**-10 leaf sample size

☐ **Pectobacterium sp./P. parmentieri**-plant tissue

Additional information/testing requests: