



## 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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## Out of State Lots need to meet WI Certification Standards

All out of state seed lots being shipped into Wisconsin to be planted on seed grower farms must meet Wisconsin Certification Standards, specifically the seed lot must be certified, had a post-harvest test, and PVY levels were found to be at or below 0.5%. Please provide the North American Health Certificate to the certification office prior to shipping of the seed lot. If you have any questions, please contact program staff.

## Certification Program Updates

We officially moved into our **new office location at 106 7th Avenue in Antigo** on January 1st, which is known to many as 'Frisch's Greenhouses'. Please direct any questions, samples and mailing to this address.

With the growing season underway, we want to inform you that **2025 certification acreage fees will be increasing.**

- A \$47.00/acre fee will be charged for seed lots over 5 acres, a \$1.00 increase per acre from last year.
- A set fee of \$235.00 will be charged for seed lots 0.26 to 5 acres, a \$5.00 increase from last year.
- A set fee of \$125.00 will be charged for seed lots 0.25 acres or less, a \$25.00 increase from last year.

To help absorb increasing costs for tag printing supplies, we are increasing the cost of a printed tag to **5 cents per tag on July 1st, 2025**. Although we are implementing a price increase, we want to thank WPVGA for their continued support in maintaining and replacing our tag printers with the goal of keeping tag printing costs low.

As we continue to navigate elevated PVY levels in Wisconsin, we updated our website to include information on obtaining a 'variance' or 'waiver' for select seed lots. Please see the link below and feel free to use this as a reference to access and learn more about the variance and waiver documents.

<https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu/obtaining-seed-potatoes/request-a-variance/>

## Nuclear Greenhouse Production



For several years, our greenhouse nuclear seed, comprised of mini tubers grown hydroponically and seed pieces grown via potted production have been offered at a price of **\$0.55** per unit. To combat increasing costs and ensure the continuance of this service, we will be increasing the

cost of nuclear seed to **\$0.60** per unit starting with spring 2027 orders. Note that any nuclear seed orders submitted for delivery in spring 2025 or 2026 season will be billed at **\$0.55** per unit.

In support of our program's goals to modernize WSPCP services and improve tracking of nuclear grown seed requests, we updated our website to contain detailed information regarding our greenhouse nuclear services and warranties along with an online ordering platform.

We also welcome requests for new varieties that you would like our program to grow and are not currently available through our program. Please feel free to contact us with any questions regarding your nuclear seed needs.

<https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu/lelah-starks-elite-foundation-seed-potato-farm-2/>

## Diagnostics

Program staff are continuing to expand our diagnostic services. Validation is currently underway to optimize PCR assays to test for various pathogens, with focus on testing for PVY and PLRV within a single PCR test. Information on our testing services has been updated on our website, along with an online submission form if you are interested in utilizing these services. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any diagnostic questions. We are happy to navigate your needs.

<https://seedpotato.russell.wisc.edu/potato-tissue-culture-lab/potato-tissue-culture-lab-services-2/>

## Greenhouse Update



**We are excited to have nuclear material available to fulfill all 2025 spring nuclear seed orders. The team has been working diligently to size and distribute this material to all entities that placed an order with our program this spring. In preparation of filling spring 2026 orders, all four greenhouses are currently in production with the team focused on harvesting. We also are gearing up to start another production cycle in July to ensure we stay on track to fulfill 2026 spring nuclear seed orders.**

## Inspector Contact Info

Di Kessler - 715-610-2640

Cole Lubinski - 715-350-1691

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Kevin Gallenberg - 715-216-5552

## New Employee - Keith Bennett

We'd like to welcome new employee Keith Bennett to the greenhouse production team in Rhinelander. Keith worked at the Lela Starks Foundation Seed Potato Farm for two years assisting with field work, planting, spraying, harvesting, and equipment maintenance prior to joining our team this spring. Welcome Keith!

WSPCP is asking for a used forklift donation that would be utilized at our Antigo Greenhouse/Office location. If anyone has any leads, please contact us at the office. Thanks!

Contact Us



**Wisconsin Seed Potato Certification Office**

106 7th Ave

Antigo, WI 54409

715-623-4039

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