

# Merry Christmas from the Potato Lab

[www.montanaspud.org](http://www.montanaspud.org)



December, 2010

## Planting the Hawaii Post Harvest Test

On November 16, Nina Zidack and Elaine Nichols headed to Oahu to plant the winter test. The plots are located at Twin Bridge Farms on the North shore for the second year. We were able to get all of our prep work done on November 17. John Venhuizen met up with us early on the 18<sup>th</sup> and performed some minor alterations to the planter, and we were able to start planting that morning. We put in an extra long day due to a rainy forecast, which resulted in just enough rain to settle the dust. Planting resumed on the 19<sup>th</sup> and finished in record time. We received special assistance from Elaine's sister Paula who helped us dip the potatoes before planting, and organized the tags by row so we have a back-up planting record for the plot plan. The soil preparation was very good and the planter worked perfectly, uniformly covering all of the samples. Eileen Carpenter and Nina Zidack will return to Oahu on December 29 to get the crew started on leaf picking and perform the readings. Please call the lab if you are thinking of visiting and we will send you directions and a map to the farm.



Elaine Nichols flagging plots



John Venhuizen and crew planting the potatoes

## Come one Come All to the Holiday Open House

On Wednesday, December 15, the potato lab staff will be hosting an open house for all current student employees, summer workers, grower's kids who are attending MSU, and any family members who would like to come. We want to thank student employees for their incredible service to the lab and the growers, and visit with them before they head home for Christmas break. We also hope that your kids will have a chance to become better acquainted with members of other seed potato families from around the state. Please come celebrate the season with us.

## Late Blight Testing for Potatoes Going to CO

All potato seed shipped to the San Luis Valley of Colorado must be tested for late blight. This test requires a 3-week incubation period so please get samples to us ASAP if you are planning on shipping seed to this area.

## **Bill Cottom, Don Bradshaw and Lucy Cooke Honored at Seed Seminar**

The 2010 seed seminar provided a great opportunity to honor a few folks that have provided exceptional service to the Montana seed potato industry. Bill Cottom was recognized for 30 years of service as an MPIA board member and presented with an MPIA jacket. Lucy Cook (unable to attend) and Don



**Bill and Dixie Cottom**

Bradshaw were honored for 25 and 15 years as inspectors. Lucy received an MPIA coat and Don received an MPIA vest.

## **Weather Monitoring and Disease Forecasting Workshop – February 16, 2010**

As a follow-up to the presentation by Dr. Leonard Coop at the November Seed Potato Seminar, we will be holding a workshop on weather monitoring, disease forecasting and disease control in Missoula on February 16 from 10:30AM to 3:00 PM. The weather monitoring and disease forecasting portion will be very hands on with Dr. Coop providing training on how to use the USPest web resources, and how to make the most effective use of our weather station data. In addition, Dr. Barry Jacobsen will provide a disease and aphid control presentation with updated pesticide recommendations. Please bring your laptop computers to the workshop. Registration materials will be distributed in January. Pesticide applicator credits will be available for both commercial and private applicators.

## **2011 MPIA Elections**

Elections for directors for the following districts need to be held by March 15, 2011. Districts 1b and 1c (Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders), district 2 (Beaverhead, Deerlodge, Madison, Granite, Powell, Silverbow) and district 3a (Big Horn, Blaine, Broadwater, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Gallatin, Garfield, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis

& Clark, Liberty, McCone, Meagher, Musselshell, Park, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Teton, Toole, Treasure, Valley, Wheatland, Wibaux and Yellowstone). These positions are currently held by Jack Lake, Steve Streich, Steve Cottom, and John Venhuizen. Please have nominations to the Potato Lab by February 15.

## **Exporting to Canada**

Please remember that all potato seed exported to Canada must be PCN tested. Also, seed going to Prince Edward Island needs to have a leaf roll test from the winter grow-out. If you are sending seed to Prince Edward Island, please contact Susie to arrange for leaf roll testing.

## **GMO Test**

*You must call the lab and request GMO testing.* The MSU Potato Lab will provide GMO testing services. The lab can use the leaves from the Hawaii test, or you can submit tuber samples. The cost of testing tubers is much higher. Take advantage of the cost by testing the leaves from Hawaii. Costs of GMO tests will be as follows:

Leaves - GMO test is \$45 per sample.

Tubers - GMO test is \$220 per sample.

The leaves will be here right after the New Year, so let Susie know now if you want GMO testing. Talk to your buyers to see if they require this test.

## **NEWS FLASH**

Call Elaine and confirm which new varieties you would like the lab to obtain for you. If the lines are PVP it may take longer to receive the plants.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 31**

**January 15**

**February 15-16**

**February 16**

**Plantlet order due**

**Summer Testing fees due**

**MPIA Board Meeting -  
Missoula**

**Workshop - Missoula**