

News from the Potato Lab



March 2010

MPIA Board Honors Mike and Anna Sun

After the MPIA Board Meeting on February 8, the MPIA Directors and Potato Lab Staff honored Mike and Anna Sun for their years of dedication to the Montana Seed Potato Certification Program. Bill Kimm presented Mike with a plaque thanking him for his 30 years of dedicated service and Susie Siemsen presented him with a plaque thanking him for his contributions to the Potato Association of

America's Certification Committee. Mike was also presented with a watch and Anna was given a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The MPIA board voted to give Mike and Anna a \$1,000 gift for their years of exemplary service and dedication to the Montana growers.



Mike and Anna are enjoying their retirement and have been spending time with their daughter Joanie and her family (including a new granddaughter) in San Diego, CA. They have also been taking some well earned vacations. They visited Hawaii in November and will take a Mediterranean cruise this spring. Mike enjoys every opportunity to visit with growers about their crop and hopes to see many of you this spring during shipping and planting. Good luck Mike and Anna and enjoy your well-earned retirement!

Time to start planning for the 2011 crop

Elaine is already making preparations for the production of microtubers for the 2011 crop. Order forms will be sent out soon to growers who purchased microtubers in previous years. **Please place your order by March 31, 2010.**



Mike and Anna Sun with MPIA Board and Potato Lab Staff

Survey underway for Pest Management Strategic Plan for Seed Potatoes in the Western States

By now you should have received a survey in the mail on your pest management practices for your farm. A Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) is being developed for seed potatoes in the Western Region because of the unique IPM issues that confront certified seed potato producers and the fact that no PMSP has been developed to address this important Western Region crop. PMSPs set the research agenda for both regional and national IPM grant programs and play a major role with EPA in determining needs for new pesticide registrations or why established registrations should be maintained. This survey is a critical part of developing a PMSP for western region seed potatoes. The data from this survey will be summarized and used by growers and university potato IPM experts at a late April meeting in Salt Lake City to develop the PMSP for western region seed potato production. Your input is critical to be sure that problems and IPM practices used throughout the region are represented in the final

PMSP. If you haven't taken the time to fill out the survey, please do so, either online or using the paper form. **All answers are anonymous and will only be aggregated by state. You may fill this survey out on this paper and return in the attached pre-stamped envelope or you may fill it out on the web at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/seedpotato.** The results from the survey will be synthesized and the Pest Management Strategic plan will be outlined at a workshop in Salt Lake City on April 30. This workshop will be attended by Certification managers, Extension Specialists and Growers from California, Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Oregon. Montana will be represented by Nina Zidack, Barry Jacobsen and Dan Dyk.

Dan Dyk starts term as President of MPIA

Due to a change in the districting patterns last year, we have started a new rotation of officers for MPIA. Jack Lake, who served as Vice President this past year with President Steve Streich, gets a reprieve from the hot seat and Dan Dyk will step into the chair as the Director representing District 3C. Our new rotation of officers will be:

- District 3C - Dan Dyk, President
- District 2 - Bill Cottom, Vice President
- District 1A - Roger Starkel
- District 3A - John Venhuizen
- District 1B - Jack Lake
- District 3B - Sid Schutter
- District 1C - Steve Streich

Steve Streich reports on 2010 Potato Industry Leadership Institute

Greetings to everyone from the Flathead Valley! I just wanted to say thank you to all the Montana Potato Growers for allowing me to attend the 2010 Potato Industry Leadership Institute. The program exceeded even my high expectations. This is an awesome opportunity for personal growth and industry networking. On that note I would like to encourage anyone who might be interested in attending the 2011 leadership institute to let Nina know as soon as possible so you can be considered for 2011. In the past few years the MPIA board has struggled to find willing participants. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Just give me a call. Thank you again. It was an honor to represent Montana at the 2010 Leadership Institute.



Dan Lake, Steve Streich and Sid Schutter. Dan and Sid were in DC attending an NPC meeting



Steve Streich with Montana Senators Baucus and Tester

Acreage Fees Reduced for 2010 Crop

Acreage fees for the 2010 crop have been reduced by \$2.00 per acre. The rate for this crop year will be \$50.00 per acre for acres to be certified as **Nuclear and G1**, and \$41.00 per acre for acres to be certified as **G2, G3 and G4**.