

# News from the Potato Lab

September, 2009



## Montana Seed Potato Seminar

The 2009 Seed Seminar will be held at the Red Lion Inn in Helena on November 3-4. The Montana Growers meeting is Tuesday AM, November 3, followed by a United Potato Growers presentation from 12noon-2PM. Representatives from the NPC, Tri-State and UPB will round out the afternoon. A reception will be held late Tuesday afternoon at the Montana Historical Museum. On Wednesday morning, we will have Dr. Phil Nolte and Dr. Juan Alvarez from the University of Idaho talking about virus vectors, PVY and PVA. At 11AM the keynote address will be delivered by Lyle Knight, CEO and president of First Interstate Bank. In the afternoon we will have 3 speakers and a panel discussion on storage issues with Dr. Rick Knowles, WSU, Vaughn Hopkins, IVI, and Dr. Barry Jacobsen, MSU. The banquet Wednesday evening will feature entertainment by Ken Overcast.

## 2009 Potato Harvest

Harvest of the 2009 crop is underway. Many growers have completed digging of their seed plots and are beginning on their G2-G4 fields. With long-range warm and dry forecasts, we hope that all farmers get their crop in before hard frost.



Dennis Day harvesting nuclear generation



Art Mangels crew harvesting nuclear generation

## 2009 Post Harvest Test

The 2009 Hawaii Post Harvest Test will be planted at Twin Bridge Farms in North Oahu, HI. This is an asparagus farm located in Waialua near an old sugar mill. Planting will be conducted November 16-20 by Nina Zidack and Susie Siemsen. Leaf picking and evaluations will commence on December 28 with Nina and Eileen Carpenter, and Susie will begin the lab testing on January 5. If you have plans to visit the Hawaii plots, please give Nina a call.

## MT Department of Ag Proposing Fee Increase for Shipping Point Inspections

On September 2, 2009, department staff held a conference call with the Montana Potato Improvement Association (MPIA) Board of Directors. Department staff present were Ron de Yong, Greg Ames, Andy Gray, and Larry Krum. On the call representing MPIA were Nina Zidack, Steve Streich, John Venhuizen, Jack Lake, and Roger

Starkel. The discussion involved the need for a fee increase of \$0.02 per produce unit for the Federal-State Inspection (FSI) program and the justification of that increase. It was decided that a fee increase was necessary to balance expenditures and revenue, and that the rule amendments be published for comments prior to the MPIA meeting on November 3, 2009. The timing of the publishing was so that MPIA members could be informed of the rule hearing and the comment period. While the MPIA Board of Directors was hesitant to embrace the fee increase without discussions with their membership, they supported the increase and recognized the justification. Staff from the MT Department of Ag will present the reason for the fee increase at the MPIA growers meeting on November 3. Any fee increases must also be approved by Governor Schweitzer. Governor approval or denial may take up to 4 weeks.

#### Calendar of Events

**October 22 – Ronan/Dillon/Fort Benton**

Post Harvest Samples collected

**October 23 – Gallatin Valley**

Post Harvest Samples collected

Westervelt Trucking, Belgrade

**October 30 – Payment due for microtubers and tissue culture plantlets**

**November 2 – MPIA Board Meeting, Advisory Committee, Research Committee**

**November 3-4 – Montana Seed Potato Seminar, Helena, MT**

#### Seed Directory in Preparation

Montana seed potato acreage is up slightly this year with 10,333 acres certified. Leaf testing and inspections have proven the 2009 crop to be of excellent health throughout the state.

Overall, PVY levels were very low and 99.9% of acreage was certified in the class in which it was registered. The acreages for individual varieties are reported in the following table.

#### 2009 MONTANA SEED POTATO CROP

	Sum Of Acres
A88338-1 (Gallatin)	56.900
ALL BLUE	0.754
ALL RED	1.110
ALPINE RUSSET	19.420
ALTURAS	642.510
AMISK	118.050
ASTERIX	4.100
BILDSTAR	18.900
BINTJE	30.000
BLAZER RUSSET	5.030
CAL WHITE	44.610
CARIBE	0.184
CHERRY RED	11.914
CLASSIC RUSSET	14.120
COLORADO ROSE	7.660
GERMAN BUTTERBALL	0.440
HIGHLAND RUSSET	67.900
INNOVATOR	70.100
MAZAMA	10.506
NORLAND	6.710
NORLAND 'DARK RED'	81.364
NORLAND 'RED'	12.000
PREMIER RUSSET	64.588
PURPLE PELISSE	0.500
RANGER RUSSET	1431.880
RED PONTIAC	0.904
RIO GRANDE	71.150
RUSSET BURBANK	4741.340
RUSSET NORKOTAH	696.920
R. NORKOTAH CO(3)	244.160
R. NORKOTAH CO(8)	9.500
R. NORKOTAH TX(112)	130.940
R. NORKOTAH TX(278)	162.640
SANGRE	2.640
SATINA	16.300
SHEPODY	26.400
UMATILLA	1306.440
VICTORIA	55.050
VIKING 'PURPLE'	1.620
WESTERN RUSSET	38.700
YUKON GEM	16.090
YUKON GOLD	90.066
MISC.	1.781
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>10333.891</b>