

Prince Edward Island

January/February 2018

Volume 19, Issue 1

POTATO NEWS



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Prince Edward Island
POTATO NEWS

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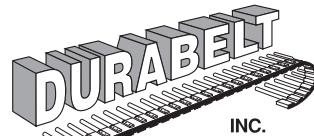
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Chairman's Comments

by Darryl Wallace, PEI Potato Board Chairman

I am pleased to have been elected as Chairman of the Board for the coming year. It is challenging position and I welcome any feedback from growers on how the Board can represent you and act in your best interests.

The first Board meeting of the New Year was held on January 18, 2018. At that meeting we met with newly appointed PEI Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Rob Henderson and Deputy Minister John Jamieson. We had an opportunity to welcome the Minister to his new portfolio and communicate our priorities and interest in working with him on provincial issues facing PEI potato growers.

On January 24, Assistant General Manager Brenda Simmons, and I attended a meeting with the federal Minister of Agriculture, Lawrence MacAulay. We were able to raise the following priorities with him and request his support on these items as we enter the new year:

Market Access for Canadian/PEI Potatoes:

PEI potato producers value the important US market, but we continue to seek new and expanded export markets in order to diversify our sales and reduce reliance on a single market. We've identified South Korea and Japan as being of high interest and potential, and we'd appreciate Minister MacAulay's support to direct federal resources towards accessing those markets for Canadian potatoes.

Export Market Development:

We have appreciated the funding support we received over the past few years through the Agri-Marketing Program for Potatoes Canada activities to support export market development for the Canadian Potato sector. We asked for the Minister's support in obtaining the budget through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership that we need to continue to be effective in our efforts.



Research:

We have developed some good partnerships with AAFC in recent years, and need to do more. We indicated to the Minister that we would appreciate his support for our new national Potato Research Cluster so that we can conduct this important work, much of it in collaboration with AAFC research scientists, for the next five years.

Cost Recovery:

This issue looms large in terms of potential impact on the competitiveness of our farms. Cost recovery could increase CFIA fees substantially, and the impact will be severe. We asked for his help in protecting our competitiveness going forward.

PMRA:

We feel PMRA's mandate, which no longer requires the Agency to consider the impact of its decisions on the competitiveness of farmers, is putting us off-side with U.S. farmers and those in other competing areas. We asked that Minister MacAulay push to have the competitiveness of Canadian farmers be given strong consideration in how PMRA functions. We did thank him for PMRA's decision to extend the use of Capture for a further 3 years.

Freight Tolerances:

The issue of differing freight tolerances across the country impacts everything we ship from PEI (and everything we bring into our province by truck), so it impacts all Island businesses as well as consumers. Weight limits can 30% lower in Quebec than in PEI meaning trucks are unable to carry full loads. This is inefficient and should be addressed.

Carbon Pricing:

Similar to the trucking issue, we see the imposition of carbon pricing, and the patchwork approach by different provinces to meeting the federal mandate, as harming our competitiveness. We asked for the Minister's support in helping us to find ways to mitigate this.

In conclusion we thanked Minister MacAulay for his hard work on our behalf and expressed our hope that he will continue in his efforts on behalf of PEI and all Canadian farmers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darryl Wallace".



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POTATO BOARD NEWS

PEI Board Directors

The Potato Board welcomes new Director Chad Robertson - the Tablestock representative from Souris-Montague district. Chad farms in eastern PEI with his brother Brad and his father Marvyn under the farm name Marvyn's Garden. He and Brad are also partners in East Point Potato, a packing operation in that region.



Chad has been helping on the farm since he was a boy and has been at it full-time for fourteen years. The Robertsons have grown potatoes in all sectors - seed, table and processing over the years and just this past year made the decision to commit fully to the tablestock market. This breadth of experience gives Chad a good perspective as he participates in Board meetings on behalf of the growers in his district.

Chad and his wife Jennifer live on the Munns Road in Eastern PEI where they work and are busy raising their two boys who are 4 and 6.

Capture Registration

The PEI industry was pleased to learn in late December that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has granted a three year extension for the use of Capture 240EC (bifenthrin) on potatoes. The final permitted use by growers is for the 2020 crop. The registrant, FMC, has advised us that it will do extensive environmental research to gather data needed to enable PMRA to re-assess the designation it has given Capture so that it may remain on the market beyond 2020. For now, we have the three year extension to provide time for that to occur. The Board also is continuing to fund research on wireworm control that hopefully will lead to better understanding and control of this extremely damaging pest.

The direct responses from growers and other industry members who took the time to contact PMRA directly during the consultation phase of the review on Capture was very helpful. PMRA's decision document recognized the aggressive species (*Agriotes sputator*) we are dealing with in PEI, and the economic impact assessment the Board provided to PMRA regarding the costs and losses in PEI due to wireworm. The Board worked hard to address PMRA's criteria for "critical use" of this product, and we appreciated the time PMRA took to meet in Ottawa with representatives of the Canadian Potato Council to hear in person our concerns. Alvin Keenan, in his role as Chair of the Canadian Horticultural Council, also participated in that meeting and did an excellent job conveying the concerns of growers regarding this pest. Ministers MacAulay and Henderson are very much aware of the threat posed to agriculture in PEI by wireworm, and they also supported us in our efforts to retain the use of Capture for as long as is possible. We thank them, as well as Wayne Easter and our other MPs.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please give us a call at the Board office or send an email.

Freight Tolerances/Trade Barriers Within Canada

It has always been a challenge to access enough trucks to carry our potatoes to market, but the supply of trucks has become much tighter the past twelve months. The US economic recovery, the weather disasters in the US and subsequent rebuilding, a reduced supply of drivers and the introduction of e-logs in the US are all contributing to the shortage.

All of these things make it critical that we make full use of the trucks we can access. However, differing freight tolerances across Canada, and in particular, in Quebec, are impeding this. Quebec's freight allowances can be as much as 30% below those in the rest of Eastern Canada, and as our trucks have to travel through Quebec to get to Central Canadian markets and beyond, we have to load them below capacity in order to meet Quebec highway tolerances. This is bad for the

An advertisement for Gemini Promotional Products. It features a large "2017" graphic at the top. Below it, there are four rows of promotional items: 1) Six water bottles in green, white, grey, orange, black, and blue. 2) Four beanies in red, grey, blue, and yellow. 3) Five pens in blue, red, black, orange, and brown. 4) Four jackets in dark blue, red, brown, and grey. At the bottom left is the "Gemini" logo with the text "SCREEN PRINT & EMBROIDERY your promotional solution company". To the right is a circular graphic with the text "Check out our full line of products at Geminipei.com". At the bottom right is the "CANADA 150" logo with a stylized maple leaf.

environment and adds a great deal of additional cost to our loads.

The PEI Potato Board uses every opportunity to bring attention to the environmental and economic inefficiencies occurring on a daily basis due to differing freight allowances across Canada. We've raised this issue via a resolution through the Canadian Horticultural Council and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and obtained their support, and in January last week we raised it for discussion at the Canadian Free Trade Agreement regulatory cooperation council table. It was also discussed with Minister Lawrence MacAulay during our recent meeting with him. The issue impacts everything we ship from PEI (and everything we bring into our province by truck), so it impacts all Island businesses as well as consumers.

The imposition of a patchwork of carbon pricing initiatives across Canada further increases costs and adds additional urgency to the need to address barriers to the efficient use of trucks in our country.

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Paul MacPhail Potato Industry Scholarship Winner 2017

The PEI Potato Board would like to congratulate Melanie Wood, winner of the 2017 Paul MacPhail Potato Industry Award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize an undergraduate student studying in the agriculture field and who has shown an interest in the betterment of the potato industry.

Melanie is in her final semester of the Bachelor of Science program at Dalhousie Agricultural College with a major in Plant Science. She has spent the past several summers with Dr. Rick Peters at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Station in Charlottetown working on a variety of potato research projects. Melanie is the daughter of Carolyn and Reuel Wood of Clyde River. Melanie (below right) was presented with her award by Associate Dean Academic Dr. Emmanuel Yiridoe.



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Ag Sector Council Awards

The PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister's Dedication to Agriculture Award

On January 26th, the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister's Dedication to Agriculture Award for 2017 was presented to Mr. Sherman MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald was nominated by his current employers, George and Bert Webster of Webster Bros. of Kinkora.

"In our industry, it is difficult to retain skilled employees who have the ability to manage our farm as we would. To have an individual as skilled, dedicated and loyal as Sherman is truly an asset to our farm and the agriculture industry," say the Webster's in their nomination.



Mr. Sherman MacDonald is presented with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister's Dedication to Agriculture Award by the Honourable Rob Henderson.

In 1978, Sherman became part of the team on the farm and has been employed there ever since. He has become an extremely valuable and important part the business. He has never missed a day of work, has never been late and is an independent team member who never has to be told what needs to be done. He can turn his hand to any required task and is an excellent equipment operator.

During his forty consecutive years of employment, his abilities have contributed tremendously to the success of the Websters' farm. Sherman consistently brings a happy

disposition, an excellent work ethic and an invaluable skill set to the farm each and every day.

Sherman was born and raised in Searletown, PEI. He and his wife, Ruth have two children and 4 grandchildren.

"Sherman is a true example of a dedicated and committed employee, whom we value more than words can say."

PEI Agriculture Employee of the Year

The 2017 PEI Agriculture Employee of the year was awarded to Mr. Alfred "Freddie" Richard. Mr. Richard was nominated by his current employer, John, Adam and Bradley Hogg of Klondike Farms of Summerside.

Freddie started working with George Hogg in 1963. He left the farm for a few years, but returned to them in 1984 and at the young age of 80, Freddie still continues to work with them part time.

Freddie is very devoted to the farming industry. As an equipment operator, truck driver, maintenance, carpentry and the list goes on... he has done it all! Freddie approaches his job as it was his own farm. He takes great pride in all the years of employment with the Hogg family.

In recent years, Freddie has returned to do field work in the spring and the fall. His love of the land is quite visible in his enthusiasm to get scratching in the spring and harvesting in the fall. Freddie has achieved the milestone of making his own hours, but continues to be a valuable asset to the operation.

Freddie is more than an employee; he is part of the family. He has worked beside three generations of the Hogg Family and no doubt could share stories about all of them... some good and some bad.....hopefully more good than bad! Even now he gets a kick out of seeing the little



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Freddie Richard receives the 2017 PEI Agriculture Employee of the Year Award sponsored by Kool Breeze Farms. The award is presented by Darryl Wallace, Chair of the PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

ones, the fourth generation, out and about on the farm.

PEI Agriculture Employer of the Year

The 2017 PEI Agriculture Employer of the year was awarded to Scott Drake, Steerman's Quality Meats of Vernon Bridge. Scott was nominated by Mitchell Vangorkum of Stratford.

Scott operates a mixed farm of cattle, hogs, turkeys, and chickens, and grows crops. The Drakes have been raising cattle for four generations and take pride in the



Scott Drake of Steerman's Quality Meats is presented with the 2017 PEI Agriculture Employer of the Year Award, sponsored by T&K Fire and Safety, by Darryl Wallace, Chair of the PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

meat they produce.

The nomination by Mitchell stated: "Being new to the Island and having special needs, Scott hired me as he recognized that I had talent to offer his meat shop/farm. As of my first day employed by Scott, he took me under his wing. Scott has the ability to understand and works with my strengths and weaknesses. Scott always takes the time to explain things to me; occasionally several times... he has an ocean of patience, encourages me and speaks highly of me."

Scott always makes sure whatever job I do, safety is first. Scott shows me first, and then helps me perform the task, then watches as I do it myself. We work really hard together and have time for some jokes and fun. I feel like part of the family and not only see Scott as a mentor, but also as a dad.

Scott never criticizes; he always encourages. He provides me with continuous education and coaches me regularly. He teaches me at my own pace and covers the slack as needed. There is nothing that I cannot discuss or share with Scott. Scott is the 'Salt of the Earth' and without him I could never have told this success story."

The awards were presented at the PEI Federation of Agriculture Banquet held at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown on Friday, January 26, 2018.

Photos provided by Mackinnon Photography.

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In Memoriam

David Randall Aiton

1951-2018

It was a shock to the potato industry to learn of the sudden passing of Dave Aiton on January 20, 2018. He died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, at the Provincial Palliative Care Centre in Charlottetown. Dave was only 66 years old.

Dave was enjoying a well deserved retirement after serving the agriculture industry in PEI for 43 years.

Dave originally hailed from New Brunswick and, after attending Nova Scotia Agricultural College, he returned home for a short period before he had the opportunity to move to Prince Edward Island. He worked in many different areas, but potatoes were the focus of the majority of his positions.

Dave worked until 1992 in extension in the Summerside district office. In 1992, he moved to Crop Insurance where he remained until 1997. During the industry's problems with PVY and Potato Leafroll Virus in the late 90's and early 2000's, Dave was involved with Agriculture Regulatory Services. He was there when the industry and Province worked together to put the mandatory post-harvest test in place. Many of us can remember Dave at the front of the room with his tables detailing potential seed availability for the different potato varieties at various virus cap levels. Dave left this position in the mid 2000's to become Manager of the Agriculture Insurance Corporation where he was involved with both Crop Insurance and AgriStability. Early on, he worked with the Seed Potato Industry to establish an insurance program that was affordable and recognized the value of seed. While not perfect, it helped many seed growers through years of high virus levels when the mandatory testing program and



Dave Aiton (right) receives a Potato Industry Certificate of Appreciation from then Potato Board Chairman Alex Docherty at the Board's Banquet in November 2015.

planting caps were initiated.

In all his positions throughout his long career, Dave worked with the best interests of the primary producer in mind. He was easy to talk with, showed genuine interest in cooperation and always did what he could within the confines of government to make the programs he was involved with useful and user friendly for potato producers.

Dave was a "cup half full" kind of guy and he always had an upbeat attitude. Since his retirement in 2015, Dave was enjoying playing golf with his regular group during the summer, getting into house appraisals on a part-time basis and enjoying some travelling with his wife Brenda.

Dave will be missed by all who knew him.



AAFC Potato Selection Release Open House

Each year the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Potato Breeding Program holds an Open House to showcase their advanced breeding lines. After the Open House, the lines are available to interested parties on the following basis:

- New AR2018 Accelerated Release selections from the Lethbridge and Fredericton Research & Development Centres are available for two years of non-exclusive evaluation.
- AR2016 series Accelerated Release selections available for three years of exclusive evaluation and the option to negotiate a commercial licence agreement (cash bid process).

This year the event in Atlantic Canada will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at the AAFC Fredericton Research Centre:

- 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. • View Selections
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. • Welcome • Potato Tasting
- 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. • Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. • Video Link with Lethbridge and Guelph Research & Development Centres for presentations by various potato industry and research specialists



Options to Renew Pesticide Applicators Licence

To maintain a Class A Pesticide Applicator License without retaking the exam, license holders must attend Day A & Day B sessions within every 5 year period. Only one day can be counted per year as this is a continuing education program.

DAY A

- February 13 Lane's Riverhouse Inn, Montague
March 20 Rodd Royalty, TCH Charlottetown

DAY B

- February 15 Lane's Riverhouse Inn, Montague
March 13 Rodd Royalty, TCH Charlottetown

Alternate options available to renew the Pesticide Class A Applicator Certificate:

OPTION 1 - One day training course with exam

Attend the one day training course and write the exam, which is delivered by the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This course is designed to prepare you for the exam by reviewing the Agricultural Training Manual.

2018 Schedule for one-day Course plus Exam

- January 31 Rodd Royalty, TCH Charlottetown
February 14 Mill River Resort, O'Leary
February 28 Loyalist Inn, Summerside
March 21 Rodd Royalty, TCH Charlottetown

OPTION 2 - Write the exam. Make an appointment with the Department of Land, Communities and Environment and write the exam.

For all options the 5-year certificate fee is \$75 HST included. The fee must be paid before the certificate will be issued. This is payable to the PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

2018 NPC Potato Expo

The 10th Annual National Potato Council Potato Expo was held in Orlando, Florida from January 10-12, 2018. The PEI Potato Board had a booth at the trade show accompanying the event which provided a good base for the large contingent of PEI growers and industry personnel who attended the event. The Orlando site was good location as many customers of PEI potatoes were there and there were many side meetings and business opportunities discussed.

The large trade show featured 159 exhibitors including products ranging from seed potatoes, proprietary varieties, packaging equipment, irrigation equipment, financial services and precision agriculture, to fertilizer and crop inputs and consulting services. We distributed seed directories at our booth and promotional items for PEI Potatoes. The trade show is also a good forum for renewing acquaintances across the North American potato industry and gaining valuable contacts who are knowledgeable on a wide variety of potato related topics.

The Innovation Hub, located in the tradeshow ballroom, hosted a series of short presentations to inform people about updates on new products or technology available to potato growers and reports on recent research findings and management strategies to control pests and disease. This included two presentations on potato nutrition research sponsored by APRE including "The Impact of Eating Potatoes at Breakfast on Cognition, Blood Glucose Response and Satiety in Children" and "Potatoes as a Nutrition Powerhouse: The Role of Potatoes in Improving Training & Exercise Performance."

The lunch time keynote speaker was Merrill Hoge, former NFL star, ESPN Analyst and cancer survivor who gave an inspiring talk on "finding a way" to overcome obstacles and inspire action to achieve your goals in your business and your personal life.

Breakout sessions took place on Thursday afternoon with presentations and discussion geared to specific sectors of the industry:



Chip Breakout

Freight was a topic for a panel discussion during the Chip Breakout session. It was reported that trucks, especially reefers, are in short supply. Several factors contributing to this shortage include the introduction of e-logs and the effect on driving time, the strong US economy leading to a strong demand for trucks, and retiring drivers. Freight rates are also apparently up 24% on average from a year ago.

Fresh Breakout

The changing retail landscape and the ways in which Millennials and 'Gen Zers' shop were a key focus of the Fresh Breakout session. A panel discussion also looked at 'Identifying the Source of Quality Issues in the Supply Chain' and 'Improving Communication and Collaboration on Potato Quality Between Potato Shippers and Retailers.'

Process Breakout

Millenials and Gen Zers and how they eat was also a topic of discussion in the Process Breakout sessions. There was a presentation sponsored by APRE on 'Advancing the Scientific Evidence on the Health Benefits of Potatoes.' The session was rounded out with presentations on the global expansion of the potato processing industry and an update on NAFTA.

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Seed Breakout

Dr. Neil Gudmestad from North Dakota State University gave a presentation on powdery scab, discussing factors leading to its increase in economic importance as a blemish disease on potatoes and as a vector of Potato Mop Top Virus. Lack of chemical control makes avoidance a critical method of controlling spread of this disease.

Dr. Dave Douches of Michigan State University and Shelley Jansky from the University of Wisconsin spoke about developments in a project that they are working on to develop F1 Hybrid parental lines for potatoes. This in-

bred -based system (similar to corn) would allow breeding with more predictable results of inclusion of desirable characteristics in new lines and introduce true potato seed into the seed propagation system.

Dr. Amy Charkowski, former Director of the Wisconsin Seed Certification Program and currently Professor of Plant Pathology at Colorado State University, provided updates on emerging pathogens Dickeya, Potato Mop Top Virus and Tobacco Rattle Virus. She then participated in a panel discussion of how seed certification programs can adapt to new pathogens and technologies to continue to help maintain a profitable seed production system.

United Potato Growers Business Summit

The 2018 United Business Summit sponsored by UPGA, UPGC and PMANA, was held in Orlando on January 10th, 2018. The session started with a presentation by Jesse Ausubel, Director, Program for the Human Environment at Rockefeller University speaking about Peak Farmland. His take home message is that agriculture is becoming more efficient and environmentally friendly. We are doing more with less - using more efficient varieties, using new technology and precision agriculture and increasing yield/acre and animal feed efficiency. This means land area needed to feed one person is decreasing. This was followed later in the agenda by information from Than Hartsock, Manager, Precision Ag Business Integration at John Deere. He said that with the continuing development of tractor sensors and wireless technology, their tag line is going from "Bigger, Faster, Stronger." to "Easier, Smarter, More Precise." Data collection and analysis is allowing farmers to apply inputs more efficiently and on an as needed basis.

For the most part, presentations at this forum looked at the current state of agriculture and potato markets.

Ross Johnson, Global Marketing Manager for Potatoes USA said that the Potatoes USA mission is simply to strengthen demand for U.S. Potatoes. He told the audience that they have seen five straight months of volume growth for fresh potatoes in the US. He encouraged people to look at facts, not myths. He said the 10 pound bag is not dead despite what we hear via the media. Four of the top 10 retail SKU's are 10 pound bags. When consumers have a bag of potatoes in the house they are able to include potatoes in

"The 10 lb bag is not dead"

a meal at short notice and are able to experiment with new recipes because they have potatoes on hand. He also spoke about convenience and agreed this is a definite priority

for consumers and an area of growth. However, we live in a world where potatoes both as a staple purchase and in convenient forms are important and an effective marketing plan should include both 10 pound and convenience packs.

Outlooks on various market segments were also provided during the morning session. Sterling Liddell, Senior Vice President, RaboAgriFinance, Rabobank provided a general economic outlook. Mike Smith, Senior Vice President, Growth and Strategy, Lamb Weston covered the outlook for the frozen potato market. He commented that the market for processed potatoes is continuing to grow. He pointed out the size of various markets and noted that North America is still, by a wide margin, the largest segment of the French Fry market and a 1% growth in this market is significant. North America continues to be a major driver of demand for the frozen French fry industry. He concluded with the thought that the industry needs to continue to pursue new markets, innovation and new marketing channels for frozen potato products to foster future growth.

Cedric Porter, Managing Editor of World Potato Markets provided an outlook on the potato situation in Europe and Mark Klompien of United Potato Growers of America provided an outlook on the fresh potato market.

He touched on factors of supply and pricing in the yellow, red and russet markets. UPGA data show the following Russet-Potato Supply/Price Correlation:

7% lower supply gives 39% greater return

He encouraged growers to use the Information Flow Through the UPGA's Database and Communication Systems including podcasts, text messages, E-newsletters, conference calls and meetings to help them determine market-supply needs and price points they need to maintain their profit margin.

Disposition and Holdings

	<u>CANADIAN HOLDINGS as of January 1 ('000 cwt)</u>				<u>17-18 vs. 16-17</u>
	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	
PEI	18,155	18,717	18,744	17,297	-7.7%
New Brunswick	9,611	10,750	9,027	11,671	29.3%
Nova Scotia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Maritimes	27,766	29,467	27,771	28,968	4.3%
Quebec	7,652	8,373	7,611	7,898	3.8%
Ontario	4,822	4,590	3,153	4,679	48.4%
Total Eastern Canada (inc. Maritimes)	40,240	42,430	38,535	41,545	7.8%
Manitoba	12,950	14,886	14,730	13,589	-7.7%
Saskatchewan	0	0	0	0	N/A
Alberta	13,912	15,073	13,364	15,916	19.1%
British Columbia	616	647	773	635	-17.9%
Total Western Canada	27,478	30,606	28,867	30,140	4.4%
CANADA TOTAL	67,718	73,036	67,402	71,685	6.4%

	<u>PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DISPOSITION as of December 31 (cwt)</u>				<u>17-18 vs. 16-17</u>
	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	
Production	25,240,000	24,850,000	25,723,000	23,664,000	-8.0%
Canadian Shipments	680,802	628,400	795,347	749,472	-5.8%
U.S. Shipments	777,714	738,757	1,058,633	1,004,580	-5.1%
Export Shipments	436,344	529,032	402,907	328,474	-18.5%
Total Fresh	1,894,860	1,896,189	2,256,887	2,082,526	-7.7%
Processing / Local Use	4,418,586	3,549,963	3,921,565	3,638,932	-7.2%
Seed for Next Crop	0	0	0	0	0
Cullage	771,179	687,007	800,582	645,113	-19.4%
Total Disposition as of December 31	7,084,625	6,133,160	6,979,034	6,366,571	-8.8%
Holdings at January 1	18,155,375	18,716,840	18,743,966	17,297,429	-7.7%

	<u>Projected Utilization as of January 1 (cwt)</u>				
	<u>Fresh</u>	<u>Processing</u>	<u>Seed</u>		
Fresh	5,109,790	5,117,655	5,021,283	4,118,779	-18.0%
Processing	11,078,071	11,584,188	11,657,369	11,334,408	-2.8%
Seed	1,967,515	2,014,997	2,065,314	1,844,242	-10.7%



Installing Soil Conservation Structures

by Jacob Larsen, Green Intern, PEI Potato Board

Soil health and conservation are of continuing priority for today's farmers who are working to improve both the productivity of their land and their environmental sustainability. On the soil conservation side there has been consistent work in Prince Edward Island over 35 years in the construction of grassed waterways, farmable berms, and diversion terraces with the help of many soil conservation programs, such as Growing Forward 2, and ongoing support through the Department of Agriculture's Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) program. The Alternative Land Use Services program offers an annual payment for conservation projects on private agricultural lands as long as they are maintained. The goals of the PEI ALUS program are to:

- Reduce soil erosion and siltation of watercourses and wetlands;
- Improve water quality;
- Improve and increase wildlife habitat; and
- Reduce the impacts of climate change

Field Assessment

Typically, farmers would approach the Department of Agriculture in search of assistance with fields where they have noted recurring problems with water flow and soil loss; however, the Department can also help growers identify fields in a proactive manner that have potential for problems because of topography. When a property is identified, the team from the Ag Resources Division will do an assessment of the field using Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

technology. GIS techniques using satellite imagery, aerial photography and topographical map information, identify areas of the field where soil erosion is occurring or has the potential to occur. Next, a property survey is completed using GPS and drone technology. The use of a drone provides a clearer overhead view of the field compared to GIS aerial photos which were last taken in 2010. Drones provide finer views of elevations and contours, can easily pick out signs of erosion in the field and identify areas of concentrated flow where potential problems could occur.

Preparing a Plan

The next step is to develop a soil conservation plan. The aim of the soil conservation plan is to reduce the total soil erosion to 3 tons per acre per year averaged over the entire rotation. When trying to predict soil erosion on a slope, the mathematical tool known as the RUSLE method is used. The Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation is the most widely accepted soil erosion tool in the industry and has been used for over 50 years. The information gathered in this way will help soil engineers to determine if a grassed waterway, farmable berm, or diversion terrace is best suited to address the issues in the field. GPS mapping is then used to determine exactly where the structure should be placed within the field.

Permits & Construction

The farmer is in charge of hiring a contractor to build the structure; however, the department will provide input and technical assistance on the construction of the project. The increased use of auto-steer equipment allows for very

precise measurements for where the waterway, berm, or diversion terrace will be constructed to be most effective and cause the least disruption to regular field operations.

The seeding operation involves applying highway seed mix, spring or winter cereal, and fertilizer. After seeding; jute mat, rock barriers, and other sediment reducing materials may be required. If a waterway will be running towards roads and ditches, a permit is needed from the Department of Highways. A permit from the Department of Environment is also needed if a structure will be located in a buffer zone.

Maintenance

Once constructed, the farmer is in charge of maintaining the structure. This mainly includes mowing the grass and ensuring the structural integrity of the berm, waterway, or terrace. There is a cost associated with this and that is where ALUS comes in. The annual payment growers receive from the ALUS program help with the costs of maintaining these structures and with the losses in efficiency of field operations that may be a result of the new structure.

Areas of Concentrated Flow – Sign up Now to Participate

Of all the tools identified above, grassed waterways are one of the easiest and most effective soil conservation methods to implement.

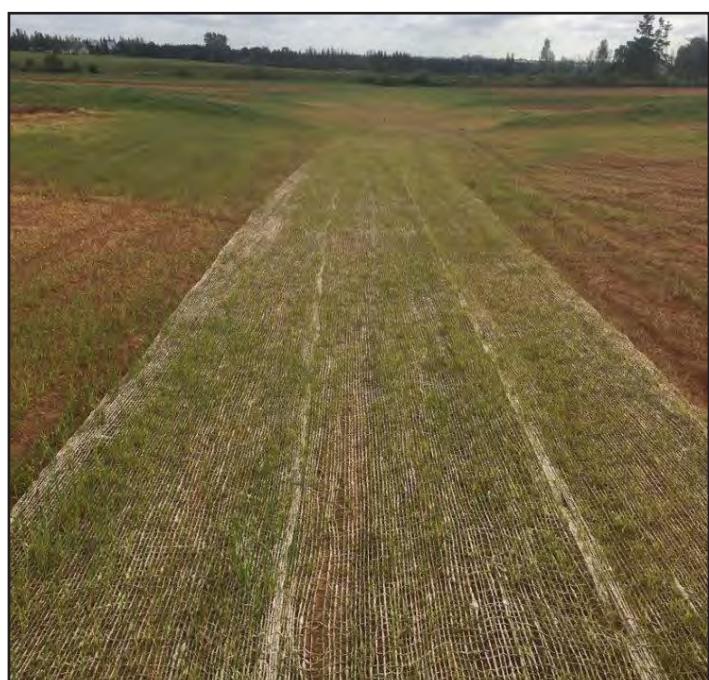
Even in areas where soil erosion might not be an obvious problem, in periods of rapid heavy rainfalls or excessively

wet seasons, these low areas can become a significant avenue for soil loss. In an effort to be proactive and have an impact on reducing the amount of future soil erosion, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has launched a new “Concentrated Flow Analysis” initiative. The goal is to assist landowners in identifying areas where hollows should be left in grass or not cropped. Grassed waterways move water across agricultural fields without causing erosion.

The concentrated flow analysis initiative will be available to producers from November 2017 to April 2018. Producers are encouraged to contact Charlotte Crooks Campbell (902-94-0340) or Melanie Bos (902-314-0790) with their property numbers to participate. This educational and awareness initiative is at no cost to the participant.

Environmental sustainability projects in fields have been carried out by Island farmers and the Department of Agriculture for years. Most of the projects are voluntary by the farmer and have gained popularity over time. The department now completes 50 to 60 projects per year and provides 66% of total eligible project costs. The department approves around \$350,000 per year in project funding. Approximately \$1,000,000 is spent each year in soil conservation work with public and grower funds. It is an investment that is working to improving our environmental sustainability.

Thank you to Tyler Wright of the Ag Resources Division at the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for background information and photographs.



Above: Construction of a grassed waterway showing the gentle grading of the waterway and jute mat used to hold the soil until the grass grows. Top of previous page: Layout and construction of several waterways in one field to address a number of areas of concentrated flow identified during field analysis. Photos: PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

PCN Testing - the Case for Moving From Individual Sample Tests to a Surveillance Program

by Brenda Simmons, Assistant GM

Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN), a pest of quarantine significance in much of the potato world, was detected in both Idaho and Quebec in 2006. As a result of those detections, extensive soil testing programs were initiated on both side of the Canada-United States border to determine the extent, if any, of additional PCN presence outside of the regulated areas.

In the interim, CFIA and the USDA negotiated terms to govern the measures to be taken if PCN was detected; guidance regarding the long term management and/or release of fields from regulated areas; and the requirements for the movement of seed potatoes and other regulated articles between the two countries. The Canada-US guidelines on PCN surveillance and management were revised a few times since 2006, most recently in 2014, in recognition of the successive years of extensive testing with no further detections of PCN outside of the regulated areas.

Prior to the 2014 revisions, the field in which the seed lot to be exported was grown had to be PCN tested and found negative during that year of production in order for the seed lot to be eligible to move across the border. That changed in 2014 in recognition of the multiple years of testing that was occurring in some fields and on some farms over time. The new provision stated that if the field had been soil sampled twice since 2009 and found negative for PCN, it would be exempt from further PCN surveys for the following three potato crops. This new approach provided some relief for seed growers, but the "testing holiday" was and is still taking a long time to "kick in" given the length of rotations and the use of many smaller fields on seed farms.

In 2016, Canadian industry and CFIA representatives advised the USDA and National Potato Council that further changes to the PCN guidelines were needed as the extensive testing of seed fields in Canada since 2007 confirmed that PCN was being well-controlled by the phytosanitary measures in place in regulated areas, and that PCN was not found outside of those well-established regulated areas. Potential seed sales were being lost at times as US growers contacted Canadian seed growers after freeze up, and seed

PCN Surveys in Canada

2007-2017

Year	Samples Tested to Enable Exports	Samples Taken in Regulated Areas
2007	14,170	5,854
2008	13,115	31,998
2009	42,735	27,022
2010	43,254	5,913
2011	44,335	10,875
2012	47,820	7,800
2013	16,895	2,173
2014	12,975	1,182
2015	10,991	322
2016	11,305	734
2017	9,278*	230*
Total	26,6873*	94,103*

* Number of soil samples collected as of November 30, 2017.

lots could not be shipped without the field testing. As well, the cost of testing was a major deterrent.

As shown in the table, since 2007, over 266,870 samples have been collected by CFIA and tested in Canada as part of the export/detection program with no further detections. An additional 94,103 samples were collected in regulated areas. This level of testing over so many years clearly demonstrates the pest is not widely distributed, and provides a high level of assurance that we can move away from field by field testing to more of a survey approach.

At the Canada/United States Potato Committee meeting in Toronto in November, 2017, which was attended by representatives of CFIA, USDA-APHIS, Canadian potato industry representatives and U.S. potato industry representatives, agreement was reached to work on a new approach that would recognize the very high level and amount of testing that had been done to date, and to develop a new approach that would involve a surveillance approach rather than field by field testing. A working group has been formed in Canada to work with CFIA on this important issue. CFIA staff have had meetings with their USDA-APHIS counterparts since the Toronto meetings, and discussions are ongoing. Further updates will be provided when the new approach has been developed. We welcome your input on this and any other issues.

Aphid Alert Numbers and Post Harvest Test Results

by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

Overall post harvest test results are very good for the 2017 crop, following the steady improvement we have seen since 2012. However, the reality of agriculture is that we are always dependent upon local environmental conditions and we can see this in individual test results this year.

For the first time in many years, we found no green peach aphids in traps that are part of the Aphid Alert program and overall aphid numbers appeared to be low. However, in some areas there were peaks in "Other" aphid populations very early in the season when crops were just emerging and growing rapidly. Despite the changes seed growers have made in seed production practices, such as early roguing, the early use of oils and insecticides, etc., many have been surprised by PVY post harvest test levels in fields that looked excellent during the season.

The graph below shows the average "other" aphid number per trap on a weekly basis, but actual numbers varied widely between trap locations. In 2017 we had isolated areas where aphid numbers were very high very early in the season. Our overall post harvest test results are very good with an overall pass rate (meeting the provincial planting cops of 3% total virus - PVY + PLRV) of 88% by lot, only slightly lower than the 92% pass rate we experienced in 2016. There are, however, more fields in 2017 where aphid populations must have been high early in the season while the crop was rapidly growing that allowed for spread of PVY. We are seeing correspondingly higher levels of PVY in some fields than we saw in 2016, when aphid population were low based on all trap caught across the province through the early part of the growing season.

The way PVY seems to have been spread in 2017 begs the question "what more can we do?" Many growers have already adopted oil sprays and are applying these early in the season as well as roguing earlier and using aphicides more intensively. Now research conducted in New Brunswick as part of ongoing PVY research projects seems to indicate that planting date may play a role. Some of their experience shows that in later planted fields, which emerge later, the plants may be avoiding an early flush of aphids and the resulting potential for PVY spread.

The graph and table below show a correlation between elevated aphid population levels early in the season (June/July) such as in 2009 and 2012 and to a lesser extent in 2015 and 2017. Improving our pass rate in 2015 and 2017 is likely due to the adoption of earlier oil and insecticide use, early roguing, etc.

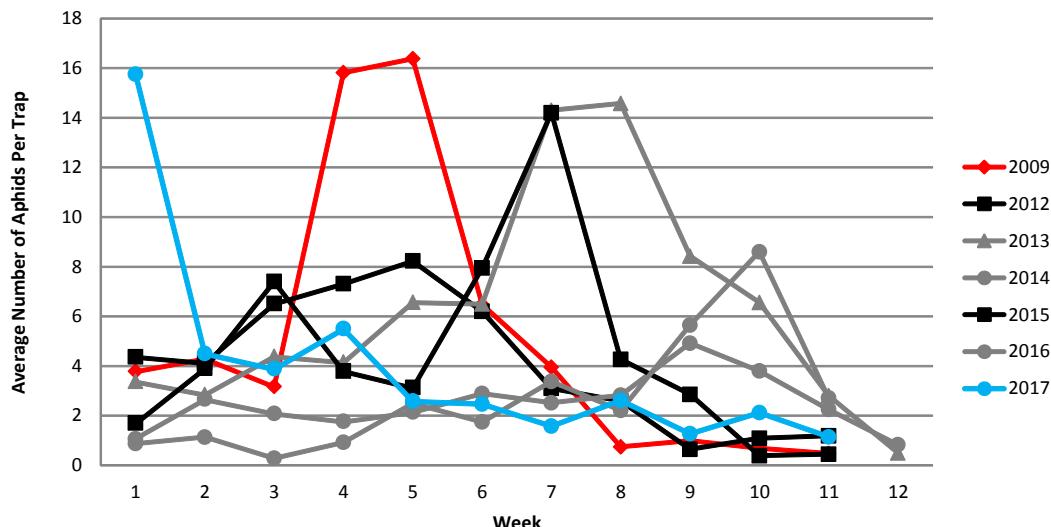
The high aphid level on the first collection in 2017 is an average, and actually was isolated to a few fields and this would help to explain why overall the test results are good but virus levels may be higher than expected for individual growers.

Changes in strains of PVY and the resistance or susceptibility of different varieties to PVY infection may also be playing a role.

We will continue to analyze results with regard to growing area and grower practices in an effort to continue to minimize the potential for PVY spread in our seed crops.

Year	% Visual	% PHT
	Pass Rate	Pass Rate
2017	99.2	88
2016	97.1	92
2015	96.2	77
2014	97.5	89
2013	96.8	78
2012	95.7	57
2011	92.2	80
2010	93.3	82
2009	93.1	56

"Other" Aphid Monitoring Data (2009, 2012-2017)



AIM Nutrient Management Workshop

by Ryan Barrett, Research and Agronomy Coordinator

In ongoing consultations with processing growers on topics that they are interested in seeing addressed as part of the Agronomy Initiative for Marketable yield (AIM), one topic that was raised quite often was nutrient management. Growers indicated that they would like to know more about how fertility recommendations are made, how to read a soil test report, how to improve soil organic matter, and more. The result of this interest was a Nutrient Management Workshop held January 17th at Credit Union Place.

The presenters for the day-long workshop were Dr. David Burton, Professor with the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture; Dr. Judith Nyiraneza, Research Scientist with AAFC in Charlottetown; and Kyra Stiles, Agri-Environmental Specialist with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Also contributing content to the workshop was Erica MacDonald of Paradigm Precision/A&L Labs.

The morning session focused on looking at the rationale for nutrient management planning as well as some trends evident in PEI soils. Dr. Burton introduced the nature of nutrient management, framing the measurement and application of nutrients for a commercial crop within the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship (right rate, right source, right time, right place). The growing field of “soil health,” which looks at chemical, physical and biological aspects of soil together, was discussed, including the role of soil organic matter on a productive crop. Dr. Nyiraneza presented data from the PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries’ Soil Quality Monitoring Project, which has shown a steady decline in soil organic matter in many parts of PEI over the last 18 years. This is due to a number of factors, including soil erosion, shorter crop rotation, and a decline in the livestock industry and manure availability.

There was substantial discussion on what can be done to improve soil organic matter. Beneficial practices shown to help stabilize and improve soil organic matter include reducing tillage, addition of manure or compost when possible, leaving crop residues on fields, having a growing crop covering the soil as much as possible (including late season cover crops), and preventing soil erosion which can carry away organic matter.

Dr. Burton also related results of some work he has done in partnership with the PEI Potato Board in recent years looking at total soil nitrogen and developing a test to help measure it. Not all soils are equal, and growers often underestimate the amount of N that will be mineralized by soil during the growing season. More work is needed, but

there appears to be merit to developing a soil N test that will help growers better plan N requirements for their crop.

During the morning and afternoon, there was substantial discussion on the particulars of ensuring the right rate, placement, timing and source of fertilizer application. Each nutrient has its own particular role in the potato plant and considerations in application. Nitrogen is needed in significant amounts for a crop of potatoes, but it is important to look at all sources of N. Judith discussed accounting for N contributions from plough-down crops like alfalfa and clover as well as the N available from manure application, while David discussed the merits of split application of N, including the use of slow release products or foliar products which can provide N later in the growing season when N requirements are higher.

Judith also discussed recent research that she and others have worked on to assess how much phosphorus is actually needed and should be applied in PEI. Most soil tests come back with very high P levels, and it appears that applying P in relation to the P/AI index on soil test reports might be much more valuable than previous recommended application rates. A number of studies in PEI have shown that P rates can be decreased in many fields without a detrimental impact on potato yield; however, managing the lower P availability in acidic soils is a major consideration.

In terms of potassium, there was discussion about different K sources (muriate of potash, potassium sulfate, etc) and the merits of split application of K, particularly broadcast application in the fall or spring before planting to potatoes. This helps to avoid some issues seen in yield limitation and low specific gravity when too much K was banded in rows, leading to a high salt index in the root zone. There was also discussion about the role that other nutrients like magnesium, calcium, boron, and sulfur play in a potato crop and different ways to ensure availability of these nutrients to the growing plant.

Finally, the day concluded with a presentation by Kyra on how to read a soil test report, as well as proper soil sampling techniques. Soil test results from different labs can be tested and reported differently, so it is important for growers to aim for consistency in reporting as well as consistency in the time of sampling to allow for year over year comparisons.

A summary factsheet from the presented material has also been developed and is available on the PEI Potato Agronomy website (www.peipotatoagronomy.com).

AIM Travel Report

by Ryan Barrett and M.K. Sonier

The PEI Agronomy Initiative for Marketable Yield (AIM) is a partnership between the PEI processing growers, the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Cavendish Farms and the PEI Potato Board. Several working groups have been established and research and extension activities carried out over the last year. The Seed Working Group is one of these and is charged with investigating changes in seed production and handling that will help to improve the yield and quality of processing potatoes produced in PEI.

As a part of this effort, members of the working group travelled to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in November of 2017. Key areas identified during the visits for further exploration in PEI included:

- seed sizing, and adjusting seed spacing at planting to the seed size;
- increasing the size of seed pieces (mostly whole tubers);
- reducing the amount of cut seed;
- reducing the amount of oversize seed in seed lots;
- exploring better ways to store and grade our seed;
- and exploring the use of ethylene for certain varieties for increased tuber numbers and uniform emergence.

The Netherlands

In Holland there were similarities and dramatic differences between Dutch and PEI seed farms. Most of the farms visited were small in size compared to PEI and were dedicated seed farms. Significant differences included the exclusive use of round whole seed that is graded into tight size ranges (i.e. 28-35 mm, 35-45 mm, 45-55 mm) and the narrow 30 inch rows that were the norm. Seed spacing within the row was also tight and varied depending on the seed size planted and the variety. Seed growers cannot cut seed and are not allowed to irrigate with surface water due to bacterial disease concerns.

Yields for the farms the group visited were in the range of 300-400 cwt/ac of marketable seed. Box storages are used for seed and seed shipment takes place over the period of November to March to meet planting seasons in a wide range of global markets.

Dutch seed growers had many concerns in common with seed growers on PEI: profitable rotations, maintaining soil organic matter and testing to ensure freedom from pests and disease, particularly virus and bacterial diseases. Also, like Island growers, they are continually searching for ways to increase yield. Many seed growers are using ethylene on certain varieties that they will be replanting. In some cases, the use of ethylene will increase stem number and seed set which can increase the uniformity of seed size tubers and



Sizing seed shortly after harvest on a Dutch seed farm so that volumes of different size ranges are known and can quickly be graded and packed to fill orders over the shipping season. Photo: M.K. Sonier



Island growers (right to left) Pat Clarkin, John Ramsay and Peter Townshend talk to McCain UK Champion Growers Adam and Ben Sykes about seed storage and handling. Photo: Ryan Barrett.

result in a yield increase in the desirable size ranges. The result varies widely with variety.

The seed system appeared to be very structured from a supply and demand perspective. All the growers that the group visited with were aligned with a processor or a seed breeding house/cooperative/business. These companies worked with the growers to determine acreage of different varieties to be grown and they handled the seed sales.

United Kingdom

After Holland, the next stop was the British Potato Show in Harrogate, England. This was an excellent opportunity to see the latest in handling equipment and technology and make contacts that will be useful for future research and extension activities. Once again, soil health was a very current concern and the focus of considerable effort by government, grower and industry entities.

Profitability of farmers was also a high priority. AHDB (one division formerly the British Potato Council) has a FarmBench program (that they are just now making available on-line), which is similar to our processing Cost of Production study information, and will allow AHDB members to



Ethylene at different concentrations is used as a sprout inhibitor or to break dormancy and promote even emergence and an increase in stems numbers in seed potatoes. Photo: Ryan Barrett.

compare their costs against industry benchmarks that have been developed over the past several years.

Like Holland, the focus for seed producers in the UK is the production of whole seed and seed storage and handling equipment is primarily set up for box storage. Row width in the field could vary from 32" to 34" to 36" and in row spacing was dependent on seed size and variety.

Following the British Potato Show, the group travelled north to Scotland where the majority of seed potato production in the UK takes place. Although some seed is exported, 80% of their seed is produced for the domestic market. This is similar to the situation in PEI. As well, they have a seven generation system and are now selling Generation 4, Generation 5, and Generation 6 (E3, E4 and F) for commercial planting - also a similar situation to PEI.

With very little virus pressure in Scotland, growers do not post harvest test for viruses. However, all fields must be tested for PCN prior to planting, required rotation for seed growers is 6 years and bacterial diseases such as blackleg (caused by *Pectobacterium*) are an ongoing concern.

As in the Netherlands, the seed system in the UK appeared to be very structured with breeding/seed houses and end users such as processors and fresh packers playing a role in securing the seed supply and seed sales.

Seed cutting is more rare in the UK than in Canada but is done for commercial production of certain varieties or when seed is scarce.

The full report is available online on the PEI Potato Agronomy website at:

**[http://
peipotatoagronomy.com](http://peipotatoagronomy.com)**

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Marketing Notes

by Kendra Mills, Marketing Director

The Northeastern US has historically been a strong market for PEI Potatoes and continues to be an important market for fresh potatoes. However, the US retail environment is much different than the Canadian one. In the US, there are many large national chains such as Kroger, Publix and Safeway, as well as a diversity of small and medium sized grocers with less than 25 outlets that are important to the PEI Potato industry. In addition, there are large re-packers that do good business from PEI and may sell to these regional chains. We have always had excellent representation by a trade agent in the US to help us navigate this diverse market; however, change is a constant in our industry. After much consultation with dealers and exporters from PEI and also the trade in the Northeastern US, compounded by the direction of our rep, Peter Goulet, on plans to scale back in his professional career, the Tablestock Committee has decided to forego trade representation in that market, and Peter finished with the PEI Potato Board on December 31, 2017.

Peter Goulet has brought a very distinct expertise to our business, having been an influential buyer at Hannaford

Markets (now Delhaize) in Maine for most of his career. After forming his own company, completing a term as chairman of the PMA, and working with such clients over the years as Gourmet Gardens (now McCormick), Lakeside Greenhouses and coming on with PEI Potatoes in 2011, Peter had the inside knowledge, experience and respect of the trade that helped PEI Potatoes reach our goals. Peter came very well recommended, he knows everyone in the industry and he could get a meeting with any member of the trade. We thank Peter for all of his dedication and service to the PEI Potato industry as he looks to the next chapter in his life, and no doubt spending more time with his growing group of grandchildren.



The trade representation for the region will now be handled by Potato Board staff.

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Scott's Outlook

by Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator

"We live in unprecedented times...", how often do we hear this? How about, "...we need to be prepared to accept change!" As growers of quality potatoes for the North American processing industry, you hear these phrases from many sources; your bankers and accountants, equipment and technology sales-people, your fertilizer and crop protectant retailers, on-farm-food safety representatives, and most often from your primary customers, the Fryers.

Even those of us who work directly for you, Potato Board people, we are continually faced with the same messaging and we transfer those messages onto you as growers. Alas, we do live and farm in unprecedented times; with the availability of expanding technology and new chemistry combined with consumers' higher expectations for safe, convenient and affordable food. Being open-minded about change has been a key management tool for primary producers who seize these opportunities and meet these challenges. There are also growers who find

that the changing world is out-pacing their desire to "keep up" and, for the most part, they have moved away from producing potatoes. At the same time, there are growers who have shifted some or all of their potato acreage to more rewarding markets, where there is a greater selection of better varieties and where growers are more-properly compensated for their adaptation of technology, for their willingness to try new varieties and new production systems and, most importantly, for their investments into producing high quality, safe and delicious food.

Meanwhile, back in the processing sector of the potato industry, some Fryers continue to message their contracted growers on the necessity for them to accept change while those same buyers offer limited incentives to their growers; except it seems, the offer of "...more volume at the same or lower pricing". The most recent example of this is the reported actions in Idaho of one of the world leaders in the frozen potato industry, McCain Foods. In an article titled: "McCain bypasses SIPCO with new potato contracts", John O'Connell of the Capital Press reported on December

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28th, 2017 that McCain Foods people circumvented the collective bargaining process in Idaho which is in place to protect individual growers and to provide French fry processors with a level playing field. Collective bargaining exists in most North American growing jurisdictions and is a fair and sensible method to deal with the imbalance of power between the multi-national food processors who are corporate giants in the North American food industry and the family farm operations who have invested millions of dollars into specialized equipment and storages to produce high quality potatoes for the frozen potato sector.

This reported unilateral action by McCain Foods to lock long-time, loyal contract growers to a two-year contract with no price increases is, by all reports from growers and some economists, unsustainable for growers. How will Idahoan growers deal with any increases in crop input costs over the

next two years? How will these growers address increasing wage demands from their farm managers and labourers? How will these family farms adopt new technology or chemistry if their contract price for the next two years is tied to a historically low margin contract from 2017? The contract is even reported to contain a de-escalator clause which will see the accepted prices reduced further if any competitors achieve a price reduction from contract negotiations with their own Idaho growers. This type of action provides no incentive to Idahoan growers to be open-minded and accept change; in fact, it could most likely create a situation where more growers will shift acres away from growing potatoes for the processing sector and this could result in reduced sustainability within their farm communities.

After ten years of representing growers at negotiation tables and listening during that decade to our processor customers speak of sustainability and to the importance of the “relationship” between them and their growers, this recent reported action by McCain Foods in Idaho has left me dumb-founded and very disheartened.

The situation is unprecedented. Processors are currently investing hundreds of millions of dollars into state-of-the-art expansions of existing processing factories and the creation of whole new processing plants both in North America and around the world. At the same time, more and more farmers are exiting the processing sector due to a lack of financial sustainability. At what point will the supply of quality potatoes for processing not be sufficient to meet the increasing demand?

And when that point comes, this writer fears that individual growers “accepting change” will not be enough to bring sustainability back to the processing sector. Processors and grower organizations need to recognize there are very limited numbers of new entrants to our sector. People who wish to make farming their career wish to do so in a sustainable and profitable manner; one that at this time, for the potato processing sector, is in my opinion, best supported by a successful collective bargaining process.

Seed Availability Listing

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Nutrition Research News from APRE

High-Quality Carbohydrates and Physical Performance: Expert Panel Report

It is widely known that carbohydrates provide fuel for exercise, but when most people think of “carb-loading,” foods like pasta, bread and rice often come to mind. To examine the role of potatoes as a high-quality carbohydrate, APRE hosted a Potatoes and Physical Performance Think Tank, which convened sports nutrition experts to identify research questions to better understand the role of potatoes in improving physical performance. The researchers captured their conclusions in a commentary recently published in Nutrition Today, “High Quality Carbohydrates and Physical Performance: Expert Panel Report.” While they noted more research is needed on the role of potatoes in performance, the researchers agreed that evidence illustrates that athletes should consume a majority of daily calories in the form of high-quality, high-carbohydrate whole foods, such as potatoes, as a means of improving physical performance and recovery from exercise. The panel also identified directions for future research to further explore dietary needs of athletes, specifically carbohydrate needs and quality sources, as well as to understand the interaction of chronic high-quality carbohydrate diets and exercise on markers of general health (e.g., diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity).

Kanter, M. *High-Quality Carbohydrates and Physical Performance: Expert Panel Report. Nutrition Today. 2017 November/December;53(6).*

Potato Consumption Does Not Increase Blood Pressure or Incident Hypertension

A new study, “Potato Consumption Does Not Increase Blood Pressure or Incident Hypertension in 2 Cohorts of Spanish Adults,” was recently published in The Journal of Nutrition and provides new observational evidence that indicates that eating potatoes does not adversely affect blood pressure. The analysis of PREDIMED data assessed the association between potato consumption, blood pressure changes, and the risk of hypertension in two Spanish populations. The results show that, after four years, potato consumption is not associated with changes in blood pressure among older adults, or with the risk of hypertension. The authors note that it is important to examine overall eating patterns as well, rather than isolated foods only, when considering the role of diet on cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure and hypertension.

Hu, et al. *Potato Consumption Does Not Increase Blood Pressure or Incident Hypertension in 2 Cohorts of Spanish Adults. The Journal of Nutrition. 2017 October; 147(10).*

The International Potato Technology Expo is North America's leading potato event, taking place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on February 23 & 24, 2018. The event features a red and green circular logo with the words "INTERNATIONAL POTATO TECHNOLOGY EXPO" around the perimeter and a potato field background. Below the logo, the text "North America's Leading Potato Event" is written in a large, stylized font. The location "CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND" is listed, followed by the dates "FEBRUARY 23 & 24 2018". A call to action encourages attendees to "If you have a product or service tailored for the potato industry - this event is for you!"

For more information and to secure your exhibit space, please contact:
Matt Mitchell, Show Manager
mmitchell@mplt.ca
Toll Free: 1.888.454.7469

Two small images are shown side-by-side. The left image shows a red barn with a white door standing in a green field under a blue sky with white clouds. The right image shows the interior of a red truck bed filled with a large pile of brown potatoes.

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An Update From the:

PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



I've recently returned from the tenth annual Potato Expo in Orlando, Florida. This was my first time attending this huge convention and tradeshow, and it was a very productive two days. Some highlights included:

- Potato Business Summit – economic and technological trends in North American potato markets.
- New Technology for Irrigation Management – more effective and efficient irrigation using site specific applications for variable soil types through new field monitoring and smartphone-friendly software.
- NAFTA renegotiations and their impact on the processing potato industry.
- An informative presentation on soil fumigation – new research on chloropicrin and its impact on soil health.

- 2018 trends in global retail, processing and chip markets.

The key take-home message is that the potato industry continues to become more complex with social, economic, political and technological factors. The next five years will bring tremendous advancements and change. There is a great deal of optimism as opportunities emerge that will benefit North American potato growers.

Moving on to our own upcoming Expo in Charlottetown on February 23 and 24!

This year's International Potato Technology Expo will feature some changes from past years:

- The conference component will take place on both mornings with more in-depth presentations and opportunities for discussion.
- NEW! There will be a Friday evening informal networking event with conference speakers at the Pourhouse (see insert).

On Friday February 23rd, the conference agenda is as follows:

9:00 am	John Walsh, McCain Foods – CIPC Residue on Seed and Effects on Emergence & Yield
10:00 am	Dr. Suqi Liu & Dr. Christine Noronha, AAFC - New Insights on Wireworm Biology
11:00 am	Dr. Jiwan Palta, University of Wisconsin – Calcium Nutrition to Fortify Seed
5:30 pm	Networking Event with Conference Speakers, The Pourhouse

The Friday conference session will wrap up at lunchtime when conference attendees will be treated to lunch on the tradeshow floor.

The conference lineup for Saturday, February 24th is as follows:

9:00 am	Ryan Barrett and Grower Panel, PEI Potato Board AIM Group – Specific Gravity Principles You Can Apply & Success Stories
10:00 am	Bill Menkeld, Greentronics – Precision Agriculture through Within Field Yield Monitoring Technology

11:00 am Dr. Andy Robinson, NDSU & Dr. Andrew McKenzie- Gopsill, AAFC – Weed Management in Potatoes: Addressing Current & Future Realities

This year's conference has been approved for 6 CEU's for those of you who are Certified Crop Advisors.

You can register online for the tradeshow and conference; and you can save 50% for the tradeshow by doing so. The conference registration (which includes lunch on Friday and full tradeshow access) is \$20. Check out www.potatoexpo.ca for all the details!

I encourage growers to participate in the Concentrated Flow Analysis Program being offered by the PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. Offered as a free service, a Soil & Water Engineer will come to your field, assess any potential erosion issues, and offer management tips. Contact Charlotte or Melanie at the department for more details and to apply.

Finally, I would like to share some recent staffing changes at the PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Josh Dillman has made the decision to leave the department in order to become a dairy farmer with his wife, Maryella, in Port Hill. Josh's hard work and expertise led to many contributions to the department and the agriculture industry. The hiring process is underway, and we hope to have a new Soil Engineer on staff in April.

Melanie Bos was hired in the fall as an Agri-Environmental Advisor. She has a degree in Environmental Science from Dalhousie Agricultural Campus, and will be your key contact for the ALUS program, the Concentrated Flow Analysis program, and stewardship programs for on-farm storages and energy efficiency. Melanie replaces George Piercy, who many of you would know, and who has retired from the department. Come meet Melanie Friday afternoon at the Department's booth at the Potato Expo.



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Please see the attached entry form for more details. Must be 19 years of age or over to participate.

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CONTACT Carl Delaney 902-436-4842, cell 902-432-0147, email carl.delaney@pei.sympatico.ca

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Panel of Experts Established to Review Business Risk Management Programs

December 19, 2017 – Ottawa, Ontario – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC): Canadian farmers and ranchers help drive the economy, but can face risks that threaten the viability of their farms and are beyond their control such as unpredictable weather, crop or animal disease, extreme market volatility and high input costs. Under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which will take effect April 1, 2018, producers will continue to have access to a robust suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs to help manage these risks.

In July 2017, federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) ministers of agriculture agreed to undertake a review of BRM programs to assess program effectiveness and their impact on growth and innovation. An external Expert Panel consisting of producers, academics and experts has been established to provide feedback and guidance on the review. The Panel members will support the BRM review task team made up of FPT officials who have been working on the review since the summer of 2017. This work will help inform ministers on the continued effectiveness and impact of BRM Programs in meeting the future needs of the sector.

The panel will meet through the winter and spring of 2018, and their findings will be presented to FPT ministers at their annual meeting next summer in British Columbia.

PEI potato farmer Mary Robinson and CHC Executive Director Rebecca Lee are panel members.

Lamb Weston Holdings Announces \$250 Million Capital Investment in Additional Fry Line; Raises Quarterly Dividend

December 21, 2017. EAGLE, Idaho - Lamb Weston Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: LW) announced today an expansion of french fry processing capacity in North America and an increase in its quarterly dividend.

"The french fry category has been growing at attractive rates around the world, and we believe industry capacity has been challenged in recent years to keep up with continued growth in market demand," said Tom Werner, President and CEO of Lamb Weston. "This investment in a new french fry processing line in the Columbia Basin reflects Lamb Weston's continued commitment to support our strategic partners as they continue to grow their businesses in North America and abroad."

Capacity Expansion

The Company announced an investment to expand operations at its Hermiston, Oregon, processing facility with the construction of a 300 million pound-per-year, state-of-the-art french fry line. The new line will be modeled on the Company's recently operational production line in Richland, Washington, and is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2019. The new Hermiston line is intended to support growth in North America, as well as exports to Asia where demand growth has been, and is expected to remain, strong. The expansion is expected to add approximately 170 full time positions.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has approved an award from the state's Strategic Reserve Fund to help move the project forward. The award is intended to support infrastructure development at the site and workforce training and diversification.

"I'm happy to announce this new state investment as part of my focus on growing a thriving Oregon economy in all parts of our state," Gov. Brown said. "In addition to supporting our rural economies and booming agriculture industry, this investment provides critical workforce training opportunities in well-paying jobs in Eastern Oregon."

The total investment for the new line is expected to be approximately \$250 million, with capital expenditures of approximately \$25 million and \$225 million in fiscal years 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Dividend

The Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.19125 per share of Lamb Weston common stock, up from \$0.1875 per share in the prior quarter. The dividend is payable on March 2, 2018 to stockholders of record at the close of business on February 2, 2018.

In addition, the Company stated that it will target an annual dividend payout ratio of 25 percent to 35 percent of Adjusted Diluted Earnings Per Share.

Bayer launches Sencor STZ, a much needed new potato herbicide

Guelph, ON (December 4, 2017) – Bayer has announced the launch of Sencor STZ, a powerful and innovative new herbicide for broad-spectrum control of all major annual grass and broadleaf weeds in potatoes.

Sencor STZ combines the trusted control of Sencor with a new Group 14 mode of action, providing Canadian potato growers a new weed control option for their field and offering a convenient resistance management tool. As a pre-emergent herbicide, Sencor STZ has uptake through the roots and shoots of weeds, providing early season

weed control during critical crop stages. The product works on emerged weeds and provides residual broad-spectrum control to weeds yet to germinate. It will be provided in a convenient co-pak.

"As the first innovation in the potato herbicide space in many years, Sencor STZ offers an exciting new tool for Canadian potato growers to combat a wide spectrum of weeds and maximize crop yield," says Jon Weinmaster, Crop & Campaign Marketing Manager, Horticulture & Corn at Bayer.

Sencor is a proven performer that delivers reliable broad-spectrum weed control to Canadian potato growers. Trials utilizing Sencor STZ have demonstrated efficacy against Group 2- and 7-resistant biotypes, while providing essential control of Group 5-resistant broadleaf weeds, demonstrating the added benefit of the product's Group 14 herbicide.

"Given the increasing occurrence of herbicide resistance and a potentially shrinking number of solutions available for combatting tough-to-control weeds, Sencor STZ presents a welcome opportunity for growers to ensure they have the crop protection they need," says Weinmaster. "This new herbicide affirms Bayer's position as a leader in potato solutions and our commitment to growing and furthering innovation within horticulture."

Sencor STZ will be available to potato growers in Eastern Canada and British Columbia for the 2018 season. Sencor STZ comprises Group 5 (metribuzin) and Group 14 (sulfentrazone) herbicides.

For more information regarding Sencor STZ, growers are encouraged to talk to their local retailer or visit cropscience.bayer.ca/SencorSTZ.

Bayer: Science For A Better Life

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the Life Science fields of health care and agriculture.

World Potato Congress Inc. announces new General Manager

With the retirement of General Manager, John Coady on December 1, 2017, the WPC is pleased to announce the return of Brian Douglas to World Potato Congress Inc. as the new General Manager.

Brian has been involved in the agriculture industry since his graduation from the University of Guelph in Ontario with a Bachelor of Science - Agriculture, Environmental Biology in 1979.

World Potato Congress Inc. President, David Thompson, said: "Brian brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the potato sector and will be a great addition to the WPC Inc. team."

During his 37 year civil service career with the

Government of Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.), he worked for several departments including Environment, Agriculture and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. In his role as Director, Agriculture Resource Division, Brian became involved with the World Potato Congress Inc. serving as Secretary Treasurer from 2007 to 2011.

In 2007, Brian was appointed as the Deputy Minister, Agriculture and then in 2011 was named Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. Brian was appointed to the position of Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet in 2015 until his retirement in 2016.

Brian may be reached at: World Potato Congress Inc., Farm Centre, Suite 101 - 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PE, Canada C1E 1W8, Phone: (902) 368-8885 Fax: (902) 628-2225, Email : info@potatocongress.org, www.potatocongress.org.

Mr. David Thompson steps down as President and CEO of the World Potato Congress Inc. and announces Mr. Romain Cools as new President and CEO

After 17 years on the World Potato Congress Board of Directors, 12 as Vice-President and the last five years as President, David Thompson has decided that it was time for a change. He is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2018 he is stepping down as President and CEO of the World Potato Congress (WPC) Inc. however he will remain on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Thompson announced Romain Cools as the new President and CEO of the World Potato Congress (WPC) Inc. David Thompson stated: "Romain Cools has been involved with the Board of Directors since 2006 and for the past three years, he has served as Vice President of the World Potato Congress Inc. Mr. Cools resides in Lokeren, Belgium and is the first European President of the WPC Inc."

"Mr. Cools brings with him 26 years of knowledge of the potato industry and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the advancement and sustainability of the potato in the global environment."

"Mr. Cools is currently the Secretary General of Belgapom, the Union of Belgian Potato Trade and Processing Industry. He is the co-founder of the Belgian Food and Plant Safety and Sustainability scheme "Vegaplan". He is also a Board Member of the Belgian Food Industry Association and Chairman of the UNIZO Agro-food platform."

The WPC Inc. is a non-profit organization established to bring together global potato industry leaders at our triennial congresses with the objective of creating networking, increased trade and business development opportunities.

The 10th triennial World Potato Congress is being held from May 27-31 in Cusco, Peru.

For more information on the WPC Inc., the 10th triennial congress or Mr. Cools, please visit the World Potato Congress website at www.potatocongress.org.

Certificate of Appreciation Awarded to Bruce Huffaker by UPGC

At the United Potato Growers of Canada Board meeting on January 9, 2018, Chairman Ray Keenan presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bruce Huffaker, Editor of the North American Potato Market News publication. The certificate was to thank Bruce for his 25 years of providing market information to the industry. The information he provides on acreage, production estimates and supply and demand dynamics in the North American potato marketplace are extremely valuable for growers and packers trying to make profitable decisions in an era of tight margins. Bruce has worked with the United Potato Growers of America and the United Potato Growers of Canada since they were formed in the mid-2000's.



Bruce Huffaker (left) receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Ray Keenan, Chair of the United Potato Growers of Canada.

Upcoming Events

Please call the Board at (902) 892-6551 for further information on any of these events.

February 2018

- Feb 18-22 **Gulfood 2018.** Dubai World Trade Centre.
Feb 23 & 24 **International Potato Technology Expo.** Charlottetown, PEI.

March 2018

- March 6 **Ontario Potato Day.** Delta Hotel, Guelph, ON.
March 7-8 **PEI Soil & Crops Conference.** Charlottetown, PEI.
March 12 **Canadian Potato Council Meeting.** Ottawa, ON.
March 13-15 **Canadian Horticultural Council AGM.** Ottawa, ON.
March 19 **Update on AIM Projects** Riverhouse Inn, Montague, 1 PM
March 20 **Update on AIM Projects** Boxcar Pub, Emerald, 9 AM
Mill River Resort, 1:30 PM

April 2018

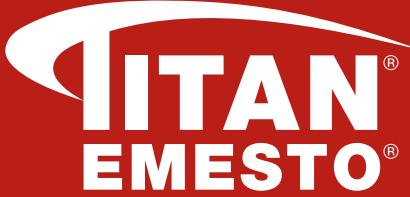
- Apr 24-26 **Canadian Produce Marketing Association Convention.** Vancouver, B.C.

May 2018

- May 27-31 **World Potato Congress.** Cusco, Peru.

For Up-to Date Agronomy Information and dates for Potato Extension Events taking place on PEI, visit the new PEI Potato Agronomy Website at

<http://peipotatoagronomy.com>



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