

*Prince Edward Island*

May/June 2018  
Volume 19, Issue 3

# POTATO NEWS



Publications Mail Agreement # 40011377

## ***In This Issue:***

- Variety Trial Results
- PEI Acreage Stats Revised
- Bringing Potato History to Life





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Prince Edward Island

# POTATO NEWS

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Email: [potato@peipotato.org](mailto:potato@peipotato.org)  
Website: [www.peipotato.org](http://www.peipotato.org)

## Fox Island Elite Seed Farm

Mark Pridham.....Farm Manager  
Eleanor Matthews.....Lab Manager

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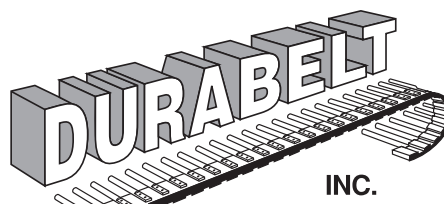
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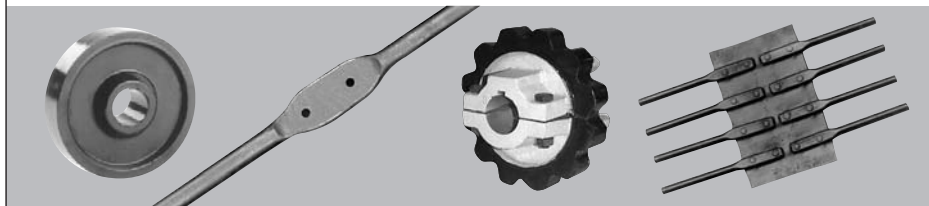
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Cover: *Planting down by Bedeque Bay, PEI. Photo courtesy of Jane Murray.*



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# Chairman's Comments

by Darryl Wallace, PEI Potato Board Chairman

I am writing this as I am sitting in the planter and thinking about the summer ahead when many of us will have children off school who will either be enjoying summer vacation or spending it gaining valuable work experience at a summer job.

As an organization we spend a lot of effort to interact with young people and help them to understand the agriculture industry a little better. Just in the past few months we have taken part in Ag Literacy month activities, have seen the Tasty Taters (formerly known as Spuds in Tubs) program get underway in several Island schools, have hosted a group of high school Agriculture Science students at our Elite Seed Farm at Fox Island, helped to promote the Farm Team summer student program organized by the Ag Sector council to provide a bursary for summer students who work on farms, and through the AAFC Green Intern program we are organizing a tree planting activity with two Island schools. These children are the future of our industry whether it be as future farmers, future employees on the farm or in the ag industry, as consumers or as ambassadors for our industry. The Potato Board is a member of the Ag Sector Council and happy to support these kind of programs with Island youth.

As we look to the future, the Board is hearing from many producers who are concerned about land prices and land availability. Further details are provided under Board News on page 5 about meetings we have attended and presentations that will be made on your behalf on this issue. As always we welcome any feed back from growers on how you are affected.



*Excited elementary students work together to plant potatoes as part of the Tasty Taters Competition.*

Another annual occurrence in the summer is nominations for Board Directors and Board elections. The Board welcomes your participation either in choosing to put your name forward to run for one of the director positions or ensuring that you vote if an election is held in

your district. I myself will be retiring after serving six years as a Board Director. While it does require a certain time commitment, it is also a great learning experience and an opportunity to be involved in many different aspects of our industry.

Several PEI delegates have just returned from the World Potato Congress in Peru, the birthplace of the potato and home of the International Potato Centre. They will be full of ideas and information on how issues we all face are handled in different global areas. A full report will be available in the summer issue.

As the weather finally starts to warm up I hope that you all have a safe season and enjoy all that the summer on PEI has to offer.

*Darryl Wallace*



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# POTATO BOARD NEWS

## Agricultural Land Sales and Land Holdings

The sale of agricultural land to non-residents, as well as adherence to provincial land holdings limits, are becoming issues of major concern for farmers and others in our province. In response to calls received at our office, the Potato Board wrote to Executive Council on March 28th to outline our concerns. Following is part of that letter:

"In recent months, several parcels of agricultural land in eastern PEI have been sold to non-residents without farmers in the province having the opportunity to learn that the land was available for sale and/or to purchase the land. The manner in which these sales occurred would appear to be in contravention of IRAC's advertising guidelines and are certainly contrary to the intent of the Lands Protection Act. The sales are also harmful to Island farmers who in some cases, had been renting and farming the land, and/or were very interested in acquiring additional land to extend rotations or to establish new farms.

Most potato farmers in Prince Edward Island have been working hard to improve the financial and environmental status of their family farms, and access to good agricultural land is key to these efforts. Farmers are investigating rotation crop options, and are supporting research into new crops and improved practices. We are proud of the improvements that have been made, and of the contribution that we make as individuals and as a sector to the economy of our province. We want to continue this, but feel the increased rate of sale of farmland to non-residents is a major threat now and going forward.

In some cases, farmers have been renting land for several years, and have now been advised that the land has been sold to non-residents who may or may not intend to move to PEI to farm the land themselves. Our farmers are being told they can no longer use the fields they had been farming for several years. They would have been highly interested in purchasing the land but were not given the opportunity to do so due

to the absence of any local advertising. The farmers who are calling us are very upset, and feel these recent transactions and the approvals given for them, without complying with the advertising guidelines, are harmful to their individual farms and to our industry as a whole."

Although we are still awaiting a written response to that letter, Board representatives have met with IRAC and Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and Environment on the issue. Communities, Land and Environment Minister Richard Brown has since announced that IRAC will conduct a review of land holdings, ownership, off-Island sales of agricultural land, etc. that will be completed within six months. As well, the Potato Board has been asked by Minister Brown's department to participate in a working group that will review and recommend advertising guidelines for agricultural land.

The Potato Board has also asked to make a presentation to the Standing Committee on Communities, Land and Environment, and to the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries. At time of writing, dates have not yet been set for those two meetings. We would appreciate your feedback relating to the important issues noted above, as well as on the impacts of rising land costs, adherence to land holdings limits, and any other related aspects on your farm and/or on our industry.

## PMRA Releases Final Decision on Bravo (chlorothalonil)

On May 10th, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency published its final Re-evaluation Decision (RVD2018-11) for the fungicide chlorothalonil. It's sold under the trade names Bravo, Echo and others.


As you may recall, PMRA had proposed to eliminate the use of chlorothalonil on several crops, and to reduce its use in others. Farmers, agricultural organizations, registrants and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to

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respond to the proposed changes, and PMRA stated, "Comments received during the consultation process were taken into consideration. These comments and new data/information resulted in revisions to some parts of the risk assessments and subsequently in some changes to the proposed regulatory decision as described in PRVD2011-14 and REV2016-06."

As a result, PMRA will maintain all labelled food crop uses of chlorothalonil which reverses the proposed decision to cancel use on blueberry, celery, cherry, cole crops, sweet corn, cranberry, nectarine, onion and peach, with implementation of risk mitigation measures.

The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) and the provincial organizations including our Potato Board have been active in providing comment and monitoring the situation. Following is a summary of the PMRA decision provided by the CPC's David Jones: "Mitigation measures for all label uses include the requirement to use a closed-system for mixing and loading to protect human health, use of vegetative filter strip to protect aquatic environments (of at least 10 metres wide must be constructed and maintained between the field edge and adjacent, downhill aquatic habitat), requirement for dry and water dispersible granules (WDG) formulations to be marketed only in water soluble packages, revised number of applications and re-entry intervals.

Specifically for potato, the PMRA decision is:

- Limit of 3 applications per season (original proposed decision was to limit to 1 application per season), maximum application is unchanged at 2.4 L/ha (0.97 L/ac);
- There does not appear to be a limit on the number of aerial applications that is more restrictive than the 3 total applications per season allowed, but this will be confirmed [Ed Note: Aerial applications are not permitted in PEI];

## Dealer & Exporter License Renewal Deadline

2018/2019 PEI Potato Dealer & Exporter License Applications and Renewals are due on Tuesday, July 31st, 2018.

For forms and other necessary information, please contact the Board Office at (902) 892-6551.

### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POTATO PRODUCERS

## NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Elections are being held under Section 11 of the Potato Marketing Plan Regulations to fill four vacancies on the PEI Potato Board created by the expiration of terms in office of Darryl Wallace, Processing Director for the West Prince District; Fulton Hamill, Tablestock Director for the Summerside District; Alex Docherty, Seed Director for the Charlottetown District and Wayne Townshend, Seed Director for the Montague-Souris District. Fulton Hamill and Wayne Townshend are eligible for re-election this year. However, having served two consecutive terms already, Darryl Wallace and Alex Docherty are not eligible to be elected this year.

To be eligible for election, a producer willing to serve on the Board must:

1. be registered with the Potato Board on June 30, 2018;
2. meet the classification requirements;
3. be nominated by ten producers located in the district the person seeks to represent who are registered with the Board on June 30, 2018;
4. have delivered to the Returning Officer, or have mailed and postmarked no later than the last day of July 2018, a properly completed nomination form; and
5. indicate a willingness to serve by signing the Nomination Form.

Nomination forms are available from the Prince Edward Island Potato Board, 90 Hillstrom Ave., West Royalty Business Park, Charlottetown; Tel: 902-892-6551 or from the PEI Marketing Council Office: Suite 216 Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PE C1A 7Z5; Tel: 902-569-7575.

Nomination forms containing original signatures must be delivered or postmarked no later than July 31, 2018 to:

Ian McIsaac, Returning Officer  
Potato Board Elections  
Suite 216 Farm Centre  
420 University Avenue,  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7Z5



- Ground application must use only closed-cab equipment;
- Buffer zones of 1 to 2 metres to aquatic environments for ground-boom application and 15 to 65 metres for aerial application are required;
- Re-entry intervals:
  - Scouting – 3 days
  - Handset Irrigation – 23 days
  - Rogueing (seed fields) – 19 days
  - All Other Activities – 0.5 days

PMRA also announced that a Special Review of chlorothalonil will be initiated to review the potential risk to the environment and non-target organisms that was identified with the submission of new information. No further details were provided, this will be provided when the Special Review announcement is published.”

Once again, we thank all potato farmers who took the time to respond to the survey we circulated on the use of chlorothalonil in our province. We cannot stress enough how important that type of information is to PMRA and to the Canadian Potato Council when we are responding to proposed decisions regarding the use of crop protectants in our country. We also want to remind growers that the

requirement for buffer zones in PEI is broader than the PMRA requirement for this product, therefore you must conform with the provincial buffer zone regulations.

As a final note, the PMRA document states: “Chlorothalonil is currently acceptable for use in member countries from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including the United States, Australia and member states of the European Union.”

## Board Governance and Young Farmer Rep on Potato Board

Our organization created a non-voting young farmer position on our Board of Directors several years ago in order to encourage more involvement and input from that important segment of our industry. We have been fortunate to have had several excellent representatives fill that position over the years, including Ryan Keenan, Greg Stavert and most recently, Ashton Perry of W.P. Griffin. Ashton has been an articulate, knowledgeable and active member of our Board. She recently completed her term and we thank her for the thoughtful input she provided. Of note, Ashton was also the first female to fill the young farmer position, and the Board welcomes increased involvement from women going forward both as elected directors of the Board and via the Young Farmer position.

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Kyle Maynard of Farm Boys Inc. in Arlington will attend the June Board of Directors meeting as the new Young Farmer representative. We look forward to working with Kyle over the coming year.

The Board has surveyed growers in recent months about potential changes to our governance model, including possible changes to the number and geographic boundaries of districts, the number of directors, the criteria for being a registered producer, etc. We've appreciated your input to date, and the Board will be reviewing that input once planting has been completed.

### **Board Requests Improvements to the PEI Crop Insurance Program**

The PEI Potato Board met earlier this winter with representatives of the PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation to discuss the industry wish list to improve the program for Island potato farmers and what changes would be feasible under the federal regulations. After this discussion suggested changes were prioritized by the Board and the following requests taken to the Provincial government and the Agricultural Insurance Corporation Board:

1. Increase the unit prices available to growers by the full amount proven and justified in the unit price test. (\$11.50).
2. Increase the unit price available within the potato storage plan.
3. Develop and add a Drought Rider to this year's program.
4. The addition of a weather station in Western PEI and continue adding stations in other areas of PEI for the longer term.

Due to budget constraints and premium increases already set for the 2018 crop, the provincial government denied requests for unit price increases for both the field and storage programs. As well, the AIC Board felt that they could not support the drought rider at this time as the Provincial Water Act and Regulations are not yet finalized. The AIC Board and the Province have approved the addition of a weather station near O'Leary as requested.

The Board is disappointed that the request for a unit price increase was not approved at this time. We will continue to work with the AIC to push for improvements to the program for the benefit of PEI potato producers.



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# Wireworm Research Update

Dr. Christine Noronha, Research Scientist, AAFC and Dr. Suqi Liu, Research Scientist, PEIDAF

Research to develop wireworm control strategies and better understand their biology continued in 2017. Trials on the movement of wireworms showed that in 24 hours they can travel a horizontal distance of 3.4 m in search of food (Fig.1). This study looked at the movement of small, medium, and large wireworms at 1, 3 and 7 days after release. Results show 10 % of the small, 20% of the medium and 50% of the large wireworms reached 3.4m in 3 days. These results will help in determining the number of baits required per acre to evaluate population levels in a field.

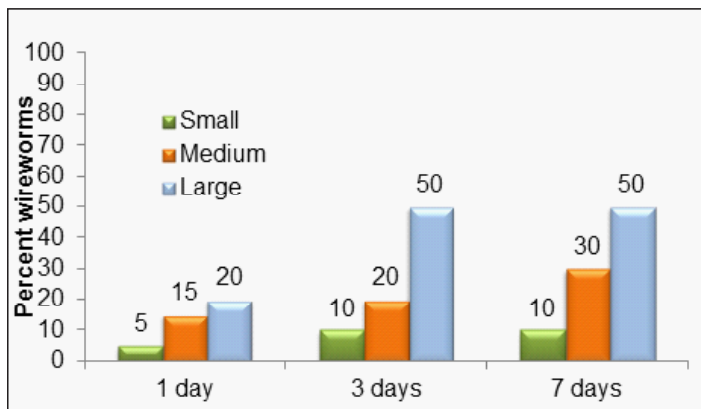


Figure 1. Percentage of wireworm found in bait traps placed at 3.4 m from the release point.

A study was also conducted to determine the vertical movement in the soil of newly hatched (neonate) wireworms. Results show that neonate wireworms can move 15-20 cm into the soil in 24 hours, with over 60% reaching 46 cm in 7 days (Fig.2). These results demonstrate that neonate wireworms are capable of moving large distances in a short period of time thus, leaving a field fallow in order to dry it out will not kill neonate wireworms.

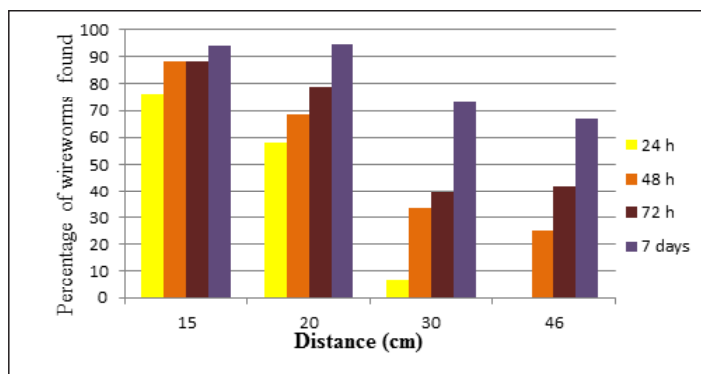


Figure 2. The time required for neonate wireworms to reach a food source placed at different soil depths.

Studies on the impact of buckwheat on neonate and medium sized wireworms, showed 80% mortality after feeding on buckwheat roots (Fig. 3). Fifty percent mortality was recorded after wireworms had been feeding on buckwheat roots for three months. These results demonstrate that feeding on buckwheat over a period of 3-6 months results in high wireworm mortality.

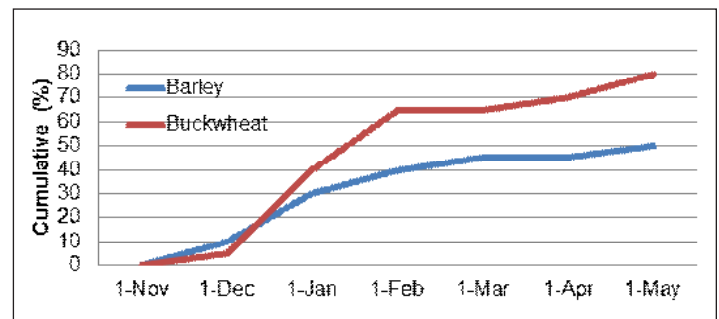


Figure 3. Cumulative percentage mortality of wireworms feeding on buckwheat roots

A three year study was initiated in 2016 to determine the impact of the combined use of the NELT, to remove egg laying females, and brown mustard as a rotation crop on click beetle and wireworm populations and tuber damage (Fig. 4). In 2013 and 2015, tuber damage in the trial field ranged from 7.4 – 11 blemishes per tuber. Preliminary results in 2017, following one year of trapping and planting brown mustard, shows a significant decrease in click beetles captured when compared to 2016. NELT trapping and the planting of a second year of mustard continued in 2017. Potatoes planted in 2018 will be evaluated for damage and bait traps will be placed to determine the wireworm population.

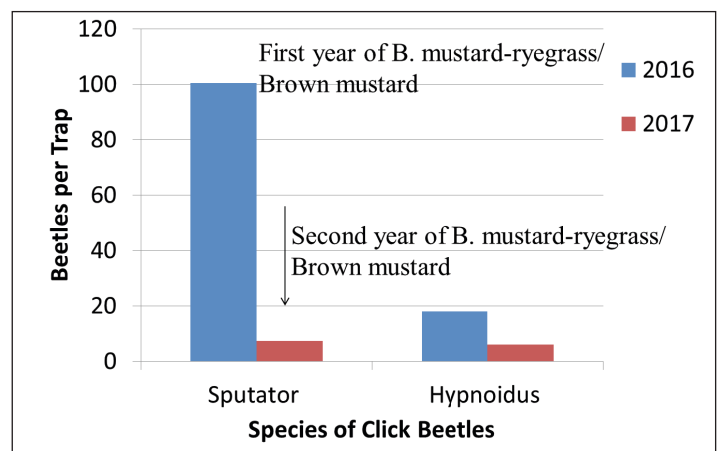


Figure 4. Number of click beetles caught per trap in 2016 following potatoes and in 2017 following one year of Brown mustard planted as a rotation crop in 2016.

# Best Management Practices to Minimize the Spread of PVY

Compiled by Ryan Barrett, Research & Agronomy Coordinator, PEI Potato Board  
based on research by Dr. Mathuresh Singh and research team, Potatoes New Brunswick

Over the past five years, the PEI Potato Board has supported research into improved management practices for Potato Virus Y (PVY) as part of the Canadian Horticultural Council's National Potato Research Cluster. This research has been led by Dr. Mathuresh Singh and his team at ACS Lab, operated by Potatoes New Brunswick. Dr. Singh's team has published several scientific papers resulting from their PVY research, and Mathuresh has also presented results to Island growers on multiple occasions. In this factsheet, we seek to emphasize some of the best management practices for management of PVY tested in this research project.

Minimizing the impact of PVY in potatoes requires a two-pronged approach: minimizing PVY inoculum in seed, and reducing the spread of PVY in the field. By examining PVY spread in a number of grower fields in New Brunswick over a five year period, Dr. Singh and his research team were able to identify which factors had the greatest impact on minimizing PVY levels.

## Planting Clean Seed:

One of the factors with the largest effect on minimizing PVY levels is planting seed with the lowest virus level possible. In New Brunswick research, it was found that seed lots planted with zero percent PVY had significantly lower PVY levels at the end of the season compared with fields planted with some starting virus level (Fig. 1). This makes logical sense, as having fewer PVY infected plants from which aphids can pick up the virus dramatically decreases the likelihood of spread to nearby plants within the field. While aphids can bring PVY from other fields or other hosts such as nightshade weeds, minimizing the initial inoculum in the field is one of the single largest factors in reducing in-season PVY spread. In addition, effective rogueing of seed fields to remove infected plants early is essential to limiting the spread of PVY as even seed lots with a zero post harvest test may contain some infected plants. This is especially important if planting a seed lot with a virus level higher than zero.

## Application of Mineral Oils/Insecticide:

Over several years, Dr. Singh and his team have been able to consistently show that the regular application of mineral oils in combination with the use of insecticides is very effective at minimizing the spread of PVY in-season (Fig. 2). By examining both grower practices over several years, as well as testing on a plot basis

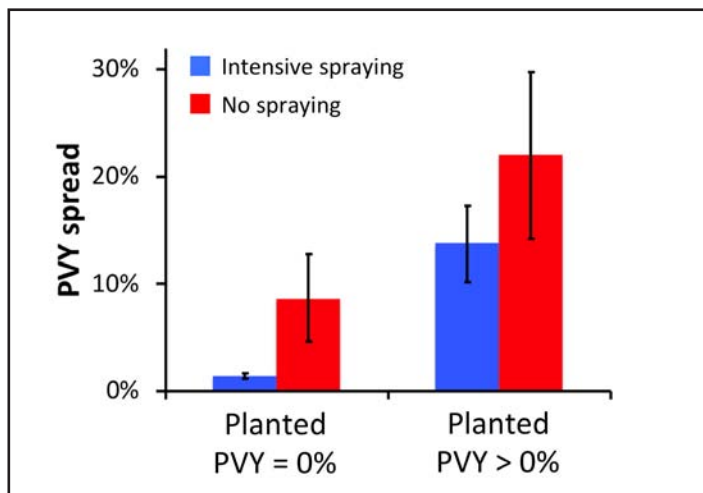


Figure 1: Effect of PVY inoculum planted in the field. Fields planted with no detectable PVY (Planted PVY = 0%) show much less PVY spread even than intensively managed fields (many mineral oil and insecticide sprays) if planted with detectable levels of PVY (Planted PVY > 0%). Data from: MacKenzie, Tyler DB, Xianzhou Nie, and Mathuresh Singh. *American Journal of Potato Research* 93, no. 6 (2016): 552-563.

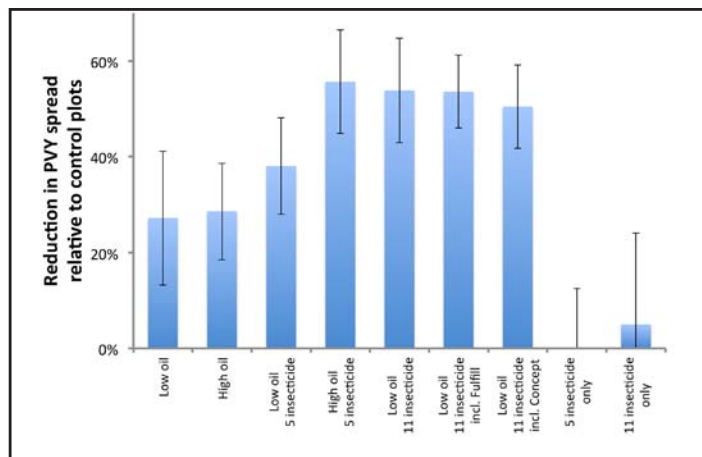
over multiple years, the New Brunswick team has identified that weekly application of 2 L per acre of mineral oil is essential to impairing the ability of non-colonizing aphids to transmit PVY. Growers who maximized their time of protection with mineral oil (starting before 30% emergence and continuing until just before top-kill) showed the greatest control of PVY spread. Rates higher than 2 L per acre (5 L per hectare) did not show any significant improvement in the reduction of PVY spread.

Also of high importance is minimizing the window between plant emergence and the first oil spray (Fig. 3). Reducing this window had a high correlation with reduced PVY spread, as well as maintaining a frequent spray schedule. From 2010 to 2014, the average number of days between first emergence and first spray reduced from 36 to 24 days, with average PVY spread declining substantially during that time.

The best level of PVY control was seen when insecticides were combined with mineral oils for approximately half of the total sprays (Fig. 2). However, the timing of these insecticide sprays and the type of insecticide used were key to optimum control. The most effective timing for insecticide sprays is generally early and mid-season, when aphid numbers are highest and the growing potato plants are most sensitive to infection. The number of aphids



Figure 2: Effectiveness of various foliar spraying treatments on reduction of PVY spread. Bars are averages of trials in two different years, and indicate reduction of PVY spread from the level measured in control (unsprayed) plots. Most effective treatments were combined mineral oil & insecticide spray, followed by mineral oil spray alone, and insecticide spray alone had no effect on PVY spread reduction. PVY spread in control plots in each year averaged 11% (2014) and 22% (2015). Low oil rates used were 1.5 l/ac all season and high oil rates were 3 l/ac each spray until late July and 1.5 l/ac for the rest of the season. Data from: MacKenzie, Tyler DB, Jacques Lavoie, Xianzhou Nie, and Mathuresh Singh. *American Journal of Potato Research* 94, no. 1 (2017): 70-80.



found per trap in early and mid-season is highly correlated with PVY spread, so controlling aphids at those times is most important. The New Brunswick team has also done substantial work to identify which types of insecticides are most effective at interrupting aphids in the quickest possible fashion to prevent PVY spread, as slow-acting chemistries will still allow aphids to probe leaves and pass on the virus. Their research has shown certain chemistries to be the most effective, including pyrethroids (such as lambda-cyhalothrin) or flonicamid. Trade names for these insecticides include Matador, Silencer, and Beleaf. Use of insecticides alone (without use of mineral oil) was found to be ineffective at controlling PVY spread. In NB field trials, application of a minimum of 5 to 6 insecticide sprays in combination with mineral oils was found to be the most effective, especially if used early in the season when aphid numbers are often highest and plants are growing quickly.

### Delaying Planting Date:

Dr. Singh's team found that a slight delay in planting date was associated with moderately significant reduction in PVY spread. By planting slightly later, it is possible in some years to delay full emergence until after the peak of early-season aphids has passed, usually in mid to late June. From 2010 to 2014, planting dates moved back by two weeks on average in the research team's monitored grower fields. Moving planting date too late may significantly limit yield, so finding a compromise on planting date is important.

### Environmental Variables:

While weather conditions are not controllable, some have more impact than others on PVY spread. The New Brunswick research team determined that mean temperature in the preceding winter can have a moderately significant impact on PVY spread, with higher winter temperatures favouring higher virus levels. This is likely due to reduced winter mortality of aphids as well as increased likelihood of volunteer potatoes.

Variables with relatively lower correlation with PVY spread included mean daily temperature in July and the number of days with rain during the growing season. Variables which did not have a significant correlation with PVY spread included total precipitation during the growing season, average temperature during the growing season, the number of aphids per trap in late season, and the number of days between last oil spray and top killing. However, this should not be used as an excuse to stop oil sprays early, as there was little variation in this data as most growers in the study continued to spray oil consistently up to top-kill.

### Changing PVY Strain Populations:

One of the major revelations from Dr. Singh's research has been the changing nature of PVY strains in Canada. Previously, the dominant strain found in Canadian potatoes has been PVY<sup>O</sup>. In recent years, recombinant, necrotic PVY strains such as PVY<sup>N:O</sup> and PVY<sup>NTN</sup> have increased in prevalence, with PVY<sup>NTN</sup> now accounting for more than 60% of infections (Fig. 4). Controlled field experiments

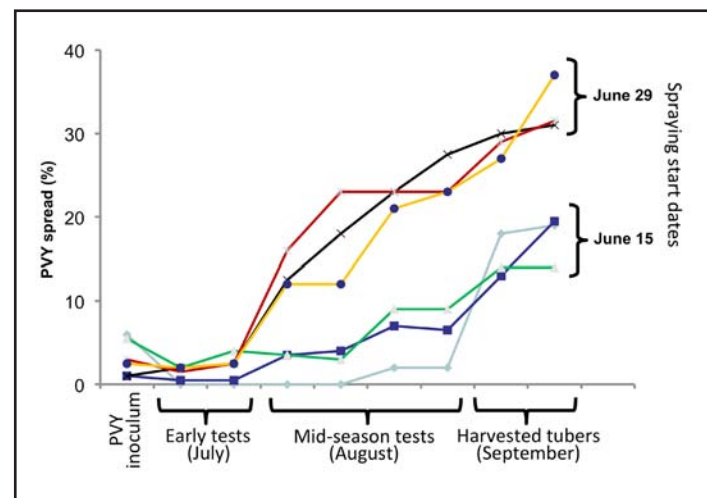


Figure 3: PVY spread through the growing season in six fields in which mineral oil and insecticide spraying programs were started at different dates. Three fields where spraying began mid-June had PVY spread almost reduced to half of those where spraying began two weeks later in late June.

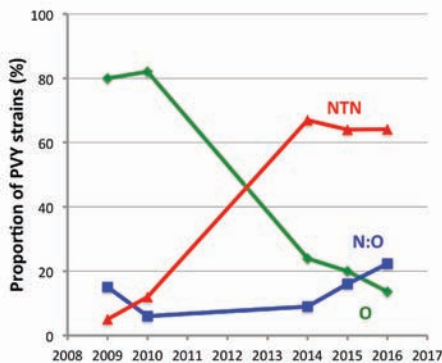


Fig. 4 Changes in proportions of PVY strains since 2009. Data from: MacKenzie, Tyler DB, Jacques Lavoie, Xianzhou Nie, and Mathuresh Singh. *American Journal of Potato Research* (2018): 1-10.

have shown that PVY<sup>NTN</sup> is particularly aggressive, spreading much more readily than other strains. These studies have also shown that PVY<sup>NTN</sup> produces a higher percentage of infected tubers and a higher number of tubers per plant than PVY<sup>0</sup>, which may partially explain the growing dominance of PVY<sup>NTN</sup>.

In addition, both PVY<sup>N:O</sup> and PVY<sup>NTN</sup> tend to display fewer foliar symptoms (mosaic) than traditional PVY<sup>0</sup>. This impacts the ability to identify infected plants during rogueing. The variation of symptoms on both foliage and tubers has been shown to be variety-dependent, with the NB research team cataloguing the relative severity of symptoms on thirty different varieties. For example, the round white variety Eva has shown to be very resistant to all strains of PVY. On the other hand, varieties such as Envol and Yukon Gold appear to be particularly susceptible to the recombinant strains, with necrotic lesions evident on tubers. Thus far the New Brunswick researchers have not shown severe necrotic effects from PVY in most of the dominant varieties grown in Prince Edward Island, such as Russet Burbank or Goldrush.

Recent research results from Dr. Singh's team have shown that these recombinant strains also appear to be more likely to be spread by mechanical damage to foliage. Controlled field experiments have shown that PVY spread can be several times higher in wheel tracks than in neighbouring rows, due to the exposure of sap from foliage on wheels travelling down the row

and infecting plants through damage to leaves and stems. Further research into the mechanical transmission of PVY is ongoing, but growers of high-generation seed may need to consider changing the management of wheel tracks or using tramlines.

### Summary:

Research by Dr. Mathuresh Singh and his research team in New Brunswick has made significant progress in improving our understanding of PVY spread. From these studies, the key messages for reducing PVY spread include:

- **Plant certified seed with the lowest PVY virus level possible.** Starting with clean seed is associated with significantly lower levels of in-season spread. For cost-conscious growers, the research team feels that this is the single most cost-effective management decision for PVY spread reduction.
- **Weekly application of at least 2 L per acre of mineral oil** from soon after emergence until shortly before top kill, **combined with use of effective insecticides** like lambda-cyhalothrin or flonicamid, has been proven to have the lowest rate of PVY

spread. While frequency of spray (weekly) is important, higher rates (above 2 L per acre) of mineral oil, and use of other insecticide chemistries have not been shown to significantly decrease spread.


- **Delaying planting to avoid early season aphid populations**, as well as decreasing the interval between plant emergence and first spraying, is significantly correlated with reduced PVY spread.

- **Early rogueing**, even in seed plots with a zero virus rating, is important in all seed fields to reduce the risk of virus spread in-season.


Sincere thanks to Dr. Mathuresh Singh, Dr. Tyler MacKenzie and the rest of the team at Agricultural Certification Services in Fredericton, NB for providing results from their research as part of the CHC National Potato Cluster 2, completed in April 2018.

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# Disposition and Holdings

## CANADIAN HOLDINGS as of May 1 ('000 cwt) \*

	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<b>17-18 vs. <u>16-17</u></b>
<b>PEI</b>	<b>9,693</b>	<b>9,271</b>	<b>9,398</b>	<b>8,578</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>
New Brunswick	5,147	5,479	5,902	5,625	-4.7%
Nova Scotia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Maritimes</b>	<b>14,840</b>	<b>14,750</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>14,203</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>
Quebec	3,407	3,579	3,162	3,087	-2.4%
Ontario	1,393	1,576	1,036	1,564	51.0%
<b>Total Eastern Canada (inc. Maritimes)</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>19,905</b>	<b>19,498</b>	<b>18,854</b>	<b>-3.3%</b>
Manitoba	4,959	6,971	7,774	7,646	-1.6%
Saskatchewan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alberta	5,135	5,447	5,278	6,922	31.1%
British Columbia	60	62	159	65	-59.1%
<b>Total Western Canada</b>	<b>10,154</b>	<b>12,480</b>	<b>13,211</b>	<b>14,633</b>	<b>10.8%</b>
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>29,794</b>	<b>32,385</b>	<b>32,709</b>	<b>33,487</b>	<b>2.4%</b>

\*Source: AAFC Infohort

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DISPOSITION as of April 30 (cwt)

	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<b>17-18 vs. <u>16-17</u></b>
Production	25,240,000	24,850,000	25,723,000	23,664,000	-8.0%
Canadian Shipments	1,987,647	1,986,109	2,254,862	2,111,522	-6.4%
U.S. Shipments	1,997,123	2,126,417	2,465,386	2,368,750	-3.9%
Export Shipments	843,525	878,811	675,172	559,238	-17.2%
<b>Total Fresh</b>	<b>4,828,295</b>	<b>4,991,337</b>	<b>5,395,420</b>	<b>5,039,510</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>
Processing / Local Use	8,879,953	8,681,859	8,974,975	8,269,358	-7.9%
Seed for Next Crop	0	0	0	0	
Cullage	1,838,637	1,905,948	1,954,686	1,776,992	-9.1%
<b>Total Disposition as of April 30</b>	<b>15,546,885</b>	<b>15,579,144</b>	<b>16,325,081</b>	<b>15,085,860</b>	<b>-7.6%</b>
<b>Holdings at May 1</b>	<b>9,693,115</b>	<b>9,270,856</b>	<b>9,397,919</b>	<b>8,578,140</b>	<b>-8.7%</b>

## Projected Utilization as of May 1 (cwt)

Fresh	1,870,283	1,644,194	1,625,388	1,080,805	-33.5%
Processing	6,084,539	5,815,283	6,015,215	5,910,567	-1.7%
Seed	1,738,293	1,811,380	1,757,316	1,586,768	-9.7%



# Stats Canada Revises Estimates for Canadian Potato Statistics

by Brenda Simmons, Assistant General Manager

Statistics Canada revised its estimate of potato production for the years 2012 – 2017 on May 3, 2018. The revisions were made as a result of the 2016 Census of Agriculture, which was released in May, 2017. The Census, which covers every farm in Canada, is felt to be a more accurate measure than the surveys which are conducted annually on a percentage of farms. Stats Canada uses the Census data to review previous years' survey data and sometimes makes significant revisions, as happened with PEI's data for 2012 – 2017. Changes were made to potato estimates for some other provinces as well in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> release.

From a PEI perspective, the changes seem to make

sense. For the three years prior to 2012 (2009 – 2011), our planted acres were fairly steady and averaged 85,900 acres. Our average yield for that period was 293 cwt/acre. Starting in 2012, the original estimate from Stats Canada showed a large increase to 89,500 acres, and a drop in average yield to 278 cwt/acre. The revisions now bring our average yields for 2012 to 2017 back up to 294 cwt/acre.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT STATISTICS CANADA DID NOT REVISE THE TOTAL PRODUCTION FOR PEI IN THE UPDATE. As you may know, the PEI Potato Board uses Stats Canada's estimate of total production each fall and then tracks all the usage of our crop during the year (seed sales/usage, table sales, fresh for processing use sales, cullage and dumped product). We feel their total production estimates tracked fairly closely with the total usage, so those estimates were good. Therefore the Stats Canada estimates did not impact how we marketed the crop.

It did impact our planted and harvested acres, and the reported yield. Statistics Canada is exploring the use of other data sources, including possibly satellite imagery, to ensure acreage estimates are more accurate going forward. They will continue to do the phone surveys following planting and harvest, and we ask for your cooperation in providing accurate information. We will be working with Stats Canada as well going forward to continue to make estimates as accurate as possible.



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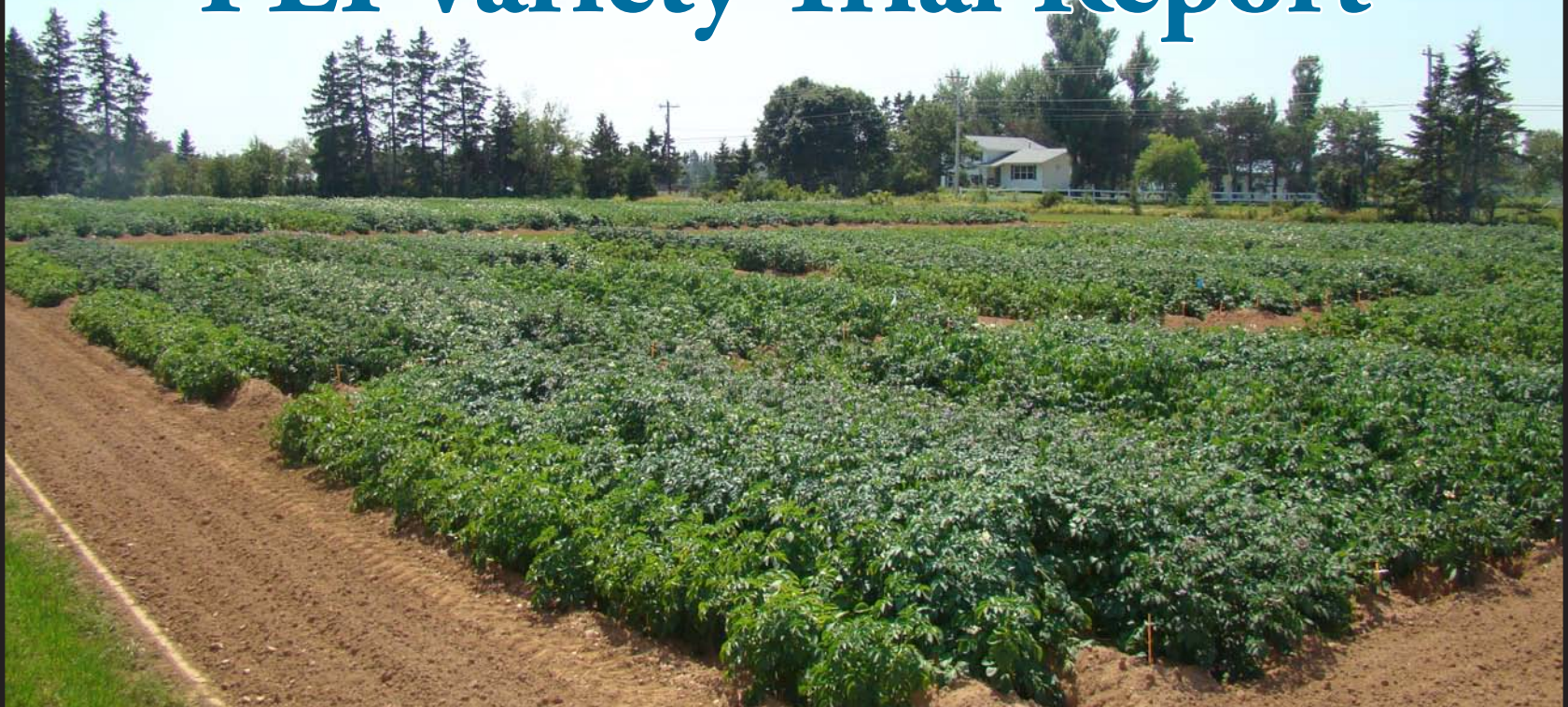
## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND POTATO ESTIMATES: Planted acres, Harvested acres, Yield and Production

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Stats Canada original planted acres	89,500	89,000	90,500	89,500	89,000	88,000
Stats Canada revised planted acres	<u>85,700</u>	<u>82,900</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,800</u>	<u>87,000</u>	<u>84,200</u>
Difference	3,800	6,100	5,500	3,700	2,000	3,800
Stats Canada original harvested acres	87,500	89,000	90,200	89,000	88,700	87,000
Stats Canada revised harvested acres	<u>83,700</u>	<u>82,900</u>	<u>84,700</u>	<u>85,300</u>	<u>86,700</u>	<u>83,200</u>
Difference	3,800	6,100	5,500	3,700	2,000	3,800
PEI Production (cwt x 1,000)	24,284	25,009	25,240	24,850	25,723	23,664
Stats Canada original yield (cwt/acre)	278	281	280	279	290	272
Stats Canada revised yield (cwt/acre)	<u>290</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>284</u>
Difference	-13	-21	-18	-12	-7	-12

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 001-0014, Area, production and farm value of potatoes.

Following the release of 2016 Census of Agriculture data in May 2017, intercensal revisions for the years 2012 to 2016 are now reflected in CANSIM.

# PEI Variety Trial Report



by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator, PEI Potato Board and David Main, Biologist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The 2017 season marked the final year of the variety trial sponsored under the National Potato Cluster Research Program. This season, 8 advanced breeding lines and 18 recently released cultivars were grown in comparison to standard varieties in the categories of red skin, yellow skin and yellow flesh, round whites and russet potatoes.

The 2017 growing season started off well and overall emergence and early growth was very good in all plots. As the season progressed it was warmer and drier than the thirty year average:

Month 2017	% of normal rainfall
May	171
June	76
July	53
August	104
September	59
October	31

The rains in late August and early September helped this area to avoid major yield reductions seen in other areas of the province.

Hand planting took place on May 25, 2017 into soil

with pH 6.4 and organic matter content of 3.4%. Individual plots were 25 foot long, single rows replicated four times in a randomized complete block design. Seed piece spacing was 10 inches within rows and three feet between rows with the exception of AR2017-02, Blazer Russet, Clearwater Russet, Highland Russet and Russet Burbank with 12 inch in-row spacing and the creamer cultivars Bambino, Island Ruby and Phyto-456 with 8 inch in-row spacing. Fertilizer was side-banded at planting at 150 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O and 20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of Mg, with the exception of creamer cultivars which had 110 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N and 170 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O banded at planting. All plots received additional N at 34 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> on June 29. Insect and weed control consisted of in-furrow Admire® and Thimet®20G and pre-emergence Sencor®, respectively. Foliar fungicide applications included Bravo® 500 and Manzate®.

Advanced breeding lines and relatively new cultivars had been submitted by AAFC, the PEI Potato Board and five private variety agents for evaluation under Prince Edward Island environmental conditions.

## Red Skin Cultivars and Selections

All red entries had good emergence and appearance ranged from average to very good. Many selections outperformed the standard Norland with respect to total and marketable yield. Several new varieties and lines show promise but the standard Norland is hard to beat for colour, uniformity and overall appearance.



## Yellow Skin and Flesh Cultivars and Selections

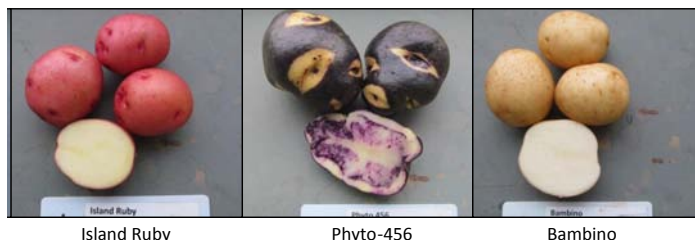
The range of yellow flesh varieties grown in PEI continues to expand and standards for this part of the trial included Yukon Gold and Satina. All entries except Yukon Nugget exceeded the marketable yield of Yukon Gold. The relatively new variety Electra had the highest marketable yield in this category for the second year in a row with a nice uniform appearance. Other entries including Chicago, Isle of Jura, and Yukon Gem also produced good marketable yield and limited defects and we have seen increasing acreage of these varieties in the commercial acreage grown on PEI. The line AR2014-09 produces a reasonable yield, but due to continuing issues with growth cracks and rhizoctonia will not be tested again. Yukon Nugget had very good numbers but a low yield and may need further testing at a tighter spacing for the creamer market.

## Round White Cultivars and Selections

A limited number of round white potatoes were entered in the trial in 2017. Eva has been growing in popularity and acreage and continues to perform well - a slightly lower yield than the standard Kennebec but a pleasing appearance and shape. Several of the newer entries may be tested again in 2018.

## Creamer Cultivars and Selections

Creamers and baby potatoes are a growing high value segment of the market. Island Ruby, a variety from the AAFC breeding program, had a pleasing appearance and a good number of tubers for this segment, but unfortunately due



*Entries in the creamer category of the 2017 variety trial.*

to an issue with emergence (due to an unresolved cause) the yield was significantly lower than the other two entries. The number of tubers ranged from 56 to 71.2 per m<sup>2</sup>.

## Russet Cultivars and Selections

One advanced selection from the AAFC breeding program and several russet skinned cultivars from the Pacific Northwest breeding programs that are in the early stages of commercialization in PEI were included in this category in 2017. Russet Burbank was used as processing standard and Goldrush as a fresh standard. Plant emergence was excellent at 100% for all entries. All entries had a better appearance than Russet Burbank. Yield and specific gravity values can be seen in Table 1. below. Several of the new russet lines show a very good yield and Classic Russet and Highland Russet produced a good percentage of 10 oz potatoes under PEI conditions.

A full report on the variety trial on PEI and variety trials conducted under the National Potato Research Cluster across the country are available by contacting Mary Kay at the Board Office at (902) 892-6551.

**Table 1. Tuber yield and specific gravity for 7 russet skin selections/cultivars of potatoes grown at AAFC, Harrington, 2017.**

Selection/ Cultivar	Total	< 2"	2" to 10 oz.	>10 oz.	Cull	Mkt. <sup>a</sup>	Specific Gravity
----- ( Metric tonne / Ha) -----							
AR2017-02	46.9	7.6	34.9	3.9	0.6	38.8	1.096
Blazer Russet	50.5	5.7	36.4	7.3	1.1	43.7	1.093
Classic Russet	54.4	2.5	31.0	20.3	0.6	51.3	1.093
Clearwater Russet	42.2	12.2	28.0	1.1	0.9	29.1	1.095
Goldrush	48.2	6.2	35.1	5.3	1.7	40.3	1.086
Highland Russet	51.6	2.5	28.7	14.9	5.5	43.6	1.100
Russet Burbank	59.9	6.7	36.9	9.1	7.2	46.0	1.097
Mean	50.5	6.2	33.0	8.8	2.5	41.8	1.094
%CV	8	31	14	33	56	12	0.3
LSD (0.05)	6.2 <sup>b</sup>	2.8	NS <sup>c</sup>	4.3	2.1	7.3	0.004

<sup>a</sup> marketable yield: >2" to 10 oz + >10 oz. <sup>b</sup> Values within a column are significantly different if the difference is equal to or greater than the LSD value. <sup>c</sup> No significant difference.

# Marketing Notes

by Kendra Mills, Marketing Director

Summertime is a busy time all around PEI. The population grows exponentially with tourists and PEI gears up to host people from all over the world. When it comes to festivals and events for the potato industry to get involved in, we are always looking at ways of ensuring that people from here and abroad get a taste of PEI Potatoes, both figuratively and literally. When we consider an event sponsorship, we look to meet certain goals:

- Improve the perception of PEI Potatoes and the growers among Islanders and visitors;
- Highlight the importance of the industry, particularly to rural PEI;
- Look for opportunities that complements our industry, and provide mutual benefits to both parties.

We have gotten involved in a few different sponsorships over the years that bring something unique to our marketing plan. All of our activities reach different segments of consumers, but with a similar message.

This year, we will continue with sponsors we have been working with for several years:

- Burger Love Frydays (in partnership with Cavendish

Farms)

- PEI Mutual Festival of Small Halls
- Island Review at Harmony House featuring Patrick Ledwell and Mark Haines
- PEI International Shellfish Festival (PEI Potato Chowder Competition)
- Toe Taps 'n Taters Fall Flavours Signature Event

We are also looking at a sponsorship with Indian River Festival, which hosts over 10,000 people over the course of the summer. This one will start small and if deemed successful we can expand our involvement into the next year.

Another benefit that we have is our social media and database strengths. Recently, when meeting with a potential partner, they expressed great interest in tapping into our large audience, which is something that we can use to our benefit when negotiating costs and also providing value. When our consumer database and social media feeds are aggregated, we can easily reach over 100,000 people! That's great added value to have at our disposal.

And of course, no summer would be complete without Tate making appearances at events, local tourist spots, cruise ships and parades! Hopefully you see Tate on his travels as you make your way around PEI this summer.

All the best for a great summer on PEI!



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# Bringing Potato History to Life

by Mary Kay Sonier

Lorne Roberts remembers the basement being full of potatoes when he was a child. Saturdays were a big day when he and his brother Leonard would help fork the spuds onto the grading table and grade them into jute bags to be shipped to market. This was part of the routine on a small mixed Island farm in 1940's and 50's. Potato production has changed a lot since that time and the Roberts family are now helping to bring the evolution of the potato industry to life.

Since he semi-retired almost 10 years ago, Lorne and his son Peter have been collecting old farm equipment. Some originated on their own farm, many pieces come from the local area and some pieces have been collected off-Island. Machinery is restored to working condition (or as close as they can get) during the winter months. The collection has grown over the years as they have searched out some hard to find equipment and friends and neighbours have shared their discoveries. The old cattle barn, which recently housed a skating rink for local kids during the winter months, is now home to a wide range of equipment that was commonly used on Island farms from the early 1900's to the 1960's.

They have arranged the display based on that standard three year rotation that has been common on PEI - potatoes followed by grain followed by a forage crop before going back into potatoes. First in line is the potato equipment. From horse drawn planters and scufflers to an old beater digger, visitors can hold the handles and get an appreciation

of the strength it took to walk behind the horses and guide the equipment. At first glance the planters from the first half of the 1900's look small and antiquated, but on closer inspection one can see how some of the basic mechanics of dropping sets and covering the hills are still used on today's large six row planters!

What makes the display really interesting to



*Lorne and Honey Roberts spent their lives farming and raising a family in the Kinkora area. With the help of their son and grandson they are now getting ready to share their display of this farming history with tourists and locals alike.*

visitors is the way that Lorne and Peter have hooked up the belts and chains so that at the flick of switch small motors run the drive belts and put the machinery into operation.

After the potato section comes the grain equipment with displays of hand scythes to an early reaper and separate threshing and cleaning machines. This is followed by equipment for haying and some miscellaneous early dairy and other vegetable equipment. The display will even host a small section on sports equipment, which will be no surprise to those familiar with the Roberts family.

In the central aisle is a section on early engines that were used by towns, on farms and on PEI wharves. Actually, that is how this all started - since 2014, the Roberts have hosted a one day open house event showcasing farm engines, antique tractors, antique cars and assorted other pieces of antique farm equipment brought by neighbours and friends for display. The event would run on a Saturday in August and donations were collected for a variety of causes from neighbours in need of a helping hand, to Habitat for Humanity and the Children's Wish Foundation to Community Connections. The 2018 event is scheduled for August 25 from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Machinery displays are of course a big draw for other farmers and those who work with farm machinery, but even non-farmers can get a real appreciation for the labour intensive industry that farming was in the past and the hard work that it still involves, even with all the technological advancements.

Another unique feature is having the historical display



*This wooden elevator belt was used to bring graded bags of potatoes up out of the basement to take elsewhere to be loaded on a boat or on rail cars to go to market.*



The 1904 planter (above left) and the beater digger (above right) harken to the days gone by when small mixed farms on PEI had various types of livestock and a few acres of potatoes. Photos: M.K. Sonier

on an active working farm. Peter Roberts farms with his brother Austin Roberts, uncle Gerry Roberts and neighbour Andrew Lawless under the name R&L Farms - a thoroughly modern multi-family potato farm. Visitors will be able to step outside and have a first hand view of machinery used in modern potato production and current activities going on at whatever time of year they visit.

Experience PEI representatives visited the site in early

May 2018 and will help with marketing the historical display for agri-tourism purposes. The goal is to have the farm history tour available as an attraction for bus tours and other scheduled visits. The location in central PEI makes it very accessible and the enthusiasm of the Roberts family for their restoration hobby and explaining how things work makes for a very enjoyable visit.



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# Potatoes Canada 2016-2018

by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

The Potatoes Canada project has worked actively over the past number of years on behalf of the Alberta, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick potato industries to enhance market place presence in existing and target export markets. The objective of this effort is to increase market share in those countries or regions through consistent communications with international contacts and presence at international tradeshows, conducting market research that is shared with Canadian exporters, preparation of promotional items and working with various government departments to host incoming trade missions designed to resolve phytosanitary issues and improve market access for Canadian potatoes. Funding for this project has been covered under various agreements since 2010. The latest funding piece for the project covered April 2016 through to March 31, 2018 and was provided through the Canadian Horticultural Council's project under Growing Forward 2, a federal, provincial, territorial initiative, the PEI Potato Board, Potatoes NB, the Potato Growers of Alberta, and the PEI and NB Departments of Agriculture.

The project has been fortunate to have long standing part-time contract employees who have helped us to maintain continuity from one phase of the project to the next.

## Export Development Coordinator – Ellen Kouwenberg

For the past seven years Ellen has been employed as an Export Development Coordinator for Potatoes Canada. She received her business degree at UPEI and spent part of that time studying International Business at the University of Copenhagen, travelling extensively throughout Europe and Russia on business tours as part of those studies. Upon her return, she continued to work with the PEI Department of Agriculture in various capacities including Potato Services, Farm Business Management, and with the Department's International Programs division. She left the department to set up and manage the industry-owned testing lab, PEI Potato Quality Institute, a position she held for many years. Ellen now works with Potatoes Canada to arrange participation in various incoming and outgoing missions and trade shows and prepares communication items such as the regular E-blasts.



## Trade Consultant – David MacSwain.

Dave MacSwain was raised in Prince Edward Island on a

small scale mixed farm on which hand planting and harvesting of potatoes was an annual event. Dave began work as a federal potato inspector in 1975. He had a 36 year career with the federal government, retiring in 2011 from his position as Potato Program Officer with CFIA in PEI.

Since that time, Dave has remained active in the potato world, working on a part-time contract basis with the Potatoes Canada project, as well as other contract projects.



## 2016-2018

Below is a summary of Potatoes Canada project activities for the 2016-2018 year (many have been reported on more fully in previous issues of *PEI Potato News*):

## Trade Shows

The ALAP conference was chosen as the major event in 2016, and the Potatoes Canada delegation included Brenda Simmons (replacing Ellen Kouwenberg as the coordinator for the delegation), Phil Enserink (PEI), Brian and Andrew Adams (New Brunswick) and Phil Bakker (Alberta).

ALAP, the **Latin American Potato Association**, was formed in 1977 and holds conferences every two years that are hosted by one of the countries in Central and South America. The 2016 conference was held in Panama City, Panama from August 22 – 24. A late blight symposium and a field day were also held in conjunction with the 2016 meeting. Over 250 growers, researchers, extension specialists and other industry members attended the conference and trade show. In addition to staffing the Potatoes Canada booth and attending technical presentations at the conference, the delegation also held two important outside meetings. While in Panama, the delegation visited the Canadian Embassy and met with the Canadian Ambassador to Panama Karine Asselin and Trade Commissioner Luis Cedeno. The group also travelled to the Panamanian Ministry of Agriculture and met with officials there regarding the import standards for potatoes.

In January 2018, one representative of each participating Potatoes Canada project province was sponsored to attend the **National Potato Council Potato Expo** in Orlando, Florida. The United States is the largest customer for Canadian seed, fresh and processed potatoes. Representatives from all over the United States, Canada and beyond attend this annual meeting. It is an important venue to meet key

industry people and stay abreast of what is happening in the potato market place in North America. All the Potatoes Canada participating provinces exhibited at the trade show with province specific and Potatoes Canada promotional material.

The third trade show event attended was **Gulfood**, a full week trade show that was held in Dubai, of the United Arab Emirates, in February, 2018. Gulfood is one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Flagship shows which means AAFC secures a square footage and recruits organizations, and small and medium size enterprises to purchase booth space under their banner. They provide in-show support, stand builds and business to business meeting opportunities. While none of our Canadian exporters were able to attend in person, Ellen Kouwenberg was on hand for the full show and ably handled the considerable volume of traffic at the Potatoes Canada booth. A full report was distributed to exporters and steering committee members and was published in the March/April issue of *PEI Potato News*.

### Incoming Missions:

Successful phytosanitary missions from Indonesia, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay had been sponsored under previous Potatoes Canada projects. In 2017-18 the steering committee worked with CFIA to sponsor an incoming mission from **Mexico**. The main efforts on the Mexico file are to help to resume seed export shipments and to gain lab equivalency recognition so that testing could be done in Canada rather than in Mexico. There was a keen interest on the Mexican side for reciprocal laboratory visits. The Mexicans have a new reference lab and want a country like Canada to recognize it. With limited resources available to CFIA, Potatoes Canada agreed to cover translator costs, facilitate transportation requirements and include an information session on Potatoes Canada for the Mexican lab official. All indications are that the visit in March 2018 was a success. We continue to monitor this market and await information on progress made as a result of this incoming technical mission.

### Promotion Materials:

- Promotional Video: Video footage from NB and PEI industries were created and gathered in 2013-2015 to create a new 12 minute video promoting Canadian Potatoes and explaining Canada's seed certification program and our growing season. This was translated into French and Spanish with shorter video clips added to the Potatoes Canada website. In 2016, when Alberta joined Potatoes Canada, the video was edited to include footage and narration of the Alberta industry.

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- Website: Updates to the website are ongoing and changes were made to include Alberta seed varieties, exporters, and industry links.
- Promotional displays: Trade show banner updates were completed to ensure Alberta was represented.
- E-blasts: Quarterly newsletters were emailed to contacts made at trade shows and events over the years. Approximately 350 contacts in over 80 countries receive this E-blast in various languages.

## Market Updates and Research:

Dave MacSwain continued to work with CFIA, Embassy Posts and Trade Commissioner Services to obtain up-to-date information that was then added to the web page containing the details on market import requirements for fresh and seed potato shipments to key export countries. This page is found in the members only section of the Potatoes Canada website, in both French and English. Dave also identified and tracked areas that require additional work on the part of Canadian officials to maintain access for Canadian potatoes.

The Potatoes Canada project continued in 2016-2018 to work as a liaison between CFIA, Market Industry and Services Branch of AAFC and the NB, PEI and Alberta exporters and industry to help promote Canadian potatoes and potato products in markets outside of Canada. The support of the PEI and New Brunswick Departments of Agriculture were also key to the progress that was made.

## Moving Ahead:

In the United States, through the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) partners with U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities that help build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products and commodities.

FAS provides cost-share assistance to eligible U.S. organizations for activities such as consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, participation in trade fairs and exhibits, market research and technical assistance.


When MAP funds are used for generic marketing and promotion, participants must contribute a minimum 10-per-cent match. For promotion of branded products, a dollar-for-dollar match is required. According to the FAS website, for the 2018 fiscal year the US National Potato Promotion Board (Potatoes USA) received an allocation of \$3,921,841.

Interest has been expressed by Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Alberta to make application under the Agri-Marketing component of CAP. If commitment is forthcoming from provincial industries and provincial governments, this would see Potatoes Canada operating for another three years, building on the work it has done in the past and offering continued export marketing assistance in an ever changing international landscape.



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## Food Safety Q and A - Equipment Calibration:

**QUESTION :** What does an operation need to do to show they have met the requirements for the calibration of their agricultural chemical application equipment for CanadaGAP certification?

**ANSWER:** Below are some Key Points to remember followed by the CanadaGAP Manual sections that apply.

### Key points for Calibration of Agricultural Chemical Application Equipment:

- Document the production site equipment being calibrated.
- Record the calibration date and the name of person who conducts the calibration.
- Documentation is required of the written instructions followed during the calibration process as well as calculations showing input and output information.

The producer will follow calibration instructions from one of the following sources:

1. Equipment Manual Calibration Instructions OR
2. Written instructions based on expert recommendations OR
3. Deviation Report – outlining the calibration method used with rationale/justification for the deviation in the procedure. (Acceptance of the deviation is up to the discretion of the auditor).

The requirements for the calibration of agricultural chemical application equipment can be found in Sections 8.1 and 8.3 of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manual(s).\*

The CanadaGAP manuals state for production site equipment:

- ----- The person responsible ensures that calibration instructions are received with equipment or are written based on expert recommendations and made available (File under Tab: Calibration Instructions OR \_\_\_\_\_). Refer to Appendix E: Agricultural Chemical Application Equipment Calibration - An Example for further information.
- At the start of the season, when inspection results indicate a need, when equipment is changed and/or if tractor speeds are adjusted, the person responsible calibrates production site equipment as per calibration procedures.
- The person responsible calibrates the following production site equipment (check all that apply; if not applicable, proceed to the next sub-section: Building Equipment):
  - Agricultural chemical applicator (e.g., field sprayer, seed treaters, granular/liquid applicator, etc.).
  - Scales (If used to weigh agricultural chemicals).
- The person responsible records detailed results of the calibration for agricultural chemical applicators (File under Tab: Calibration Instructions).
- The person responsible records the calibration activity on Form (I) Equipment Cleaning, Maintenance and Calibration OR \_\_\_\_\_.

\* Please see Section 8. Equipment, of the CanadaGAP Food Safety manual for full details.

**PEI CanadaGAP Calibration Clinics  
conducted by Ken Lingley of On-Target Sprayer Services  
June 19, 20, 21, 2018 - Locations TBA**



# Processing Contract Settlements in North America

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by Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator

Each year in May, my *Potato News* article reports on contract settlements reached across North America between potato processors and their growers, as reported by the Potato Marketing Association of North America (PMANA) network. To prepare I reviewed past articles and over the last few years, after I reported the respective agreements from across the continent, I took the liberty to speak to the need for processing growers to better-align their potato production with their contracted volumes, as a management tool to help improve their financial sustainability. I reminded the readers that acres of “open potatoes” creates an over-supply and that this over-supply of potatoes has provided the basis for the downward pricing pressure exerted by their processors during the contract talks of the past four years.

The 2018 contract settlements re-enforced these Laws of Supply and Demand. The year-over-year, global demand for frozen potato products continues to grow at record rates and all North American processors are either ramping up or expanding their processing facilities to help fill this increased demand. To help accomplish this, processors identified the need to secure more contracted volume of quality potatoes. The increased demand for finished frozen product, combined with a tighter supply of quality, processing potatoes in many North American growing regions necessitated an increase in the value of the processing contracts.

In the Pacific Northwest, processors and growers agreed to improve the contract values and, in most cases, settled on two-year deals with increases for the growers in both years. Lamb Weston started this trend in mid-January with their Columbia Basin growers agreeing to field-run price increases of 5.1% for 2018 and 4.0% in 2019. These significant contract value increases, reportedly came with additional volume for some of Lamb Weston’s growers. Within the next four weeks, JR Simplot and McCain Foods matched these contract settlement values with their Washington growers. Growers in Malheur, Oregon and in Alberta followed the two-year settlement trend, but the gains for these growers were more modest at 6.5% and 4.4% (total gain over two-year) respectively due to unique circumstances in both these growing areas.

Meanwhile, in the American Midwest and in Manitoba, talks between processors and growers focused on one-year deals. The settlements in North Dakota (reported as 4.2% increases) finished before mid-April. In Manitoba

however, contract agreements took until the last week of April with JR Simplot and went to a May 7th grower vote with McCain Foods. In the end, the Keystone growers of Manitoba accepted separate one-year offers both valued as 7% increases, with McCain agreeing to pay an additional 2% to improve their freight assistance and their Ranger Russets contracts to better align with the Simplot contracts in Manitoba.

While talks stalled in the Midwest, here on PEI, the PPC (Potato Processing Committee) entered contract mediation with Cavendish Farms on April 4th and took an offer to PEI processing growers on April 9th. The growers voted to accept the two-year deal valued at 5% for 2018 and 4% for 2019. In addition, this agreement has a further \$0.157 per hundredweight (cwt) improvement to the Prospect contracts from our 2017 contract talks. Five weeks later, the growers of New Brunswick voted to accept a two-year offer from McCain Foods on May 14th. Potatoes New Brunswick report this settlement is worth \$0.485 per cwt (approx. 5%) in 2018 and \$0.31 per cwt (approx. 3%) in 2019. On the same day, the ABC processing growers in the state of Maine finished with McCain Foods and agreed to a two-year deal valued at 6.0% increase for 2018 combined with a rollover of the 2018 contract into 2019. This marks the third year in a row that McCain Foods contract settlements with their Canadian or Maine growers are the last settlements among the big four processors.

Again, this year I will caution processing growers to plant their acres to align with their contracted volumes. The gains in our North American contracts of this past negotiation season have been “...a long time coming” for most growers and, without fail, an oversupply of processing quality potatoes in the spring of 2019 will provide processors with the negotiation ammunition they need to claw back these increases for those with one year contracts from 2018 only. Be aware, if the one year deals in the Midwest of North America or in Idaho\* falter due to oversupply, the processors who agreed to two-year terms will most likely be demanding a reduction in their contract pricing in the spring of 2020.

*\*On February 13, 2018 Idaho removed themselves from the PMANA membership and presently there is no negotiation report from that State.*

*An Update From the:*

# PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



## The Canadian Agricultural Partnership & PEI Programs

On April 12th, the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) was announced in Harrington, PE. The details of the federal-provincial cost shared programs then became available to industry, and applications were accepted as of April 16.

The new areas of focus are combined with the previous support for increasing markets and trade; science, research and innovation; sustainable agriculture; and value-added agriculture & agri-food processing.

Many of you invested in your farm under Growing Forward 2 for innovative technology, soil conservation structures, and on-farm research. We also had excellent uptake of programs like Alternative Land Use Services, the Future Farmer Program and Business Development Training. The Potato Board's AIM Group also benefitted from Growing Forward 2; along with a significant industry investment. By and large, the Province's commitment to these important initiatives will continue under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

To read about all the programs and sub-programs offered, view the guidelines or download application forms please visit the following site: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-fisheries/canadian-agricultural-partnership-2018-2023>.

If you would like more guidance, I can assist any PEI potato producer in navigating to the proper funding program for your innovative ideas. Call me anytime at 902-314-1607.

### Here's what you need to know about CAP and our provincial funding programs:

- It replaces the Growing Forward 2 Initiative (2013-2018);
- It is a five year, \$37 million investment that will run to 2023;
- Although many of the project activities remain the same as Growing Forward 2, there are some new areas of priority; including:
  - o Environmental sustainability & climate change
  - o Public trust in PEI's agriculture and agri-food sector
  - o Food security in our communities.

## PEIDAF Summer Meetings & Programs

### Potato Fieldworkers' Meeting : June 26, 2018 – Kensington AIC Office

Throughout the growing season, PEIDAF will be holding bi-weekly meetings at 7:30 am for all farmers, crop scouts, agronomists and potato field workers. The meetings will rotate between the Kensington AIC office boardroom and the PEI Potato Board meeting room in Charlottetown. The first meeting to be held in Kensington on June 26th will be an opportunity to review the 2018 planting season, discuss early season emergence, learn about some new local studies and find out how you can participate.

#### Special Topics for June 26 Potato Fieldworkers' Meeting:

- Sebastian Ibarra, PEIDAF Agri-Environmental Officer will share information on the new CPB resistance screening project, and proper sample collection.
- Ryan Barrett – early blight resistance project
- Lorraine – new application and re-entry guidelines for chlorothalonil (Bravo/Echo)

### Aphid Alert & Colorado Potato Beetle Project

For the 2018 season, we have expanded services to the industry with relation to insect pests. We will continue to offer Aphid Alert, but in addition we will be undertaking a few new projects. In particular, we are looking to collect samples of Colorado Potato Beetles for an insecticide resistance study in collaboration with Dr. Ian Scott at AAFC in London, Ontario. I'm requesting that growers let us know if you or your crop scouts are noticing Colorado Potato Beetle adults early in the season in your potato fields.

For more information on insect services being offered in 2018, to arrange a Colorado Potato Beetle sample collection, or to participate in Aphid Alert 2018 please call me or email [lormackinnon@gov.pe.ca](mailto:lormackinnon@gov.pe.ca).

### PEIDAF Plant Diagnostic Services

Marleen Clark will returned to the PEI Analytical Lab on May 22 and resumed her position accepting plant samples and providing diagnosis and information back to producers. Marleen will also disseminate a weekly report of pest issues in potato fields on PEI.

The sample submission form can be downloaded at [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/forms/af\\_plantdiseasediagnostics.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/forms/af_plantdiseasediagnostics.pdf)





by Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager

## Woes of the Red Potato Market

The Red River Valley has been experiencing a tumbling market this spring with prices reaching a 14 year low in early May. This is unusual because unlike russets, the red price has been more stable and generally less affected by supply shifts. In comparison to Russets, Red potato supply has shown ten years of annual growth at 1.5% per year. What is the chain of events that pressured red pricing this spring?

### Supply

In 2017, The Red River Valley had one of the largest crops since the 1970's, producing an extra million hundredweight of red potatoes. By comparison, the 2016 the crop was a disaster due to rains, producing about 50% of a normal crop. The competing state of Florida also had a large crop this year in contrast to a crop disaster one year ago.

### Ads and Promotion

Coming out of a high priced year due to a short crop, retailers seemed reluctant to create good ad volume on red potatoes. Ad volume on reds is tracked by USDA and is down around 30% this year. Some chains felt that reds were a superior product and would hold their own in supermarket shelf space. Interestingly enough, consumption of red potatoes, particularly "A" size, larger packages, is off this year.

### Truck Shortages

When there was good demand early in the shipping season, transportation shortages became the limiting factor. With the introduction of the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) legislation in the US, some truckers have retired, and others no longer wished to take longer delivery times for the same load. With the Red River Valley outside of busier shipping lanes, back hauls were hard to find to attract trucks into the area. Some shippers who had ads with large retailers early in the season had to turn down business because they could not guarantee on time deliveries.

### Backed Up Supply

The above three factors created a back up. May 1 Holdings for the RRV are of record high proportions. Excess supply creates price pressure as growers do what they can to move as much of their crop as possible to market. Some red spuds will be dumped this year as potatoes go out of condition, tired of waiting their turn to go into a bag. Retailers look to newer suppliers rather than chance quality

on the older ones.

## Is Canadian Competition a Factor?

Although it has been suggested that Canadian shippers targeting the US Eastern Seaboard may be part of the issue, an analysis of the shipment data does not find that to be the case. One can see why that assumption might arise given the positive attributes: Yes we have a favourable exchange rate, yes we have a freight advantage, and yes, the truck shortage is not as severe in Canada.

UPGC data shows that are our season to date red shipments to the United States were 1,400,000 cwt, for last year. This year we are very close, but actually down 20,000 cwt season to date.

PEI Potato Board data shows PEI red shipments to the US (excluding Puerto Rico) are actually down 27.7% as of early May.

## Prospects for the 2018 Red Crop

There are some concerns moving forward. The 2018 planting season is later than last year for most of the Red growing areas. Central Minnesota, and Wisconsin could potentially be harvesting at the same time as the Red River Valley. Growers will need to work together to prevent oversupplying the market at this time.

These are the very elements that the Crop Transition Conference will address on June 20th in Minneapolis. The conference is open for any interested growers and shippers. Stay tuned for an update on the latest developments.

## 2018 Crop Transition Conference June 19-20, 2018 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Market Conditions

Historical Trends

Comprehensive Crop Analysis

Preview of 2018-19 Shipment Projections

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[www.unitedpotatousa.com/meetings](http://www.unitedpotatousa.com/meetings).

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# INDUSTRY UPDATES

## Minister MacAulay Announces Three Appointments to the Farm Products Council of Canada

May 10, 2018 – Ottawa, Ontario – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, announced today three appointments to the Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC). Brian Douglas begins a four-year term as the newly appointed Chair of the FPCC, effective June 11; Yvon Cyr joins the Council for a four-year term, effective immediately; and Maryse Dubé returns for her second three-year term, which began on April 30.

These appointments were made following an open, transparent, and merit-based selection process.

Minister MacAulay expressed his gratitude to Mike Pickard for all his hard work and leadership as Interim Chairperson of the FPCC, as he returns to his role as Vice Chair. “I am pleased to announce the appointments of Brian Douglas, Yvon Cyr and Maryse Dubé to the Farm Products Council of Canada. All three appointees bring valuable and diverse experiences to their respective roles, as well as a strong understanding of the agriculture sector. I offer them my congratulations and wish them continued success in

their new roles,” said MacAulay.

The role of the FPCC is to ensure that the supply management system for poultry and eggs as well as the promotion and research activities for beef cattle work in the balanced interest of all stakeholders, from producers to consumers.

Council members are appointed to hold office at pleasure, by the Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, for terms of varying lengths. At the time of their appointment, at least half of members, not including the Chairperson, must be primary agricultural producers.

From 2015 to 2016, Brian Douglas was the Clerk of the Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet for the Government of Prince Edward Island. Douglas spent most of his career at the Department of Agriculture where he rose to deputy minister. He currently serves as general manager of the World Potato Congress Inc.

Yvon Cyr is a poultry producer from Saint-Francois-de-Madawaska, New Brunswick and a manager and founding shareholder with the Groupe Westco Inc., a chicken processing business. He has served on the boards of both the Chicken Farmers of New Brunswick and the Chicken

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**June 07 at 09:30 AM.**

We are in PEI from June 06 to June 08 and would be more than happy to meet with interested growers in-person.

If you have any question or are interested in participating, please reach out to us at 437-993-5848 or at [ketan@ukko.ag](mailto:ketan@ukko.ag).



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Farmers of Canada. He is also a past chair of the local chamber of commerce.

Maryse Dubé completed her law degree at Laval University in 1996 and was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1997. She is a partner of Sylvestre & Associés where she specializes in commercial and food law representing several financial institutions. She is active in a number of community organizations. She has been a member of the Farm Products Council of Canada since April, 2015.

## Bringing Horticulture to the Table for the 2019 Federal Election

The 2019 federal election is quickly approaching! CHC is working with the different political parties to bring horticulture's main challenges to the table. Our goal is to frame the sector's issues in a politically advantageous way for each party and advocate for a mention in their policy platforms and mandates.

1. Labour: request improved administration of Temporary Foreign Worker Program AG Stream and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, including implementing government service standards and guaranteeing transparency in the audit processes;
2. Crop Protection: request increased resources for Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency and

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pest Management Centre to assist with the growing workload;

3. Trade: Implement Financial Protection for Produce Sellers in Canada, and in turn, seek to re-establish access to the U.S.'s Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act; reduce non-tariff trade barriers with trading partners so that farmers may effectively make use of free trade agreements;
4. Business Risk Management: Ensure that the revised BRM suite of programs adequately meets the needs and expectations of farmers, providing additional funds to increase coverage in the next Canadian Agriculture Partnership to provide support to compete in the global market and guarantee Canadian food security;
5. Environment: request national carbon exemption for all farmers;
6. Cost Recovery: ensure Canadian Food Inspection Agency's fees for inspection services do not put Canada's agriculture and agri-food industry at a disadvantage compared to international competitors.

Ideally, the current government will work with CHC to find successful outcomes in advance of the next election—but without knowing what will happen in the next sixteen months, we want to be prepared with our asks.



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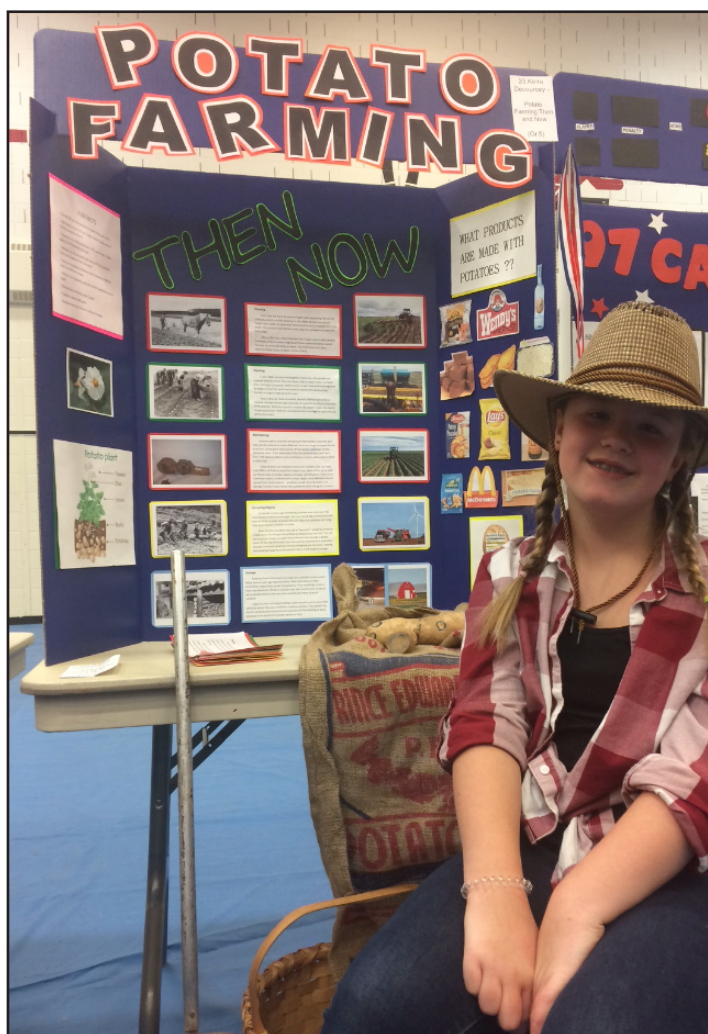
## Introducing CHC's New Administrative Assistant

Executive Director Rebecca Lee and CHC's Board of Directors are pleased to introduce Bev Appleby as CHC's new Administrative Assistant.

Bev has worked in the produce sector both at the grower level, as General Manager of SunTech Greenhouses in Manotick, Ontario, and at the association level as Manager of Government Relations, Education and Standardization at the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA). During her time at CPMA, Bev was involved in the Passion for Produce pilot program, helped to develop best practices for the Doing Business in Canada program, and worked with

the Canadian Border Services Agency on procedures for handling produce during secondary border inspections.

Bev is passionate about the industry and is pleased to have the opportunity to continue her work with members of the sector as Administrative Assistant with CHC.



Keira DeCourcey, age 11 and in Grade 5 at Athena Consolidated, prepared a display showcasing the PEI Potato Industry "Then and Now" for her 2018 entry in her school's 2018 Hertiage Fair. Keira is the daughter of Kristin Phillips, neice of John Phillips who works with the East Prince Agri Environmental group.

## Upcoming Events

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

### June 2018

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| June 19          | <b>United Potato Growers of Canada and United Potato Growers of America Board meeting.</b><br>Minneapolis, MN.                          |
| June 20          | <b>United Crop Transition Conference.</b> Minneapolis, MN.  |
| June 19, 20 & 21 | <b>Sprayer Calibration Clinics.</b><br>Locations TBA.   |
| June 26          | <b>Field Workers' Meeting.</b><br>Kensington Agricultural Services.<br>7:30 AM.   |
| June 30          | <b>Application Deadline for CFIA Seed Potato Inspection.</b>  |
| June 30          | <b>Deadline to register as a producer with the PEI Potato Board</b> (if not registered in previous years as part of a production unit.) |
| June 30          | <b>Deadline for PEI Potato Acreage Registration</b> with the PEI Potato Quality Institute.  |

### July 2018

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| July 17    | <b>Canadian Potato Council Summer Meeting,</b> Edmonton, AB.                                  |
| July 8-9   | <b>Potato Marketing Association of North America Summer Meeting.</b><br>Alaska.               |
| July 22-26 | <b>Potato Association of America Annual Meeting.</b> Boise, ID.                               |
| July 31    | <b>Deadline for Applications for PEI Dealer and Export Licenses</b> for the 2018/2019 season. |
| July 31    | <b>Deadline for Nominations for Directors to the PEI Potato Board.</b>                        |



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You're proud of your potato crop. Let's face it. No one ever looks back and wishes they'd spent more time controlling crop damaging, yield robbing insects. We get that. Coragen® insecticide delivers extended residual control of European corn borer, decreasing the number of applications needed in a season. And, if your Colorado potato beetle seed treatment control breaks late in the season, Coragen® insecticide can provide the added control you need, so you have time for more important things. Did we mention it's also easy on bees,\* beneficials\* and the environment?

**Visit [FMCcrop.ca](http://FMCcrop.ca) or call 1-833-362-7722 to learn more.**

\*When applied at label rates. In line with Integrated Pest Management and Good Agricultural Practices, insecticide applications should be made when pollinators are not foraging to avoid unnecessary exposure.

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**FMC**