

Prince Edward Island

January/February 2019

Volume 20 Issue 1

POTATO NEWS

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- Upcoming Events



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Prince Edward Island
POTATO NEWS

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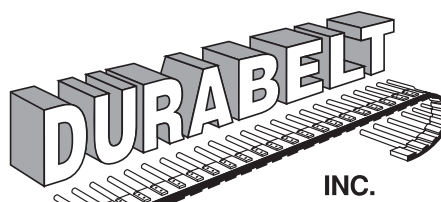
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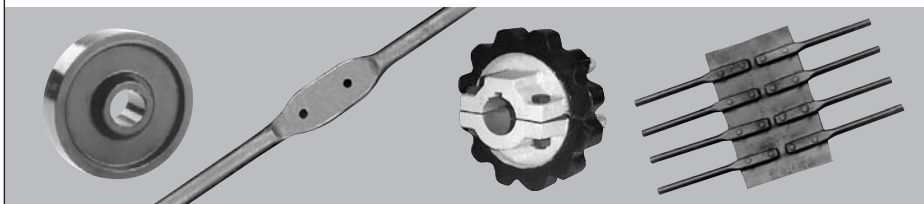
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Cover: Red potatoes continue to maintain their popularity and Island shippers are using the latest in technology to make sure that a quality pack goes to the fresh market. (Photo: M.K. Sonier)



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Chairman's Comments

by PEI Potato Board Chairman, Jason Hayden



Well the tough harvest season is behind us and we are now dealing with the storage and grading season. At the request of growers in the most drought-affected parts of PEI, the Potato Board's Directors approved a one year suspension to the Board Order that prevented packers to use the other Canada #1 long grade with a 1 7/8" minimum diameter for interprovincial trade only. This was based on a recommendation to suspend the Board Order from the Board's Table Committee. As well, a test market has been approved at the national level for a one year change to the minimum size for round potatoes from 2 1/4" to 2" with 60% over 2 1/4".

Our growers and dealers are doing their best to work with their regular customers to keep them supplied throughout the season. Prices are starting to move up in recognition of the global supply situation. Processing potatoes from the Pacific Northwest are moving to several areas from the midwest to PEI to make up for shortfalls in that sector. Growers in all sectors are encouraged to arrange their seed supplies early as it will be tempting to move seed that is not booked into alternate channels.

In recognition of the financial hardship Island growers are facing as a result of the challenges during the 2018 growing and harvest season, the Potato Board put a request in to our provincial government that they seek AgriRecovery assistance from the federal government. This was done and an assessment of losses and extraordinary costs faced by growers to deal with the situation is underway. The Board will keep growers up to date on this process as it moves ahead.

The winter season is also a time for growers to start preparations for the next crop cycle. Opportunities are available to keep pesticide applicator licenses up to date, obtain first aid training and attend marketing and production information sessions. Our first two day PEI Potato Conference with a trade show and banquet will be held on February 19 and 20 in Charlottetown and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

There was good representation from the Potato Board and Island businesses at the United Potato Business Summit and the National Potato Council Potato Expo in Austin, Texas in early January. These events are the largest gathering of potato people in North America during the year and provided a great opportunity to stay up to date with the latest products and services for potato operations, current research and production information and to network with

colleagues from across Canada and the US. A full report is available on page 8 of this issue.

Of continuing concern to the agriculture industry on PEI is the unrealistic expectation that farmers can have every field immediately ready to handle the extreme weather events we are seeing as a result of climate change. Municipalities from Charlottetown to those along the St. Lawrence River have seen no fines or legal repercussions in recent years from overflows or purposely dumping tonnes of raw sewage into local waterways and closing fishing areas while they update their sewage treatment and management systems. Individual farmers on the other hand, are being charged for environmental damage resulting from one in 100 year weather events, with government lawyers asking for fines at levels that would bankrupt any farm business. If the money being spent on legal costs could be put towards soil conservation work it would create significantly more benefit to the Island environment.

The Potato Board and the Federation of Agriculture have met with Environment and Climate Change Canada officials and our federal MP's, and have written to the Premier of our province requesting that we establish a Task Force to look at the federal and provincial environmental regulations that farmers are operating under and come to some resolution on this issue. We recently received a response from the Premier reminding us of the funding provided annually through cost shared government programs for climate change mitigation in agriculture, including soil conservation structures and other initiatives. He also commented on their future intention to work collaboratively with industry in this area, but did not address the issues we are facing with court challenges as a result of extreme weather events. We do, however, have a meeting scheduled with Robert Henderson, PEI Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Richard Brown, PEI Minister of Communities, Land and Environment, to continue discussions. We will keep you apprised of any progress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Jason Hayden, is located at the bottom right of the page.

POTATO BOARD NEWS

Changes in Approach to Environmental Protection

The PEI Potato Board and the PEI Federation of Agriculture have been working together to find a better way to protect the environment and prevent seeing Island farms being charged by federal officials and facing high legal fees and/or crippling fines. To date, discussions have been held with federal staff, Island Members of Parliament, and provincial officials, but progress is slow.

Together, the Board and the Federation are seeking the formation of a Task Force consisting of senior government officials and farmers to seek changes to federal regulations and to find alternate approaches to environmental risk mitigation. A letter was also recently sent to Premier MacLaughlan to seek his support for the Task Force and for changes in approach. The Premier responded this week to advise that “the Government of Prince Edward Island welcomes the opportunity to work with industry, community, and our federal partners in supporting environmental

sustainability.”

Board and Federation staff also met with enforcement staff from Environment and Climate Change Canada to discuss the charges that were laid previously regarding deleterious substances. That meeting was helpful, as the federal staff referenced a check list they use during investigations to help them determine whether charges will be laid. We have asked for a copy of the check list and have not yet received it, but the main message from the enforcement officers was that they realize there can be extreme weather events that are contributing to problems, but if farmers follow “due diligence”, the likelihood of facing federal charges greatly diminishes.

Based on that discussion, “due diligence” seems to be defined as following provincial regulations including crop rotation legislation, buffer zone requirements, headland requirements, and high slope land restrictions; following the federal label requirements on crop protectants (which can require buffer zones in excess of provincial regulations

Farming is all about community

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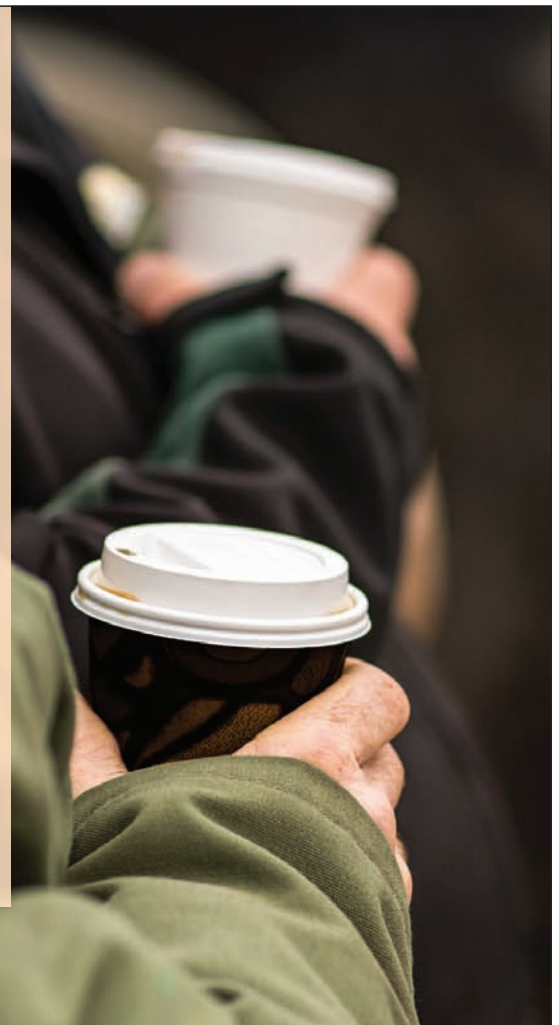
Farming is an amazing way of life, but sometimes it can be as draining mentally as it is physically. And that same community is here to help.

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for some products – always check your labels); checking the forecast; and implementing measures to prevent erosion and run-off (grassed waterways, and in some cases, soil conservation structures). The last part can be problematic, as structures are expensive to build and funds to help farmers install those structures are absolutely inadequate compared to the demand/interest from farmers. It is interesting to note that the federal officials advised that they decided not to lay charges in a couple of investigations in recent years because they felt the farmers involved had done “due diligence” and therefore the damage that occurred was beyond their control.

We have a long ways to go to address the impact of severe rainfall events on Island farms, as even structures that were designed by provincial engineers to withstand what were considered unusually heavy rain events at the time may no longer be adequate. This should not be a surprise, as roads, bridges, ditches and culverts are also now being deemed inadequate to stand up to the severe events we are seeing more and more frequently due to climate change. For some reason, the public does not seek to hold individuals responsible for that type of damage and the funds are always found to repair and/or strengthen this infrastructure. A similar approach to help farmers adjust to and mitigate against the impact of severe weather on farm fields would be welcomed.

Canada/US Potato Meeting

Representatives of the PEI Potato Board participated in the annual Canada/US Potato Meeting, which was held in National Harbor, Maryland (close to Washington, DC) on November 27-28, 2018. The Canadian Potato Council met at the Canadian Embassy on November 26th, and the Seed Certification Section of the Potato Association of America met on November 29th.

Most of the focus for the Canada/US meetings this year centred on bilateral trade issues, and how regulations like U.S. Marketing Orders, Canadian Ministerial Exemptions and grade standards in both countries, as well as phytosanitary and inspection requirements on both sides of the border affect potato trade between our countries. The impact of transportation (costs, tight truck supply, backhauls, weight restrictions, etc) on the ability of particular regions to get their crops to market was also discussed. Senior USDA and CFIA officials attended to present information and to address concerns. It was a productive discussion, as some misunderstandings about how various regulations actually work were addressed.

A major focus for the Canadian delegation was

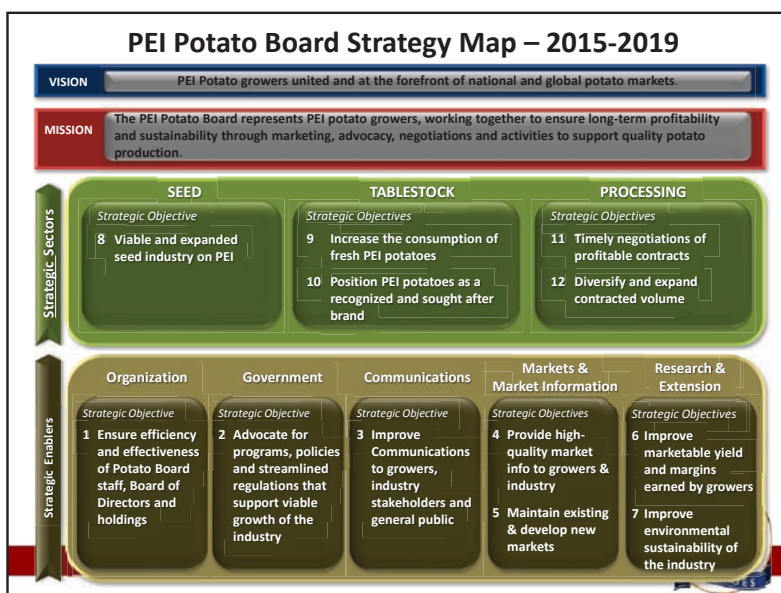
also our ongoing efforts to seek support from the U.S. representatives to move away from the current intensive and costly Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) testing requirements for seed potatoes moving across the border in both directions. Representatives of the National Potato Council in the U.S. agreed to review Canada’s proposal for change and respond in the near future. We look forward to possible changes to the current Canada/US PCN guidelines that will take into account the hundreds of thousands of negative PCN tests since 2009, and dial back the testing to more of a monitoring approach in recognition of the intensive testing that clearly demonstrates freedom from PCN in most areas of both countries.

Canada will host the next meeting in December 2019.

Review & Redevelopment of the PEI Potato Board’s Strategic Plan for 2020-24

The PEI Potato Board is a leading potato organization in Canada. The potato industry is a significant financial engine for the provincial economy and farmers are well organized to market this important crop throughout Canada, North America and internationally. Being well organized requires thoughtful and considered plans that are developed and adjusted on a regular basis. The PEI Potato Board has a comprehensive strategic plan that is based on Kaplan and Norton’s Balanced Scorecard approach (strategy map shown). The plan is currently structured according to the industry’s three strategic sectors (seed, tablestock and processing) and supported by five strategic enablers (organizational, governmental, communications, markets & market information and research & extension). This balanced scorecard framework has served the Board well over the last several years, but as with all plans, the time has come to review and if necessary to bring about adjustments.

The PEI Potato Board has once again hired the consulting



and facilitation services of Alain Rabeau from the Intersol Group to prepare the next iteration of the PEI Potato Board's strategic plan for the 2020 - 2024. The approach for reviewing and redeveloping the strategic plan over the next few months will include as much participation, engagement and input from the Board's directors, committee members, staff and from as many potato farmers and other industry members as possible via district meetings and electronic means i.e. flip charts. The Board's general manager will be accountable for this initiative and progress and of the final plan that will ultimately receive final approval by the Board of Directors. The final plan will be presented at the Board's 2019 annual general meeting in November.

Consultations on Crop Insurance

A consultation meeting was held on January 22, 2019 between Crop Insurance Program leads Lesa MacDonald, Bev Francis and Robert MacGregor and Potato Board staff and grower representatives. The purpose of this annual meeting is to assess how the program worked to assist growers in the previous season and to discuss ways in which it could be improved for the coming season. These meetings have taken place over the last number of years and have resulted in positive changes to the program.

The number one request from potato producers, as has been the case for the last few years, was to increase the Unit Price. Cost of production and market pricing data support an increase from ten to twelve dollars. With a participation rate of almost 89%, this change would benefit all growers. It is a required change in order for growers to adequately mitigate their risk, particularly with continued increases in the cost of production. With premiums shared between the grower and both provincial and federal levels of government, the investment by the province over time always results in a positive return for the provincial government as total premium dollars collected stay on PEI.

Other improvements that were discussed concerned changes to variety groupings to recognize changes in the industry and so that growers are not penalized for growing new varieties, reviewing costs to ensure that the amount deducted for harvest, storage and marketing from Stage II losses is not overstated, adoption of a drought mitigation rider, an assessment of the placement of provincial weather stations with goal of ensuring that the stations are in the most appropriate locations and to increase the number of stations across the province.

The Board will be making a formal request for changes for the 2019 season to Program staff which will then go to the Provincial government for approval.

Agriculture Environment Unit Report

2019 will be the fourth year of operation of the Agriculture Environment Unit with the PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment. The goal of the unit is to work cooperatively with farmers to ensure that they are meeting the wide range of environmental regulations within the Province. This can include reviewing Pesticide Spray Records/Log Books or on-farm Pesticide Storage sites to ensure compliance to the Provincial requirements or looking at field maps and making recommendations for potato headland placement and when a grass headland variance or a grass headland exemption is required.

In 2018, the Unit did see more fields with planted potato headlands within 200 meters of a watercourse. Many of those were considered low risk, but still require a grass headland variance or a grass headland exemption. As well, buffer zone files, agriculture crops planted within 15 meters of a watercourse or wetland, still seem to be the top item and more work is needed prior to planting to avoid this issue during the growing season.

For 2019, the Unit will focus its efforts on crop rotation, verifying that growers are in compliance to the three year rotation and if they are outside of that rotation, a management plan is in place.

Assistance is available from the Ag Resources Division and the Agriculture Environment Unit to provide field maps, review planting plans in fields near watercourses and identify what exemptions, permits and plans are required for a grower to be complying with all the regulations.

The next few months are an ideal time to get all this information clarified and permits in place to avoid any problems during the growing season.

Seasonal staff with the unit will be back on beginning in April. In the meantime please contact:

Shawn Schofield

Team Lead

Agriculture Environment Unit

Communities, Land and Environment

Tel 902-393-5285

NPC Potato Expo Report

The site of the 2019 National Potato Council Potato Expo was Austin, Texas from January 8 to 10, 2019. This was a new venue for the event which has, since its start in 2009, rotated between locations such as Las Vegas, Nevada; Orlando, Florida; and San Antonio, Texas. Representatives from the Potato Board and several PEI potato businesses were in attendance. The Potato Board had a trade show booth and distributed seed directories and general information on PEI seed, fresh and processed product.

Many meetings are held before and after the Expo itself to take advantage of the presence of so many industry members. These include several NPC Committee and Potato USA meetings, a meeting for the steering committee of the Potato Sustainability Initiative (PSI), UPGA and UPGC Board meetings, a meeting of the Alliance for Potato Research and Education (APRE) and the NPC Annual Meeting.

Potato Business Summit

For many years, the Potato Business Summit has been held just prior to the start of the Potato Expo and is sponsored by the United Potato Growers of America, the United Potato Growers of Canada and the Potato Marketing Association of North America and corporate sponsors AMVAC, John Deere, Simplot, and Vive.

Stephen Nicholson of Rabobank provided an Economic Outlook for commodity crops that are grown in rotation by many potato producers - corn, wheat and soybeans. He spoke about the effect of various global production areas on world supply and how this impacts pricing.

An Outlook on Crop Inputs was provided by Bob Trogele, PhD, of AMVAC. He explained that a large portion of ag chemical supplies are now produced in China and India. China in particular is going through regulatory changes and increasing environmental regulation with regard to manufacturing. Dr. Troegle explained that these changes could have the effect of reduced production in the short term for some chemicals that the ag industry relies on. Companies are working to diversify their supply channels to ensure adequate product for their customers. He advised keeping in close contact with your crop input dealer and to avoid leaving purchases until time of use.

Cedric Porter, editor of World Potato Markets newsletter, provided an update on the European market situation. As has been well communicated by now, the top five EU potato producing countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and the UK) experienced drought conditions in 2018 and this resulted in an average yield reduction of 20-



The Potato Board booth ready to welcome visitors. Photo: M.K. Sonier.

25% as well as associated quality issues. Prices for finished processed product are not yet reflecting the shortage but that should begin to change shortly. After the break, a Fresh Retail and Frozen Update was provided by John Toasperm, Potatoes USA. He was cautiously optimistic but advised recent trade actions by the US and opting out of new trade agreements such as the CPTPP are having a negative impact on export volumes and the competitiveness of US potatoes in global markets. The session concluded with an Ag Technology Outlook from Jason Tucker, of John Deere, and a Fresh Market Outlook provided by Mark Klompie, of the United Potato Growers of America. Mr. Klompie will be at the PEI United Potato Growers of Canada Seminar to be held January 29 in Charlottetown.

Innovation Hub

The Innovation Hub is location with the trade show hall and always attracts a good audience. There are presentations from company representatives on the latest in crop inputs and services and technology that they provide - everything from nematode management options; Crop Tracking with Field and Storage 3D mapping; Preserving Tuber Quality and Meeting Sustainability Requirements with Peroxyacetic Acid (PAA); Revolution in Field Scouting using Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning; Using Science, Research and Big Data to Simplify Irrigation Management to the Art of Storing Potatoes in Theory and Practice. There were also updates on Potato Research provided during the Potato Association of America Poster Session and a Kick-Off of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative which included a discussion of Enhancing Soil Health in Potato Cropping Systems by a number of University Research Scientists.

Breakout Sessions

On Thursday morning and afternoon, breakout sessions were held for the Fresh, Chip, Seed and Process sectors.

Seed Session

Dr. Stewart Gray from Cornell University started off the session with a presentation on potential changes to US seed certification services to adapt to emerging disease issues.

Dr. Mathuresh Singh, director of Agricultural Certification Services in New Brunswick, was the second speaker in the Seed Breakout Session. He provided an update on his research work that has shown that “Integrated Mineral Oil and Insecticide Spraying Reduces Current Season PVY Spread.” Dr. Singh has presented these results in PEI in previous seasons.

To close out the session, Russ Stewart, an agronomist from Alberta, and Dr. Carrie Wohleb, from Washington State University, detailed how province and statewide pest surveillance programs are carried for the potato industry in their areas.

Chip Session

A highlight of the Chip Breakout session was a panel discussion on Exports and Opportunities. Panel members from USDA/APHIS, private industry and farmers discussed the role government plays in opening a new market and getting all the phytosanitary regulations in place, and then



The trade show floor was a busy place during the two day Expo. Photo: National Potato Council.

the details a grower must go through to supply chipping potatoes to offshore markets. Growers expressed the opinion that while it is not an easy market, it does provide some diversity to their businesses.

Process Session

Discussions in the Process breakout session ranged from disease identification and suppression to trends driving potato consumption - consumer eating patterns, health and wellness and emerging flavours from around the world.

Fresh Session

Frank Jackman, CEO and co-founder of Local Crate Meals, provided a presentation on the evolution of meal kits and how they are moving from an online phenomena to an in-store offering. He also discussed the inclusion of potatoes in many of their kits.

Other presentations in this session focused on potatoes in the food service sector.

During the opening reception, Potatoes USA sponsored the fourth Annual Spud Nation Throwdown with top chefs from the Austin area competing for the title of “Top Spud”.

The 2020 NPC Potato Expo is scheduled for January 14-15 in Las Vegas, NV.



A panel on “Enhancing Soil Health in Potato Cropping Systems: The Specialty Crop Research Initiative Kickoff” at the Innovation Hub including left to right Linda Kinkel, Professor, University of Minnesota; Noah Rosenweig, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University; moderator Carl Rosen, Professor, University of Minnesota; Christopher McIntosh, Professor, University of Idaho, and Matthew Ruark, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin; fields questions from the audience. Photo: NPC.

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United Potato Growers of Canada Seminar

by M.K. Sonier

The United Potato Growers of Canada (UPGC) PEI Seminar was held on January 29 at Red Shores in Charlottetown. A crowd of over 100 growers and industry members turned out to learn about the latest in potato markets from a strong line up of speakers.

The meeting was opened by Jason Hayden, Chair of the PEI Potato Board who offered welcoming remarks before turning things over to Ray Keenan, Chair of UPGC.

The first speaker of the day was Mark Klompein, CEO, United Potato Growers of America. The presentation was made remotely due to weather conditions which had prevented Mr. Klompein from completing his trip to PEI.

He began his talk with a comparison of shipment trends and prices in the yellow, red and russet markets. Figures highlighting the yellow and red historical shipments are shown on this page.

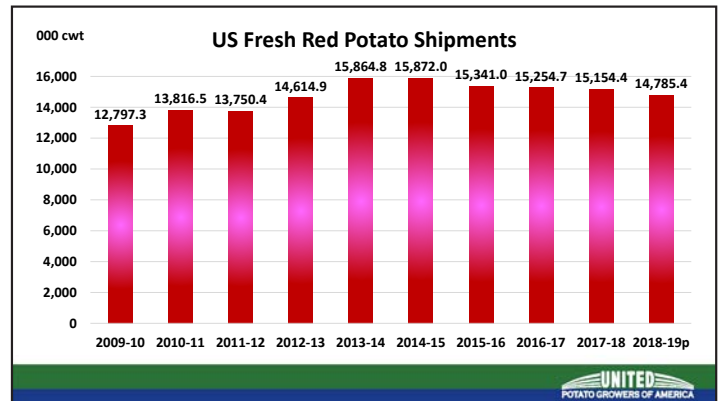
Yellow shipments have increased over the last ten years in the United States and now make up almost 12% of total fresh shipments. At the same time price has held steady, evidence of the growing demand that has not yet been saturated. Red movement on the other hand seems to have flattened out in recent years. Prices have remained fairly steady and Klompein pointed out efforts undertaken by United to help avoid price fluctuations in red prices as the season progresses - one of these being the Crop Transition conference that they sponsor in early summer of each year.

While yellow and red markets have been growing or staying flat, this has been at the expense of russet markets. Russet shipments over the same ten year time period in the United States have declined from just over 78 million cwt to just below 71 million cwt. The russet potato is still the largest percentage of the fresh market and United puts considerable effort into tracking russet shipments and prices to provide the best market information to its members and in turn help them to make informed planting and marketing decisions.

Another factor he discussed was the increase in processing capacity that has come online across North America in recent years and plans for expansion that will become operational in the next few years.

The focus on the US market then shifted to the European situation. Mr. Cedric Porter, one of the editors of the World Potato Market News newsletter reported on the drought conditions experienced in Europe in 2018 and the ways in

which this was now starting to impact the market. There will be reduced supplies of both fresh and process potatoes from the main five European producing nations (Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK).



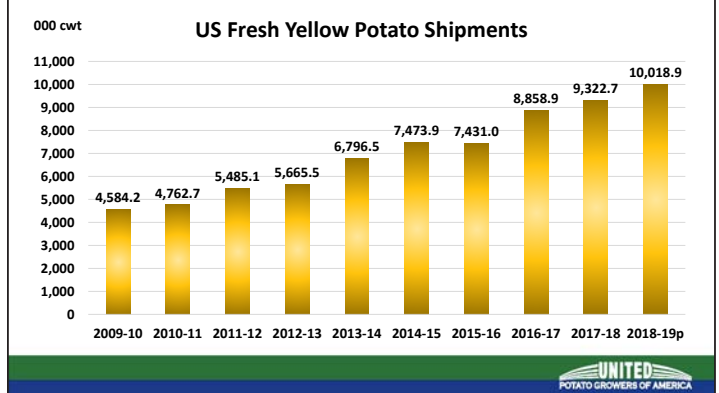
Red-Potato Supply Data

Average 10-year annual growth in Red-potato supplies: **1.7%/year**

Red price is more stable today (less affected by supply shifts) than ever before.

- Utilization of market information
- Grower collaboration
- More areas doing a better job selling high-quality red potatoes in LTLs.

The business culture in red and yellow potatoes is not what it was 10 years ago.



Yellow-Potato Market-Supply Data

Average 10-year annual growth in Yellow supplies: **9.3%/year**

Aug-Dec 2018 shipment growth rate vs LY: **3.2%** (4,184.4 vs 4,053.0)

In spite of continued growth, 10/5lb bale price remains in the \$12-13 range

No single geographic region dominates the yellow market

How many Yellow potatoes will the market accept and still give positive returns?

Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager of the United Potato Growers of Canada provided a Canadian Market Update. British Columbia was the only Canadian province with an increase in stocks on hand over 2017/18. All other regions in Canada experienced some weather related losses. In Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, where significant volumes of processing acres were left in the ground, processors are supplementing local supplies with potatoes from out of province. Fresh market suppliers will be managing shipments to meet demand as best they can over the season. Although overall Canadian seed volume is reported to be down only 2%, this is variable by area and does not take into account any potential storage losses. There may be variation in supply by variety as well.

Mark Phillips, Market Information Officer for the PEI Potato Board provided a local market update. US movement is down while Canadian movement so far is on par with levels in 2017/2018. Export movement is up to date, but Phillips felt that this was due more to an early start to shipments rather than an increase in offshore demand. Overall shipments are down 3.2% from 2017/108, as might be expected given the reduction in supplies. As can be seen in the graph below, prices (based on ten pound pack FOB PEI prices) are trending well above last year and are moving up. This is an indication of the North American supply situation and the prices are welcomed by growers who will be looking to make up losses experienced due to the challenging weather conditions during the production



Jennifer Dunn, CPA CA, TEP **Patrick Trainor, CPA, CA**
Patrick McSweeney, FCPA, CA **Glen Murray, CPA, CA**

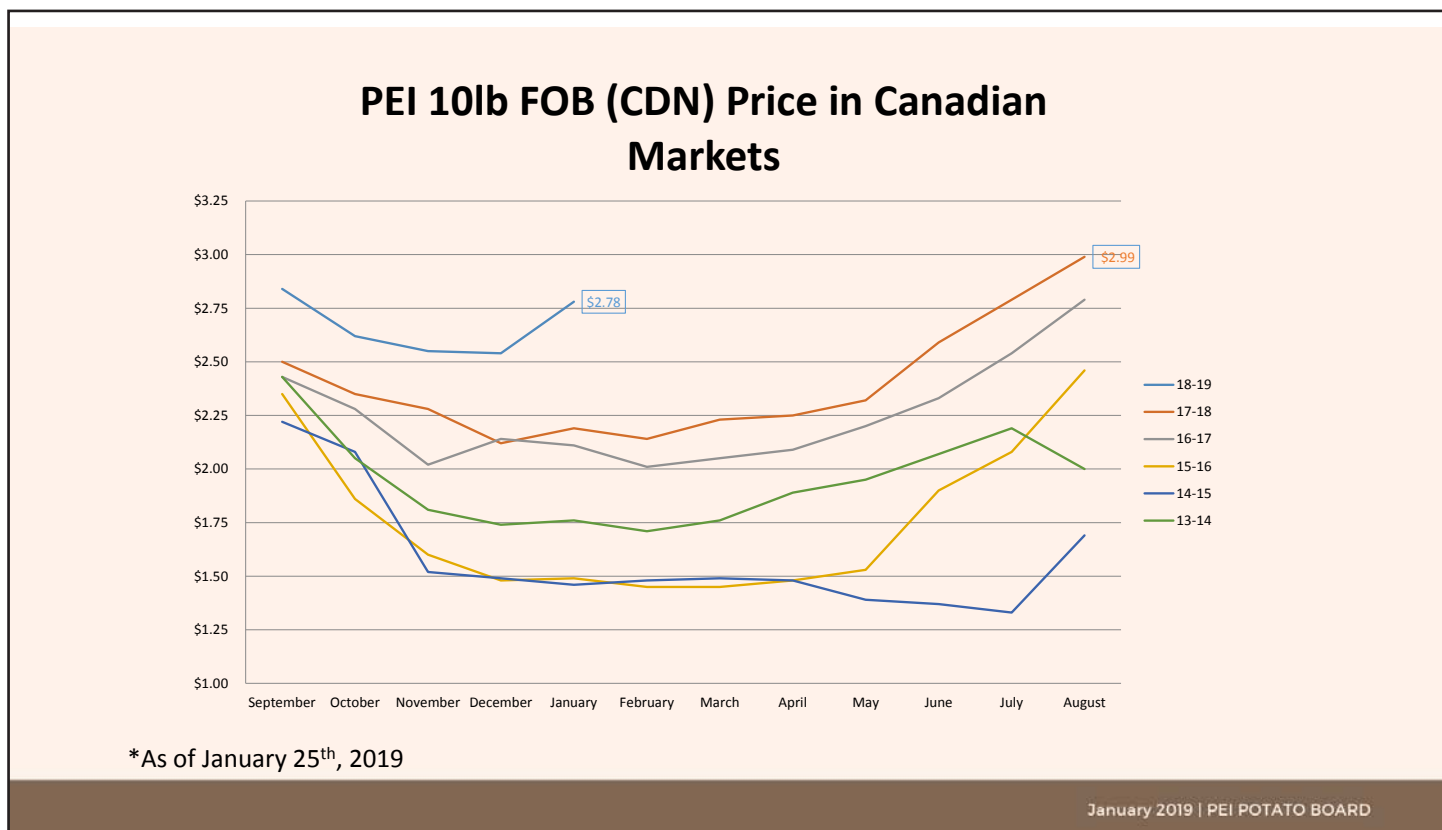
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and harvesting seasons.

Garth Delaney and Thomas Harrington of Green Diamond Equipment, a key United Potato Growers of Canada sponsor, provided some information on “Data Management and Analysis with John Deere Operations Centre.”

The afternoon finished off with a presentation by Dr. Adam Fenech of the UPEI Climate Lab on “Climate Change, its Effect on the 2018 Growing Season and Harvest, and What’s Ahead.”

UPGC thanks all the sponsors to helped to make this event happen for the PEI industry: AEPTQ, Allan Equipment Manufacturing Ltd., AMVAC, Coderre Packaging Inc., Émile Sénéchal et Fils, Equipement Capital, Farm Credit Canada, FMC, Green Diamond Equipment and Sac Drummond Inc.



SEED FOR SALE LISTING

On its website, the Board offers a service to list seed volumes that growers have remaining for sale.

To have your seed listed please call Mary Kay or Karen at the Board office with the following information:

Variety

Class

Volume for sale

Post Harvest Test Result

Contact Number

2019 Northeast Potato Technology Forum

March 20th and 21st, 2019

Rodd Charlottetown Hotel

Charlottetown , PEI



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Aphid Patterns & Post Harvest Test Results

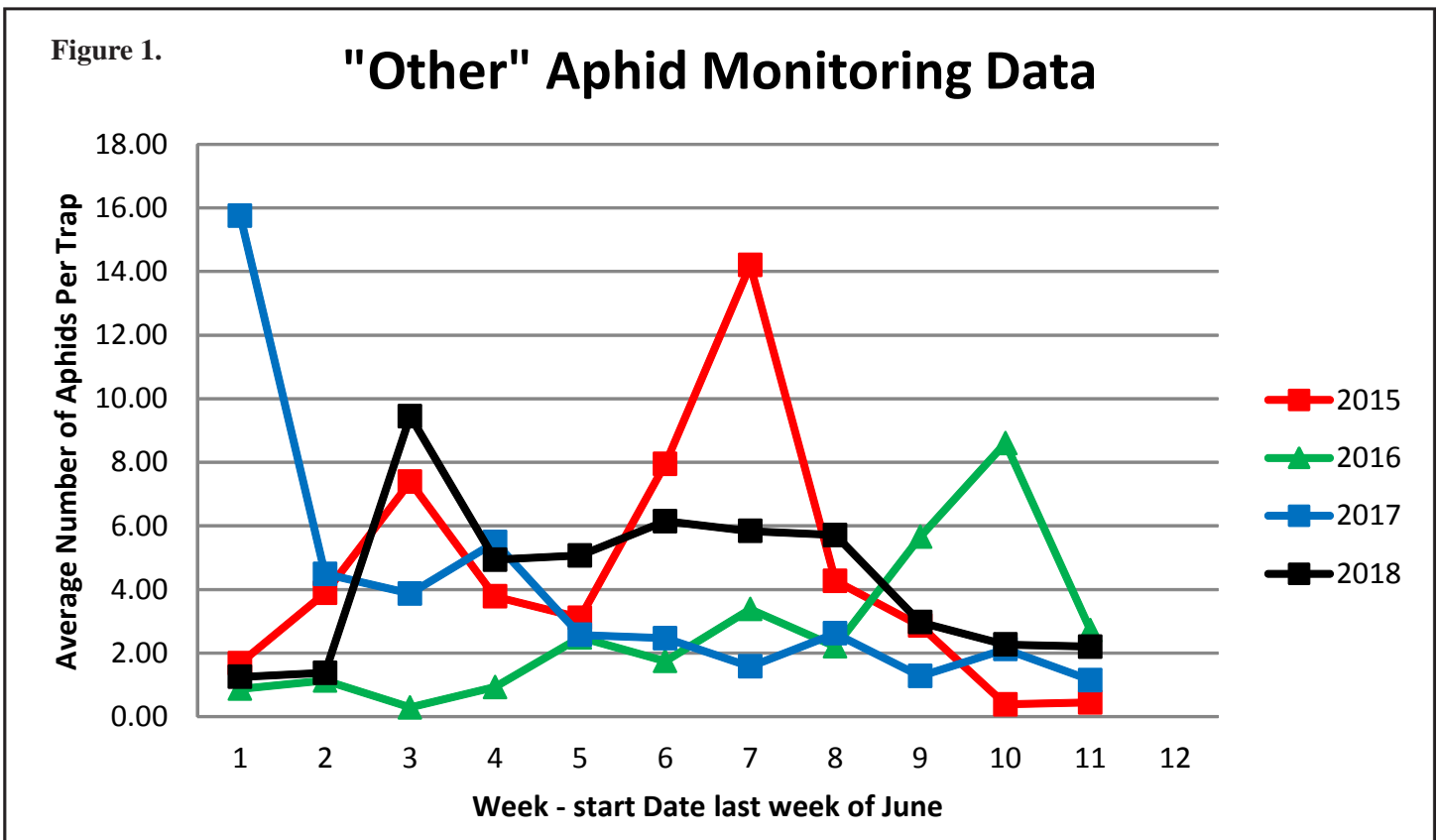
by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

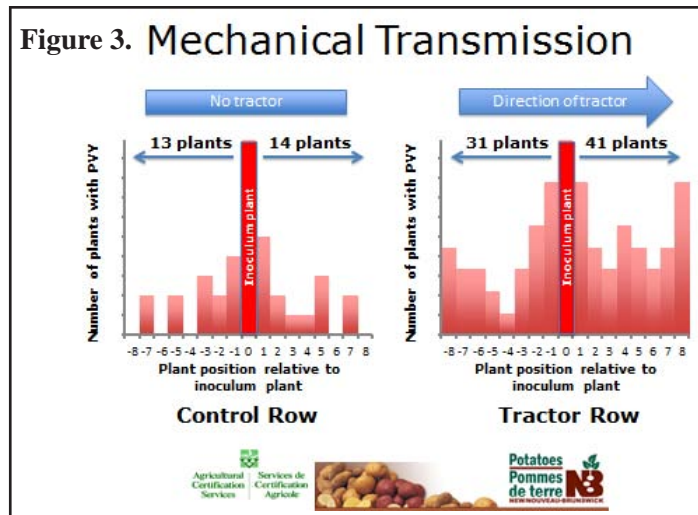
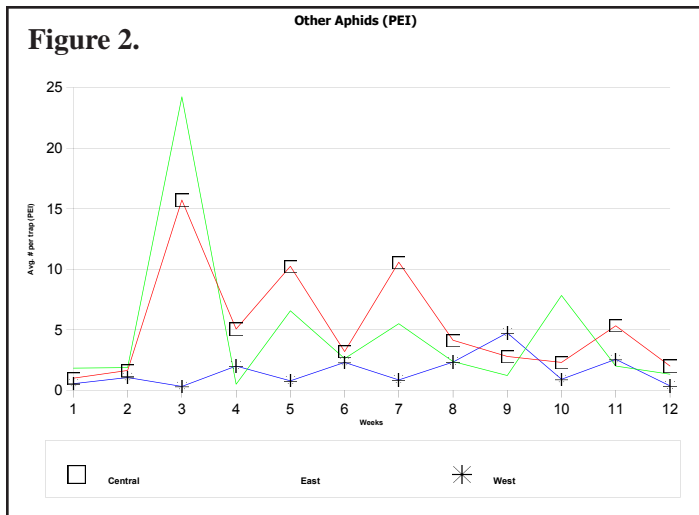
Unlike the growing and harvest conditions experienced in PEI in 2018, it has proved to be a good season in the sense of minimal virus spread. Relatively low levels of aphids combined with continued practice by seed growers of programs to limit virus spread have resulted in 85% of local samples submitted to the lab for post harvest test having a result below the overall virus cap of 3% total virus. Very encouraging this year was the high number of tests with a clear reading.

Over the past couple of years the Board has sponsored winter Seed Workshops to, among other things, discuss post harvest test results. Dr. Mathuresh Singh, a research scientist from New Brunswick and Director of the Ag Certification Services lab in New Brunswick has visited the last two years to present his latest research findings on practices to limit PVY spread. His research, which was part of the CHC National Potato Cluster Research Project, had demonstrated that PVY spread could be taking place very early in the season just as plants were emerging, if aphid vectors were present. This is a time when plants are young, growing quickly, and quite vulnerable to infection, and often before many growers were thinking about aphid control and oil application.

Many growers have adopted his recommendations to help reduce PVY spread which include delaying the planting date for seed plots so that they are not the first fields emerging in the spring, early oil applications (as early as at 20-30% emergence) and early and regular applications of oil coupled with an aphicide, particularly while the plants are growing rapidly.

The samples collected through the PEI provincial aphid alert program also show that aphid populations can be very localized. The provincial averages for the week give an indication of overall aphid pressure, but individual or regional information is important as well. Figure 1 shows the average "other" aphid numbers by week for the past four seasons. Overall numbers for this category have been relatively low in the past several seasons and the high level seen in the graph for the first week of 2017 was driven by extremely high aphid catches in areas of West Prince. These regional differences can be seen more clearly when the numbers are split out on this basis as shown in Figure 2. This graph for 2018 shows the small spike in July was driven by higher catches in the eastern part of the province. The spikes in aphid movement can vary considerably by region and there may even be a spike in one particular field - which could lead to an increased risk of virus spread by aphids in





that area or field. We have seen the results of these localized spikes in some years when certain growers or regions end up with virus results higher than the provincial average and higher than they were expecting.

However, as has been shown, aphids are not the only factor in PVY spread and other recommended practices are equally important - particularly planting clean seed, and early roguing. Dr. Singh has completed studies which show that virus can be spread mechanically from infected to healthy plants via the wheels of the tractor as it passes through the field (Figure 3). This accentuates the need for early roguing to remove any infected plants that may be in the field - as even lots with a clear post harvest test reading may still contain a low number of plants with virus infection.

Growers should also be aware of new varieties that may be very susceptible to new strains of PVY and may not show symptoms very clearly in the field. This can make roguing these varieties very challenging.

Dr. Singh has conducted a project funded through the National Potato Research Cluster to inoculate commonly grown potato varieties and evaluate them for visual symptoms. Many varieties are showing visual symptoms when infected by the new PVY strains but they may be milder or slightly different than those caused by PVY⁰ alone. And, there are some varieties that do not show visual symptoms

well at all.

Another concern for 2019 will be volunteers from fields that were left unharvested and the potential for virus inoculum in those volunteers. The severity of this threat will of course depend on the weather we experience for the rest of the winter and the frost in the ground. It will however, make field placement one more consideration for seed growers as they plan for 2019 planting.

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AIM

Science & Technology Tour Report

by Ryan Barrett, AIM Project Lead

The AIM Science and Technology Working Group was able to travel to Belgium and the Netherlands in the late fall of 2018, with the primary goal of learning more about the precision agriculture tool and new production methods being employed in Western Europe. Group members Jason Webster, Kevin Schurman, and Evan MacDonald accompanied AIM Project Lead Ryan Barrett on the week-long tour.

Interpom Primeurs

The first two days of the tour focused on the Interpom Primeurs Expo in Kortrijk, Belgium. The Interpom Expo is the largest indoor potato-focused trade show in the world, featuring a mix of equipment manufacturers, processor and potato buyers, chemical companies, and various supply companies from across Europe. There was a major focus on harvesting equipment, potato handling equipment, technology for grading/processing potatoes, and new potato storage technology.

There were a number of impressive 2-row and 4-row self-propelled potato harvesters on display. Major players include Grimme (industry leader), Dewulf, AVR, and Ploeger. In conversations with representatives and industry players, there is an industry trend toward 4 row harvesters as farm size grows. The majority of potato growers in Belgium do not own their own harvesting equipment and rely on contractors, who obviously have to cover a lot of

acres in the fall for multiple growers. Towed harvesters are also common but self-propelled harvesters seemed to be getting the most attention. These self-propelled harvesters are almost always used without windrowers but can travel faster in the field than a harvester in PEI (approximately two times as fast) and often under wetter conditions.

There was a definite trend toward new dirt elimination technology. This included a range of potato handling systems with multiple dirt elimination methods employed, including a large mobile unit from Grimme that included optical dirt clod detection. Many European fields are dug under wetter conditions than in PEI and with tighter chains than we would use, so getting dirt separated from the potatoes (in the field, where possible), is a high priority.

A range of self-propelled sprayers with new tank-cleaning technology and section/individual nozzle control were increasingly popular. Agrifac and Amazone are industry leaders. In Belgium, growers are able to access significant programs for equipment purchases, especially for those with sustainability technology.

Equipment Manufacturers

On the day following Interpom, we visited two equipment manufacturers: Dewulf and Case New Holland.

Dewulf is a family-owned equipment manufacturer which has specialized in harvesting equipment for potatoes, sugar beets, onions, carrots, and other root vegetables. Dewulf acquired Miedema in 2014, adding expertise in planting equipment. Dewulf has primarily focused on 2 row harvesters (both self-propelled and towed) but added a 4 row harvester in 2010. Their company's four core values are being Innovative, Economical, Reliable, and Enjoyable.

A commitment to efficiency, safety, and reliable engineering was evident from this company. They have a relationship in PEI with Allan Equipment, particularly for their Miedema planting equipment. They also have a cutting table for single-cutting seed that



A self-propelled sprayer on display at the Interpom Primeurs Expo in Belgium in November 2018. Photos: Ryan Barrett.

might be of interest for Island growers interested in cutting smaller volumes of seed lots without many oversized tubers (8 ounce and down).

We concluded Tuesday with a visit to the Case New Holland plant at Zedelgem (near Bruges). We did a tour of the factory, including the part manufacturing areas and the combine assembly line. Following the tour we had a presentation by Jack Varekamp on New Holland's advancements in precision agriculture technology. Case New Holland has been developing a number of new precision ag technologies, including their new Intellistar system which has GPS integrated into the tractor and is capable of creating data maps simply from data captured by the tractor such as speed, fuel consumption, traction control, etc. Their new forage harvesters have the capability of testing both yield and moisture on-board, and they are also incorporating Near Infrared (NIR) to measure crude protein, ADF, NDF, etc. They have also developed a new tool called Soil Xplorer to be mounted on the front of the tractor for measuring compaction, soil textures, and water content through use of electroconductivity (EC). This is similar technology to the research AIM is doing with UPEI. These maps would then be used to create variable rate maps for fertilizer or seeding. In the Netherlands, they have shown a 3% yield increase from variable rate seeding.

We next paid a visit to the Grimme Belgium headquarters in Roeselare, meeting with Cord-Heinrich Fustenau who is responsible for North America sales. Here, we discussed the Grimme product line and advancements in precision agriculture and new technology.

Grimme is a German, family-owned company now incorporating the fourth generation of the Grimme family. It has been in business for 150 years and has €450 million in annual sales. Grimme also owns Spudnik in North America.

New Grimme planters are equipped with the ability for variable rate planting. This allows for wider plant spacing in areas of low soil organic matter or sandy soil texture, or closer spacing in better parts of the field. They have also developed a system for tighter plant spacing in rows adjacent to tramlines to lessen the impact of sacrificing land for tramlines.

Grimme is also doing research on controlled traffic farming: using GPS/GIS and software to calculate placement of tramlines so that most traffic (sprayers, wagons) runs only in those tramlines. Grimme has been working with a grower in Alberta on this approach, aimed at

reducing soil compaction.

There was also discussion about the use of "microdams" on hillers mounted on the planter. These perform a similar role to the dammer-dikers that are common in North America but with smaller size and requiring less horsepower. There may be an opportunity to incorporate similar microdams on various types of hillers here in PEI.

Research at ILVO

On Thursday morning (November 29th), we visited ILVO near Ghent. ILVO is the Flanders agricultural research institute, conducting research across all commodities. It is primarily government funded, with some private industry funding.

Dr. Nicole Viaene gave a presentation on research and diagnostics for plant health. One project of particular interest for us was work on wireworm. Belgium is dealing with the same *Agrotis* species of wireworm as we have in PEI, and they are also seeing increasing wireworm damage. They have developed an online tool for producers to predict risk and degree of wireworm damage, incorporating five years of crop history, pH, soil organic matter, soil type, and historical wireworm presence. They have been able to show 70% accuracy for damage level thus far after just launching the tool recently.

A major concern for Belgian producers are nematodes of multiple types. *Meloidogyne* species (root-knot) of nematodes are a quarantine pest and are hosted in multiple crops. Managing soil to avoid spread of root-knot nematodes is a major effort, as well as breeding resistant varieties. Potato cyst nematode (PCN) is also a major issue, particularly with the discovery of particularly



Dr. Simon Cool, (centre facing) of ILVO, explains some of the features for individual nozzle control on a potato sprayer that is used for variable rate spraying. Photo: R. Barrett.

virulent populations that will multiply despite the use of resistant varieties. ILVO has also developed some laboratory methods to quantify root-lesion nematodes using qPCR equipment; we will be exploring how these methods might be used back home in PEI in the future to improve nematode testing.

Dr. Johan van Vaerenburgh presented on recent research by ILVO and partners on bacteria causing blackleg, including *Dickeya* species and *Pectobacterium* species. In recent years, Belgium has been making blackleg tolerance levels more restrictive in seed certification. Now, all seed imported to Flanders must be tested for all bacterial species causing blackleg. *Dickeya* is only present on about 10 to 20% of lots, with some newer species of *Pectobacterium* now being of greater concern.

Dr. Simon Cool then provided us with an overview of some of the precision agriculture research being conducted at ILVO. In recent months, they have been doing significant work on variable rate spraying, either for crop protectants, foliar fertilizer, or vine desiccants. They have a sprayer with individual nozzle control, including an assembly with four different types of nozzles which can be controlled individually. Other current priorities for research include using drones for disease detection, experimenting with a drone that can deliver site-specific pesticide applications, thermal imaging for heat stress, using in-field sensors for soil moisture, using digital imaging for weed identification, and developing farm management software that incorporates various precision agriculture technologies and data sources.

Bayer Forward Farm

Following our visit to ILVO, we travelled to the farm of Jan and Josse Peeters near Brussels, a functioning potato farm that is also designated as a Bayer Forward Farm. Using this Forward Farm concept, Bayer is showcasing sustainable agriculture practices for both the grower community as well as politicians and regulatory officials.

The Peeters brothers own 100 ha and rent another 40 ha. They are the fourth generation of their family on this farm. They grow 55 ha (137 acres) of chip stock destined for Frito-Lay, and they store potatoes until June. They have a deep top-soil (up to 2 m) on well drained, rolling land so they are able to achieve very high yields of up to 60 T/ha (530 cwt/ac). They also attain wheat yields up to 10 T/ha (4 T/acre) and sugar beet yields of 90 T/ha (36 T/ac).

Among some of the sustainable practices employed and demonstrated at the Forward Farm:

- 7% of total arable land is green area, including buffer zones, hedges, bird feeding areas, and

permanent grass borders.

- Cover crops are used after most crops, particularly potatoes and wheat. Yellow mustard is used as a green manure cover crop, and winter wheat is often planted after potatoes.
- Reduced tillage practices have been adopted, with very little use of moldboard ploughing.
- Installation of a Phytobac pesticide remediation system. A washing/drainage area for their sprayer has been installed, draining to an underground tank. That water with pesticide residue is then applied to an above ground compost pack that breaks down the pesticides, eliminating source point pesticide contamination.
- Use of a Bayer Ecoflow system for precise measurement of pesticides that also eliminates the risk of operator exposure to concentrated pesticides.
- Use of low drift nozzles and section control on their sprayer.
- Use of “microdams” on their Miedema planter to improve water infiltration in the field.
- Use of variable rate planting according to soil electroconductivity and soil texture maps.

Wageningen University

We then travelled north to Wageningen to meet with a team of researchers at Wageningen University who have developed a software platform for management of different precision agriculture tools and apps. Dr. Frits van Evert provided an overview of Akkerweb, which was developed in partnership with a Dutch farmer association to directly meet the needs of producers.

The Akkerweb platform works by providing a common database for multiple precision agriculture tools, avoiding duplication of data entry and creating errors in data. All of the tools pull from the same core databases but can be used individually like apps on your phone. Private companies can develop apps on the Akkerweb platform, but the majority of apps have so far been developed by the team at Wageningen. Four of the best regarded apps so far include:

1. A mapping program for applying variable rate herbicides by using soil EC and soil organic matter
2. A mapping program for variable rate sidedress N using NDVI
3. A decision tool for late blight, aimed at matching fungicide protection to times of risk of infection using weather data and crop growth models
4. Direct measurement of green index of potato vines for variable rate vine desiccation

There was also a core app in Akkerweb which records field boundaries, crop rotation history, and all crop management activities. More apps are in development, including managing soil sample information, a decision tool for nematodes, and an early blight decision tool similar to the late blight tool. Our team felt that there would be the potential for testing the Akkerweb platform right away in PEI, and we plan to follow up with the team this winter to investigate further.

Van den Borne Potatoes

Following our Emmeloord visits, we headed back down to the Netherlands/Belgium border to visit with Jacob Van den Borne, a leader in precision agriculture in the potato industry. Jacob and his brother Jan grow 600 ha (1,500 acres) of potatoes, making them one of the largest potato growers in the region. Their farm is located right on the Netherlands side of the border with Belgium, but 80% of their fields are in Belgium. They only own 200 ha of land, renting the remaining land needed for potatoes.

Last year, they grew potatoes in 180 fields, with an average field size of around 3 ha (7.5 acres)! In fact, they have land rental agreements with 138 different farmers and



The screen showing the apps that are part of the Akkerweb platform. Photo: R. Barrett

land owners, in itself a strong argument for accurate data management tools!

Jacob provided a professional presentation describing their journey in introducing precision agriculture tools to the farm. When GPS was adopted, they reduced overlap of spraying and fertilization from 13% to 1%, already a significant savings. From there, they adopted a wide array of tools and software to track field operations and make management decisions on every field. Whenever an operator takes a



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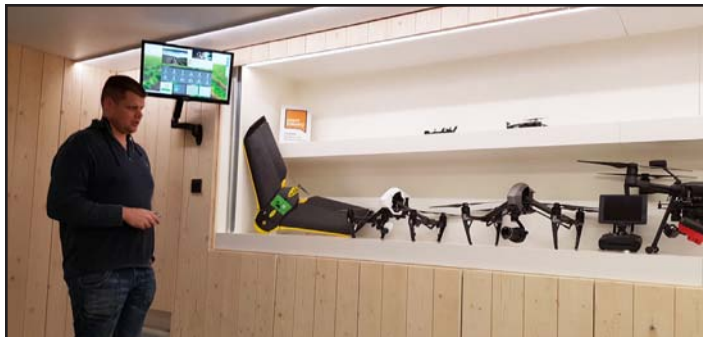




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Jacob Van den Borne displays some of the drones he uses to gather information which he then uses to plan inputs and field operations. Photo: R. Barrett.

tractor across a field boundary, they automatically receive a notification on their cell phone requesting information on what action is being done in that field. Another notification is received when they leave the field!

All fields are scanned using a DualEM sensor for electroconductivity, the same sensor that UPEI is using in their project with AIM. Jacob was convinced that this was the best EC sensor available. Using soil EC maps, he is able to assess the variability of his fields, identifying zones with higher and lower potential for yield based on soil texture and soil organic matter. He describes this as measuring the “battery potential” of his field. He also assesses fields for soil compaction and top soil depth, and these maps are used for variable rate fertilization and planting. He noted that percent organic matter is not as important as tonnes of organic matter...measuring the thickness of topsoil is as important as knowing the organic matter percentage.

Jacob uses tramlines in all fields, and these tramlines are established in the winter for each field using software from 365 Farm Net. Tramlines are zones for controlled traffic in the field, where sprayers and potato wagons travel to reduce incremental soil compaction across the field. It has been shown that controlled traffic farming can increase yield in their production system by at least 7%. Reducing surface compaction allows for larger pore spaces in the soil, allowing for more oxygen in the soil, which fosters microbial activity. He currently uses self-propelled harvesters, but is interested in adding windrowers to his harvest system to reduce the weight of equipment on the field.

Variable rate planting has been incorporated in multiple ways. Zones of higher EC/soil OM are planted thicker, while sandier areas are more spaced out. Rows adjacent to tramlines are planted with 30% more seed than average rows to compensate for land area lost to tramlines. In addition, shadow maps from drones can be used to adjust seeding rate in areas with higher degrees of shade (near forests/hedgerows).

Jacob also doesn't put blind trust in the output of remote sensors...he backs this up with in-field soil and plant sampling. In the summer, he has a group of students doing in-field sampling to correlate with the information coming from sensors and drones. He is then storing all of this data and hopes to be able to offer this database to companies looking toward machine learning.

Take Home Messages:

This study tour was very full, with visits to a variety of different parts of the Belgian/Dutch potato industries. One of the key observations from everyone on the trip was that the majority of challenges faced by Belgian/Dutch potato farmers (diseases, pests, sustainability, precision agriculture) are very similar to the challenges faced here in PEI. There are some approaches that are less applicable to Canada, but there are some definite take home messages and projects to investigate immediately, including:

1. The average grower in Belgium/Netherlands is likely at a similar stage of precision agriculture adoption as a Canadian grower; however, the early adopters are likely at a higher level than the early adopters here in terms of access to precision agriculture tools.
2. The trend toward self-propelled harvesters in these countries is unlikely to be replicated in Prince Edward Island. However, these companies are also developing new towed harvesters for the North American market that are interesting, particularly with the inclusion of dirt elimination technology.
3. Equipment in Belgium/Netherlands appears to be more ready for variable rate mapping/application than here in PEI. In part, this is due to government programs to assist with purchase of new equipment.
4. Variable rate planting has moved from theory to practice and can be implemented with simple management zone maps or EC maps. Could be investigated in Prince Edward Island with enabled planters.
5. Precision agriculture platforms (Akkerweb, Dacom) would be worth immediate investigation in Prince Edward Island, particularly for the field management and late blight apps. Apps could then also be built for variable rate lime and K application.
6. The working group came home with a number of ideas for research and demonstration projects, including variable rate nitrogen application, use of new micro-dammer technology, increased use of soil EC mapping, and a number of decision support tools to assist with maximizing yield within each field.

Read the full report on www.peipotatoagronomy.com.

Truck Wraps Highlight PEI Potatoes

The Prince Edward Island Potato Board announced an expansion to their branded truck wrap program in September 2018. These branded trailers have been travelling the continent for over four years already, covering a combined 6 million kilometers to date.


The PEI Potato Board, with assistance from the Food Island Partnership, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Innovation PEI, developed this program in an effort to promote the Island's food exports as they make their way to markets across North America. There are a variety of truck wraps and individual trailers have their own product focus featuring either Island Beef, Shellfish, and Seafood, or PEI Potatoes. The truck wraps were designed so that there is a clear, simple theme by which the products are promoted, but ensures that there is proper campaign consistency, and the "Island" theme is strong, while the product message is not diluted.

The Potato Board originally started with four trucks and two Island dealers have

since added trailers with the potato graphics featuring their own logo. This summer, two more truck wraps were added; there are now eight trailers promoting PEI Potatoes. While the trailers generally target two of PEI's biggest shipping destinations, Ontario and the Eastern Seaboard, they have travelled all over our continent to places such as Newfoundland, Florida, California, Arizona, and Wisconsin. Each trailer travels over 250,000 km per year and with the two new trucks added, that number will keep growing.


The trailers generate a lot of attention. Drivers have said people often ask to have their picture taken with the trailers, and Islanders living away from home are particularly excited to see a reminder of PEI as they encounter the trailers in their travels; users have even shared their love of the PEI trailers on social media!





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Somerset Farms Wins Gilbert R. Clements Award For Environmental Farm Planning

The PEI Department of Agriculture & Forestry partnered with the PEI Enhanced Environmental Farm Plan Program again in 2019 to recognize producers or commodity groups committed to practicing and raising awareness of environmental farm planning and implementation. This award was established to recognize excellence in sustainable agriculture based on a recommendation from the Round Table on Land Use and Stewardship. It is named in recognition of the Honorable Gilbert R. Clements' commitment to the environment. Each year this award is given to an enterprise that is environmentally and socially responsible in the production and/or marketing of agricultural products from a sustainable system. The winner this year was Somerset Farms and the award was presented at the PEI Federation of Agriculture Annual General Meeting on January 25, 2019.

Somerset Farms, owned and operated by Darren and Brenda Peters, is a first-generation farm started in 1994. The current farm operation consists of 200 acres of processing potatoes, 60 acres of processing carrots, as well as grain, soybeans and hay on a five-year rotation.

Darren has installed thousands of feet of soil conservation features, including 3,300 feet of farmable berms, 12,000 feet of permanently grassed waterways, and 6,000 feet of diversion terraces. Darren also frequently uses conservation tillage practices, as well as progressive integrated pest management techniques aimed at combining preventative, mechanical, chemical, cultural and biological control methods.



Darren Peters displays the trophy received for the Gilbert R. Clements Award for Environmental Farm Planning. Photo: Greg Donald.

Darren is a participant in the Alternative Land Use (ALUS) Program which helps him to reduce soil erosion, while increasing wildlife habitat and reducing the impacts of climate change. The Peters family has recently retired 12 acres of sloped land that would have otherwise contributed to excessive soil erosion. As ALUS projects, these acres now preserved to improve the agricultural ecosystem of the operation.

Darren has played an active role in his community, both agriculturally and otherwise, by participating as a member of the PEI Potato Board, the PEI Federation of Agriculture, and retired member of the Kinkora Fire Department.

Darren has played a significant role in increasing public awareness about sustainable agriculture practices, both in his community and in Island agriculture. He has introduced the benefits of sustainable farm management to many fellow producers by also encouraging participation in stewardship activities, and he is a tireless promoter of the ALUS program. Darren also hosts Kinkora Regional High School tours at Somerset Farms in an effort to share sustainable farming practices with the next generation.

This first-generation family farm continues to show that environmental stewardship is well established on Island farms, and that eco-friendly practices can be integrated into any farm. Somerset Farms exhibits excellent agricultural stewardship practices and a concern for not only the land being farmed but the ecological environment surrounding it.

An advertisement for Gemini Screen Print & Embroidery. The background is a close-up of a white fabric with a blue and red logo. The logo features the word 'Gemini' in a large, stylized blue font, with 'SCREEN PRINT & EMBROIDERY' in a smaller blue font below it, and 'your promotional solution company' in a smaller blue font at the bottom. To the right of the logo is a circular emblem with 'PROMOTIONAL' at the top, 'Work!' in the center, and 'PRODUCTS' at the bottom. Below the logo and emblem, the text 'Promote Your Brand | GET SEEN' is written in blue. At the bottom, the phone number '902-566-5644' and the website 'Geminipei.com' are displayed in blue.

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APRE Report

APRE is a not-for-profit organization funded by the potato industry, including US and Canadian processing potato farmers and potato food manufacturers. It is dedicated to advancing the scientific understanding of the role potatoes play in promoting the health of all people.

The APRE board of directors is made up of representatives of the potato processing companies as well as US and Canadian potato growers and their respective national organization. Directors provide leadership to ensure that APRE remains focused on its mission to advance the scientific understanding of the role potatoes play in promoting the health of all people. The board of directors relies on scientific advisors and consultants to help inform and implement research and programming.

Current Research priorities include:

1. Potatoes in Cardiometabolic Health

- Impact of potato and/or potato product consumption in subjects with Metabolic Syndrome and/or Type II diabetes.
- Short and longer-term impacts of low- to moderate-glycemic load meals/diets (that include potatoes and/or potato products) on indices of health and disease.
- Impact of potato fiber/resistant starch on the gut microbiome and markers of cardiometabolic health/disease

2. Potatoes in Healthy Dietary Patterns

- Health profile of individuals/population groups for whom potatoes and/or potato products are a staple food.
- Effects of plant-based diets, including potatoes and/or potato products (in all forms), on body weight and related health indices in healthy subjects.
- Potato protein quality compared with protein quality of other plant-based foods.

3. Potatoes in Healthy Lifestyles/Life Stages

- Impact of potatoes and/or potato products on muscle repair/muscle accretion and/or overall energy levels in conjunction with physical activity/athletic performance.
- Potatoes compared to manufactured “sports food” products or alternative carbohydrate food sources on exercise performance and recovery.
- Impact of potatoes and/or potato products on overall nutrient intake in school aged children.

Some of the projects in the research pipeline include:

CARDIOMETABOLIC HEALTH

Potato Intake and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in a Large Norwegian Cohort - Trine Moholdt, PhD, Norwegian University of Science and Technology

An epidemiological study investigating the association between potato intake and risk of all-cause mortality or cardiovascular disease mortality. The study will also determine if there is an association between potatoes and an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease-related hospitalization, and obesity.

Nocturnal Blood Glucose Responses to Potato-Based Mixed Evening Meals - Brooke Devlin, PhD, Australian Catholic University

A clinical trial investigating the impact of potato consumption on postprandial (after a meal) and nocturnal glycemic responses, when consumed as part of a balanced meal in a real-world setting. The results will help to extend understanding of the effect of potatoes prepared by different methods, and provided as part of a mixed meal, on glycemic responses in healthy subjects and subjects with type 2 diabetes.

Effects of Potatoes on Potassium Retention and Blood Pressure in Mildly Hypertensive Men and Women - Connie Weaver, PhD, Purdue University

A clinical trial investigating whether potassium retention from potatoes is equal to or better than that of potassium supplements in hypertensive adults. The primary outcome variables in this study include blood pressure and the impact of potassium on bone health, as measured by acid-base balance and bone calcium retention.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Role of White Potatoes on Subjective Appetite, Food Intake, Glycemic Response, Mood and Memory Performance in Normal Weight and Overweight/Obese Children - Nick Bellissimo, PhD, Ryerson University

A recently completed series of clinical studies in normal weight and overweight children assessing the impact of 50 grams of carbohydrate from white potatoes and other sources on cognitive performance, glycemia, and subjective appetite. Among other things, results indicated that children who consumed potatoes, particularly as French fries, had improved short-term declarative memory, and that children were more alert and pleasant after eating potatoes, especially in the form of French fries and hash browns. [manuscript under review]

For further information about these and other studies in the pipeline go to www.apre.org.

Ag Sector Council Awards

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

On January 25th, the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister's Dedication to Agriculture Award for 2018 was presented to Donna MacKenna. Donna was nominated by her current employer Randy Visser of GW & R Farms of Vernon River.

"In our industry, it is difficult to retain skilled employees with the ability to manage our farm as we would. To have an individual as skilled, dedicated and loyal as Donna is truly is an asset to our farm and the agriculture industry," said Visser.

Donna grew up on a farm down the road from the Visser Farm in Orwell. In 1986, Donna became part of the team at GW&R Visser Farms Inc. and has been employed at the farm since then. Donna understands agriculture, is a farm kid at heart and is a proud Aggie! Donna now lives in Charlottetown but still travels out to the farm for work. She has become an extremely valuable and important part of the business over the years.

Donna is an extremely hard working person. She cares about doing the job right. She has spent many years on the back of the potato planter in the spring and running the bin piler in the fall. She's not afraid of giving others direction and helps provide motivation when needed. She takes pride in piling the potatoes level in the bin which is



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

important to Vissers and she has an eye for detail which is well appreciated.

Donna is dedicated.... If she couldn't make it to work due to a snow storm, she would wait at the end of her driveway for the snowblower driver to pick her up and take her to work.... Dedication!

During her "33" consecutive years of employment, her abilities have contributed tremendously to the success of the Visser farm. Donna consistently brings a happy disposition, an excellent work ethic and an invaluable skill set to the farm each and every day.

Donna is a true example of a dedicated and committed employee, whom the Vissers value more than words can say. Thank you Donna...

PEI Agriculture Employee of the Year

The 2018 PEI Agriculture Sector Employee of the year was awarded to Ryan Campbell. Ryan was nominated by his current employers: Greg & Tania MacKenzie of Stratford.

Since the day that Greg and Tania bought their farm in 2003, Ryan has been with them. Greg worked side by side with Ryan prior to the purchase of their farm and knew his skill set and what he was capable of managing. They knew he was a requirement for the long term success of their vegetable farm.

Ryan has been there through the many changes to the MacKenzie Farm and he has helped them through challenging times.

Ryan has obtained many certifications to benefit the farm; first aid, CPR, pesticide, forklift, 3A and Class 1A certification. He runs the farm like he owns it. He is the only employee that knows how to do everything on the farm whether it is small or large veggie deliveries, driving all the equipment, watering the greenhouses, seeding, snow blowing, coming in on his day off just to make sure the coolers are running properly and working as many hours as needed.... The list of what he does is endless....

The Mackenzie's work hard during the season and when they can pencil out some time, they like to travel... due to their valued employee Ryan they are able to have some down time. He is an integral part of their everyday life on the farm. Ryan is the truly the pick of the crop at MacKenzie's Farm!

This award is sponsored by Kool Breeze Farms. The

award was presented by Darryl Wallace, Chair of the PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

PEI Agriculture Employer of the Year

The 2018 PEI Agriculture Sector Employer of the year was awarded to Jason Webster, Valley Grove Farms of Kensington. Jason was nominated by Wilfred Gillis of Kensington.

Jason operates his family's approximately 700 acre potato farm with his father Marvyn. A few years back, their farm designed a mobile potato-washing unit that allows them to wash 60,000-90,000 pounds of potatoes per hour. Today, they are one of the partners in PEI Potato Solutions/RWL Holdings where they wash over 1 million pounds a day. Truly inventive....

This inventive attitude has certainly transferred to their farming practice for their employees. His employees state that Jason goes above and beyond to ensure they are treated fairly and know that they are an important part of the team. He is very easy to work for and to work with. They respect him for the way he runs his farm.

Jason may be a bit of a jokester they state, which makes working for him enjoyable. He has great communication skills and ensures that his staff is properly trained. He believes that following rules and being safe while working is very important.

Jason has made his employees feel appreciated and valued. He supports his employees by being understanding when they have other personal commitments. These skills have made his staff loyal, happy and proud of working for Jason at Valley Grove Farms.

2018 PEI Agriculture Sector Employer of the Year Award is sponsored by T&K Fire and Safety. The award was being presented to Jason by Darryl Wallace, Chair of the PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

The PEI Ag Sector Council Awards and the Minister's



Ryan Campbell receives the 2018 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.



Jason Webster is presented with the 2018 PEI Agriculture Employer of the Year Award, sponsored by T&K Fire and Safety, by Darryl Wallace, Chair of the PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

Dedication to Agriculture Award were presented at the PEI Federation of Agriculture AGM and Banquet on January 25, 2019 Photos by: MacKinnon Photography.

Meet your new Syngenta Sales Representative!

Eric Richter
is a Certified Crop Advisor with 35 years of experience in agriculture.

902-215-0804 eric.richter@syngenta.com

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syngenta

PEI Rural Beautification Society

Potato Warehouse Competition

The PEI Potato Board continues to support the PEI Rural Beautification Society through sponsorship of the Potato Warehouse competition. PEI is a largely rural province and maintaining the visual appeal of our landscape is good for our personal pride, the image of our industry and for the tourism industry.

This competition is for communities located in Rural PEI (excluding Charlottetown & Summerside).

Judges evaluate the overall appearance of the property, including the criteria noted below:

- General appearance of storage facilities, sheds, cleanliness of area surrounding the building(s) including any cull/soil piles, farm machinery and other equipment places in an orderly fashion, used/soiled bags, rocks, soil, oil, farm machinery and machinery placed in orderly fashion;
- Exterior appearance of building, exterior painting,

exterior finish;

- Window glass, doors, roof, provision of storage for waste material;
- Condition and appearance of warehouse identification;
- Landscaping; lawn areas, planting and care of trees, shrubs;
- Condition of approach to the warehouse from the highway;
- Lighting or illumination of the entire area; and
- Flag flying.

Winners in 2018 included the following in order of placement: Klondike Farms, Blue Shank Road; David and Brett Francis, Lady Fane; and Marvyn's Gardens, Munns Road.

Congratulations to all entrants and we look forward to increased participation in 2019.



Klondike Farms



Marvyn's Gardens



David and Brett Francis

An Update From the:

PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



The harvest of 2018 left an unprecedented amount of potato acres in the ground, and resulted in some chilled tubers in storage. What does this mean as we move toward the 2019 season? Staff at the Potato Quality Institute, the PEI Potato Board and PEIDAF have given some thought to this.

Two concerns come to mind immediately – volunteers in unharvested fields and performance of seed tubers that were exposed to cold temperatures.

VOLUNTEER POTATOES & ASSOCIATED RISKS

Volunteer potatoes can cause risks in the cropping season because they emerge in non-potato fields and can harbour insect and disease pests that can spread to neighbouring commercial potato fields. They may even compete for nutrients, water and sunlight with the sown crop that follows potatoes. We know that; although volunteer potatoes can be injured with herbicide applications; it is very difficult to actually eliminate volunteer potatoes with any of our registered herbicides. But we also know that a heavy frost on bare soil can kill most potatoes that have been missed by harvest.

Researchers at Michigan State University wanted to help growers understand the risks associated with volunteer potatoes, and help them predict the survival of potatoes over the winter. Generally speaking, their studies showed that potatoes will breakdown if they have been exposed to temperatures of 27 degrees Fahrenheit (-2.8 Celsius) for roughly twenty-four hours. Next they developed a model for predicting volunteer survival at various soil temperatures at both two and four inches depth:

- If tubers were exposed to temperatures below 27 F for more than 5 days between November 1 and March 31 at 4 and 2 inch depths, then the risk of tuber survival is considered low.
- If tubers were exposed to temperatures below 27 F for less than 5 days at a 4-inch depth and greater than 120 hours at a 2-inch depth, then there was a moderate risk of tuber survival.
- If tubers were exposed to temperatures below 27 F for less than 5 days at a 4-inch depth and less than 120 hours at a 2-inch depth, then there was a high risk of tuber survival.

Source: Potential survival of potato volunteers in Michigan in 2014. May 7, 2014 - Author: Willie Kirk, and Lee Duynslager; Michigan State University, Department of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences; Phill Wharton, University of Idaho; Kathleen Baker, Western Michigan University; and MSU Enviro-weather.

The good news is that we can be confident that soil temperatures at both 2 and 4 inches dipped below -3C for at least five days this winter. However, it is important to keep in mind the depth of the potato tubers. We've seen issues with volunteer potatoes in the past, but in many cases the cause was smaller tubers left on the soil surface after harvest. This year, we have an unusually high number of tubers that are buried deeper, and will be less vulnerable to frost than those left on the soil surface. Areas where snow accumulates (along treelines and hedgerows) and regions that are less prone to frost (with close proximity to salt water) will have a higher risk of volunteer potatoes establishing.

Many people would first think of late blight as a concern if volunteer potatoes emerge. There's good news on that front: with no late blight reported for the past two seasons on PEI, there would be little inoculum to infect volunteer potatoes; and more often than not Colorado Potato beetles will completely consume the potato plants before risk of a late blight infection occurs. That being said, it will still be important to diligently apply fungicides to commercial potato fields that are near fields with potato volunteers.

One cause for concern is the potential for the spread of early-season potato virus, particularly PVY. According to Dr. Mathuresh Singh (Agricultural Certification Services, Potatoes NB), the peak time for aphid activity is early July. If volunteer potatoes have emerged that are carrying the virus, non-colonizing aphids may spread PVY to seed fields on their travels. Early applications of mineral oil to seed fields will be crucial as usual; and seed growers may even consider delaying planting fields at risk in order to avoid the timing of this potential concern.

POTATO SEED GERMINATION PREVIEW FOR 2019 PLANTING

There have been some concerns voiced about seed performance in 2019 following the difficult growing and harvesting season in 2018. Conversations that I have had

with agronomists from various regions can provide some relief for growers; in most cases, if a tuber has been exposed to cold temperatures and doesn't germinate, it's because the tuber has actually been frozen, and frozen tubers are easily distinguishable from healthy tubers. Even if tubers were "chilled" (i.e. exposed to very cold temperatures, but not actually frozen), there seems to be little concern with the ability of the tuber to germinate in the following season.

To further ease the minds of growers, we are lucky to have a local post-harvest testing service that has been growing out seed in the greenhouse since the fall. The Potato Quality Institute (PQI) has tested a high percentage of seed lots grown on PEI and the majority of them have been grown out in the greenhouse for ELISA testing of leaves. The comments that Pat Quilty, Director of PQI, has provided are encouraging. He reports that for any seedlots that had emergence issues, the main cause was tubers breaking down. When he contacted the growers involved, they were already seeing the problem in the warehouse as well. Pat also mentioned that any issues with slow emergence seemed to be due to the cool temperatures in the greenhouse, or were varieties for which slow emergence is common every year. There may, in fact, be more rationale for being concerned about physiologically aged seed in 2019 due to the hot, dry season in 2018.

A good starting point for evaluating seed quality is answering the following questions for each seed lot that you plan to plant:

1. Is the seed lot from a known seed source?
2. Are you aware of the 2018 environmental conditions in the location where the seed was grown?
3. What was the harvest date? Did the seed experience any frost damage in the field before harvest?
4. Have you had an opportunity to visit the seed storage and view the visual quality and storage conditions?
5. Is the post-harvest test reading available and were there any issues with sprout/plant growth (i.e. sample was short as all tubers did not germinate) for the Post Harvest lab or field grow out test.

Some seed lots were left unharvested due to the early frost and freezing weather this fall, however there will no doubt be some seedlots that were harvested late that growers may be concerned about. If you wish to check your seed for quality and germination there are a few options:

- Take a sample from the storage and leave it in warm lighted conditions and evaluate for sprouting.
- Plant round tubers in a tray or trays of peat moss based soil mix and keep in warm, lighted and humid

conditions and evaluate for sprouting and tuber condition.

- PQI has checked the germination rate of tubers from seed lots in the past for interested growers. Sample sizes have ranged from 50 tubers to 200 tubers, depending on what the grower requests and how big the lots are. In previous years the cost has ranged from approximately \$75 for a 50 tuber sample to \$150 for a 200 tuber sample. Please contact PQI at 902-368-8378 for more information and pricing if you are interested in this service this year.

2019 POTATO CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

Don't forget to pre-register for the 2019 PEI Potato Conference & Banquet, to be held at Red Shores Racetrack & Casino (banquet at Delta PEI) February 19-20, 2019. The agenda is now available on the PEIDAF Calendar of Events, as well as the PEI Potato Agronomy website. Deadline to register is February 13th, so call the PEI Potato Board office right away!



Samples planted in the greenhouse for the PHT growout. This technique can also be used to test a sample of your seed lot in the spring for germination prior to planting.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Support for Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector to Grow the Middle Class

November 30, 2018 – Montague, Prince Edward Island - Canada's recent Fall Economic Statement 2018 showed that the Government's plan is working: more Canadians are employed, wages are growing, and middle class Canadians have more money to save, invest and grow the economy. The Government of Canada knows that Canadian farmers and food processors are key drivers of the Canadian economy. The Statement is the next step in our plan, where we are supporting Canada's competitiveness so that Canadian agriculture and agri-food businesses can grow and create more good, middle class jobs.

Today, federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister, Lawrence MacAulay, was in Montague, Prince Edward Island, to highlight the Fall Economic Statement 2018, which provides an update to Canadians on investments and results already delivered by the Government, and lays out the next steps in the Government's plan to grow the economy by investing in middle class jobs.

In the Statement, there were a number of measures that will help Canada's agriculture and agri-food sectors grow, innovate and prosper. These measures include important tax and investment incentives that will drive business growth and increase the competitiveness of Canadian agriculture and agri-food businesses.

Under the new measures, manufacturers and food processors will be able to immediately write off the cost of capital investments like machinery or equipment – including clean technology. And under the new Accelerated Investment Incentive, manufacturers, food processors – and farmers – will be able to write off a larger portion of the depreciation in the year an investment is made. For purchases of buildings, machinery or equipment, the deduction in the first year is up to three times the amount under the previous rules.

The Statement includes a \$25 million investment over the next five years to expand support for agriculture and food exporters. This investment includes \$12 million over five years for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to access new markets for agriculture and agri-food exports as part of the implementation of an Export Diversification Strategy. An additional \$11 million over five years is being provided to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to support market access.

The Government of Canada is also investing an additional \$13.6 million over three years to improve transportation data, which will support the movement of all goods, including agricultural products.

Broad measures will be undertaken as well to make sure Canada's regulations are as innovative and efficient as possible, helping businesses to stay on the competitive edge and grow.

In addition, to accelerate support for business innovation, the Government of Canada is providing a further \$800 million over five years to the Strategic Innovation Fund, which will support innovative investments across the country in all economic sectors.

"The Government knows that Canadian farmers and food processors are key drivers of the Canadian economy. Through the Fall Economic Statement, we will continue to invest in the Canadian agriculture and food system by increasing market access for exports, supporting innovation and modernizing federal regulations. By keeping Canadian agriculture and agri-food businesses competitive, innovating and growing, we are helping creating more good jobs for

Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm

Seed For Sale

Commercial Varieties:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>PHT Reading</u>
Classic Russet	E1	clear
Norland	E1	clear
Shepody	E1	clear
Yukon Gold	E1	clear

Market Garden Varieties:

Elite 3, \$16/50 lb bag

Caribe, Goldrush, Irish Cobbler, Norland, Yukon Gold and Yukon Nugget.

Call Mary Kay at (902) 892-6551 or Mark at (902) 853-5490 for more information and to book seed.

our middle class.”

- Lawrence MacAulay, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

CanadaGAP holds 2018 Annual General Meeting

December 12, 2018 - The Annual General Meeting of CanAgPlus, the not-for-profit corporation that owns and operates the CanadaGAP® Program, was held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 in Ottawa. We thank all members who attended and participated in the meeting.

CanadaGAP program participants elected two new and two returning directors to the CanAgPlus Board.

Congratulations to the following individuals:

- Mike Furi, Federated Co-operatives Limited
- Alvin Keenan, Rollo Bay Holdings
- Cathy McKay, Nature's Bounty
- Jody Mott, Holland Marsh Growers' Association

Chair Jack Bates and Vice-Chair Hugh Bowman retired from the Board. Sincere thanks are extended to Jack and Hugh for their dedication and contributions to CanadaGAP.

The new Board met subsequent to the AGM and appointed Stephanie Lariviere as Chair and Scott Wright as Vice-Chair.

Newly elected board members will serve a two-year term for 2019 and 2020. Biographies of CanAgPlus directors are posted at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/history/governance/>

The 2018 Annual Report can be accessed at: <http://www.canadagap.ca/publications/annual-report/>

The corporation's financial statements and the annual report Powerpoint presentation are accessible from the Members Only section on the CanadaGAP website or directly from the office. Any member may obtain a copy upon request.

If you have any questions, please call the CanadaGAP office at 613-829-4711 or send us an email at info@canadagap.ca.

CanadaGAP® is a program developed in Canada to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for fruit and vegetable suppliers.

BASF Launches Critical Insecticide for Use in Canadian Soybeans and Potatoes

MISSISSAUGA, ON, January 17, 2019 – Canadian farmers have a new tool to protect their soybean and potato crops in 2019 with the launch of BASF's Sefina™ insecticide.

Sefina utilizes a unique mode of action, Group 9D active

ingredient Inscalis™, to quickly halt aphid feeding, reducing production losses and virus transmission. In research and commercial trials across Canada and the United States, Sefina showed extended control of up to three weeks against additional aphid pests that have, over time, developed resistance to other insecticides.

“Canadian growers find it challenging to control aphids when populations are high,” said Andrew Geerligs, Corn and Soybean Crop Manager for BASF Canada. “Sefina's fast activity provides a new solution to control aphids in soybeans and limit the spread of viral pathogens in potatoes. In addition, Sefina does not impact beneficial predatory insects, making it an effective tool for an integrated pest management strategy.”

As part of BASF's ongoing efforts to innovate solutions for growers, BASF developed active ingredient Inscalis, after its initial discovery by a team that included 2015 Nobel Prize recipient, Dr. Satoshi Omura of the Kitasato Institute.

For more information on the use of Sefina in the 2019 crop season, contact AgSolutions® Customer Care at 1-877-371-BASF (2273) or visit agsolutions.ca. Always read and follow label directions.

AgSolutions is a registered trade-mark; and SEFINA, and INSCALIS are trade-marks of BASF. © 2018

United Phosphorus, Inc. (UPI) announces corporate name change to UPL NA Inc. (UPL)

January 17, 2019 - UPL, a global leader in the production of high-quality crop protection products, announced that the company changed the name of its North American operation from United Phosphorus, Inc., to UPL NA Inc., effective January 1st, 2019.

“The new UPL brand name for the North America business more accurately reflects the global corporate identity” according to Manish Sirohi, Director, Strategy and Innovation. “The change aligns our business with our Corporate parent and their subsidiaries around the world.”

UPL globally has a presence in over 130 countries on six continents. With 33 manufacturing and formulation facilities situated in 11 countries, UPL is a leader in the manufacture of high-quality brands used to protect crops and property. UPL is focused on emerging as a premier global provider of total crop solutions designed to secure the world's long-



term food supply.

“Our company mantra is “Doing Things Better”, says Sirohi, “and Doing Things Better is all about raising the bar in global agricultural productivity. UPL has invested heavily in R&D activities that produce innovative solutions, leading to the global launch of more than 100 new products in the past two years.”

For information about UPL NA Inc. and our products, go to www.upi-usa.com or call (800) 438-6071.

UPL NA Inc. is part of the UPL group of companies. UPL is a basic manufacturer of crop and property protection products, with over 5,400 employees and 33 production and formulation facilities situated throughout the world.

UPL logo is a trademark of UPL Corporation Limited or its related companies.

Syngenta Launches Orondis Gold Potato Fungicide to Help Protect Tubers from Pink Rot and Pythium Leak

Guelph, Ontario, Canada - January 14, 2019 - Syngenta Canada Inc. is pleased to announce the launch of Orondis® Gold Potato fungicide for suppression of pink rot and Pythium leak in potatoes.

Pink rot is a devastating soil-borne disease that thrives in wet, poorly drained soils and can survive in soil for up

to seven years. Just a few infected potatoes entering the storage bin can result in substantial losses, infecting healthy tubers and compromising marketable yield. That’s why proactive management of the disease is important.

Orondis Gold Potato is applied in-furrow as part of a preventative disease control program. It combines the power of metalaxyl-M (Group 4) with oxathiapiprolin (Group 49) – a new mode of action to suppress pink rot and help manage the development of resistance.

“Oxathiapiprolin is the only FRAC Group 49 fungicide on the market, and is a new mode of action against pink rot,” says Eric Phillips, Fungicides and Insecticides Product Lead with Syngenta Canada. “Applying Orondis Gold Potato in-furrow gives growers a powerful new tool to help manage pink rot.”

Orondis Gold Potato is crop safe, so producers can protect their potatoes from pink rot without sacrificing yield or quality, or putting undue stress on foliage, which is possible with some other foliar options used to manage the disease.

Orondis Gold also provides suppression of Pythium leak, which enters tubers through wounds or bruises that occur during harvest and grading.

“Pythium leak is another storage disease that can

2019 Potato Conference and Banquet



Photo: Linda Matheson-Ford



A new event for the PEI Potato Industry **SAVE THE DATE! February 19-20, 2019** **2019 PEI Potato Conference & Banquet**

Conference & Tradeshow –
Red Shores Racetrack & Casino, Charlottetown
Banquet, February 19 – Delta Prince Edward

The PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the PEI Potato Board are excited to launch this new event featuring:

- Top notch speakers focusing on Row Widths, Seed Management, Alternative Irrigation Technology, Digital Innovation, Farmer Mental Health and more!
- Enhanced Tradeshow
- Local researchers sharing recent work and practical applications
- A banquet not to be missed!

Watch the PEI Potato Agronomy and PEIDAF websites for more info! Register for the conference and/or banquet by calling the PEI Potato Board **902-892-6551** or email karen@peipotato.org

Registration Deadline:
February 13, 2019



develop very quickly, especially if tubers have poor skin set or are harvested in wet conditions,” Phillips says. “Infected tubers may also be more vulnerable to secondary bacterial infections, putting yield at further risk. An Orondis Gold Potato application in-furrow can help preserve marketable

yield going into storage.”

Orondis Gold Potato will be available for the 2019 growing season in a co-pack containing 2 x 2.84 L jugs of Orondis Gold A 200SC fungicide and 2 x 3.56 L jugs of Orondis Gold B 480SL fungicide.

As per the labels, Orondis Gold Potato should be applied at a rate of 3.2 mL/100 metre row of Orondis Gold A 200SC and 4 mL/100 metre row of Orondis Gold B 480SL. One case will treat 40 acres of potatoes grown using 36-inch row spacing.

To help manage resistance, growers making an Orondis Gold Potato in-furrow application cannot make any subsequent Orondis Ultra foliar fungicide applications. See the product label for additional information. Growers can consider applying Revus® fungicide in season to target late blight if Orondis Gold Potato was used in-furrow.

For more information about Orondis Gold Potato fungicide, please visit the product page, contact your local Syngenta Representative, or call our Customer Interaction Centre at 1-87-SYNGENTA (1-877-964-3682).

Supporting Research to Advance Atlantic Grains and Oilseeds

January 25, 2019—Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island—Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Atlantic Canada’s grains and oilseeds sector is renowned for producing high-quality, safe products. In 2017, crop receipts for the grains and oilseeds sector in the Atlantic provinces equaled \$83.5 million, which is 10 per cent of total crop receipts in the region. The Government of Canada will continue to support the sector in finding ways to ensure it remains strong and competitive.

Today, while speaking at the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture’s Annual General Meeting, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay announced an investment of over \$4 million to the Atlantic Grains Council under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. This funding includes \$3.2 million under the Partnership’s AgriScience Program, and \$260,655 each from the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and \$44,550 from Newfoundland and Labrador. With eight of the 11 projects taking place at the Harrington Research Centre, researchers in Prince Edward Island are leading much of the work.

This funding will be used to support research efforts focused on improving producer productivity and competitiveness, while preserving and protecting soil and water resources, in order to support the long-term sustainability of grains and oilseeds cropping systems in Atlantic Canada.

Upcoming Events

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

February 2019

- Feb 12 **Monthly Potato Board Meeting.**
- Feb 19-20 **PEI Potato Conference,** Charlottetown, PEI.
- Feb 19 **PEI Potato Industry Banquet & Awards Presentation.** Charlottetown, PEI.
- Feb 26-27 **PEI Soil & Crops Meeting and Banquet.** Charlottetown, PEI

March 2019

- Mar 4 **Canadian Potato Council meeting.** Halifax, NS.
- Mar 5-7 **Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting.** Halifax, NS.
- Mar 6 **Ontario Potato Conference.** Guelph, ON.
- March 12 **Monthly Potato Board Meeting.**
- Mar 13 **Seed Workshop and Strategic Plan Input Session.** Details TBA.
- Mar 14 **Seed Workshop and Strategic Plan Input Session.** Details TBA.

April 2019

- April 2-4 **Canadian Produce and Marketing Association Convention and Trade Show.** Montreal, Quebec.
- April 16 **Monthly Potato Board Meeting.**



Make nematodes history.

VELUM[®]
PRIME



Velum[®] Prime nematicide is making big news. No wonder. Now you can make yield-robbing nematodes a thing of the past, and expect more out of your crop. It even offers early blight protection. To integrate it into your potato protection program, apply it in-furrow at planting. And give your potato yield a chance at being one of the best of all time.

Get the yield-enhancing details at
cropscience.bayer.ca/VelumPrime



Here's to the **GROWER**

From all of us at FCC, thanks
for making Canadian agriculture
so amazing.

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Advancing the business of agriculture

Canada

