

*Prince Edward Island*

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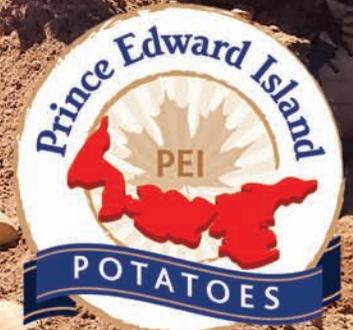
# POTATO NEWS



Publications Mail Agreement # 40011377

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

- PEI Potato Conference
- 2018 Variety Evaluation Report
- PVY Symptoms



# PEI POTATO CONFERENCE 2019: SPONSORS

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# POTATO NEWS

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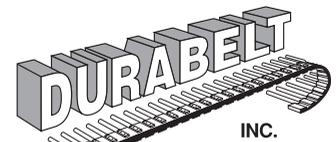
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Cover: Summer student Sarah Visser helps to plant one of the PEI potato breeding line evaluation trials at the AAFC Research Station in 2018. Photo: M.K. Sonier.



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# Chairman's Comments

by PEI Potato Board Chairman, Jason Hayden



Spring weather has returned and although farmers across the province must still deal with the aftermath of last season's terrible harvest, everyone in the potato industry is hopeful of a "normal" growing season in 2019.

Together the Potato Board and the provincial Department of Agriculture & Fisheries have worked quickly to supply an accurate assessment of last season's unique conditions to federal officials with a goal of triggering an Agri-Recovery program. We hope for a positive response soon.

I want to thank the organizers and sponsors of this year's PEI Potato Conference, and in particular, Ryan Barrett and Lorraine MacKinnon, for a job well done. The new format combining the conference, tradeshow and banquet was a success, with increased attendance.

The Board has been busy dealing with many other issues that impact us on our farms. The 4R Program, to which the Board is a signatory, was recently renewed for a three year period. The carbon tax takes effect on April 1, and we continue to ask for all farm vehicles, including highway trucks, to be exempt from this tax. You may wish to ask canvassing politicians you meet over the coming month to consider this. A Dickeya testing program was again offered this past season, and we're pleased that all samples submitted from PEI seedlots tested negative for the third year in a row. Although crop insurance premiums will be rising this year, we are pleased that the Province has agreed to join the federal government and farmers in increasing the unit price coverage for potatoes to \$12/cwt (up from \$10/cwt). Having higher unit prices will better reflect the increasing cost and risk of producing potatoes.

Post harvest virus testing is wrapping up, with a pass rate of about 85% for seed at or under the 3% cap. The fresh market is experiencing strong prices; however growers should be mindful of over planting. The market could easily

switch back to a negative price situation if increased acres and/or strong yields occur in 2019. Most North American processing contracts are entering the second year of a two year agreement. Nearly all processors are in expansion mode to meet increasing global demand. We understand that one of the major processors recently settled a 2019 contract in Belgium with a double digit price increase in order to secure the volume they need.

The Board has had many positive meetings with government officials regarding environmental enforcement. In these meetings, we all seem to be on the same page, looking for the same common resolution to find a path where farmers can farm without fear of a rain cloud unloading on them and then winding up in court.

However, the reality for one farm now going through the courts here is quite the opposite experience. In this case, the provincial and federal governments have joined forces and are using all available resources to ensure a hard conviction. The prosecution has called nearly a dozen expert witnesses (who have never been to the farm in question) to testify against the farmer. The scope of the case makes it virtually impossible for a family farm to have the time and resources to make a proper defence. So, you might say pay the fine and move on. There are two problems with that: one is the fine is in the 6 figures (more appropriate for an industrial polluter than a family farm), and two, if the farm ever had a second incident, it is finished. This case could have far reaching and unreasonable consequences for all open field farming in this province. Requests by the Board to MPs and MLAs to increase the cost-shared funding to build more environmental mitigation structures has to date been unsuccessful.

And finally, according to a CBC Investigates Report, "... conservation officers will be brought under the Police Act, giving the police commissioner's office investigative and disciplinary authority over them", effective April, 2019. This move was made after an incident whereby a conservation officer breached an individual's privacy rights and then, at the direction of the chief conservation officer, broke an agreement to stay out of the individual's area for one year. There will now be independent oversight of the conservation officers as well. We welcome that move.

On behalf of the Potato Board directors and staff, I wish you a safe a profitable season ahead.



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# POTATO BOARD NEWS

## Crop Insurance Unit Pricing

We received notification on March 26th that the Province will partner with the Federal government and farmers to move the unit price for potatoes from \$10/cwt to \$12/cwt. This is welcome news that the Board has been seeking for the past two years. Crop insurance agents will have information on this when they visit farmers.

## Agri-Recovery Status

The Board has provided the information that the Province requested so that federal officials can decide whether we qualify for Agri-Recovery. We are awaiting a decision by Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada. The Province has already indicated that it is supportive of such a program to help with the 2018 crop and the aftermath.

## Changes to Board Governance

The Board has submitted the request to the provincial government to enable us to move back to three districts, and to change the rules around eligibility to vote on behalf of a

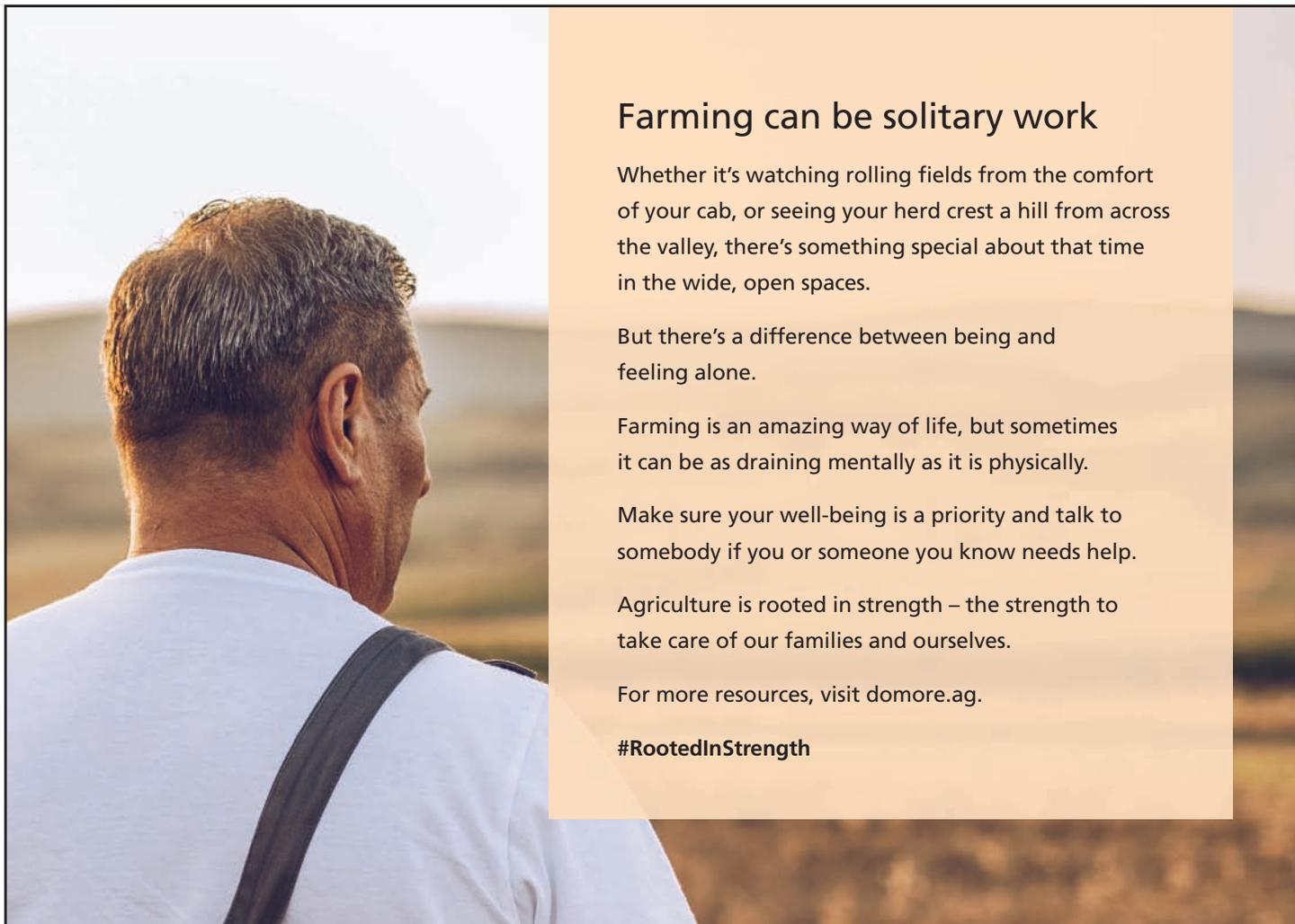
production unit and/or run for election to the Board. More information will be shared on this as soon as it becomes available.

## New Strategic Plan

The Board has initiated work on a new strategic plan that will take us from 2020-2024. Alain Rabeau of Intersol Consulting is again facilitating the discussions on behalf of the Board. A session with Board directors and staff was held on March 12th, followed by district meetings across the province on March 13 – 14. We appreciate the input of those who participated in those meetings, and there is still opportunity to participate via an online option. For more information, please call the Board office.

## Provincial and Federal Elections

Both levels of government are now formally in election mode. This means candidates for all parties will be visiting homes and businesses to seek support. Please take the time to tell them what's important to you, your



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families and your farms and to ask for their support. The PEI Federation of Agriculture will be holding an all parties debate on agricultural issues on Wednesday, April 10th. More information will be available at a later date.

### Board of Directors Elections

It's never too early to consider serving on the Board of Directors for the Potato Board. In 2019, elections will be held for the Tablestock position in the West Prince district, the Seed position in the Summerside district, the Processing position in the Charlottetown district, and the Processing position in the Montague-Souris district. Contact the Board office or a director for more information.

### Northeast Potato Technology Forum

Prince Edward Island hosted the 26th annual Northeast Potato Technology Forum at the Rodd Charlottetown on March 20th and 21st. The Forum has been held the last few years in Fredericton in an effort to encourage attendance from Maine; however, with limited attendance from Maine in recent years, it was decided for the Forum to revert to an alternating schedule between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

There were a total of thirty oral presentations and four poster presentations from researchers in PEI, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Maine and New York on a variety of subjects relating to potato production. These included pest management, improved diagnostic testing methods, genetics (of potatoes and pests/diseases), agronomy topics, and precision agriculture. Attendees included researchers from AAFC in Charlottetown and Fredericton, CFIA, Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture, UPEI, Cornell University, University of Maine, and a variety of industry partners in the region.

Several of the presentations related to ongoing research into Potato Early Dying Complex (PED) and the use of crop rotation and new diagnostic tools to fight Verticillium and root lesion nematodes. There were also multiple presentations on potato viruses, including management of an old enemy like PVY as well as

emerging necrotic viruses.

This Forum provides an opportunity for potato researchers and industry partners to come together to share recent research results and build collaborations on future research. Approximately one-third of the presentations related to projects that are directly funded by the PEI Potato Board.

### CanadaGAP – PEI Perspective

Board directors and staff have been hearing increasing levels of frustration on the part of growers with respect to the CanadaGAP program, some of its rules, and how the audits are being conducted. Some of those concerns have been raised by the Potato Board in discussions with CanadaGAP, and Board staff have reached out to potato organizations in other provinces to see if they are experiencing similar concerns. They are.

Alvin Keenan was recently elected to the Board of CanAgPlus, the organization which oversees the CanadaGAP program. We are pleased that Alvin agreed to serve on the Board, and Board staff will continue to gather feedback from growers to share with Alvin as well as the members of the CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee.



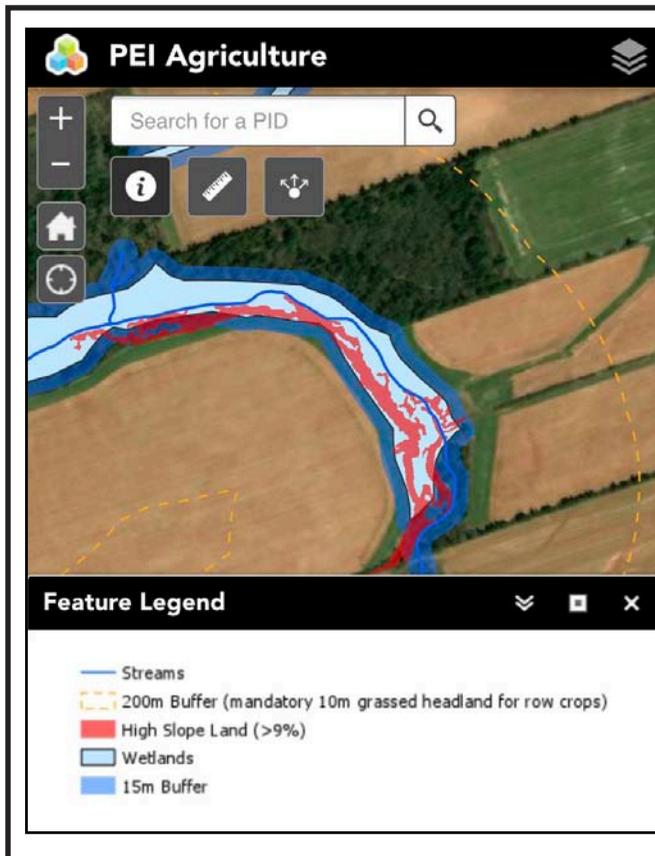
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## New App To Help Growers Plan

A new app will be available before planting starts from the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The app will provide a guide allowing producers to quickly see where certain legislated features (buffer zones, high slope areas, etc.) are in fields across the province. There is a "My Location" button on the left hand side where the grower could identify where they are on the map in relation to certain features. An important thing to keep in mind is the accuracy of the device on which the map is running. Typical smart phone GPS accuracy is only 3-5m - so this app should not be used for exact measurements, but more as a useful visual for understanding where these features are on a field.

The user can search by PID to identify certain properties. Features will only show up when the user is zoomed in to the field level.

This new tool can be accessed on a desktop or smart phone/tablet and can be found at the following link:

<https://arcg.is/ODKqj>

## Seed Promotion Activities

Although our seed supplies on PEI were negatively impacted by the fall weather in 2018, the shortage does not appear to be as severe as in the fresh and processing sectors - perhaps because seed potatoes are often harvested earlier and Island growers often split some lots between seed and table or processing markets, allowing some juggling to occur to move a higher percentage as seed if required.

Regardless of the season, the Seed Committee of the Potato Board has felt it to be important to maintain a promotional presence in our markets and continue to support the exploration of new markets. During the 2018/2019 season we have conducted promotional and support activities on several fronts:

- In early January 2019, Board staff worked with the Canadian Embassy in the Philippines and private industry partners to conduct two webinar training sessions covering potato production in PEI and how our production practices may be adapted to conditions and technology used in the Philippines - this was to support the export of seed potatoes from eastern Canada to the Philippines for tablestock production.
- The Board had staff and directors attend the NPC Potato Expo in Austin, Texas in January 2019.
- The Board had a booth with seed potato promotional information and seed directories at the New Brunswick Potato Conference in early January 2019, at Fruit Logistica in Berlin in mid-February 2019, the PEI Potato Conference in late February 2019 and at the Ontario Potato Conference in early March 2019.
- Board staff and some exporters recently attended an information session on the CPTTP and exporting to the Asia Pacific region.
- Board staff and directors continue to work with CFIA staff through the Canadian Potato Council to improve Market Access for Canadian potatoes in priority market countries.

# PEI Potato Conference and Trade Show

For the first time, the PEI Potato Board's day of market and production information presentations that usually accompanied the Annual Meeting, the PEI Potato Industry Banquet and Awards Evening and the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Potato Day were combined into one two-day event. The agenda on February 19 & 20, 2019 combined a nice mix of local expertise and visitors from other potato growing regions who offered a different perspective and new ideas for dealing with common issues.

## Day One

The first day started out with local AAFC research scientists Dr. Andrew MacKenzie-Gopsill and Dr. Rick Peters providing updates on Weed Resistance Studies on PEI and Alternaria Status on PEI, respectively. These presentations were followed by Dr. Mark Stalham from the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) in the United Kingdom speaking about Reducing Soil Compaction in Potato Rotations. Potato plants are sensitive to compaction and unfortunately the nature of potato production involves several steps of cultivation which degrades soil structure and increases soil compaction. Work that they have done in the UK has demonstrated that increasing soil organic matter makes soil more resilient and able to withstand equipment traffic with less compaction. Cover crops improve soil structure as does avoiding tillage as much as possible during the production of rotation crops. As well, shallower cultivation has resulted in more even emergence and savings in labour as equipment is able to cover ground more quickly. The results of work they have done from 2011 to 2018 have demonstrated these effects to growers and they are now seeing changes on farm in tillage operations over potato rotations.

Dr. Mark Pavek, from Washington State University, then provided information on his experience with Improving Land Use Efficiency with Narrow Row Width. In his review he has found that potato row width can vary from 30" in the Netherlands, to 32" or bed production in many areas for creamer production to 36" in the

UK and 32" to 38" in North America. In Washington State where Pavek works, the standard is 34". They have been exploring the possibility of reducing the row width further and from 2015 to 2018 compared production in row widths of 28", 30", 32" and 34". Based on this work, they determined that 32" provided slightly better economic results after adjustment for seed cost. Some of the advantages were fewer days to row closure, soil in the drills is kept cooler from the shade of the plants and better water retention. He cautioned growers however that row width trials must be proven for a local area and increased water use per acre with a higher plant population may be an issue in dry years and could be a limiting factor in a rain fed system. There are also many cost factors to consider when switching row width such as costs for narrow row equipment, equipment needs for rotation crops and tractor tire width. A start may be adjusting within row spacing to increase plant population per acre.

The morning was rounded out with a presentation on Mental Health on the farm by Stewart Skinner, a farmer from Listowel, ON with a personal story to share. Information on mental health resources available for local farmers was provided.

The afternoon covered precision agriculture topics. Chris Paterson of Xarvio spoke on "Trends in Precision Agriculture," providing many examples from advancements we have already seen adopted such as the use of sensors to monitor yield and regulate prayers to uses that seem fantastical now, but that in ten years may be commonplace.

Dr. Aitazaz Farooque from UPEI described the results of work he has done to develop management zones in fields using site specific data. This was followed by a grower panel discussing on-farm uses of current precision agriculture tools.

## Awards Banquet

The Industry Banquet and Awards presentations were held at the Delta Prince Edward on Tuesday evening with a crowd of over 250 industry members enjoying the event. Appreciation Certificates were

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**PEI POTATO CONFERENCE AND INDUSTRY BANQUET AND AWARDS:** Left page clockwise from top left: Jason Hayden (right) Potato Board Chair presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Past Chair Darryl Wallace; Jason Hayden (left) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring Director Alex Docherty; (left to right) Mark Pavek, research scientist at Washington State University; Mark Stalham, research scientist at NIAB, UK and Michel Camps, owner of CP Farms in Alberta, were three of the guest speakers at the Potato Conference. Right page clockwise from top left: (left to right) grower Charles Murphy and Potato Board Chair Jason Hayden present an Industry Appreciation Award to David Scales, former owner of Island Fertilizers, with his wife Doris Scales; Jason Hayden (left) and Board director Rodney Dingwell (right) present an Industry Appreciation Award to Jack Reddin, founder of Reddin Farm Equipment; Jason Hayden (left) presents an Industry Appreciation Award to Ivan Noonan, General Manager of the PEI Potato Board from 1994-2008 and recently retired from Mid-Isle Farms; members of the the grower panel answer questions on their use of precision agriculture tools; a good crowd was on hand for both days of informative sessions; and PEI Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Robert Henderson provides welcoming remarks at the Banquet.



awarded to the 2018 retired Board Chairman Darryl Wallace and retiring director Alex Docherty. Retiring director Fulton Hamill and Young Farmer Representative Ashton Perry were unable to attend the event. Industry Appreciation Awards were presented to three deserving recipients:

David Scales owned and operated the well-known business Island Fertilizers that was started by his father Austin Scales. David brought his sons John, Kent and Brian into the business and they are all still active in the Island business community today. The presentation was made by grower Charles Murphy and read: "Presented to David Scales in appreciation of your outstanding contribution to the Prince Edward Island Potato Industry through you and your family's efforts in providing a strong local supply of crop inputs and services to Island potato farmers."

The second recipient of an Industry Appreciation Award was Jack Reddin. Jack started selling farm equipment out of his front yard in the in the early 1970's. He developed many loyal customers due to his reputation for truly working with farmers' best interests at heart, knowing what equipment they had and what they might need. Although his wife Norma has retired from the business, Jack still goes in to work every day. The citation read: "Presented to Jack Reddin, in appreciation of your support and contributions to the Prince Edward Island potato industry through career long dedication in the provision of service and technology to PEI farmers."

The final Industry Appreciation Award of the evening was presented to Ivan Noonan, who has spent his entire career working in various capacities in the PEI potato industry. The presentation was made by Brenda Simmons, Assistant General Manager of the Board. During his time with the Potato Board, Ivan was a leading force behind many initiatives that have been beneficial for the continued success of our industry: working with other representatives of our industry to fight hard against cost recovery initiated by the federal government; the establishment of the Prince Edward Island Potato Quality Institute, a CFIA-accredited facility which conducts lab testing of potatoes for international and domestic markets; the construction and operation of the exit point quality monitoring and inspection station in Borden-Carleton; and the development and implementation of a mandatory post harvest virus testing program for all seed potatoes that which will be planted in our province. Ivan also spearheaded our industry's campaign to resolve the potato wart issue based on science and get the border re-opened while at the same time, lobbying both levels of government for financial assistance for farmers and farm workers. He also worked with industry leaders in the U.S. and Canada through the formation of two new producer organizations: United Potato Growers of America and

United Potato Growers of Canada. He has been a passionate representative of the Prince Edward Island potato industry in all the roles he has taken on over his career. The citation read: "Presented to Ivan Noonan in recognition of a lifetime contribution to our industry including outstanding leadership as General Manager of the Prince Edward Island Potato Board from 1994-2008."

### Day Two

The second day of the conference opened with local research update on topics ranging from crop rotation, wireworm control, Colorado Potato Beetle resistance and update on PMRA re-evaluation of several products that are commonly used in potato production in Canada.

Dr. Mark Stalham provided some information on "Alternative Irrigation Technology in the United Kingdom." Like PEI, potato production in the UK is largely rainfed and irrigation used is supplemental.

Michel Camps, of CP Farms Ltd. in Barnwell, AB spoke about "Building a Positive Relationship with Your Seed Grower." He purchases seed from in-province growers on a three year rolling contract basis with volumes to be planted set in November of each year. He purchases from several growers to spread out his risk in case there are any issues on one farm that may affect seed supply, and prices are based on a multiplier of the May contract price. He commented that he felt it was important to have long term relationship with your seed grower and benefits must go both ways - for contracting and paying on time he expects a reasonable price with minimal variation and some say in the seed lot he is to receive. Everything is written down and he feels the stability is good for him and his seed growers.

Ryan Barrett provide some preliminary results from a trial that had been conducted in 2018 to evaluate the effects of ethylene on seed tubers and subsequent germination and growth. Dr. Mark Pavek then spoke on Managing Seed for an Ideal Plant Population; John MacQuarrie, Director of Sustainability for Cavendish Farms provided an update on the Potato Sustainability Initiative; and Kendra Mills, Marketing Director with the PEI Potato Board spoke on "Social Media 101 for Farmers."

The second day finished up with a general discussion on new rotation crops and "Managing the Impact of the 2018 Crop Year in 2019."

All indications are that the new conference format and the content were a big success. Feedback on the venue and specific elements is being sought from Trade Show participants and attendees to help organizers plan for next year.

# Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting

## March 5-7, 2019 Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) alternates its annual meeting between Ottawa and a location in one of the member provinces. The 2019 meeting was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia and provided a good opportunity for Maritime horticulture industry personnel to attend.

### Canadian Potato Council

Canadian Potato Council (CPC) holds its annual meeting the day before official CHC events get underway.

Many areas across the country experienced a challenging growing and harvest season that negatively impacted the potato crop. As a result, the PEI, Manitoba and Quebec industries have all submitted applications for Agri-Recovery and the process is underway.

During the Seed Potato Sub-Committee section of the meeting, Gordon Henry of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) provided an update on the reorganized structure of the Crown Corporation with the main sections of International

Affairs, Plant Health (Plant Protection and Plant Breeders Rights and the Variety Registration Office) and Operations. There are some new people in place at CFIA with whom the industry will have to become acquainted to enable us to contact the proper people on issues of concern.

The PCN Working Group provided an update on the proposal for testing changes that had been prepared in consultation between CFIA and USDA/APHIS. The US industry indicated support for extending the exemption period, but at the present time did not support the whole farm approach to testing that had been proposed. The Working Group will continue to communicate with US counterparts and seek a path forward that recognizes the body of over 275,000 negative tests for cross border seed movement that has been accumulated over the past ten years of testing.

Updates on Garden Varieties, New Variety Registrations

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and the preliminary stages to allow True Potato Seed hybrids to enter the certification system were also provided.

Under the Canadian Potato council section of the meeting, several topics were addressed and updates provided including:

- Priority Market Update by CFIA
- Re-evaluations underway by PMRA on products commonly used in potato production.
- The Potato Task Force will be resubmitting its report on the implications of CFIA cost recovery initiatives for the Canadian potato industry to the new federal Agriculture Minister and the new CFIA president.
- An issue on standard containers involving the use of 8 pound bags in the marketplace. This has been referred to CFIA Operations for resolution.

### Canadian Horticultural Council AGM

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) is an Ottawa-based voluntary, not-for-profit, national association that represents fruit and vegetable growers across Canada involved in the production of over 120 different types of crops on over 14,237 farms, with farm cash receipts of \$5.4 billion in 2017.

Since 1922, CHC has advocated on important issues that

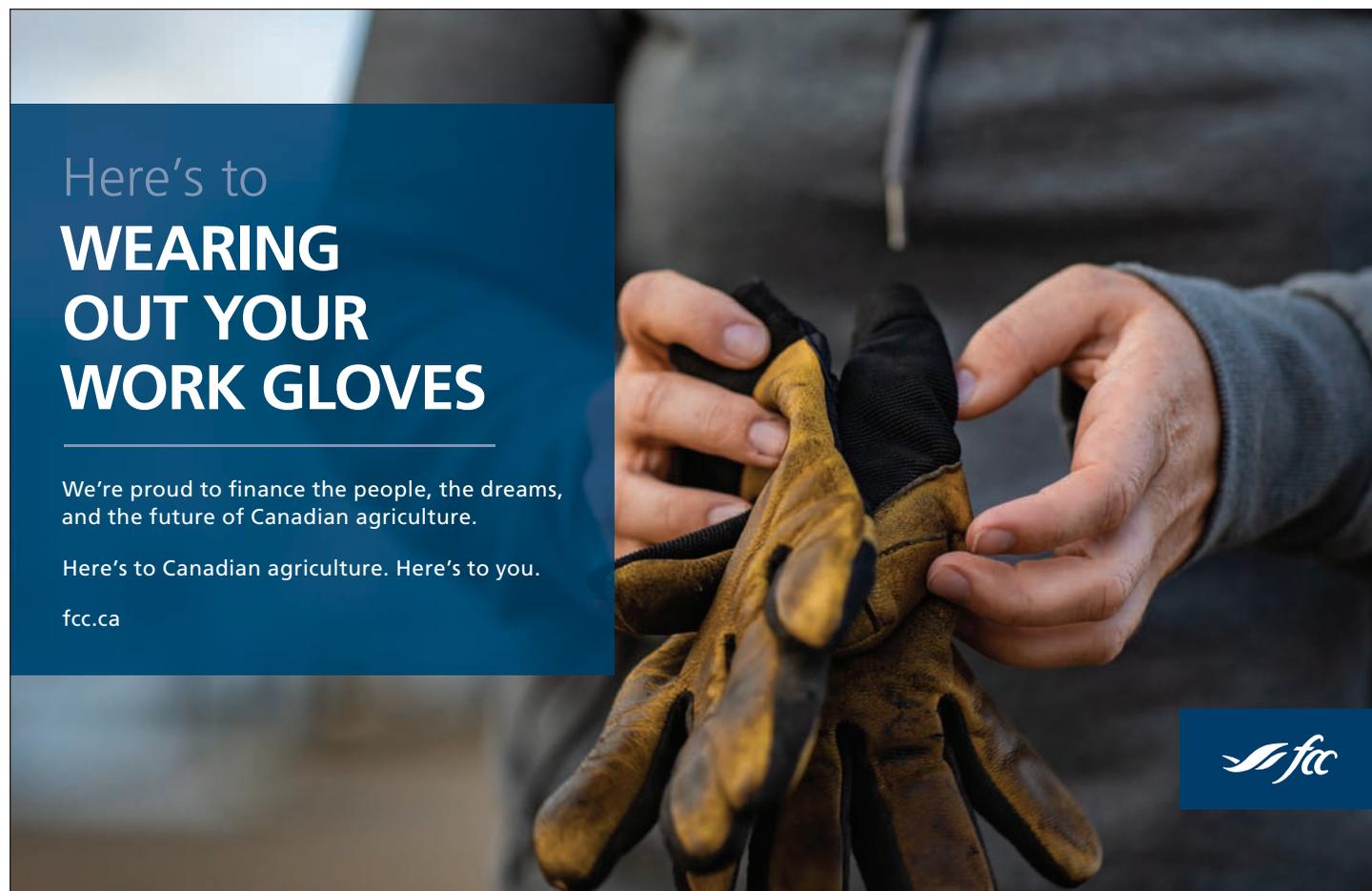
impact Canada's horticultural sector, promoting healthy, safe and sustainable food, and ensuring the continued success and growth of our industry.

During the AGM, there are meeting of the following Standing and Commodity Committees:

- Labour Committee
- Crop, Plant Protection and the Environment Committee
- Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee
- Business Risk Management Committee
- Trade and Marketing Committee
- Potato Committee
- Apple and Fruit Committee
- Greenhouse Committee
- Vegetable Committee

During each meeting there are presentations on topics of interest to that committee. As well, any resolutions that have been allocated to that committee are discussed and any amendments made before the resolution will be taken to the AGM and put to a vote. Much of the discussion and topics deal with industry relations and industry regulation that impact horticultural producers in Canada.

Please contact the Board office for full listing of the resolutions passed at the 2019 AGM.



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# Symptoms of Different Strains of PVY in Common Potato Varieties

by Mary Kay Sonier

The many strains of PVY in the environment are all treated as one complex for seed potato certification purposes and the symptom noted on the inspection report is “mosaic.” Symptom expression of the regular PVY<sup>o</sup> strain varies between varieties (think of mosaic symptoms in Chieftain vs Shepody). Although we commonly hear that the newer strains of PVY do not show symptoms, what is actually the case is that symptoms caused by these newer strains vary with variety as well. What is true is that in some cases they are milder or just different from mosaic symptoms growers are used to seeing.

Mosaic symptoms caused by infection with three strains of PVY was a topic investigated by Dr. Mathuresh Singh of the Agricultural Certification Services lab in New Brunswick. The project was funded through the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2, in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s AgriInnovation Program, a Growing Forward 2 initiative, the Canadian Horticultural Council and industry contributors including the PEI Potato Board.

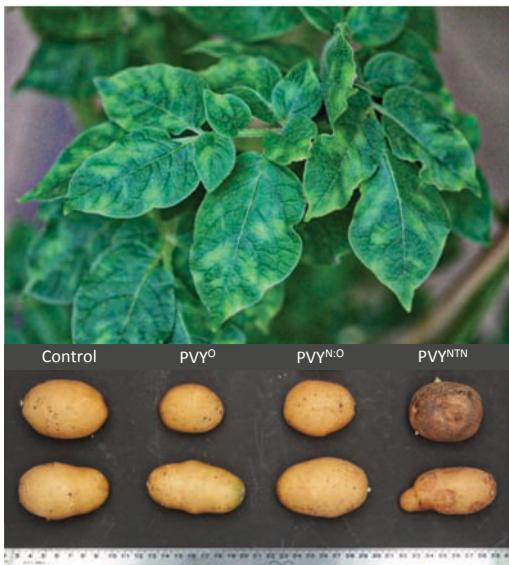
Over several years, many common varieties were grown in the greenhouse by Singh and his team, artificially inoculated with the various strains of PVY, and symptoms on these plants (primary inoculation) noted as well as symptoms on plants when daughter tubers from these plants were grown out (secondary infection).

The result of this project is a valuable photographic and descriptive inventory of infection symptoms of three strains of PVY in various varieties (thirty in total) that may be seen in the field. This resource will be useful for roguing crews and inspectors. The results may also provide a warning of varieties that may not show visual mosaic symptoms of one or more strains of PVY. When dealing with new varieties, roguing crews can also use the handy in-field PVY test kits to confirm their identification of PVY induced mosaic.

The “Symptom Expression of Potato Virus Y booklet produced through this project is available online at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pQzGaYyX8IYGUaw8vQEELuJWG8SjtjA/view?usp=sharing>

## Symptom Expression of *Potato virus Y*



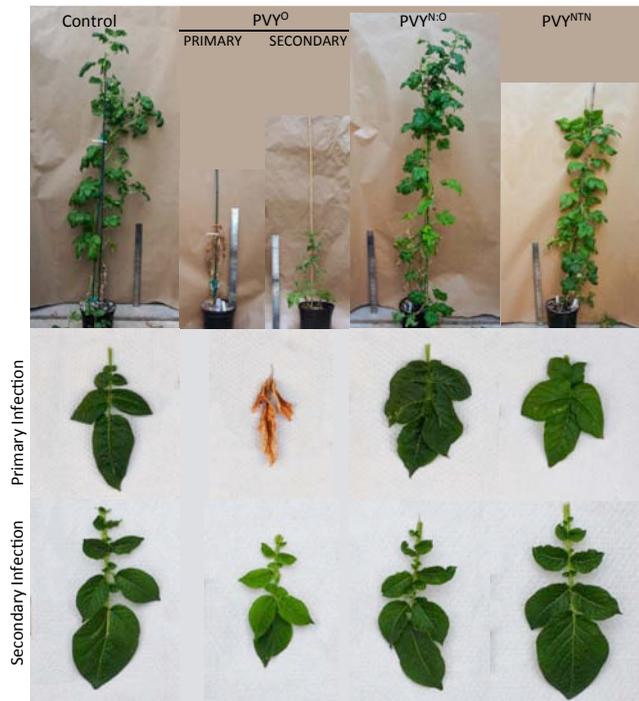
Responses of Commercially Important Potato Varieties to Infection with Three Common Strains Under Greenhouse Conditions

## Atlantic



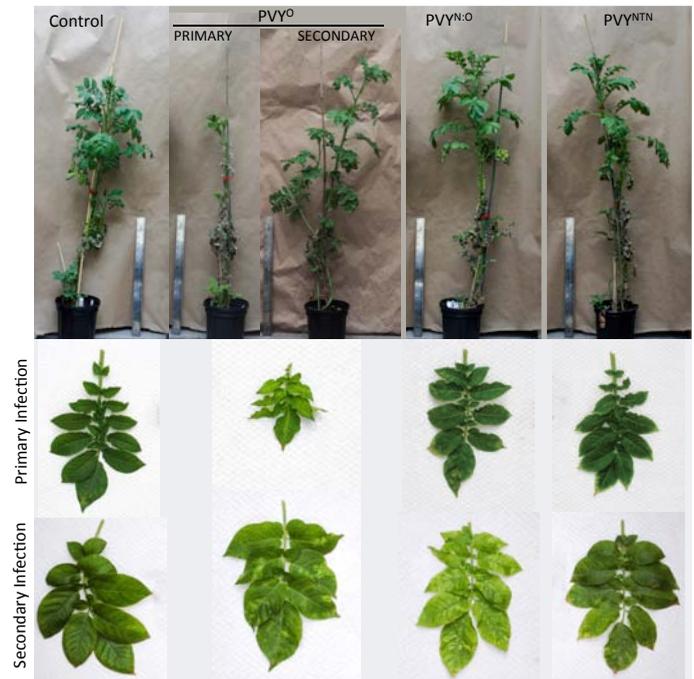
Strain	Plant and foliage	Tubers
PVY <sup>o</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slight mosaic</li> <li>Rugose leaf surface with marginal crinkling, especially young leaves</li> <li>Some older leaf drop (PRIMARY); slight plant stunting (SECONDARY)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slightly smaller tubers, lower yield (PRIMARY only, ca. 30% reduction; SECONDARY not different than control)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>N-O</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate mosaic, stunting, rugose and marginally crinkled young leaves</li> <li>Some localized chlorosis, necrosis in older leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No visible symptoms or significant yield changes</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>NTN</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very slight mosaic, slight rugose, crinkled young leaves; few symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No visible symptoms or significant yield changes</li> </ul>

## Norland



Strain	Plant and foliage	Tubers
PVY <sup>0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong mosaic, chlorosis and annular spots on dying leaves</li> <li>• Rapid necrosis, early senescence and plant death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong yield reduction, small tubers (~80% PRIMARY, 90% SECONDARY)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>N:0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight mosaic</li> <li>• Leaflet stunting with marginal crinkling, overlapping leaflets</li> <li>• Slight plant stunting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No visible symptoms or significant yield changes</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>NTN</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to PVY<sup>N:0</sup>, but more subtle symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No visible symptoms or significant yield changes</li> </ul>

## Ranger Russet



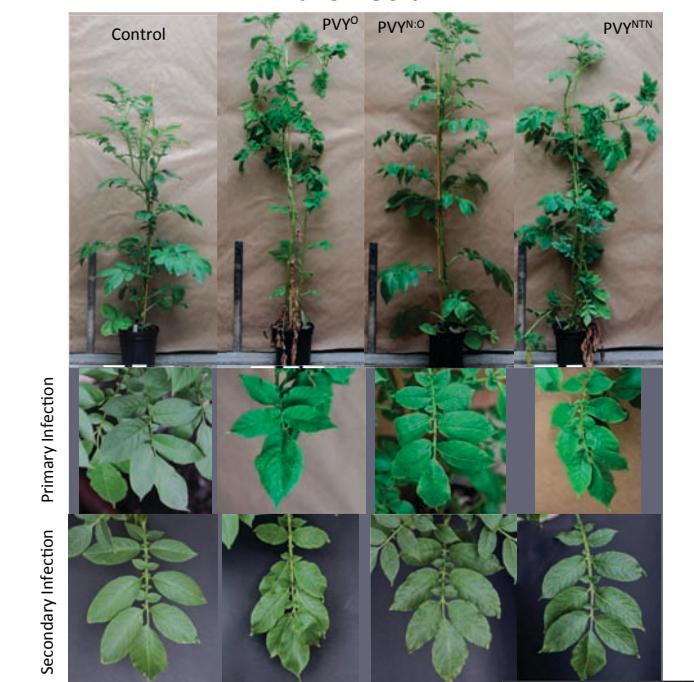
Strain	Plant and foliage	Tubers
PVY <sup>0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe plant stunting and leaf drop in PRIMARY only</li> <li>• Severe leaf stunting and severe marginal crinkle, PRIMARY only</li> <li>• General chlorosis</li> <li>• Moderate mosaic, stronger in SECONDARY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuber yield reduced ~50% in both PRIMARY and SECONDARY</li> <li>• Tuber size reduced especially in PRIMARY</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>N:0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spotty and annular mosaic, stronger in SECONDARY</li> <li>• Minor patchy leaf chlorosis, leaf crinkle</li> <li>• Substantial leaf drop in both PRIMARY and SECONDARY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small yield reduction (15-30%)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>NTN</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No mosaic in PRIMARY, slight mosaic in SECONDARY</li> <li>• Slight marginal leaflet crinkle</li> <li>• Substantial leaf drop in both PRIMARY and SECONDARY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small yield reduction (15-30%)</li> </ul>

## Shepody

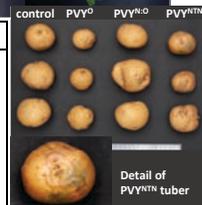


Strain	Plant and foliage	Tubers
PVY <sup>0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaflet stunting, slight crinkling of leaflet margins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight yield reduction (~35% PRIMARY, ~25% SECONDARY)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>N:0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight mosaic</li> <li>• Strong marginal crinkling and rugose leaves</li> <li>• Slight leaf stunting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight yield reduction (~35% PRIMARY, ~50% SECONDARY)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>NTN</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight leaf stunting</li> <li>• Very slight leaf margin crinkling</li> <li>• Slight mosaic shortly after inoculation in young leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substantial yield reduction (~50% PRIMARY, ~30% SECONDARY)</li> </ul>

## Yukon Gold



Strain	Plant and foliage	Tubers
PVY <sup>0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate mosaic and brown veins on stems</li> <li>• Leaflet stunting, curling, crinkled margins</li> <li>• Some leaf drop in older leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe yield reduction (&gt;50%)</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>N:0</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight blotchy mosaic; annular spots in SECONDARY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No symptoms or yield reduction</li> </ul>
PVY <sup>NTN</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generalized chlorosis, except near veins</li> <li>• Slight crinkled young leaves; annular spots older leaves in SECONDARY</li> <li>• Slight leaf drop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yield reduction (~30%)</li> <li>• Tuber necrosis</li> </ul>



# PEI Soil Conservation Awards

PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association recognized two farmers for their soil conservation and general sustainable agriculture efforts at a recent event held in Charlottetown, February 27th, 2019.

“This is our 31st annual presentation of Soil Conservationist of the Year Award; the Board of Directors have seen a tremendously positive evolution in attitudes and actions over the years in how our producers in this province are protecting the land and water resources. Kudos to our farmers as we are really second to none in sustainable agriculture,” says John Hooper, President of PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

Tiny Acres Holsteins of Belmont Lot 16 was the recipient of the Soil Conservationist of the Year Award in the Livestock Category; and Shore Lane Farms Ltd. of Indian River was the recipient of the Soil Conservationist of the Year Award in the Cash Crop Category.

Brothers Kenny and Clair MacLellan, and Billy, Kenny’s son, are the principal operators of Shore Lane Farms Ltd. Kenny and Clair have farmed for about 42 years, originally being a mixed operation with dairy and beef. Today their focus is specializing on being potato producers, producing 600 acres annually.

The MacLellan’s, and the other farmers they share this land with, follow a 3-year plan for crop rotation. Crops in the rotation includes cereal, ryegrass, triple mix hay, sorghum sudan grass, grain corn and soybeans.

Approximately 450 acres, or 75% of the potato crop, receives a winter cover treatment of wheat in the fall at harvest time. Generally organic matter is 2.7 to 3.2 %. The strategy on building soil health and organic matter revolves around:

- reducing tillage as much as possible
- using sorghum sudan grass and rye grass in the rotation
- mowing hay and forages 3 times each year and leaving it in the field
- applying manure
- minimum 3-year rotation
- allowing hay crops to grow as long as possible into the fall season

Shore Lane Farms Ltd. have extensive soil conservation structures and features on many fields. In total the MacLellans have improved 440 acres of farm land with the establishment of farmable berm terraces, diversion terraces and grassed waterways. In addition to that they have voluntarily retired sensitive areas and established grassed headlands.

Kenny has been involved in many organizations provincially and nationally, including acting as past President of the PEI Federation of Agriculture; and past director or member on PEI Dairy Producers, Kensington Coop, Summerside Soil and Crop, and various national boards. He also sat on the Potato Processing Committee.

Clair too has been busy volunteering time towards the Malpeque Credit Union, Kensington Coop, PEI Crop Insurance Corporation, and the local minor hockey association. Billy has volunteered on a local minor hockey association and is involved in the Maximum Yield Club.

“As a very successful family farm, Shore Lane Farms Ltd. is dedicated to growing economic opportunities in rural PEI, in a sustainable fashion,” says John Hooper, President PEI.



*Left to right: John Hooper, President PEISICIA; Clair MacLellan and Kenny MacLellan of Shore Lane Farm; Mark Grimmet of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; and Michelle Miller of Iowa, known as The Farm Babe and guest speaker at the PEISICIA Conference.*



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# What Is Due Diligence?

## Moving targets do not encourage improvement

A review of recent issues of this magazine would show several articles or updates on efforts by the PEI Potato Board and the PEI Federation of Agriculture to seek changes to the current federal approach of charging farmers for damage that sometimes occurs after heavy rains. Potato Board staff asked federal enforcement staff for several years to sit down and share the factors that led to charges so that farmers could better understand and possibly mitigate against those factors. The ongoing response was that a case was before the courts therefore they could not talk about it.

The term “due diligence” has arisen recently, and in layman’s terms, it basically means taking all reasonable steps to avoid the harm that results. It does not mean that one must take all conceivable steps, but that one must do what a reasonable person in similar circumstances would do. What does this mean when it comes to agriculture and in particular, soil or other material entering watercourses during or after rainstorms?

Efforts are ongoing to get more detailed information on this from federal policy and enforcement officials, but Board and Federation staff have learned that Environment

and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) officials have developed a list of legislation and “Best Management Practices” that it uses to determine whether it will lay charges against a PEI farmer. The list includes compliance with provincial and federal regulations:

PEI Regulations under Agricultural Crop Rotation Act, Environmental Protection Act:

- PEI buffer zone regulations;
- PEI crop rotation regulations;
- PEI high slope restrictions;
- PEI headlands regulations;

Federal Regulations under the Pest Control Products Act:

- Buffer zones
- Spray application intervals
- High slope restrictions
- Application rate being followed
- # of applications per year
- Weather during application

### Be Aware of Key PEI Environmental Regulations that Impact Agricultural Producers

This is not an exhaustive list but will provide links to some information sources available online that can get you started. If you require more detail please contact the PEI Agriculture Environment Unit at 902-393-5285.

1. PEI Buffer Zone Requirements:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/photos/original/buffer-fact.pdf>

2. Apply for a buffer zone activity permit if you plan to do any work in the 15 M buffer zone in 2019:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/apply-watercourse-wetland-and-buffer-zone-activity-permit>

3. Learn if you need a grassed headland:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/communities-land-and-environment/grass-headlands>

4. Be aware of the details of the Agricultural Crop Rotation Act Regulations and ensure that you contact the Sustainable Agriculture Division if you have any questions and to inquire about obtaining a Management Plan if your rotation deviates from the regulations.

#### Agricultural Crop Rotation Act Regulations:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/legislation/A%2608-01-Agricultural%20Crop%20Rotation%20Act%20General%20Regulations.pdf>

Sustainable Agriculture Division employee contact information:

[https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/phone?f%5B0%5D=field\\_department%3A486](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/phone?f%5B0%5D=field_department%3A486)

5. Ensure you have a valid Pesticide Applicator License and record all application information. Application record booklets are available at Access PEI offices.

Federal enforcement officials are clearly using compliance with PEI provincial government regulations as a key component of deciding whether a farmer should be charged federally. This is quite interesting, as it therefore makes it much more likely that a PEI farmer would face federal charges than would a farmer in New Brunswick, as New Brunswick farmers are not regulated on buffer zones, crop rotation, headlands, etc. It is therefore even more important than ever to urge our provincial government to have reasonable and achievable environmental regulations in place.

### Best Management Practices

In addition to the provincial and federal regulations, regional federal enforcement officials apparently assess PEI farms in terms of a list of practices that Environment and Climate Change Canada deems to be “best management practices/guidelines”. The origin of that list and details as to what each of the listed items means has not been provided. Board and Federation staff are continuing to seek that important information, but following is an example at the top of the list:

*“Agriculture Canada Guidelines: Is the soil type suitable for potatoes? (ex. Low water infiltration, soil type prone*

*to runoff)”. Farmers would need to know what soil types AAFC/ECCC thinks are acceptable for potatoes. What exactly is “low water infiltration”? If one is to potentially be charged, farmers need much more specific information so that the list can be questioned or assessed for relevance, and understood.*

Discussions about the list with senior federal and provincial officials on the list, along with others with legal backgrounds, continue. One interesting point that arose recently: we’re aware of the legal limits for highway speed, and for impaired driving. Given that knowledge, a person can govern their behaviour (“take reasonable steps”) to avoid breaking those laws. In the case of environmental charges and due diligence, farmers have not previously been told what standards they must meet to avoid potential charges (i.e. What is due diligence?) That does not seem like a fair approach, and with increasingly extreme weather events occurring more and more frequently, clear and reasonable expectations are essential.

The Board will continue to work hard on this issue and will share additional information as soon as it becomes available.



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# 2018 vs 2014 Public Opinion Survey

by Ryan Barrett

In November 2014, the Board contracted with a local firm to do a public opinion survey to get a more representative understanding of the true public sentiment toward the potato industry and some of the issues facing our industry. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in one bad news story or a handful of social media posts rather than getting a more representative picture of how Islanders truly feel about the potato industry.

Since 2014, the Board has been active in improving our communications with our fellow Islanders, putting more emphasis on promoting good news stories about the industry, working with our industry partners to promote agriculture with the public, and sponsoring a number of local events. With this in mind, the Board felt that we should do a follow up survey to see whether there has been any change in public sentiment in the last four years. So, the Board contracted the same local firm to conduct the same survey again in November 2018, along with a couple of additional questions. By asking the same questions four years later, we can quantify if there is any true difference in response over time.

In November 2018, we completed interviews with 402 Islanders from across the province, with a cross-section of ages, educational backgrounds, and county locations. Both landlines and cell phones were used to make calls, and the results are said to be accurate within 4.9% with 95% certainty.

In 2014, the survey was conducted immediately after the needle incidents, so that topic came up quite a bit in some of the survey responses. In 2018, the survey was conducted after one of the toughest harvest seasons in recent memory, and numerous media reports relating to this issue were also reflected in some of the responses we received. Demographics of respondents were similar between the two survey years.

Some of the highlight responses from the 2018 survey included:

- Only half of Islanders think that potatoes are produced from family farms, with 43% feeling that potatoes are largely produced by corporate farms. These numbers are largely unchanged from 2014.
- 85% of Islanders feel that the potato industry is very important to the province, and an additional 14% feel that the industry is somewhat important.
- 85% of Islanders feel that potato farmers very

responsible, responsible, or somewhat responsible in being good stewards of the land, working to minimize environmental impact of farming. 12% of Islanders feel that potato farmers are not very responsible or not responsible at all. This was a slight improvement from 2014 (16%) with regards to these two categories. About 90% of Islanders felt that their perception of potato farmers' commitment to sustainability has improved or stayed the same in comparison to five years ago, with only 5% saying that it had gotten worse.

- When asking people what the two most important issues facing the PEI potato industry are (first and second choice), the three most popular responses were environmental sustainability and climate change (20%), pesticides and chemicals (19.5%), and water availability/irrigation (15%). In 2014, the three most popular issues were pesticides and chemicals (22%), product tampering (15%) and environmental sustainability and climate change (9%).
- When we asked what they think is the most significant challenge facing growers, more than 45% rated environmental sustainability and climate change as the greatest challenge. This was followed by financial sustainability. In 2014, these issues were switched in order of importance.
- 87% of Islanders agree or strongly agree that the provincial government should provide financial support for programs that assist farmers with environmental research and protection. This is up from 80% in 2014.
- 53% of Islanders strongly agree or agree that the moratorium on high capacity wells should be lifted if there is scientific justification showing no negative impact on the environment. This increased from 47% in 2014. 19% don't know or have no opinion, and 28% disagree or strongly disagree (down from 33% in 2014).

These results indicate to us that the majority of Islanders are very supportive of the potato industry and are empathetic to the issues facing our industry. While we must continue making tangible efforts to communicate with Islanders about the industry and improving the environmental sustainability of potato production, the grand majority of Prince Edward Islanders are on our side and want the best for our industry, which they acknowledge is very important to the provincial economy.

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# In Memoriam

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## James Garth Toombs 1938-2019

Garth Toombs was born in Bedeque in 1938 and grew up on the family mixed farm. He had a strong desire to strike out on his own and at 18 years of age he went to Sarnia, Ontario where he worked the night shift stocking shelves for Dominion Grocery Store. He managed to save enough to forward money home to purchase seed potatoes to grow his first potato crop. He began growing fresh and seed potatoes for both domestic and export markets, working with well-known exporter Dave Loggie at Canada Packers while he got his farming career established. He was one of the early growers to switch into the processing market. He signed his first processing contract with Mitch MacLean of the C.M MacLean potato and vegetable processing company that would later be sold to become Cavendish Farms. Garth switched all his fresh production to processing acres while continuing to grow seed potatoes for his own use, and Bedeque Farms grew as the processing industry expanded in PEI through the 80's and 90's. As the processing growers organized, Garth served as a member of the PEI Potato Processing Council for three terms over the years and was a strong negotiator for improved contracts for PEI growers.



Garth always had a passion for farming and improving his operation. He was not scared of technology and was an early adopter of new innovations on PEI such as more efficient equipment, irrigation pivots, GPS and strip farming. Bedeque Farms won the Soil Conservationist of the Year Award – Cash Crop Division in 1999. Garth was always interested to give new ways of doing things a try to see if they worked to make the operation more efficient and productive. When he decided to go ahead with something new he just went ahead and got it done - if it worked he kept on with it and if it did not work it was discarded. Garth took his profession seriously and was a great believer in measuring what you were doing to see if you were getting better. He did not call attention to himself, but he led by example.

Garth was an endless worker and had high expectations of himself and his employees – many who worked with him for over 45 years. He took pride in his achievements and Bedeque Farms has been listed as one of Cavendish Farms Top Ten Growers 27 times over the years and awarded the honour of Top Grower in 7 of those years. He was a well respected farmer in his local area and beyond, and developed close friendships with folk with whom he shared his interest in farming, and pursuits such as golf, horses and travel.

Garth married Faye Reeves, a local nurse from the neighbouring community of South Freetown, and together they had four boys: James, Steven, Richard and Andrew. He took great satisfaction in having his six grandsons nearby and watching them grow. Garth was diagnosed with Parkinsons when he was 60, but with his determination and the support of his family and friends he did not let that slow him down much. He continued to farm with his son Andy, and operated equipment throughout the 2018 growing season including driving the combine to harvest their last field of grain.



## Sheldon Earle Howatt

1925-2019

Sheldon Howatt was born on the home farm in Tryon where he grew up and lived the rest of his life. He was a farmer through and through. He loved what he did and often said “When you are doing something you love, it is not work.”

Sheldon started his farming career working with his grandfather, father and younger brother Harleigh. They operated a typical PEI mixed farming operation with beef cattle, potatoes and a few hogs. Sheldon and Harleigh were progressive farmers in their time, trying new practices such as a self propelled Dahlman harvester in the 1960's.

Sheldon married a local girl, Marion Leard, from the North Tryon Cross Road and they settled on the Howatt home farm in Tryon. After Harleigh passed away in 1968, Sheldon continued the family farm in partnership with Marion. She took over the book work, payroll and taking care of the seasonal labour crews and Sheldon worked where he was happiest - in the barn raising his calves to finish cattle and in the fields doing anything from picking rocks to driving a John Deere tractor doing any one of a multitude of field operations. He always worked alongside his crew, tackling things that had to be done in a hands on manner.

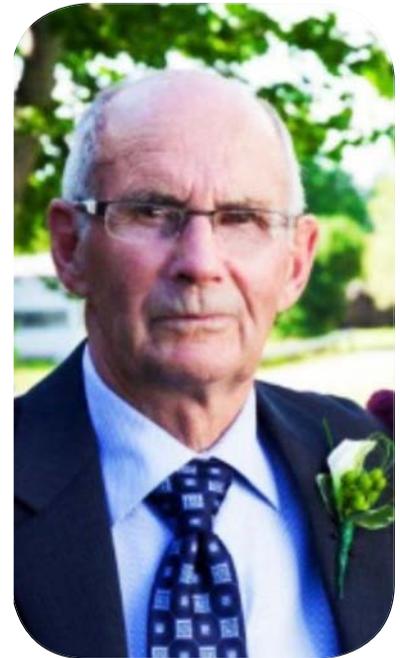
Up to the early 70's, the Howatt's grew seed and table potatoes, shipping on the early boats and loading many potatoes on the railcars at Carleton Siding that would be sent to markets in Upper Canada and to Boston and other eastern US markets. They worked with local dealers and neighbouring growers to fill orders and share labour.

Sheldon was one of the early processing growers on PEI in the 1970's. He grew potatoes for C.M. MacLean in the late 70's and was proud to drive the new pickup truck he won as being the Top Grower in 1978. He was one of the original growers with Cavendish Farms and one of the first to grow Shepody potatoes. When the first Shepody seed arrived from New Brunswick, it was stored in the basement as it was so valuable! He witnessed a lot of changes in the industry from digging potatoes by hand and storing them in cellars around the community, to GPS on the tractor and modern atmosphere controlled warehouses. Sheldon was active on the Potato Processing Committee in the 1980's and worked with other growers to improve returns for processing growers.

A hard worker himself, Sheldon valued those who showed a good work ethic but also went about their work in a pleasant manner. He loved to share his experience with younger growers and in turn learn about their ideas and plans for their farms.

Sheldon and Marion were pleased that their two children, Vicki and Scott, settled on the Island and raised their families nearby. Sheldon was happiest being around home and he enjoyed being able to share day to day activities and special celebrations with the eight grandchildren. They always knew where to look for him - in the barn! He took great pride in watching and encouraging all of their travels and accomplishments.

Sheldon continued to be active on the farm until the fall of 2014. The following winter was his last on his beloved farm. Sheldon's health continued to fail until he passed away in January 2019.



# Fruit Logistica Berlin

by Ellen Kouwenberg

The Prince Edward Island Potato Board has spearheaded an effort to maintain and expand markets for PEI seed, tablestock and fresh for processing potatoes via several initiatives over the past few years. One of these has been attendance at the annual Fruit Logistica trade show in Berlin, Germany. This show has provided an opportunity not only to promote PEI seed, fresh, fresh for processing and processed potato products, but also for industry members to view innovative production, handling, grading and packaging systems that they may see as an option to help them to remain competitive and leading edge. In many cases this is what has taken place.

FRUIT LOGISTICA Berlin is the largest fruit and vegetable trade show in the world. It covers every single sector of the fresh produce business and provides a complete picture of the latest innovations, products and services at every link in the international supply chain. It thus offers superb networking and contact opportunities to the key decision-makers in every sector of the industry. Each year the trade show grows, and in 2019 there were 3,200 exhibitors and over 78,000 visitors from over 90 countries. Visitors to the show represented 135 countries.

PEI Potato delegates assisted the Export Development Coordinator in fielding inquiries at the booth and a number of business-to-business meetings were held over the three day event. A true highlight was the return visitors and meetings between PEI exporters and market countries to which PEI seed potatoes are now being shipped as a result of contacts made during the 2017 and 2018 Fruit Logistica; an excellent example of the commercial trade opportunities that stem from an international business show.

Throughout the three day trade show, a number of inquiries regarding available Canadian potato varieties were received. European breeders visited the booth, some of whom have existing relationships with Island exporters. Networking with these breeders and learning more about the varieties they are developing was an invaluable

outcome. Follow-up has been made regarding the official variety registration databases for specific potential markets, a requirement in most countries prior to that seed variety being allowed for import.

While the promotional element is vital to raise awareness of the PEI Potato industry, it is ultimately the development of commercial trade relationships, and the export of our island's seed and fresh potatoes that generates the most value to the PEI potato industry.



Above: PEI exporter Phil Enserink chats with potential customers and below PEI delegates Phil Enserink (left) and James Larsen (center) talk about PEI potatoes with visitors to the trade show booth. Photo: E. Kouwenberg.





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# National Potato Research Cluster PEI Variety Evaluation Trial

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

The industry sponsored variety evaluation trial is conducted at the AAFC Harrington Research Farm under the direction of Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator, PEI Potato Board and David Main, Biologist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The project is supported by industry and the federal government through the recently announced National Potato Cluster Research Project that runs from 2018 to 2023.

Invitations to submit entries to the trial are extended to local private variety agents, the PEI Potato Board and AAFC. Participants in 2018 included Real Potatoes, Parkland Seed Potatoes and AAFC. There were 15 entries in 2018. The objective of the trial was to evaluate the performance of advanced breeding selections (8) and recently released varieties (7) in comparison to standard varieties (4) for yield and quality under PEI growing conditions.

Potatoes were hand-planted on May 30 into soil with pH 5.9 and organic matter content of 2.9%. Individual plots were 25 foot long single rows, replicated four times in a randomized complete block design. Fertilizer was banded at planting at 90 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N and 180 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O using a 2-row potato planter with hillers removed. All plots received additional N at 90 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> on July 11 with the exception of Basin Russet, Innovator, FOB2005-136-181 and

WW-10-46 which received 100 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> of N on the same date. Seed piece spacing was 10 inches within row and three feet between rows with the exception of WW-10-46 at 12 and 14 inch in row spacing, AR2018-11 at 6 inch in-row spacing, Basin Russet and FOB2005-136-181 at 9 inch in-row spacing and AR2017-02, Bridget and Russet Burbank at 12 inch in-row spacing. Pest control products included Admire<sup>®</sup>, Capture<sup>®</sup>, Sencor<sup>®</sup>, Bravo<sup>®</sup> 500 and Manzate<sup>®</sup>.

Crops previous to potato were barley under-seeded to red clover in 2016 and two plantings of brown mustard in 2017. Final cultivation and hilling took place July 11. Reglone<sup>®</sup> was applied on September 24, 117 days after planting and the trial was machine harvested on October 15.

Harvested samples were graded in November based on fresh, fresh creamer and processing standards. Trial entries are assessed against the standard for each category.

## Russet-skinned, Fresh-market Selections

Basin Russet, Innovator and FOB2005-136-181 outperformed the standard Goldrush in Canada No. 1 yield. Basin Russet produced the highest Canada No. 1 yield with the exception of Innovator. WW-10-46 had the greatest yield of small-sized tubers regardless of in-row spacing. Highest average tuber weight was achieved by Basin Russet followed by Innovator and FOB2005-136-181. Specific gravity values ranged from 1.080 to 1.098.

## Red-skinned Selections

All selections outperformed the standard Norland in Canada No. 1, marketable and total tuber yield. AR2017-15 was the highest yielding red-skinned entry and all entries had higher specific gravity than Norland.

## Yellow-skinned Selections

Constance and Yukon Gold had very good tuber appearance and no sign of hollow heart was noted in either entry. Constance outperformed the standard Yukon Gold in small, marketable and total tuber yield. Constance had lower specific gravity than Yukon Gold.

## White-skinned Selections

Volare had the highest average tuber weight and by far the greatest Canada No. 1, marketable and total tuber yield.

### Tuber Yield and Specific Gravity for Entries of Red-skinned Potatoes Grown at AAFC, Harrington in 2018.

Selection/ Cultivar	Total	< 1.5"	Small	Canada				Specific Gravity
				No. 1	Large	Cull	Mkt	
(metric tonne / Ha)								
AR2017-09	33.7	1.9	19.5	12.1	0	0.13	31.6	1.083
AR2017-12	32.2	0.4	12.7	18.7	0	0.41	31.4	1.077
AR2017-15	49.6	1.0	24.2	23.9	0	0.52	48.1	1.084
Norland	26.2	1.0	19.8	5.1	0	0.39	24.9	1.065



AR2017-05 and AAC Hamer had the second and third highest marketable and total yield, respectively, with most of the yield being comprised of tubers in the small size class (1 ½” to 2 ¼”). Specific gravity values ranged from 1.066 to 1.078.

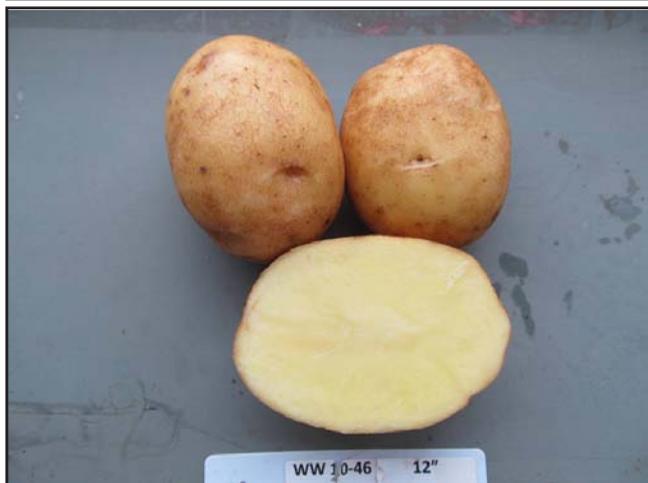
Creamer Selections

Only one selection was entered for evaluation in the creamer category. Vines of AR2018-11 were removed manually on September 13 and it was noted that creamer-sized tuber yield would have been greater had the vines been removed at an earlier date. AR2018-11 had a dark red skin colour similar to that of Norland.

Going Forward

The Variety Trial will continue to be sponsored under the National Potato Cluster program until March 2023. During this timeframe the industry will also help to sponsor evaluation of advanced selections from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canadian Potato Breeding Program. Similar trials will be taking place in other potato producing provinces. A full report of results from the 2018 PEI Trial are available from the PEI Potato Board.

Details on entering a selection/variety in the 2019 trial are available by contacting Mary Kay Sonier at (902) 892-6551).





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# Sharing Information Requires More Planning

by Mary Kay Sonier

Privacy is a common topic in the news these days, often due to concern over information we put on-line which may then be shared without our knowledge. Illegal theft of information from digital databanks is also a threat for financial loss and identity theft.

This concern over personal privacy has been filtering down to affect other operations in recent years and now limits information that is shared between organizations, even with consent of the individuals. Changes at the federal government level in this regard mean that information from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that seed potato growers once approved for sharing with related organizations must now be supplied directly by the grower. As of 2018, the industry was informed that CFIA will no longer recognize waivers that growers have signed allowing the sharing of this information with regulators like crop insurance, PQI and the PEI Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Three key areas affected for PEI Seed Potato Growers include the following:

## PEI Crop Insurance Corporation

**In the past:** Seed potato growers could sign a waiver that gave CFIA permission to share the grower's Seed Potato Certification application with PEI Crop Insurance Corporation which would then be supplied to the grower's agent.

**2019 Season:** Growers must ensure their field and seed potato information is provided directly from them to the PEI Crop Insurance Corporation. A copy of the seed certification application must be supplied by July 31st and the deadline to submit copies of the Growing Crop Certificate and Field Inspection Reports will be November 15th. These dates will be in the 2019/20 Agreement and failure to provide the documentation will result in the crop being diverted back into the regular Potato, Creamer, or Whole Farm Plans. Growers can forward a digital or paper copy.

## PEI Potato Acreage Registration

According to the PEI Plant Health Act, all growers who grow more than 0.25 acres of potatoes are required to submit their acreage information to the PEI Potato Quality Institute each year by June 30.

**In the past:** Non-seed growers have filled out a PQI form distributed by PQI and the Seed growers have signed a waiver allowing CFIA to forward their seed application to PQI for them.

**2019 Season:** Non-seed growers should continue to fill out the PQI form, as in the past. For Seed growers there are two options: fill out the PQI form or submit a copy of their CFIA Seed Potato Application form. CFIA will no longer forward this information to PQI. The grower is now totally responsible to submit their information directly to PQI.

## PEI Post Harvest Test Sample Collection

Provincial Potato Inspectors oversee collection of samples for the PEI Post Harvest Test Program. They facilitate the collection by providing sample bags, checking the information on seed variety, class and seed source planted, checking on collection and transporting the samples to the PEI Potato Quality Institute.

**In the past:** Seed Growers signed a waiver allowing CFIA to provide their a copy of their seed inspection application to the provincial inspectors to aid in this process.

**2019 Season:** Growers need to provide a copy of their seed potato inspection application to their provincial inspector before post-harvest test sample collection begins.

The advertisement features a blue and green color scheme. At the top left is the Vantage Canada logo. To its right, the text reads "THE FUTURE OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE" and "Atlantic Precision is now Vantage Canada". Below this is a photograph of a field with a large tablet in the foreground displaying a precision agriculture software interface. A blue box on the right side of the image lists features for the "Trimble® TMX-2050™ Display": "Say hello to high-definition field management", "Seamless data transfer to Trimble Ag Software", and "Automated accuracy measured with the greatest precision available". At the bottom, it identifies Vantage Canada as the "Your Partner in Precision Agriculture" with contact information: "833.826.8240 | vantage-canada.com" and "info@vantage-canada.com". Logos for Vantage Canada and Trimble (Authorized Distribution Partner) are also present.

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*An Update From the:*

# PEI Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



Here in the second last week of March; with a warm rain falling and snow disappearing; many believe that spring is in the air. The fishermen are eager to know when the ice will leave the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and without a doubt farmers are wondering what the spring will bring.

Environment Canada and meteorologists at The Weather Network seem to be in agreement: near normal temperatures and precipitation for April, May and June are predicted for Atlantic Canada. I'm sure a lot of producers would prefer the prediction of an early spring so they can get caught up on work left undone in the fall. However, when it comes to weather on PEI, few predictions are more pleasing

to the ear than "NORMAL". Normal would be great!

## 2019 PEI POTATO CONFERENCE

Just a few words to give sincere thanks to everyone who participated in our conference in February: grower attendees, industry attendees and sponsors, Ryan Barrett, Karen Martin and everyone at the PEI Potato Board and PEIDAF who assisted in delivering what seems to have been a valuable event for producers. The conference is over a month in the rear window now, but already some suggestions have been made regarding topics for the next event. Feel free at any time of the year to share your ideas! The success of these events hinges on producer input.

## Seed Management for the Spring of 2019

In the event of higher than normal seed health issues that could result from the wet fall harvest conditions (i.e. fusarium dry rot and seed piece decay), the province encourages growers to manage their seed with care.

Visit your seed storage on a regular basis and evaluate for any signs of breakdown. If you will be purchasing seed, where possible visit the seed storage before shipping.

If you have any concerns about the quality and germination potential, the following process was outlined in the last issue of *PEI Potato News* and is included here again for reference:

- 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.

Where it appears that low levels of fusarium dry rot or seed piece decay are present, growers are encouraged to follow these best management practices:

1. Try to grade out as much infected seed as possible followed by storage at minimal pile height with good ventilation through the pile;
2. Maintain frequent disinfection of seed cutting equipment;
3. Select your seed piece treatment carefully;
4. Wait for ideal conditions to plant (warm, dry soil with no forecast of heavy rain);
5. Use planting methods that encourage rapid emergence such as using a shallower planting depth than normal.

The good news is that; from past experience; we know that liquid seed treatments are found to be effective against all strains of fusarium that we see on PEI. To date, we have seen no resistance to these new seed treatment products. If you are not using a liquid seed treatment, only mancozeb-based dust seed treatments have no known resistance, but they require additional care in handling conditions and the treated seed must not be stored before planting.

Seed treatments will help to limit the spread of fungal diseases during the seed cutting process, but will not have an impact on seed with disease already present. If you wish to arrange a sample pick up for diagnosis at the PEI Plant Diagnostic Lab, please call me at 902-314-1607.

## PEIDAF Spring Activities

### Click Beetle Survey 2019

This year marks another cyclical click beetle survey across PEI, which is carried out with the collaboration of AAFC, PEIDAF and the PEI Potato Board. If you are a grower who has participated in the past, you will soon be contacted to gauge your interest in putting out traps in 2019. The PEI Department of Agriculture, with support from Dr. Christine Noronha and her team, will set the traps and carry out the regular collections though the months of May and June. Dr. Noronha and her team will then assess the collections and in the coming months information will be provided back to industry regarding population densities and species abundance.

### Volunteer Management

Based on the discussion at the PEI Potato Conference in February, most people have very little concern about the potential of tuber survival in unharvested fields, and the potential for volunteers in 2019. After the conference, a colleague shared with me that he went to a field and tried digging up some unharvested potatoes. Although there was roughly 2-3 feet of snow on the ground above the drills, any potatoes that were left underground were either completely degraded from the low temperatures; or were

hard as a rock and frozen. Those frozen tubers will break down once thawed. So, that is promising. However, it is still a good idea to monitor fields and high risk areas this spring for any volunteers that may emerge. If volunteers emerge, they will need to be properly managed to avoid the transmission of PVY and other pests.

### Return Of Plant Diagnostician

Marleen Clark will return to the PEI Analytical Lab in May. Upon her return, samples can be dropped directly at the PEI Analytical Lab; or to your local Access PEI location for courier delivery to the lab.



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# INDUSTRY UPDATES

## Canadian Federation of Agriculture Elects New Executive Team

OTTAWA, February 28 – CFA held elections during its 2019 AGM for the positions of President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President. The new Executive Team will be focused on the key CFA priorities of the Producing Prosperity campaign, ensuring the pillars of economics, food security and the environment are at the forefront of Canadian agriculture.

Ron Bonnett, the previous President of the CFA, stepped down after nine years in the role.



CFA's new executive team, left to right: Chirs van den Heuvel, 2nd VP; Mary Robinson, President; and Keith Currie, 1st VP.

Mary Robinson was elected as President of the CFA, stepping in as the first female President in the organization's 84 year history. Mary was previously the President of the Prince Edward Island Federation of Agriculture, as well as the Chair of the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council. She has been a force in farm politics for many years and an exceptional leader whose collaboration skills are highly recognized amongst the agricultural stakeholder community.

"I am looking forward to engaging key stakeholder and political decision makers on why the agri-food sector is the leading economic engine of Canada. It's critical that investments in agriculture are a priority for the Canadian government. Investments in rural Canada and agriculture benefit not only rural Canada but the nation as a whole," said CFA President Mary Robinson.

Keith Currie won the election for 1st Vice-President. Keith is the current President of the Ontario Federation

of Agriculture, and has been a huge proponent behind the "Producing Prosperity" campaign in Ontario. This campaign will soon be expanded nationally through CFA, focusing on the pillars of economics, food security and the environment.

Chris van den Heuvel was elected as 2nd Vice-President. Chris served previously as President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture, and has been heavily involved in efforts to keep agriculture in the minds of federal and provincial governments.

CFA's new executive team will work together to make the voice of farmers across the country heard. Through collaboration and teamwork we can show how important agriculture is to Canada, and how we can all strive to unlock its potential.

## NEW INNOVATIVE POTATO PRODUCT

### Potato Cuisine™ Microwaveable Mini Potatoes

#### with Spices from around the World

Elmsdale, PE, January 28, 2019 – W.P. Griffin Inc. is pleased to announce that we are launching "Potato Cuisine™" Microwaveable Mini Potatoes with selected spices from around the world. These quick and convenient trays only take 6 minutes in the microwave.

"We have been working on this new product line for close to 2 years. It is exciting to see this new and innovative product being supported by Sobeys, Foodland and select Co-op stores from Ontario to Newfoundland."

The "Potato Cuisine™" Microwaveable Mini Potatoes come with one of five different spices; including Maple Butter, Mediterranean, Smoked Paprika & Garlic, Sundried Tomato & Asiago and Caribbean Jerk.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact W.P. Griffin Inc. at 902 853 2755 or email at [office@wpgriffin.com](mailto:office@wpgriffin.com).



## The Government of Canada Invests to Advance Canadian Horticulture

March 6, 2019 – Halifax, Nova Scotia – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada: The Canadian horticulture sector is a key contributor to Canada’s economy, representing over \$5 billion in sales and \$2.6 billion in exports and supporting thousands of jobs across the country while expanding markets for the sector’s safe, high-quality products.

Today, Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, on behalf of Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food was at the Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting to announce a federal investment of up to \$11.5

million to the Horticulture Cluster under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The cluster, led by the Canadian Horticultural Council, will include an additional \$6.5 million in contributions from industry, for a total investment of \$18 million.

The cluster will support cutting-edge research to develop new technologies and practices for better pest and disease management, post-harvest storage and handling for apples, berries, field vegetables, potatoes and greenhouse grown crops and strategies to improve soil health.

It will also build on previous work by supporting sustainable practices to reduce the environmental footprint and develop new crop varieties to keep our growers

## “Dig In Do Good” Campaign Supports Childrens Charities in Ontario and Atlantic Canada

During the 2018/2019 shipping season, W.P. Griffin Ltd., a family owned farming and packing operation in Elmsdale, PEI teamed up with Sobeys for another successful fundraising campaign.

For each bag of “Dig in Do Good With Prince Edward Island Potatoes” sold at Ontario Sobeys locations in December 2018 and January 2019, 25 cents was donated in support of Toonies for Tummies. One in six children in our country lives below the poverty line and far too many of them wake without certainty of their next meal. Student nutrition programs are a great way for children to get the nutrition they need and are linked to many positive outcomes. Toonies for Tummies is supported by The Grocery Foundation. Since 2000, with public and industry support, the Toonies for Tummies campaign has raised \$19M for Student nutrition programs. Funds raised through Dig In Do Good sales in Ontario will be donated to local student nutrition programs. Donations will be made to schools in the vicinity of the store in which the funds were raised. On Feb. 2, 2019, at the The Grocery Foundation annual gala fund raising event in Toronto, the donation of \$20,000 raised during this campaign was presented by Griffin’s and Sobeys to The Grocery Foundation.

The Dig In Do Good campaign ran in the Atlantic region the months of February and March 2019. Atlantic Canadian

charities included: the IWK Foundation supporting the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia providing quality care to women, children, youth and families in the Maritime Provinces; the CHU Dumont Foundation improving the care and comfort of patients at the Dr. Georges-L.-Dumont University Hospital Centre in Moncton, New Brunswick; and the Janeway Children’s Hospital Foundation helping to meet the financial needs of the Janeway Children’s Health and Rehabilitation Centre directly related to the health and welfare of Newfoundland and Labrador children. The donation for the Atlantic Canada hospitals will be presented at The Grocery Foundation of Atlantic Canada event in April 2019.



The Ontario donation from the Dig In Do Good campaign was presented by (left to right) Michael Medline (Sobeys), John Griffin (W.P. Griffin), and Albert Clements (Sobeys) to Shaun McKenna (The Grocery Foundation).

Dig In Do Good supporters also include the PEI Bag Co. Ltd. and Fresh Media. More details on this promotion can be found at:

<http://www.digindogood.com/>

profitable and competitive.

### **SGS Canada Will No Longer be Offering CanadaGAP Audits after June 30, 2019**

Program participants who currently use SGS Canada as the certification body for their CanadaGAP audits and self-assessment reviews must choose a new certification body as soon as possible.

Acting quickly will ensure that your upcoming audit or self-assessment review can be completed at the appropriate time and prevent interruptions to your certification cycle.

No further self-assessments will be reviewed by SGS Canada after April 15, 2019.

There are currently two choices for CanadaGAP certification bodies:

- NSF Canada Ag Tel: 1-519-821-1246 Website: [www.gftc.ca](http://www.gftc.ca)
- BNQ Tel: 1-800-386-5114 ext. 2451 Website: [www.bnq.qc.ca](http://www.bnq.qc.ca)

Some CanadaGAP auditors who have been working for SGS Canada may be contracted by one of the above mentioned certification bodies that offer CanadaGAP audits. You may wish to follow your auditor to that certification body, especially if you have already confirmed a date for



## **Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm**

### **Seed For Sale**

**Commercial Varieties:**

<b>Classic Russet</b>	<b>80 cwt</b>
<b>Ranger Russet</b>	<b>250 cwt</b>
<b>Russet Burbank</b>	<b>150 cwt</b>

**Market Garden Varieties**  
(small volumes available in 50 lb bags)

Eramosa  
Irish Cobbler  
Dark Red Norland

**Call Mary Kay at (902) 892-6551 for more information and to book seed.**

## **Canadian Association of Farm Advisors**

### **PEI Chapter Gets Off the Ground**

Farming is a complicated business and with the growing size and incorporation of operations, many farmers rely on outside professionals for quality advice.

The Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) is a not-for-profit, self-regulating organization that provides high-quality continuous learning and networking opportunities for farm advisors, to help them provide better advice to help their farm clients succeed. CAFA was started in 2000 in Manitoba and now has local chapters from BC through to Eastern Ontario. The first Maritime chapter was established recently in PEI. These local groups meet on regular basis to hear from speakers on agricultural topics of common interest and build professional networks.

Chris MacPhee works as an accountant with MRSB in PEI and he was instrumental in getting the local chapter started. He is currently serving as the chair and has seen good interest from other professionals. "With all the complexities of a farm business today it is important for advisers to have a wide array of knowledge and to be connected with other professionals within the agriculture industry," he comments.

Members of the PEI chapter of CAFA can be found on the CAFA website advisor listing by visiting [www.cafenet.ca](http://www.cafenet.ca) and they currently include professionals in the areas of accounting, law, real estate, insurance, banking, commercial lending, financial planning, and marketing - including Mark Phillips from the PEI Potato Board. They hope to add members from other areas such as veterinarians, equipment dealers, family coaches, as well as farmers and government personnel.

To join the organization please contact Chris at:

[chirs.macphee@mrsb.group.com](mailto:chirs.macphee@mrsb.group.com)

your 2019 audit. Please check with your auditor and/or your new certification body to be sure.

To initiate the transfer to a new certification body, please complete a Change of Status Form. Answer question 4 to indicate your choice of a new certification body, and send the signed form to the CanadaGAP office by mail, email to [info@canadagap.ca](mailto:info@canadagap.ca) or fax to 613-829-9379.

Please send in the completed Change of Status Form ASAP even if your certificate expiry is months away. We will inform your new certification body of the transfer, and they will contact you to review the scope of your operation and certification and to confirm the timing of your next audit or self-assessment review.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact the certification bodies listed above, or the CanadaGAP office at [info@canadagap.ca](mailto:info@canadagap.ca) or 613-829-4711. SGS Canada is also providing clients with assistance to transfer to a new certification body and can be reached at 905-364-3758 or [amrutha.mathew@sgs.com](mailto:amrutha.mathew@sgs.com).

Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

Notice is hereby given that nominations to the Farm Management Canada Board of Directors are officially open. Members in good standing, motivated to contribute to the governance and strategic direction of Canada's only national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating farm business management best practices, are invited to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

### **FMC is Seeking Four Nominees to the Board of Directors**

Directors are expected to serve a full three-year term and are permitted to serve a maximum of three consecutive 3-year terms.

Nominees can be from any of the following member categories: Farmer, Young Farmer, Member at Large, Association/Organization, Academic Institution or Corporation

The FMC Board of Directors is further seeking nominees with demonstrated experience and proficiency in at least one of the following areas: Business Development and Growth; Not-for-Profit Sector; Industry Engagement or Government Relations & Policy

However, nominations are also welcome from those individuals whose skills reside outside of the above. Those who are nominating or have been nominated should keep the 3-year term in mind when letting their name stand for election.

Nominations will close at 17:00 hrs. Eastern Time, Thursday May 9, 2019. Email your completed nomination

forms to the Farm Management Canada Head Office at [info@fmc-gac.com](mailto:info@fmc-gac.com).

All eligible candidates are asked to submit a one-page biography outlining their experience, qualifications, and value they will bring to the Farm Management Canada Board of Directors, along with an electronic photograph (.jpg, .png or .gif).

Elections will be conducted by electronic voting prior to the AGM. Voting packages will be distributed to all members via email by May 31st, 2019. The deadline for receipt of online vote submissions is June 28th, 2019.

Should you require further information regarding the nomination and election process, please contact FMC Head Office at 1-888-232-3262, or by email at [info@fmc-gac.com](mailto:info@fmc-gac.com).

## **Upcoming Events**

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

### **April 2019**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 10 | <b>Election Agriculture Debate</b><br>sponsored by the PEI Federation of Agriculture. Murchison Centre, Charlottetown. 7 PM. |
| April 16 | <b>Monthly Potato Board Meeting.</b>   |
| April 23 | <b>Prince Edward Island Provincial Election.</b>   |

### **May 2019**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 31 | <b>PEI Potato Crop Insurance Application Deadline.</b> |
|--------|--|

### **June 2019**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| June 19 | <b>United Potato Growers Transition Conference, Minneapolis, MN.</b> |
| June 20 | <b>Monthly Potato Board Meeting.</b>                                 |
| June 30 | <b>CFIA Seed Potato Crop Inspection Application Deadline.</b>        |
| June 30 | <b>Potato Acreage Registration Deadline.</b>                         |



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