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Prince Edward Island

POTATO NEWS

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Features

PMANA - Summer Meeting Report	
Potato Research Spotlight - Grower Driven Field Research a Priority	
2018-2019 Marketing Summary	13
Tablestock Potato Quality Montoring Program	
at PEI Retail	14
Grower's Corner - "The Road to Fortune"	18
Regular Departments	
Regular Departments Chairman's Comments	4
Chairman's Comments	5
Chairman's Comments	5 16
Chairman's Comments Potato Board News United Potato Growers of Canada Report	5 16 22

Cover: Early potatoes being dug in eastern PEI are eagerly anticipated by consumers looking for the first taste of the new potato season. Photo: Ryan Barrett.



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Chairman's Comments

CC Edward Is pel

by PEI Potato Board Chairman, Jason Hayden

I have had the pleasure of talking with farmers from one end of this Island to the other this summer. As of July, farmers are reservedly satisfied with timely rains and how their potato crops are progressing, and hopefully are taking sometime to enjoy the summer before another harvest starts. Growers are encouraged to take in the many fun summertime events that the Board helps to sponsor. Events are listed in the Upcoming Events section on page 26. When you are at these events with your family, don't shy away from letting people you talk to know you are a PEI farmer. Surveys show that the farming profession is held in high regard and people enjoy interacting with real farmers.

There are several items that Board directors and staff have been dealing with in the past few months:

Board staff have worked tirelessly with Provincial agriculture staff since last November on an AgriRecovery proposal to bring farmers some relief from last year's difficult and expensive harvest. Their efforts were rewarded on July 19th in a joint announcement by the federal and provincial governments - details are provided in the Potato Board News Section on page 5 of this issue. The Board also raises concern on behalf of growers who were not able to harvest acres and are therefore facing a significant drop in revenue. Although many farmers have withdrawn from AgriStability due to its reduced effectiveness in addressing loss, we encourage government to correct flaws within this platform so that it addresses need as it should.

The Board has also been working non-stop on efforts to change environmental regulations associated with extreme rainfall events. We are working with the provincial and federal government departments as well as the Federation of Agriculture and local Watershed Alliance on developing a list of Best Management practices to adapt to climate

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change risks as well as looking for increased support to make necessary changes.

On July 3rd in provincial court, Judge Nancy Orr rendered a not guilty verdict in the case involving Skye View Farms and the Docherty family vs. the Crown. Judge Orr gave an extremely detailed decision that said that the law clearly states that conservation officers needed a warrant before entering the farm property to collect samples they planned to use in court. Despite the detailed decision, the Crown had an appeal ready to file on July 4. It appears that the Crown feels that victims of extreme weather causing damage on their properties do not have rights. MP Wayne Easter was quoted in The Guardian as saying the Crown's case "lacks common sense." It could be a year before the appeal proceeds in court, and the stress continues.

PEI's new Water Act Regulations were released recently for public comment. The moratorium on high capacity wells has been maintained. It was also announced that water holding ponds will be more rigorously regulated. It is frustrating for farmers who wish to use supplemental irrigation on a portion of their crop when the experts are saying it is safe, but the provincial Minister of Environment places public opinion ahead of science and has so far refused funding for a proposed research project to gather information on the subject. Meanwhile, the Province continues to allow the expansion of high capacity wells for other industries. Crop farmers in most other areas continue to see their yields steadily increase while Island farms have this artificial ceiling placed above them.

Finally, Board staff and I met recently with CBC staff at their station in Charlottetown. It was a good opportunity for the potato industry to give reporters, both senior and rookies, a presentation on our industry. Likewise, they described to us all the factors that go into putting a good story together, and there are many. The talked about the difficulty they sometimes have in getting farmers to speak on camera to agriculture reporters and we described how frustrated we as farmers and industry get when we see media reports that are either inaccurate or highly opinionated against agriculture with no balance. Overall it was a good meeting and we invited members of the media to speak to producers at our next large gathering where we can all get a better understanding of our respective perspectives.

I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable growing season.

POTATO BOARD NEWS

Agri-Recovery Announcement

On July 19th, federal and provincial officials announced funding of \$15.6 million would be made available to PEI horticultural and potato farmers via the national Agri-Recovery Program to help with the extraordinary costs associated with the terrible harvest conditions in the fall of 2018. Close to 7,000 acres of potatoes were left in the ground, and farmers and their staff had an extremely difficult harvest and storage challenges as a result. As well, a great deal of fall fieldwork could not be completed as a result of the early freeze up. It will take several years to recover from the damage that was done to fields and to farm finances, but the Agri-Recovery funding will help in the short term.

Premier Dennis King and MPs Lawrence MacAulay and Robert Morrissey made the announcement, which was hosted at the farm of Wilfred MacMillan and Sons in Pownal. In his remarks, Minister MacAulay noted that the compensation was for some of the extra costs farmers incurred, but that nothing replaces the return farmers would have received

for harvesting and marketing the crop as they had planned. Premier King noted that he had heard from all four PEI MPs shortly after he was elected, advising that helping farmers via Agri-Recovery was something that needed to be done. He said that the need was clear, and the money would go directly into the local economy. The Premier also stated that previous Agriculture Minister Rob Henderson kept their feet to the fire to get this done, and said that his Cabinet was onside from the start. As the Premier stated, "When farmers struggle in PEI, we all struggle."

Board Chairman Jason Hayden thanked both levels of government, as well as their predecessors then-Premier MacLaughlin and then-Minister Henderson for their support. He noted that Deputy Minister Brian Matheson and his team had been excellent to work with all the way through.

Farmers must submit their completed applications to the Agricultural Insurance Corporation by August 30, 2019 in order to be eligible for funding. If demand exceeds the available dollars, the amounts paid out will be prorated.



Prince Edward Island Potato News July/August 2019

Not Guilty Verdict for Skye View Farms

On July 3rd, Judge Nancy Orr found Skye View Farms and Alex and Logan Docherty not guilty of the charges that had been laid against them under the federal Fisheries Act, related to a fishkill that occurred in 2016. The PEI Potato Board, PEI Federation of Agriculture and many farmers were present in the courtroom that morning, and welcomed the Judge's decision.

That relief was short-lived, as the Crown immediately decided to appeal Judge Orr's decision. The notice of appeal was filed on July 9th. We do not know how long it will take for the appeal to head to court, but it may take up to a year. That means additional costs and many more months of stress are ahead for the Docherty family, whose farm was damaged by the torrential rains that fell on their farm when a strong storm cell stalled over their property that July day.

The Board and Federation continue to advocate for changes to the approach and to the regulations, which seem to have been designed for industrial polluters rather than for farms and farmers.

Canadian Potato Council Summer Meeting

The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) summer meeting was held in Quebec City on July 17, 2019. The Board was represented by Greg Donald, Brenda Simmons, Donald Stavert and Chair Jason Hayden. The agenda included area reports from each province, updates on regulated potato pests in Canada (PCN, BRR, Potato Wart), and several issues that the CPC and Seed Potato Sub-committee have been working on with CFIA (garden varieties, new variety registration, true potato seed, post-entry quarantine program, Seed Regulations Part II of the Seeds Act). CFIA also gave an update on its Digital Service Delivery Platform (DSDP).

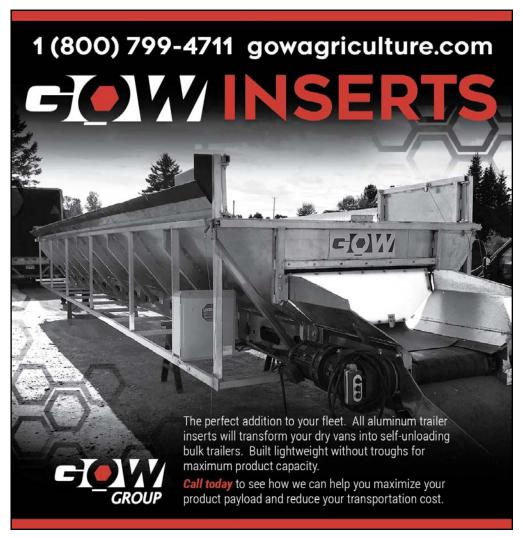
Updates were also given on several export markets in terms of current phytosanitary agreements and efforts to obtain market access in some new markets that have been deemed as high priority by the CPC.

Interms of crop protectants, the re-evaluation of active ingredients

continues. Proposed decisions have recently been released by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on chlorpyrifos and thiophanate-methyl. PMRA is considering complete elimination of the two actives. While chlorpyrifos is not used much in potato production in PEI due to a lack of MRLs in the US, it is the main tool for wireworm control for producers in BC (who cannot use Thimet). Thiophanate-methyl (Senator) is used in PEI, although the volume used has been declining over the years. The CPC and provincial potato organizations will be providing input to PMRA on the two actives in the new few months, so stay tuned on those and other pending decisions.

MY CFIA

The passage and implementation of the Safe Foods for Canadians Act and regulations has resulted in several changes that impact potato farmers, dealers and exporters. We are still trying to understand some of those changes, but it is clear that anyone who will be requesting phytosanitary certificates from CFIA must be registered under MY CFIA. We encourage those who need phytos to register in the coming month. If you have any difficulties with this, please let the Board office know.



Farm Day in the City

Farm Day in the City will be held this year on Sunday, October 6th, 2019. The PEI Potato Board will be partnering again with Discover Charlottetown as the title sponsor. Over the last couple of years as many as 15,000 people have attended this event. The Potato Board's staff and many of our potato farmers have annually handed out over 7,500 reusable grocery bags, 1,700 servings of fries and 750 baked potatoes, entertained children, were available to provide information about our potato farms and proudly represented our industry.

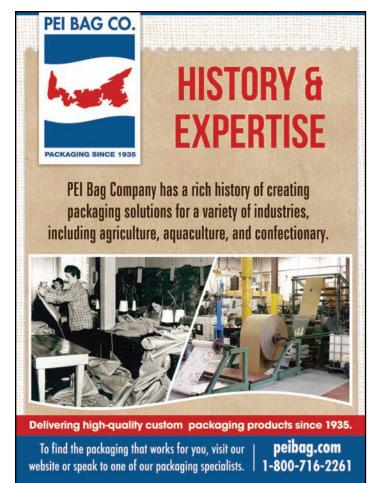
The event enocurages Islanders and visitors to celebrate the Island's bountiful harvest and the 'buy local' culture at this open-air market that takes over lower Queen Street (from Grafton to Water) and Victoria

Row in the heart of historic downtown Charlottetown. It is an enjoyable family activity exploring the market and enjoying the many free activities taking place throughout the day, including live music on two stages, a petting zoo, kids' activities, and a good ol' fashioned pie-eating contest in support of local charities.



Talking directly with farmers provides those attending Farm Day in the City with an authentic experience!

Our efforts make a positive impression with many of the people who attend. We are thankful for those who volunteer, help us supply the bags and bring their equipment to provide the fries and baked potatoes. Come join us this year and experience PEI's biggest outdoor market. If you are available to volunteer please let us know (902-892-6551).





Our ambassador Tate is busy touring the Island this summer to visit with tourists and locals at many festivals and events as well as popular summer vacation spots.

Tate and his handlers promote PEI Potatoes, distribute potato postcards and recipes and provide a great photo op for visitors.

Give Tate a wave if you see him out and about this summer.

7

Potato Marketing Association of North America - Summer Meeting Report

Les Producteurs de pomme de terre du Quebec hosted the 2019 PMANA Summer meeting in Quebec City at Chateau Laurier Hotel on July 15-16. The purpose of the summer meeting is to bring attendees up to date with crop conditions in the processing-potato areas of North America, to summarize the 2019 contract settlements and to discuss relevant frozen potato industry issues. The meeting was attended by approximatley 30 growers and grower representatives together with folks from Syngenta and Ag-World Support Systems; both of which are long time sponsors of PMANA.

Please find below bullets taken from the Area reports supplied by the organizations that attended. This Executive summary does not contain numbers or information from Idaho (SIPCO is still withdrawn from PMANA) nor from North Dakota, Minnesota or Wisconsin, as these areas did not send representatives or written reports this year.

- From the nine processing potato areas which attended, the 2019 planted acres are up 23,000 acres over the 2018 planted acres.
- The increase from 2017 to 2018 was 13,000 planted acres, putting the two-year total increase at 36,000 acres more potatoes in the PMANA growing areas. These numbers do not include Idaho or the American Midwest.
- These added acres (including seed acreage increases) are planted to meet the increasing demand from processors who are contracting larger volumes of fry-quality potatoes to supply their increasing plant capacity.
- Plant capacity increases in Washington, Alberta and Manitoba add up to 15,000,000 cwt of additional potatoes needed from the 2019 crop.
- The Area reports from every region indicated a later, cooler and / or wetter start to their spring-cropping season. However, each area indicated that good weather conditions during the end of June and the first half of July sees potato fields closing-in on normal at mid-July.
- Most reports spoke to crops being 1-1.5 weeks behind normal; processors in the Columbia Basin are set to start new crop on July 19-20 which is about 10 days behind normal.
- Generally speaking, all Area reports spoke to their crops being able to achieve average yields IF their remaining season of weather is normal.
- Most all reports indicated CoP increases ranging between 3-5%. Alberta showed a 7.5% increase driven by the costs of expansion and those capital dollars being priced in USD. PEI guesstimated a relatively flat CoP in 2019 because of the extraordinary high costs of the 2018 harvest and the hopes to not repeat that experience.
- All areas spoke to the challenges of labour costs and minimum wage increases impacting their labour force and the ever-increasing difficulties of maintaining highly-skilled staff people.
- ➤ Idaho had approx. 10 million cwt too many potatoes for their own marketplace in 2018-2019 and it is only because of the fact that Manitoba, Wisconsin and PEI had serious crop shortages that we didn't end up with an oversupply in 2018.
- ➤ Dale Lathim of the Potato Growers of Washington spoke to the major plant expansion announced by McCain Foods in Othello; scheduled to be completed for the 2021 crop. Dale advised this incremental growth will not be felt by the industry until 2022 as the company will be doing a major upgrade of the original plant once the new-line is in full production.
- The Lamb-Weston Hermiston plant expansion will be up and running for the 2019 new crop.
- The new Cavendish Farms plant in Lethbridge, Alberta is all set to come on line August, 2019.
- The J.R. Simplot expansion in Manitoba is on track to be fully operational by January, 2020.

8

North American potato processors continue to grow and benefit from strong market demand in both the domestic and offshore markets and all areas reported their processing plants are running at full capacity to meet the demand for frozen potato products.

The outlook and attitude from the growers in attendance was mostly cautious; some growers have struggled through an extremely difficult year and are wary of making predictions.

Soil Conservation and Building Soil Health Many practices are not visible from the road!

by Mary Kay Sonier

One does not have to drive too far out into the countryside in PEI before they start seeing signs of the soil conservation work that has been accomplished over the years. In previous issues (Jan/Feb 2018, Sept/Oct 2017) we have detailed the process of installing soil conservation structures such as grassed waterways, strip cropping and berms that can readily be seen from the road.

But as well as physical structures, growers are adopting a range of other practices to minimize soil erosion and build soil health. Many of these are only visible if you know what to look for:

1. Residue Tillage: We cannot grow potatoes without tilling the soil, but many growers have adopted reduced tillage and residue tillage practices. The fall before potatoes are planted, many growers are now replacing traditional moldboard plowing with residue tillage machinery such as a Lemken or Pottinger. These machines leave a high percentage of crop residue on the surface helping to reduce water and wind erosion over the winter and early spring and also reducing the number of tillage passes in the spring to prepare the field for planting. Many growers also cite savings in labour and fuel.



A residue tillage machine at work.

2. Basket Hillers: A relatively new practice is the use of basket hillers as part of the planting operation. This helps to reduce the number of passes the tractor must make over the field. The baskets loosen up the soil on the hill which helps to improve heat and water





Basket hillers mounted on the back of the planter (top photo) leave a loose hill behind (bottom photo).

absorption into the soil and encourages early foliage growth. The sooner full crop cover is reached the better as this helps to protect the soil during heavy rains and reduce soil erosion as well as helping to maintain soil moisture. This practice also allows for earlier spraying of pre-emergence herbicides.

For PEI specific agronomy advice, factsheets and events check out:

www. peipotatoagronomy.com

3. Dammer-diker use after hilling: This machinery creates divots in the potato row. These divots slow the run of water and soil between drills during rainfall events and help to retain water for infiltration in the field where it may be needed to maintain moisture during dry spells.



The dammer diker used when hilling the potatoes (above) leaves little divots inbetween the potato drills to slow water flow and retain moisture in the field.

4. Growing alternative rotation crops that add organic matter to the soil and that in some cases have disease suppressive characteristics. These include mustard, buckwheat, sorghum sudan grass and forage pearl millet.



Mustard fields are now commonly seen across PEI. The crop is often mulched and worked into the soil to maximize the release of glucosinolates from the plant which act as a biofumigant and help to reduce populations of wireworms and other plant pathogens.

5. Planting of cover crops so that soil is covered during the fall and winter months in an effort to reduce soil erosion at this time. Unfortunately, the wet fall and early freeze up in 2018 interrupted progress on this front, but expect

to see an increase in cover cropping in 2019, weather permitting. This effort is being supported by research into crops that can be planted as late as possible into the fall and still establish. Even if a lot of green is not always visible above ground, the root growth below can still help hold soil in the field.



Seed of the cover crop may be spread in the field prior to potato harvest so that it is worked into the soil during the digging process and will germinate soon after.

PEI potato growers continue to work with local watershed groups, provincial soil conservation specialists and research scientists to identify improved practices that will help increase the resiliency and productivity of our number one resource - our rich red soil.

Looking for VOLUNTEERS

to help with

Farm Day in the City Activities

Sunday, October 6, 2019

Children's Activities

Potato Information booth

Fry Wagon

Please contact Karen Martin at (902) 892-6551 or karen@peipotato.org

Potato Research Spotlight:

Grower Driven Field Research a Priority

By Ryan Barrett, Agronomy Lead, AIM

The foundation of the Agronomy Initiative for Marketable Yield (AIM) is research and agronomy projects that are driven by potato growers, responding directly to their needs. Through the AIM Working Groups as well as extension events throughout the year, growers have been providing input on the types of field trials they want to see conducted. Each year, we have been growing the number of in-field trials that we are conducting with cooperating growers across the Island.

Potato Early Dying (PED): Verticillium and Nematodes

A definite priority for PEI potato growers is finding ways to combat potato early dying complex (PED), largely caused by the combination of *Verticillium* fungi and root lesion



Symptoms of Verticillium wilt in a 2018 trial field.

nematodes. For the past couple of years, a number of growers have been eager to set up in-field strip trials to evaluate the effect of different diseasefighting rotation crops. In 2018, there were fields in locations across the province evaluating the following crops: sorghum sudangrass, forage pearl millet, brown mustard, buckwheat, alfalfa, barley, ryegrass, red clover, and multi-species mixtures. Field were sampled in 2018 and 2019 for soil chemical analysis, Verticillium and root lesion nematodes. In 2019, these fields are in

potatoes and will be evaluated for potato yield and quality, as well as any foliar symptoms of early dying. Results will be shared with all growers at winter meetings following harvest. A number of additional fields have been set up in different strips this summer for evaluation in potatoes in 2020. Also, we are also working with a grower to evaluate the effect of Velum Prime as an in-furrow nematicide in a field with high nematode populations.

Soil Compaction:

Following the Science & Technology Working Group's study tour in Belgium and Holland last fall, this group was interested in looking at evaluating the effect and timing of deep tillage to break sub-surface soil compaction layers. This spring, we did deep tillage (ripping) in strips in two fields

immediately before potato planting (when soil was relatively dry) to compare the effect of shattering those compaction layers. In both fields, we used penetrometers as well as dug holes to verify the depth of



Deep tillage to break soil compaction layers in June 2019.

compaction layers, in order to set the tillage equipment 2 to 3 inches below the compaction layer.

In addition, we had a grower do deep tillage in the fall in a field that was planted to potatoes in the spring of 2019, with the ripping done by GPS to be in the middle of the potato row. In all of these fields, potato samples will be taken this fall.

Effect of Seed Generation:

In an effort to determine whether the generation of seed for processing potato production has an effect on marketable yield, we worked with a grower in 2018 to multiply E2 and E3 Russet Burbanks in the same field with identical production practices, controlling all variability in seed other than the generation level. This seed was then distributed to three growers this spring to be planted side by side in order to see what effect (if any) generation level may have on the commercial crop.

Seed Management:

With the assistance of Steve Watts of Genesis Crop Systems, we are repeating a trial in 2019 to measure the effect of keeping seed of russet varieties cool ahead of planting to control stem number and tuber size and improve marketable yield. Results were encouraging on Russet

Burbanks in 2018, and the trial was expanded to two sites in 2019, as well as adding Ranger Russets to the trial.

In addition, we contracted with Steve to provide "seed coaching" to two seed growers who were interested in measuring the effect of changes to seed management (spacing, seed piece size, whole vs. cut seed, etc) on producing a more consistent profile of seed, ideally with the same or better yield with smaller average tuber size.

Use of Electroconductivity to Create Management Zones:

For the past two summers, we have been working with Dr. Aitazaz Farooque and his team at the UPEI School of Sustainable Design Engineering to assess whether we can use soil electroconductivity to create management zones. These management zones could then be used to optimize soil sampling, allow for variable rate nutrient applications, or possibly even look at variable rate planting. Using DualEM technology, we have done in-field research at four sites each year, trying to assess how accurately electroconductivity explains variability in yield and soil characteristics. In 2018, the soil EC measurements explained approximately 70% of yield variability, which is very encouraging. A third and final year of field testing of the technology is taking place this summer, and the plan for 2020 is to start using soil EC to

make management decisions and then evaluate how well it worked.

Fall Hilling:

Last year, we got samples from three fields that had hills made in the late summer and fall of 2017, compared with conventional potato planting/hilling practices. There was a trend seen across all three fields for a small increase in marketable yield where the fall hilling was done, largely due to reduced defects and better tuber size. Hilling in the fall also has the advantage of putting a cover crop on the field to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health. Three more fields were set up in this way in the fall of 2018 and were planted to potatoes this spring for evaluation later this year.



Barley in a fall-hilled field in October 2017.



2018-2019 Marketing Summary

by Mark Phillips, Market Information Officer

Drought-like conditions in the summer and a fall from hell made the 2018 growing season one that we would like to soon forget. Many growers had a less than average crop, and 6,800 acres were left unharvested. Prince Edward Island production was the lowest it had been since 2001. We were not alone; many areas throughout North America and Europe experienced similar challenges. PEI production was down 7.6% from the previous year, and down 12% from 2016. Strong demand, coupled with low supplies, helped move the crop in a timely manner and historic prices were reached. Movement was mostly driven by strong US and Canadian demand. Export movement improved over last year, but was below our three-year average. Some argued there was potential for more export movement if supplies

were more abundant.

With supplies being low, and strong demand from most markets, it was a positive pricing year for fresh market potatoes. Pricing in general was approximately 15% above 2017-18 (which was 11% above 2016-17). Prices reached the highest levels we have recorded in our database. The Fresh Weighted Average (FWA) shows pricing trends weighted according to the percentage volume of various pack sizes shipped. A graphical representation of our FWA is shown below.

Overall production in Canada was the lowest it has been since 2014. PEI was tied for the largest decrease with Manitoba. Processing demand made fresh supplies even tighter.

Approximately 4,899,431 cwt of table potatoes were sold from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. This represented a decrease of 14% from a year ago. When combined, 5,230,187 cwt of seed and table potatoes were shipped during this time. This represented a decrease of 13% from the previous year, and a decrease of 15% from our three-year average.

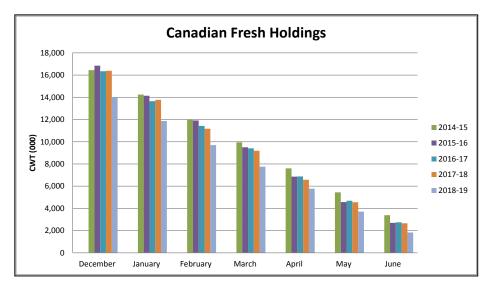
Movement to Canadian markets was down 5.2% from 2017-18, and down 5.6% compared to our three-year average.

Total US movement was down 26.5%, and down 24.7% compared to our three-year average. As strong Canadian demand caused our prices to go up, US movement slowed down. Twenty-six states (plus Puerto Rico) purchased potatoes from PEI in 2018-19.

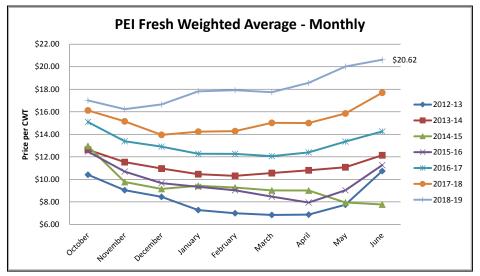
We shipped 10.8% more potatoes to non-US export markets than the previous year, but 14.7% less than our three-year average. A total of 17 export countries purchased potatoes from PEI in 2018-19. Caribbean and chip markets made up the majority of our export shipments.

In total, to date for 2018-19, approximately 48.9% of our seed and table sales went to Canada, 38.4% were sold to US destinations (including Puerto Rico), and 12.6% were sold to export markets.

13



The sharp drop in fresh holdings across the country as compared to recent years drove the early and steady strong fresh potato prices throughout the 2018-2019 shipping season. (Source: PEI Potato Board).



Tablestock Potato Quality Monitoring Program at PEI Retail

2018-2019 Crop Marketing Season Summary by David N. MacSwain

In recent years Board staff and directors have received complaints in person, and via the 1-800 consumer comment number about poor quality PEI potatoes being offered for sale in local retail stores. Ad hoc checks have been done over the past few seasons, but in 2018 the Board decided to launch a formal Quality Monitoring Program for PEI tablestock offered for sale at local retail outlets.

After formalizing Program details, written notification was provided to retail representatives and to all PEI potato growers, packers and dealers; it included the justification for the initiative (historical / ongoing complaints about the quality of PEI tablestock potatoes offered for sale at local retail) and solicited the cooperation of all parties involved.

A total of twenty-six (26) retail outlets were visited in November, 2018 and included in the tablestock quality monitoring program. The breakdown by location was as follows:

Souris - 2 Morell - 1

Montague - 2 Stratford - 2

Charlottetown - 7 Cornwall - 1

Kensington - 2 Alberton - 1

Summerside - 4 O'Leary - 1

Wellington - 1 Tignish - 1

Bloomfield - 1

Tablestock quality monitoring/ inspection activity commenced instore in late November, 2018 and continued on a regular basis through to late April, 2019. With the cooperation of the retail chains, samples were taken and inspected according to Canadian Food Inspection Agency tablestock standards. In addition, a significant number (estimated 75 to 100) cursory checks of PEI tablestock were done - lots had no obvious quality issues. There were forty-two (42) documented inspections of product which, on first glance, had a possible non-compliance issue. Of this total, twenty-one (21) inspections resulted

in a "Meets Requirements" outcome and the remaining twenty-one (21) had a "Fails Requirements" result.

Prominent non-compliance issues included:

- 1. Underweight packages
- 2. Undersize tubers
- External Defects (mainly wireworm damage, old and new mechanical damage, misshapen tubers and growth cracks - the latter two being a result of stressful conditions during the dry growing season).
- 4. Wet Rot / Decay (not as significant a problem as we originally thought it would be, considering the wet and cold harvest conditions).

Observations / Points of Interest:

 Store managers/produce section managers were, without exception, quite receptive to the monitoring program. We were provided with whatever assistance was required in-store and

> were, in most cases, allowed to take samples free of charge and provided with an inconspicuous area to do our inspection work.

- 2. Potato rotation in-store was generally good; the volume of product brought in at any one time was usually quite manageable. The exception was an oversupply, at times, from distribution center for "a special" (saw this a few times, particularly with 15 lb. Chefs).
- 3. PEI origin tablestock received via a Distribution Center was almost always of very good quality.
- 4. All rejections were associated with direct delivered product; the rejections were fairly evenly divided amongst a small number of packers.

Inspection results were shared with the stores and with the packers and visits were made to several packing sheds to discuss the results. Of the local suppliers who had recurring quality issues, there were times when their product met the requirements and





Misshapen tubers, wireworm damage and mechanical damage (seen in sample above) accounted for many of the defects found in potatoes evaluated as part of the Quality Monitoring Program in 2018-2019. Even in blemish free samples (right), over tolerance on smalls was sometimes a problem.

times when defects were over tolerance - this demonstrates the importance of consistent quality on the grading line.

In retail operations, money talks, and while sometimes poor quality potatoes are returned to the store, in many cases they are not, even though the customer is unhappy. So, poor or inconsistent quality may not cost the store but may cost the potato industry a customer. With the Board's



1-800 consumer line, the Potato Board often hears complaints that the store does not. This initiative allowed the Board to highlight the issue of potato quality in local stores directly with retailers. Their goal is a happy and repeat customer, and the goal of this program is to increase awareness and help retailers to work with their suppliers to ensure that both the industry members and the store are providing a consistent good quality

product to their customers.

Based on calls to our 1-800 Consumer Comment Line, the number of complaints about the quality of local potatoes has decreased from those received in 2016/17 and 2017/18. This is a very encouraging result, particularly considering the challenging harvest season in 2018.



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Prince Edward Island Potato News July/August 2019



POTATO GROWERS OF CANADA LES PRODUCTEURS UNIS DE POMMES DE TERRE DU CANADA

2019 Potato Acreage Planted in Canada and the United States

by Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager, UPGC

Canada

Statistics Canada recently completed their survey of Canadian Growers to estimate the number of acres of potatoes planted in Canada this spring. Here are some highlights from the following table:

The 2019 acreage is estimated to be 360,543 acres which is up 3.3% or 11,526 acres above 2018. Prince Edward Island acreage is down 500 acres at 85,500. New Brunswick is up 2,000 to reach 54,000 acres, 80% of which is now required for processing. Quebec's acreage is estimated to be up 2,000 acres or 4.7% to reach 43,243 acres. Industry thought the increase might be larger given the fresh demand and the recently expanded St-Arnaud French Fry plant. Ontario is very close to last year with a 0.4% reduction. Probably the biggest surprise in Statistic Canada's estimate, is the reported acreage in Manitoba, showing a 3,400 acre increase to 67,500. Given the expansion of the JR Simplot Plant in Portage LaPrairie, opening in January, Manitoba officials had expected the increase to be closer to 6,000 acres to

meet that additional volume requirement. A similar volume increase is required for Alberta with the new Cavendish Farms expansion opening in September. Their 2019 acreage has increased by 6,682 to reach a total of 61,700 acres. Saskatchewan's acreage is the same at 6,300, as is British Columbia, at 6,600 acres. Our next opportunity to revisit these figures will be in December, when Statistics Canada releases their 2019 Potato Production Estimate. Industry understands that growers are very busy when these survey calls are being carried out, but it is extremely important to provide accurate input, so that we as a group will have the best available information to work with.

United States

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) also completed their survey of US Growers in the 13 major states where potato acreage is counted. In recent years they have discontinued collecting data in 10 of the smaller producing states.

The 2019 acreage is very close to last year, estimated to be up only 0.1%. The slight increase came from the early producing states of California, Texas, and Florida. NASS shows no increase for the largest player, Idaho, with

2019 Canadian Potato Plantings (Acres)

Province	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change
Newfoundland	380	400	400	350	350	300	-14.00%
Prince Edward Is.	85,000	85,800	87,000	84,200	86,000	85,500	-0.60%
Nova Scotia	1,725	1,624	1,774	1,700	1,600	1,550	-3.10%
New Brunswick	47,700	47,700	47,630	51,700	52,000	54,000	3.80%
Quebec	42,255	41,761	41,761	42,255	42,749	43,243	4.70%
Ontario	35,500	34,750	34,800	35,400	34,000	33,850	-0.40%
Manitoba	63,000	67,300	65,914	62,900	64,100	67,500	5.30%
Saskatchewa	6,900	6,700	6,900	6,500	6,300	6,300	0.00%
Alberta	52,984	53,128	52,998	53,570	55,318	61,700	11.50%
British Columbia	5,890	6,100	7,250	6,500	6,600	6,600	0.00%
Total	341,335	345,263	346,417	345,076	349,017	360,543	3.30%

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0358-01 Acreage of Potatoes July 18,2019

315,000 acres. Private surveys by the United Potato Growers of Idaho, using teams to measure fields, are rumoured to show a slight decrease. NASS also shows no increase for Washington, the second largest player, at 165,000 acres. This is somewhat surprising, given increased demand for French fries in the Columbia Basin. It is a similar surprise that USDA shows a 1,000 acre decrease for Oregon, given the announcement of the French fry plant expansion in Hermiston. North Dakota acreage is down to a record low in recent years with a reduction of 2,500 acres. Also, in the Red River Valley, Minnesota acreage is down substantially, with a reduction of 3,000 acres. Red acreage has declined, and yellow acreage is increasing. Growers also cut back acreage in Colorado, predominately a fresh producing state. The reduction is 2.5% or 1,500 acres. Potatoes have had to compete for ground with other new crops on the block, like Hemp. Wisconsin shows a decrease of 2,000 acres however the data is suspect based on the estimates from previous years. People in Wisconsin feel the 2019 estimate is still too large in a state that was very challenged by a late spring and very wet soils.

The increases in the early production states of California, Texas, and Florida, tend to be less significant as a lot of that

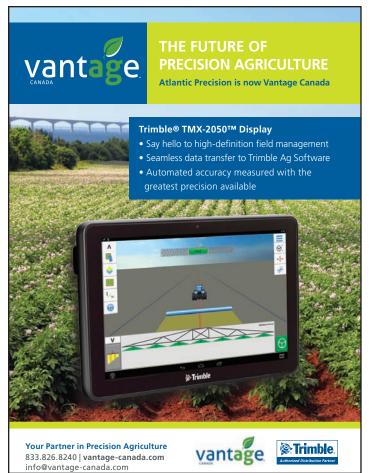
United States Potato Acreage Planted

Estimate June 28, 2019 Top Thirteen States

	<u> </u>			
State	2017	2018	2019	Percent
Idaho	310,000	315,000	315,000	0.00%
Washington	165,000	165,000	165,000	0.00%
North Dakota	75,000	74,500	72,000	-3.40%
Wisconsin	71,000	72,000	70,000	-2.80%
Colorado	55,900	55,300	54,000	-2.40%
Maine	48,000	50,000	50,000	0.00%
Michigan	50,000	50,000	50,000	0.00%
Oregon	46,000	46,000	45,000	-2.20%
Minnesota	46,000	44,000	41,000	-6.80%
California	41,700	38,500	41,000	6.50%
Florida	29,000	22,000	25,000	13.60%
Texas	23,300	14,500	20,000	37.90%
Nebraska	19,000	19,500	19,500	0.00%
Total U.S.	979,900	966,300	967,500	0.10%

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service June 28 2019

crop is moved out of the way by the time the potato crop comes on in Canada.



July/August 2019



Prince Edward Island Potato News

17

The Road to Fortune...

Grower's Corner

As Bonnie Aitken-Townshend writes in the introduction to her book "The Road to Fortune ...": "I have been interested in history for most of my life and as our children started to research heritage projects in elementary school I began to think about writing some of the information down as I felt that this information about the area would become forgotten as people in our community passed away. A large part of the information was acquired after spending many enjoyable hours talking with my grandfather, Pop, Ernest Aitken. He would start telling me about when he was growing up. Whatever piece of paper I might have handy gas slip, grocery receipt, church bulletin, paper towel, or if I was lucky a piece of writing paper, my history book started to evolve." Bonnie welcomed the support of her family and all the community members who contributed advice, direction and historical information. She published her book in 2012.

We thank Bonnie for allowing us to share part of her history book with you. The following excerpts and photographs are from the chapter: Farming in the Late 1800's and Early 1900's - Potatoes.

The Families

In the earlier years, my great-grandfather Douglas Aitken, owned a mixed farm. He had dairy cattle and was a top seed potato producer and grew a large number of mangels (large beets) to feed the cows. As his five sons and four daughters joined the family and began helping out, they increased their potato acreage to 100 acres. Two of the main varieties they

grew were Cobblers and Sebagoes. He also had a small plot of Blues and Red Pontiacs. Other varieties they grew at one time were: Green Mountains, Katahdins, Keswicks and Kennebec. They grew 25 acres of oats, 25 acres of wheat and 4-5 acres of flax. When each son married, Douglas purchased a farm for him in the Fortune area, as it became available. Each son then started his own farming operation.

Charlie Townshend, my husband Wayne's grandfather, was a well known mixed farmer in the Fortune area. He grew prize winning potatoes, raised prize winning cattle and many pigs. He started farming with his father William Henry Townshend of Rollo Bay. When he married, he moved to Fortune Bridge where

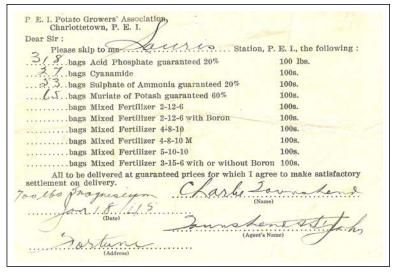
he operated a mixed farm. Today the farm is still operated by my husband and his brother John. Our three sons, Adam, Kyle and Isaac, all participate in the family operation. They grow potatoes, grain crops and hay.

When farming began in my families' farms (Aitken, Keefe, MacDonald and Townshend) most of the work was done by hand or with the help of horses.

Spring and Summer

In the spring before the soil was tilled, fertilizer was spread on the potato land. Manure or kelp was used for fertilizing the soil. Mussel mud was used by some farmers, but it was discovered that it caused scab in potatoes. Oyster mud was used by my grandfather Ernest and by Charlie Townshend. They collected it in Rollo Bay behind their farms in Fortune. Henry, Charlie's son said "We would go to Johnston's Swamp to get cart loads of black mud and put it on the potato land in the spring whenever we had time. It made good fertilizer." Lime was also put on the field in the spring. Charlie first used commercial fertilizer on his father's farm in 1918. The fertilizer arrived by railway cars in bags from Saint John, NB. Potash, Nitrogen and Phosphorous were all bagged separately and the farmer had to mix them himself when he got home. Once the bags were emptied they were taken to the brook or river and washed. Then they were taken home and dried on the fence. The bags were then used in the fall for putting potatoes in.

When my family first grew potatoes, farmers would use a hoe to make the potato drills (rows). Charlie Townshend



1945 fertilizer order.



Douglas Aitken driving his Ford Major steel-wheeled tractor with the beater digger attached. The harvest crew includes his sons Ernest, Harvey, Jack, Aubrey and Fred as well as workers from Murray River, PEI, and Cape Breton, NS. In the 1930's field operations were carried out using a combination of tractors and horses.

and my great-grandfather Douglas Aitken, would use the horse hoe for making the drills and covering the seed potatoes after they were hand planted in the fields. Charlie Townshend bought his first one row potato planter in 1918 when working on his father's farm in Rollo Bay.

During the summer Charlie and Douglas used a hand scuffler, pulled by a horse, which did one row of potatoes at a time. It loosened the ground around the potato plants and helped with weed control. After the scuffler was used, a horse hoe, pulled by a team of two horses, would be used to put the clay up around the potato plants. This was done six or seven times during the summer growing season. They usually did six acres in a day. Douglas had four teams of horses which he used throughout the day. In the later 1900's, when tractors were being used, more efficient scufflers were

developed and attached to the tractors. The tractors and scufflers would be used by the farmer two or three times during the growing season as they were more efficient at getting the clay up around the plants.

During the summer the seed potatoes had to be inspected for diseases by a Certified Seed Potato Inspector as is still done today.

Once farmers began growing larger acreages of potatoes, it became

impossible to maintain a healthy crop by manually removing weeds, bugs and diseased potato tops. A crop of potatoes can be completely destroyed overnight without proper measures being implemented. With larger acreages, scuffling was done to control weeds. Spray was applied to kill the bugs and for blight which could easily destroy your whole crop (as was the case when blight caused the Irish Potato Famine in 1845-47). The first sprayers used consisted of a barrel/puncheon, a hand pump with a hose and a horse and cart. These have evolved into the much safer tractor drawn and self propelled sprayers that farmers use today.

Harvest Season

Harvest took place in the fall. Everyone in the family helped out. Children going to school were given two weeks off in the fall harvest season to help. The women helped

19



Picking potatoes on Charlie Townshend's farm in 1946.

in the field or by making meals. Early harvesting of the potatoes was done with a hoe, baskets or buckets and a horse and cart. Then a plough was used, once the farmer owned one, to uncover the potatoes so that they could be picked up by hand. After the field was picked they would go over it with the spike tooth harrow and turn up any potatoes left. Then they would pick these up.

As farmers became more modernized they were able to purchase a beater digger which made potato digging easier. In 1934, three Ransom beater diggers came to the Fortune area from England, arriving by ship in a large wooden crate. The Ransom digger was a heavy digger and needed three strong horses to pull it. Over this time, as tractors became available, a mix of horses and

tractors were used in the field operations to pull machinery and carts.

My grandfather Ernest said "Jack (his brother) always picked with the other pickers because he liked to make sure the bags were full and placed in a straight line. I usually helped Harvey (his brother) load and haul in the potatoes to the farm shed for storage. Sometimes we would dump potatoes into a cart or wagon by walking up a plank into the cart or wagon. Once the cart or wagon was full, we took it to the farm and dumped it in bulk in the shed. Other times we used bran bags which when filled with potatoes weighed over 100 pounds."

The elevator digger came into use after the beater digger. It was pulled behind a tractor and it would dig the



1946, Massey Harris tractor pulling a beater digger. Jack Aitken driving with his son Everett.

potatoes into a windrow behind the digger. This made it easier to pick up the potatoes and less was left in the field. Douglas Aitken purchased his first one row digger in 1949. At the back of the one row digger a picker was attached. On the picker you could hook two jute bags which the potatoes would drop into. When they were filled, a person following the digger would set them on the ground and put on another bag. They were then loaded onto a truck. One person could stand on each side of the picker and pick off the tops, clumps of grass and the stones. With the one row digger, Douglas dug 5 acres a day. At that time the fields were 30-40 acres in size.

As the potato pickers loaded the cart with potatoes, the cart was taken to the farm and the potatoes were manually stored in the clay basement of the house. Some farmers



Many farmers hauled potatoes to St. Charles to be loaded onto rail cars. (circa late 1920's /early 1930's)

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1951, Seed Potato Certification notice. Then, as now, seed potatoes had to be inspected by a Government Certified Seed Inspector.

had underground storage away from the house and some had a warehouse.

Grading and Shipping

During the winter, the potatoes would be graded. The potatoes that were stored at home were graded on a hand screen. Potatoes were forked onto the hand screen where they were examined to make sure they passed the grade. Diseased or damaged potatoes were removed and the good potatoes were separated according to size and then bagged. One bag at a time was hooked on the end of the screen and filled with graded potatoes. Potatoes were sold in 150, 100 and 75 pound jute bags. Once the potatoes were sized, separated and bagged, the bag was unhooked, weighed and sewn closed by hand. A tag was attached to identify the variety of potatoes, the weight and the shipper's number. Once approximately 20 bags of potatoes were graded, they would be loaded onto the wagon or truck to be transported to their destination.

It would take many trips to Souris or St. Charles to load a railway car with potatoes. There were also some warehouses built near the railways that growers could rent to store potatoes and then they would grade their potatoes and load them right on the train. A card was placed on the inside and outside of the car to indicate whose potatoes were in a particular car. The train hand would collect the tags from the cars so the farmer would get paid for his potatoes.

In the 1970's, potatoes were loaded on the train in crates and Henry and Earl Townshend shipped seed potatoes in March 1975-76 this way. A crate full of potatoes weighed 125 pounds. The crate had two tags on it which identified whose potatoes they were, what kind they were and where

they were going. Seed potatoes in some cases had to have a dye on them when they were being shipped to another country. The dye was needed to ensure that they were not used for human consumption. They were shipped to Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago this way. Henry and Earl sold a lot of potatoes to Horace Willis (H.B. Willis) and Henry reminisced, "We loaded potato boats in Charlottetown with mostly seed potatoes. One ship, Snowflake was a large ship. I hauled seed to the boat every day for nearly a month from St. Peters where we stored and graded potatoes at Quigley and Sons."

Other chapters in Bonnie's book describe grain, hay and animal production, life on a small mixed farm and in and around the community. Farming in those days required a lot of hand labour to cover

smaller acreage and volumes of product. It also required cooperation between family and neighbours - something that has not changed, although numbers now are smaller and folks are more spread out. Bonnie put the project together to provide her children and grandchildren with a snapshot of the life of their ancestors in the place they call home.

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21



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An Update From the:

PEI Department of Agriculture & Land

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



I'm very pleased to report that the 2019 potato crop is off to a great start. Although planting was slightly delayed, the crop is advancing rapidly and conditions are favourable so far with adequate weekly rainfall in many areas and no lengthy heat waves.

The Potato Pest Update has been revamped for 2019, and anyone who wishes to receive it by email once per week can send a request to me at lormackinnon@gov.pe.ca or 902-314-1607. So far, insect and disease pest pressures have been relatively low, and are being closely monitored through weather data collection, disease forecasting, spore trapping, and fieldworker reports.

AgriRecovery: Canada-PEI Fall Harvest Recovery Initiative

On Friday, July 19 an announcement was made to let Island farmers know that \$15.6 million has been earmarked through AgriRecovery to assist farmers on PEI following a very expensive and difficult fall harvest, and the subsequent

22

expenses of dealing with the aftermath. The support is a combination of federal and provincial funds. The PEI Potato Board was instrumental in proposing that this program be triggered and then providing the information necessary to assist with the mode of delivery.

There are three types of expenses to be covered:

- 1. Assistance for extraordinary expenses related to the harvest;
- Assistance for fieldwork expenses (for destroying unharvested acres and/or dealing with compaction and trenching on harvested acres); and
- Assistance for grading and storage recovery expenses (for extraordinary costs of drying, grading, washing, packing, disinfection and disposal).

Details of the 2018 AgriRecovery program as well as application forms can be found at https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/agrirecovery-program. Applications can be submitted



The "2018 Harvest" float presented by Duffy Construction was a big hit in the parade celebrating the 2019 Somerset Festival in Kinkora, PEI. Photo: Lynda Ramsay.

Prince Edward Island Potato News

July/August 2019

by mail, email or in person to the PEI Agriculture Insurance Corporation. For further information, please call 902-836-0435. Deadline to apply: August 30, 2019

Island Agrology Workshop: Building Resiliency in Maritime Agriculture

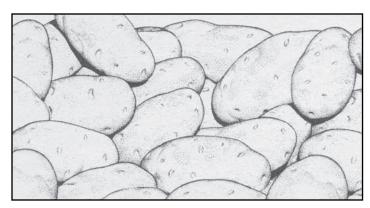
Registration is now open for the Island Agrology Workshop to be held Aug 18-20 at the Stanley Bridge Resort. The workshop is presented by the PEI Institute of Agrologists, and is open to anyone interested in climate change adaptation and mitigation in Maritime agriculture. Speakers from Canada, the US and the UK will share findings on climate change adaptation, watershed resilience, opportunities in the carbon economy and crop diversification. The workshop will also feature farm tours, panel discussions and social evening events. Early bird registration has been extended to August 1, so don't miss out! Register at www.peiia.ca.

2019 Regional Precision Agriculture Conference

The UPEI Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering (SSDE), in collaboration with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Land, present a one-day conference focused on precision agriculture. Keynote speakers, technical experts and panel discussions will focus on technologies to improve farm profitability and mitigate environmental risk. The conference will be held August 22 on the UPEI campus in the SSDE building. Registration is free, but the deadline is August 8th. For more information, contact Lisa at Imsanderson@upei.ca.

Bi-Weekly Potato Field Worker Meetings

- Tuesday August 13, 3pm @ PEI Potato Board (Coffee Sponsor - Bayer CropScience)
- Tuesday August 27, 3pm @ Kensington AIC (Coffee Sponsor - A&L Canada)
- Tuesday September 10, 3pm @ PEI Potato Board (Coffee Sponsor - Cavendish Agri Services)





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INDUSTRY UPDATES

Prince Edward Island to Benefit from New UPEI Research Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation

July 5, 2019 - Investments in climate change research, scientific innovation and post-secondary education are essential for providing increased access to higher learning for Canadians, and to develop meaningful collaboration with communities, industry leaders, researchers and regional governments.

Today, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, and Member of Parliament for Cardigan, on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island; and Dr. Alaa Abd-El-Aziz, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island, announced funding for the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI).

The project consists of constructing a 45,000 square foot research facility in the town of St. Peter's Bay, PEI. The facility will house state-of-the-art research centres, including the internationally recognized UPEI Climate Research Lab. It will also serve as a living laboratory that allows for unlimited access to nearby wetlands, forests and coastal habitats directly affected by climate change.

Once complete, this facility will support key learning programs like UPEI's Bachelor of Science in Applied Climate Change and Adaptation, and proposed Master's program in Climate Change and Adaptation, preparing graduates to continue the important work of mitigating the effects of climate change after graduation.

The governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island are investing over \$9.7 million in this project through the New Building Canada Fund — Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component. The University of Prince Edward Island is also contributing over \$4.8 million. (Editor's note: local potato farmers Ray and Alvin Keenan also supported this investment via the donation of land for the new centre.)

CPMA Names Member of Parliament Wayne Easter 2019 Produce Champion

July 4, 2019 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is proud to honour its 2019 Produce Champion: Member of Parliament Wayne Easter. CPMA's annual Produce Champion award is given to one or

more Member(s) of Parliament and/or Senator(s) who have been supportive of the produce industry and effective at bringing industry issues to the forefront on Parliament Hill.

The Honourable Wayne Easter, CPMA's 2019 Produce Champion, received his award at a celebration hosted by CPMA in his home riding of Malpeque, Prince Edward Island. The event featured live culinary demonstrations by CPMA Half Your Plate Ambassador Chef Michael Smith. "MP Wayne Easter has shown a passion for a safe and thriving produce industry in Canada which aligns clearly with our vision," said CPMA President Ron Lemaire.

"It is an honour and privilege having been chosen as the Produce Champion this year by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association. Having farmed, and serving farmers in various capacities in the farm movement, I can attest that - from coast to coast - Canadian farmers and producers grow the best quality fruits and vegetables in the world that we get to enjoy," said MP Easter. "Our agricultural sector consistently meets the highest standards anywhere, ensuring we have nutritious food in abundance, and we have the CPMA to make sure it gets from the farm gate to the dinner plate in an efficient and effective manner. Thank you for this award and the opportunity to highlight the work of our producers in Canada."

The Produce Champion award was inaugurated in 2018 and was awarded to Members of Parliament Pat Finnigan, Ruth Ellen Brosseau and Bev Shipley. CPMA congratulates MP Easter and looks forward to continuing development of the produce industry, working with him and his fellow MPs, Senators and all parliamentarians.

CanadaGAP® AGM to be Held in Charlottetown

CanadaGAP® is excited to announce that the Annual General Meeting of CanAgPlus, the corporation that owns and operates the food safety program, is coming to Charlottetown, PEI. The 2019 AGM will be held on Thursday, November 28 at 2:00 p.m. ADT at the Red Shores Racetrack and Casino. We hope to see lots of local growers in attendance!

This is the first time that the CanadaGAP AGM is being held outside of Ottawa. The decision was made by the Board of Directors to move the AGM to a different location each year, in order for program participants to have the opportunity to attend and participate fully in the meeting. PEI was chosen as the first stop on the schedule.

AGM business begins at 2 p.m. and will be immediately

followed by an interactive "Town Hall"-style session, during which program participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask any questions about the CanadaGAP program. The day will wrap up with a dinner at the Top of the Park restaurant, generously sponsored by Syngenta. All members attending the AGM are invited to join us for dinner. Advance registration is required by October 14, 2019. Contact the CanadaGAP office or visit our website https://www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/ for more information.

The town-hall sessions are being organized to allow members to engage directly with the CanAgPlus Board of

Directors and CanadaGAP staff on specific topics, and we hope that all members take this opportunity to share their input on a variety of issues. As the program continues to grow and develop, new concerns are always being brought to light by program participants who are invested in the integrity of the program as a whole. One of the central tenets of the program is that it is designed to be responsive to both emerging science as well as new practices in the horticultural sector. The goal of this collaborative effort—participants, staff, academia, and industry working together—has always been a ready-to-use food safety program for participants that meets customer requirements.

25

O'Leary Potato Blossom Festival 2019



Several Industry Awards were presented at the O'Leary Potato Blossom Festival Annual Farmers Banquet on July 19, 2019. Award winners were (left to right): Sherwin, Barry and John Phillips of Westcountry Farms were Producers of the Year; the PEI Potato Ambassador title was awarded to Brittany Peters of Kinkora; Carson Adams accepted the award as Future Farmer of the Year while his father Bruce Adams was recognized for winning an Environmental Stewardship award earlier in the year. Wendy Harris (far right), an employee of Triple S Farms, won the award for Hired Hand of the Year. Congratulations to all the Award winners and to the Festival Committee for hosting another successful week of activities to celebrate the contribution of the PEI Potato Industry to the local community.

Crop Signs

As you drive around the province during the remainder of the season you should see the results of a joint project between the Potato Board and Farm & Food Care PEI. A number of signs have been placed in agricultural fields with the name of the crop being grown there. Many of the tourists who visit our province and even locals not involved in agriculture are often curious about what is being grown in the fields they drive by. The signs are being placed in high traffic areas and identify crops such a potatoes, soybeans, barley, carrots and more. Owners of the fields in which signs are being placed have been very cooperative and supportive of this initiative. The signs also have a web address (PEIfarmtour.ca) that folks can visit to learn more about the diversity of the crops grown on Prince Edward Island.



2019 AgriExpo Postponed to 2021

June 18, 2019. Grand Falls, NB — AgriExpo, a major agricultural trade show and conference held in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, has announced revised show dates of August 11 & 12, 2021. Initially scheduled for August 2019, considerable discussion with major exhibitors and industry leaders has led organizers to move the event forward two years.

The move comes after indications that buyers and sellers will be in a better position to support an industry event of this nature at the later date. Likewise, the expedited planning process required to produce the event in 2019, combined with upcoming related agricultural events happening in the region strengthened the belief that deferring the event was the right choice. Master Promotions Ltd. and Valley Chamber of Commerce have big plans for AgriExpo, and look forward welcoming the agricultural industry together across New Brunswick, Maine and Eastern Canada in two years' time on August 11th and 12th, 2021. Please stay tuned to the show website for additional information and updates on the event: www.AgriExpo.ca

Upcoming Events

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

August 2019

Aug 6 Summer Grower Social. Fox Island Elite Seed Farm, Alberton. 2 PM - 5 PM (including a tour of

the Elite Seed Farm)

Aug 7 **Summer Grower Social.** R&L

Farms, Kinkora. 2 PM - 5 PM

Aug 8 Summer Grower Social.

Townshend Potato Company, Rollo

Bay. 2 PM - 5 PM

Aug. 29 **PEI Variety Field Day**, AAFC

Harrington Research Station.

Aug 30 Application Deadline for

AgriRecovery.

September 2019

Sept. 6 Toe Taps 'n Taters Fall Flavours

Signature Event. Canoe Cove, PEI.

Sept. 15 Open Farm Day across PEI.

October 2019

Oct. 6 Farm Day in the City Presented

by the PEI Potato Growers.

Charlottetown, PEI.

Oct. 17-19 **Produce Marketing Association**

Fresh Summit. Anaheim, CA.

November 2019

Nov. 1-10 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Toronto, ON

TBA PEI Potato Board Annual Meeting.

Nov 28 CanAgPlus (CanadaGAP) Annual

Meeting. Red Shores,

Charlottetown.



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27

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