

Prince Edward Island

November/December 2020

Volume 21 Issue 6

POTATO NEWS

Publications Mail Agreement # 40011377

In This Issue:

- Supply Outlook
- Passed Seed Acres
- PMANA Update



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POTATO NEWS

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Features

PEI Potato Board AGM.....	6
PMANA Update	11
Supply Outlook 2020-2021	12
Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory 2020 Report	14
Regulations for Importing Seed	16
Passed Seed Acres 2020	18
CPMA Releases Canadian Marketplace Report	19
A Fall Research and Agronomy Update	20

Regular Departments

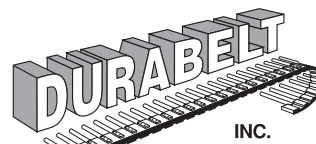
Chairman's Comments	4
Potato Board News.....	8
PEI Department of Agriculture and Land Update	22
Industry Updates	23

Cover: A PEI potato marketing photo taken from the "Made to Enjoy" commercial for PEI potatoes that was shot earlier this fall. The commercial will be used on social media throughout the 2020-21 shipping season. Photography by Stephen Harris.



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Chairman's Comments

by Jason Hayden, PEI Potato Board Chairman



The following comments are from the Chairman's report provided at the PEI Potato Board Annual General Meeting on November 18, 2019.

The 2019 season saw our production rebound from the drought experienced in various parts of the Island in 2017 and 2018 and the disastrous 2018 harvest when 6,900 acres were left in the ground. We headed into the 2019-2020 shipping season in good shape: we were in the second year of a two year contract agreement, the fresh and seed markets were looking positive and we were experiencing good demand in all sectors. Then, like the rest of the world, we started on the roller coaster ride of adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a rush on retail packs as people stayed home, food service demand crashed as restaurants closed and North American planting plans were upended. The Board and the provincial government were quick to act to limit the threat of disease spread and the negative impacts of early business and market changes:

- Both the Board and province developed COVID-19 resource pages and have continued to provide regular communications and updates.
- Both levels of government developed programs to aid all types of business including those in the agriculture

sector.

- The Board and province worked to develop a package to ensure that contracted potatoes were processed which supported all the jobs on farm and at processing plants that this involved – thank you to the province for recognizing this benefit. This also avoided spill-over of extra potatoes into the fresh sector and helped to keep supply and demand for this segment of our industry in balance.
- Work is ongoing for assistance to recognize the hurt in the seed sector.

All industry members are to be commended for the flexibility, adaptability, resilience and patience that they have shown in dealing with all the effects of the pandemic and keeping the industry operating as close to normal as possible while keeping our families and staff safe and healthy.

Communications have posed a great challenge in these times with the transitions to much business being conducted virtually. Growers had to adapt quickly as Crop Insurance and CFIA seed certification application processes moved fully online. The Processing Committee rose to the occasion and held virtual sessions last spring with the processors,

and to receive feedback from their members, as contract negotiations were concluded. The Board has also expanded its use of virtual communication for everyday business locally and to continue to meet with customers and industry partners from outside of the province. This technology has allowed PEI partners to continue communications and build on successful trade missions from the Philippines that were hosted in the fall of 2019 sponsored by the Potato Board, ACOA, AAFC and Innovation PEI working with the Canadian Trade Commissioners office in Manila. Although an in-person follow-up mission to the Philippines scheduled for May 2020 had to be cancelled, work continues to maintain business connections developed through



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this initiative.

The Board proceeded with many promotion efforts such as utilizing radio spots featuring local potato farmers to promote our industry and our sustainability initiatives, press releases on various agronomy and marketing efforts and increasing our use of social media posts. A limited number of sponsorships for some local in-person events went ahead such as the Summer Review at Harmony House, 2020 Burger Love Frydays and an Indian River concert with Lennie Gallant.

The Board has continued to meet on a regular basis, both virtually and in small in-person sessions, with elected and senior government officials provincially and nationally on topics such as environmental regulations and enforcement actions, land and the provincial Land Matters project, pesticide re-evaluations, market access, etc. The Board's research and agronomy efforts have continued with minimal disruption and small field day sessions were held in 2020 while abiding with Public Health guidelines.

On the administrative end, the Board has continued with changes to our governance structure and these changes have been approved by Marketing Council. Beginning this year we will gradually adjust to changes in districts and producer eligibility which will result in greater diversity our Board of Directors.

There have also been adjustments in Board operations at the staffing level. Kaley MacDonald Butler has done a great job in the role of interim Marketing Director over the past year and, while we are sad to see her go, we look forward to welcoming Kendra Mills back from maternity leave on a 50% basis in November. Jacqui Scaman, our Market Information Officer, left in June to pursue other interests and we are currently looking to fill this role. Our Assistant General Manager Brenda Simmons remains on leave after suffering personal tragedy this summer. We continue to offer what support we can to our valued colleague. I would like to thank all of our staff at the head office and at Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm for their continued hard work and adaptation to COVID-19 restrictions.

As we head into the 2020-2021 season we face a new set of challenges. Weather extremes and extended dry periods during our growing season seem to be the new normal. We continue to seek ways to adapt to a drier season through improvements in soil health, more drought tolerant varieties, etc. but there is no getting around the fact that, even with the best in agronomic practices and new technology, plants require water to grow and thrive. The province has the regulations and monitoring network in place to approve high capacity wells for all uses – including ones for supplemental irrigation for agriculture. They need to use those tools to

allocate a portion of our annual recharge (of which all uses in the entire province currently require less than 2%) to this purpose and improve monitoring technology to ensure all parameters are being met. As with COVID-19 programs – we encourage the provincial government to follow scientific Principles in this matter. The Potato Board is working with the PEI Federation of Agriculture to represent all agriculture sectors to government on this topic.

With regard to enforcement of environmental regulation, the federal government appeal of the provincial court ruling that enforcement officers violated the Charter of Rights in entering the property of Skyview Farms for investigation purposes without a warrant is ongoing and it is very disappointing that this is the path the federal prosecutors have chosen. The Potato Board made an application to the court to be an intervenor or a friend of the court in this matter as the ruling will impact future enforcement actions that can take place on any farm on PEI. The Board's application was denied and the court responded that they felt that the Board would not bring any new information to the table over and above what Skyview Farms could provide. The case will continue into 2021.

At the provincial level, the Board continued to work with the Agri-Watershed Partnership on the development of Best Management Practices for Agricultural Cropping Near Watercourses draft document approval. There will not be any guarantees that enforcement actions will not be taken if all practices are followed, however, the goal is to get the majority of the stakeholders to show support for the list so that it would be hard for anyone to say that due diligence was not done if a grower is following the list. One of the key barriers identified for full adoption of the BMP's was funding and a recommendation needs to be included for NEW funding for soil conservation work. Discussions with the other members of the Agri-Watershed Partnership are ongoing.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board Executive and the rest of the Board of Directors for all the time and effort they put in over the past year on behalf of our industry. They stay informed on many issues, seek feedback from fellow growers so they can best represent their industry and help the Board to make the best decisions possible. Special thanks go to Glen Rayner and John Hogg as they complete their terms as directors on the Board.

I also want to thank my family and dedicated employees who make things run smoothly back on the farm in my absence.



Potato Board AGM

The PEI Potato Board Annual meeting took place on November 18, 2020 in a mixed in-person and virtual format. The Board directors and presenters were present in the Potato Board meeting room where social distancing protocols could be followed. All potato growers had been sent a link to join virtually. Approximately 58 growers and industry partners took part in the meeting via ZOOM.

Chairman Jason Hayden opened the meeting at 9 AM and presented his Chairman's report (the full text can be seen under Chairman's Comments on page 4 of this issue.)

Jason then welcomed the Honourable Bryce Thompson, PEI Minister Agriculture and Land and Deputy Minister Brian Matheson. Minister Thompson commented that it was an honour to attend the meeting and that he appreciated the good working relationship that he and his department have with the staff and directors of the PEI Potato Board. He acknowledged that 2020 has been challenging for everyone but was glad that the government has been able to react to the COVID-19 implications in a positive manner with actions to strengthen the AgriStability Program for the next two years, help to ensure that Temporary Foreign workers were able to come to PEI and isolate in a manner that met public safety guidelines and the processing assistance program that helped to avoid an economic and environmental disaster this spring. He was also pleased that they were also recently able to announce

some assistance to seed producers who had also been impacted negatively by COVID-19 uncertainty.

He concluded his statements by saying that although plans move more slowly than people want, he hoped that there may be some positive movement on the water for supplemental irrigation file soon. He and all the industry are looking forward to a more positive 2021.

Minister Thompson's remarks were followed by the presentation of the financial statements by Patrick Trainor of BDO. The Board had budgeted for a slight deficit but had come in slightly above budget in a net positive position. Patrick and Board comptroller Rob Morrison were available to answer questions on the statements.

Presentations were then provided on Board activities to support the various sectors of the industry. Presentations were made by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator; Kendra Mills, Marketing Director; Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator; and Ryan Barrett, Research Coordinator and lead of the AIM program. Updates on all these activities are regularly provided to growers via email and *PEI Potato News* articles.

Market Report presentations were made by Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager of the United Potato Growers of Canada and Mark Phillips, Market Information Officer with the PEI Potato Board.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Potato Board will not be hosting an Annual Banquet this year. The



The Honourable Bryce Thompson, Minister of Agriculture and Land, provides welcoming remarks to in-person and virtual attendees at the PEI Potato Board Annual Business Meeting.



Greg Donald (right) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring Chairman Jason Hayden (left).

Board wished to recognize the efforts of retiring directors Glen Rayner, John Hogg and Kyle Maynard the Young Farmers representative and retiring chairman Jason Hayden. Each were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the time and effort they have spent on Board activities.



Jason Hayden (right) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring director Glen Rayner (left).



Jason Hayden (right) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring director John Hogg (left).



Jason Hayden (right) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to retiring Young Farmer Representative Kyle Maynard (left).

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PEI Potato Board News

PEI Potato Board Elects New Executive for 2020/21

The Prince Edward Island Potato Board has a new executive as a result of its November 18th Board of Directors meeting.

The Board is pleased to announce the new chairman is Wayne Townshend. Wayne has been on the Potato Board for 5 years serving as a Seed Director. He farms with his family in Fortune Bridge where they grow seed and table potatoes. Wayne served as Vice-Chair in 2019-2020.

The new Vice Chairman of the Board is John Visser of Crapaud. John and his family own and operate Victoria Potato Farm Inc. John represents the Tablestock sector for the Central District.

John Griffin of Elmsdale is the new Secretary-Treasurer. John Griffin of W.P. Griffin Inc., represents the Tablestock sector for the Western District.

The Board is also pleased to welcome three new Directors. The new Directors are Mary Gillis of MacLean Farms Ltd., representing the Seed sector for the Western District, Rob Green of Green Field Farms Ltd., representing the Processing sector for the Central District and the new young farmer representative is Michael Ramsay.

The remaining Directors are; MarkMacMillan, Processing, Eastern; Billy Cameron, Seed, Eastern; Jason Hayden, Tablestock, Eastern; Chad Robertson, Tablestock, at large; Becky Townshend, Processing, at large; Donald Stavert, Seed, Central; Craig Wallace, Processing, Western.

The Board also recognized the efforts of retiring Board members John Hogg, Glenn Rayner and Kyle Maynard, for their service over the past few years.

The Prince Edward Island Potato Board represents Island potato farmers and assists in growing the markets for PEI Potatoes locally, nationally, and internationally. The Board supports the production of high quality potatoes in an environmentally responsible manner, and is funding

and conducting research in the areas of soil health, pest and disease management, quality and yield. Directors are elected to represent three districts across the province and three at large positions. Each district and the at large positions are represented by a seed grower, a tablestock grower and a processing grower. Directors serve three year terms and are eligible for re-election to serve a second three year term. The directors serving on the PEI Potato Board are all from family farms with a heritage of growing potatoes and other crops for many years.

Members of PEI Land Matters Advisory Panel Announced

On October 28 it was announced that Islanders will have a further opportunity to share their opinions and concerns about the future of land on Prince Edward Island, as a new Land Matters Advisory Committee prepares for stakeholder engagement.

“Land ownership, protection and use are among the most important challenges that our province faces. We



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want to work in consultation with Islanders with the goal of updating land policies and legislation, and modernizing both the Lands Protection Act and Planning Act.” said Agriculture and Land Minister Bryce Thompson

The 13-member committee includes representatives with backgrounds in agriculture, land planning, law and business. Members were selected through Engage PEI, and will review government strategies, policies and decisions regarding land on PEI to help identify any necessary changes in legislation or policy. The committee has already begun its work to examine land use, planning and ownership. The committee will also consult with stakeholders and review previous studies of land issues on Prince Edward Island.

The Land Matters Advisory Committee includes:

James (Jim) Bradley, Summerside - Co-Chair - Mr. Bradley is the past CEO of Amalgamated Dairies Ltd (ADL).

Lori Robinson, Albany - Co-Chair - Ms. Robinson is the farm management professional in her family’s agricultural operation, Eric C. Robinson Inc., a sixth-generation farming operation.

Billy Cameron, Hampton - Mr. Cameron is a farmer, growing seed and table potatoes and other rotation crops.

Hans Connor, Charlottetown - Mr. Connor has experience working in labour law (Union of Public Sector Employees), human resources (APM), and post-secondary teaching (University of Prince Edward Island).

Rodney Dingwell, Marie - Mr. Dingwell was born and raised on a farm and has been farming all his life. He has been involved in various boards and committees.

Danielle Gillan, Stratford - Ms. Gillan is a fully accredited Professional Land Use Planner who has gained significant work experience in land related legislation in PEI, in particular the Lands Protection Act, Planning Act and Municipal Government Act.

Philip Hamming, Bonshaw - Mr. Hamming is a farmer and active member of his community.

Teresa Mellish, New Perth - Dr. Mellish is a farmer with extensive agriculture experience both locally and internationally; and is a founding member of Farmers Helping Farmers

Ashton Perry, Elmsdale - Ms. Perry is employed as Director of Sales/Agronomist for W.P. Griffin Inc.

Wendy Reid, Charlottetown - Ms. Reid is a retired lawyer with extensive experience in real estate and corporate/commercial law.

Marshall Smallman, O’Leary - Mr. Smallman is a fifth generation farmer at Smallman Farms Limited.

Donna Waddell, Charlottetown - Ms. Waddell has extensive

Bi-weekly marketing calls started up on November 5, 2020. Dealers are welcome to call in every two weeks at 12:30 PM and take part in discussions on movement, pricing, retail updates, United Potato Growers of Canada Updates, and other market related issues.

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experience working in municipal government.

An individual, to be named by L’nuey, representing the perspective of the PEI Mi’kmaq.

PEI Agriculture Industry Asks for Fair Treatment in the Matter of High Capacity Well Applications

Farmers on PEI, individually and through farm organizations such as the Federation of Agriculture, continue to request fair and equitable treatment by the government of Prince Edward Island with regards to access to water for supplemental irrigation.

Maintaining a healthy agriculture industry on PEI contributes to the well being of all residents through the contributions farms and spin off businesses make to our communities and our environment.

The PEI government website www.onthelevelpei.ca contains information on water monitoring and management on PEI. They have a page of factual information to respond to myths about water use and water availability on PEI. For example:



Myth #1: PEI is at risk of depleting its groundwater supply.

Reality: The amount of water withdrawn on PEI is a small portion of what is available.

Our groundwater is constantly recharged, moving in a continuous cycle from the point it reaches the water table to where it discharges through springs and seeps into our streams or at the shoreline. This is sometimes called a “groundwater flow system.”

On PEI, less than 2% of the annual water recharge is used. In fact, 33% of the recharge is safely available for use and 65% is reserved to ensure healthy environmental flows.

Growers are asking for the same right as every other individual and business on PEI - to be able to submit an application for a high capacity well and have it evaluated using the scientific and monitoring criteria that is in place and will continue to be in place and even strengthened, under the new Water Act. The industry would like to work with government in a positive manner as we move towards the 2021 growing season.

Seed Potato Regulation Modernization Survey

CFIA is beginning a several year process of modernizing the Seed Regulations.

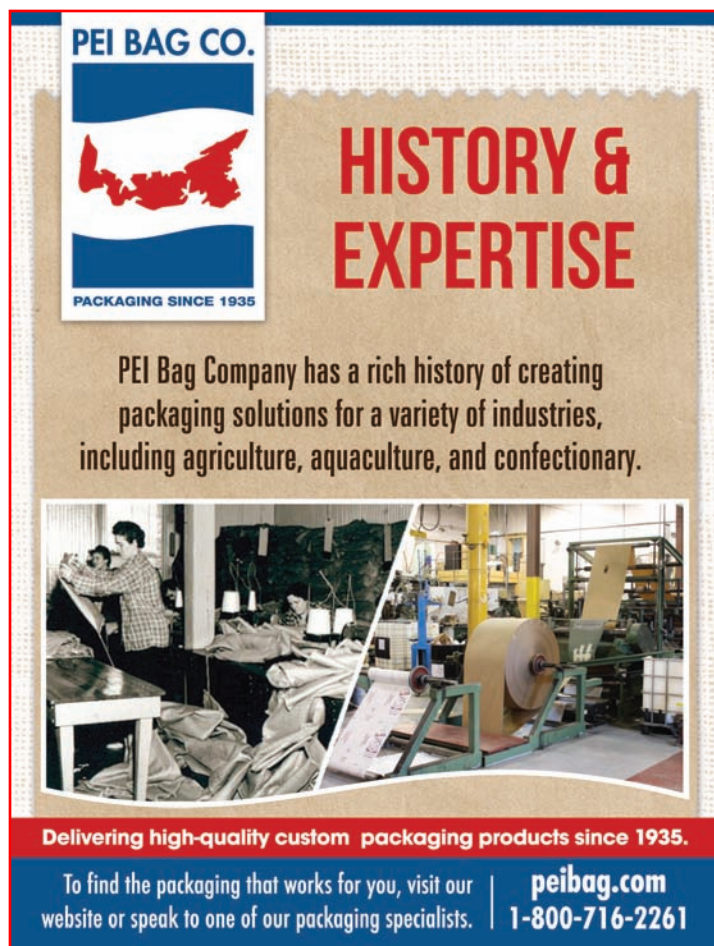
The Seed Regulatory Modernization initiative seeks to conduct a full-scale review of the seed and seed potato system to strengthen existing requirements and ensure that it's still equipped to function within the context of our modern, fast-changing world. For the purposes of this initiative the following parts of the current Seeds Regulations will be under review:

- Part I (Seeds other than Seed Potatoes)
- Part II (Seed Potatoes)
- Part III (Variety Registration)
- Part IV (Registration of Establishments that Prepare Seed and Licensing of Operators)

This review does not cover Part V (Release of Seed) concerning plants with novel traits (ex. Genetically modified (GMO)); Ministerial exemptions; Plant Breeders' Rights; and plant quarantine pests of seed potatoes.

The first seed laws and regulations in Canada were put in place in 1905. Between 1913 and 1915, Seed Potato Certification Programs were developed in North America. In Canada, the first programs were in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. By the early 1920's they were in effect in all provinces. Though the legislative framework has evolved since then, the main purpose of the Seeds Act and Regulations remains intact: to ensure the overall quality and reliability of seed and seed potatoes for producers and protect against fraud. Today, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for upholding that initial vision through the administration and enforcement of the Seeds Act and the Seeds Regulations.


The first phase of this initiative is the Seed Regulatory Modernization (SRM) Needs Assessment Survey. This survey has been developed over the fall of 2020 through a working group involving CFIA staff and industry members. Growers and industry stakeholders will be invited to complete the survey when it goes live on the CFIA website - likely in early 2021.



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This fall and winter the province will be delivering pesticide applicator training online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The first training sessions will be delivered in early December for Days A and B. More dates for each day will be offered in 2021.

Pre-registration is required for this online training. Please check the PEI Department of Agriculture & Land's Calendar of Events for dates, and contact Muriel Power at 902-316-1095 or mmpower@gov.pe.ca to register.

PMANA Update

by Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator

For the first time ever, the PMANA Fall meeting was held remotely via Zoom video conferencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On November 12th, the Potato Processing Committee (PPC) gathered at the PEI Potato Board and participated virtually with our peers from across North America. Twelve growing areas who supply potato processors were on the video conference, including Idaho who have returned after a two-year absence. The meeting focused on the reports from all areas attending and concluded with a brief discussion on the upcoming 2021 contract negotiations for processing potatoes. This article consists of the consolidation of the details from the Area reports and concludes with an opinion from this desk.

Overall potato production in the area reports submitted to the Fall Meeting is projected to be down by 15,100,000 hundredweight (CWT) or 3.65% from 2019's production. Thirteen million CWT of this decrease is projected in the Atlantic Northeast (Quebec, Maine, New Brunswick and PEI) alone. The devastating impact of the summer drought on potato yields in the ANE is undeniable. However, the rebound of potato production in Idaho, North Dakota, Alberta and Manitoba when compared to their below normal production in 2019 (caused by crop losses) offset almost 8 million CWT of overall reduced production in other areas.

These projections make 2020 the fourth crop year in a row that potato production across the PMANA growing areas is lower than the year before. Each year has had its own reasons. 2020's reduced production comes as a result of fewer acres being planted for processing contracts due to the serious economic and social impact that the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has had across this continent and around the world. Every area except Manitoba, North Dakota and Quebec planted less acres to adjust for these contract volume cuts. Both 2018 and 2019 had significant numbers of unharvested acres, caused by terrible weather during the harvest months for a number of growing areas.

With these past challenges on everyone's minds, there were many relieved voices on the ZOOM conference reporting that their harvest season went very well and the crop quality going into storage, across all areas collectively, is one of the best seen in years. In summary, compared to 2019 there is definitely fewer potatoes in storages available for processing this season, however all spuds should make it to the fry lines and provide better than normal quality for the processors. There are very few open processing spuds

available in North America, and any lot without a home at harvest time has fetched better-than-contract prices.

On the demand side of the sector, the world we currently live in makes predictions virtually impossible and is causing significant unease within the potato supply network. Current numbers indicate that the domestic North American marketplace has been experiencing a rebound back to pre-COVID demand as restaurants have shifted towards take-out menus, in which frozen potato products thrive. Consumers have increased their drive through traffic at QSRs and at the same time retail sales of frozen potato products in North America have stayed strong. The down side, North America export shipments continue to lag well behind pre-COVID numbers and potato processors in the European Union continue to push into and strengthen their presence in the world market place, including this continent.

The mood of the participants on the Zoom conference is difficult to capture in writing; especially with a virtual meeting where it is hard to judge growers' non-verbal communications. Without doubt, processing growers across North America are most hopeful for a fast return to pre-COVID times, back when the demand for frozen potato products in North America and around the world created a year-over-year growth trend which inspired hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of investment into new processing plants across the continent. Problem: right now we seem to be some distance away from pre-COVID times and growers' wishes to return to their 2019 contracted volume levels may be dealt a serious blow if the current wave of COVID-19 infections and deaths force further economic shutdowns.

From the ANE perspective, the serious and brutal hits to growers' potato production over the past three years has a number of ANE growers reeling and wondering how to proceed in the large risks gamble that growing processing potatoes has become over the past decade. The financial hurt from unharvested acres, summer droughts, and storage losses from diseases has many growers looking to the market place to improve prices to help them rebound from these deficits in earnings. However, the market place appears precarious and there is limited ability to predict how well the markets will rebound from the pandemic. In most growing areas, both sides of the negotiation table are facing extraordinary uncertainty going forward after coming through their own financial setbacks. One prediction I can make, processing contract talks for 2020 promise to be interesting and, most likely, difficult.

Supply Outlook 2020-2021



by Kevin MacIsaac, General manager, UPGC

Since the official Canadian Potato Production Estimate will not be released by Statistics Canada until December 4, 2020 (after print deadline), we will provide some general observations and estimates on supply produced from this year's potato crop across the country.

The overall crop in Canada is expected to be down approximately 6,000,000 to 7,000,000 hundred weight (7%) as the crop reacted to stress from heat and dry weather in many provinces. A significant difference this year is that with the exception of the province of Quebec, most growers were recipients of excellent harvest conditions and were able to bring all of their crop into storage. This is in comparison to 2019, where 20,000 acres had to be abandoned across the country due to wet and cold harvest conditions.

Crops in Eastern Canada were most severely affected by drought like conditions this summer.

PEI is expected to be down 15% overall, with growers in the central region of the province reporting yield reductions ranging from 15 to 30%.

Long term growers in New Brunswick report this crop as one of their lowest ever, going back to 1973 to see production this low. All three sectors of seed, table, and processing have had their supply substantially reduced.

The Quebec crop was one of the better looking in Canada throughout the season as they had escaped some of the extended dry weather with timely rains in mid-August. Unfortunately, the wet weather continued into harvest and stalled the digging process at about 90% completion. Cold temperatures at the end of harvest season meant that some acreage that had to be left in the field. Unharvested acres are estimated at 1,000-2,000 acres.

Ontario's crop experienced hot conditions as well. Yields on early harvested fields were lighter but moved up

significantly as the harvest moved into the storage area in Alliston. Both chip and fresh production are expected to be up over last year.

Excess heat took the top off yields in Manitoba with provincial averages expected in the 327 cwt/acre range. Processors will be short on supply and are currently importing potatoes into the province. The fresh crop in Manitoba was challenged to get enough maturity and skin set at harvest. Harvest was finished in record time as growers were taking no chances after the 2019 season.

Alberta's crop was disappointing in the early stages of harvest but moved up in yield towards the end of the season, generating some open processing volume which has already been picked up. The seed crop in Alberta experienced drown outs in the spring but ended up very high yielding.

British Columbia had another good growing season and were able to harvest all of their crop. Yields are expected to come in above last year's 325 cwt/acre.

In summary, Canada's production has been shortened up this year, and industry has already seen the need to import potatoes into New Brunswick and Manitoba to meet their requirements.

On November 10th, USDA NASS released their estimate of 2020 Potato Production in the United States.

The accompanying table provides a summary of the top nine states producing a fall crop in 2020. USDA estimates production in those states to be down 640,000 hundred weight or 0.2% from the 2019 crop.

Although the total production is similar to 2019, there are significant regional changes which we will look at below.

NASS projects Idaho production using a yield of 455 cwt/acre (which would be record setting) bringing overall production up 5,600,000 hundred weight above 2019. United Potato Growers of Idaho surveyed their growers and feel a yield of 440 cwt/acre would be more accurate. In addition, United also counted 4,000 acres less than NASS this spring. Combining these factors would reduce Idaho's production significantly, bringing it closer to 2019's production. Harvest

United States Potato Production Estimate

November 10, 2020 (million cwt)

Top Nine States*

State	2018	2019	2020 Est.	Percent
Idaho	141,750	130,900	136,500	+4.3%
Washington	100,800	104,960	96,250	-8.3%
Wisconsin	27,135	28,700	28,290	-1.4%
Oregon	27,000	25,311	27,900	+10.3%
North Dakota	23,735	19,430	22,913	+17.9%
Colorado	21,722	19,666	22,865	+16.3%
Michigan	18,240	20,370	17,390	-14.6%
Minnesota	18,705	17,845	17,430	-2.4%
Maine	15,035	16,738	13,383	-20.0%
Total Fall Crop 9 States	394,122	383,560	382,921	-0.2%
Total U.S. Crop	450,020	*424,419	415,481	-2.1%

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Nov 10, 2020

*In 2019 NASS discontinued reporting potato production for 10 States in the Total US Crop.

was completed this year with few acres affected by poor harvest conditions. This is in contrast to last season where 20% was affected by a deep freeze early in the fall. Fryers have already picked up 3-4 million hundred weight that were in the flex category to help meet their needs as the French fry business returns closer to historical levels.

NASS estimates production in the state of Washington to be down 8,700,000 hundred weight or 8.3%. Being one of the first areas in North America to begin planting, growers were hit hard by contract volume reductions from French fry processors due to COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, growers in the Columbia Basin reduced their plantings by 20,000 acres this spring.

The Wisconsin crop has returned to good production levels after three disappointing years with excessive moisture.

Minnesota is the one area of the US that was unable

to harvest all of its crop this year leaving about 1,700 acres in the ground. Growers were waiting for rainfall to reduce bruising from clods in the soil, but cold temperatures set in stopping harvest.

Red Potato production in the Red River Valley returns to a more normal crop this year after a very short crop in 2019. Colorado, a fresh producing state had record setting yields this year at 425 cwt./acre bringing their production up 16.3%.

Finally, the state of Maine had a very disappointing crop this year due to the drought like conditions also experienced in NB and PEI. This is one of the lowest production years going back 100 years with production down 20% compared to one year ago. Yields were reduced to 265 cwt./acre from 325 cwt./acre in 2019.

Canadian numbers will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Report for the 2020 Season

Marleen Clark, P. Ag. Plant Disease Diagnostician,

PEI Analytical Laboratories, PEI Department Agriculture & Land

The 2020 potato growing season was another dry one with warm, dry planting conditions this spring. A few seed piece rot problems did emerge as misses in varieties such as Vales Sovereign, Campagna, FL2053, Russet Burbank, and Electra. Isolations from these samples confirmed the presence of both *Fusarium* (*Fusarium* dry rot) and soft rot bacteria (*Pectobacterium* sp. and *Pseudomonas* sp). The *Fusaria* isolates are being assessed by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for fungicide resistance. It is important to remember that seed emergence issues are usually due to a combination of factors and the handling of the seed, until planting, is very crucial. Factors such as transportation, seed cutting, application of seed treatments, depth of planting, blind sets, weather, varietal characteristics, presence of disease, and more, all play a role in the quality of the seed that is planted.

This season bacterial blackleg plant stem infections

started to appear in several varieties and caused some wilt-like symptoms. Potato blackleg infections increased this season even though the weather conditions were dry. This is primarily a seed borne disease that is most often associated with cool and wet soil conditions but new strains can develop under dry conditions. Symptoms include stunting, chlorosis, wilting, black soft rot at the stem base, and internal stem rotting (even though externally, the stem base appears healthy). One potato variety involved was Dakota Russet, with the bacterial blackleg isolates involved being *Pectobacterium atrosepticum* and *P. parmentieri*. The *P. parmentieri* pathogen can cause symptoms of blackleg and soft rot in potato tubers in storage. These diseases are usually a consequence of latent infection of seed potatoes. Other varieties that were exhibiting blackleg symptoms included Chieftain, Ivory Russet, Russet Burbank, and Highland Russet.

The Early Dying Syndrome (EDS) continued to be a problem in potatoes, especially with this season's drought





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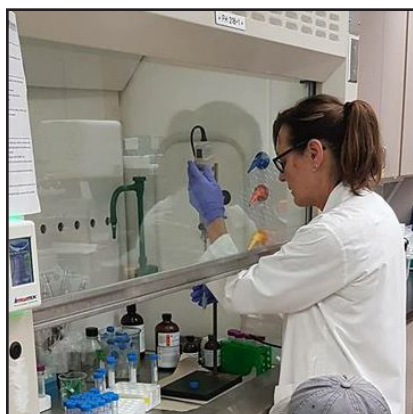
Bacterial blackleg in Dakota Russet. Photos: M. Clark.

conditions. Some potato varieties started to wilt and senesce earlier than anticipated. Potato varieties involved included Ranger Russet, Carlingford, Shepody, Yukon Gold, Clearwater Russet, Highland Russet, Ivory Russet, and Russet Burbank. Isolations from these potato samples (stems) confirmed the early dying fungi *Rhizoctonia* sp. (*Rhizoctonia* Stem Girdling), *Fusarium* spp. (*Fusarium* Wilt), *Colletotrichum coccodes* (Black Dot), and *Verticillium* spp. (*Verticillium* Wilt).

The black dot fungus is sometimes overlooked and can cause stem lesions and leaf spotting similar to an early blight infection in the foliage. Most of these fungi involved in the EDS infect potato tubers and can be passed on from year to year through potato seed. This season, a new strain of *Fusarium* that is known to cause root rot and head blight in cereal crops, *Fusarium graminearum* was also found to be involved in the potato EDS disease.

There were no confirmed cases of late blight this season. The environmental conditions of high humidity and extended periods of moisture that are conducive for development and spread of the late blight fungus were not common this season. compared to previous years. The inoculum source was also diminished as growers planted clean, disease free

seed, and disposed of cull piles. Growers were vigilant and carried out husbandry management practices followed with an appropriate protectant fungicide spray schedule, and the assistance of spore trapping surveillance. One pink rot potato tuber sample was submitted to the



Preparing samples for analysis in the lab.

laboratory and was found in storage in the Superior variety. Metalaxyl fungicide sensitivity testing will be completed on the *Phytophthora erythroseptica* isolate.

Efficient management of plant diseases is dependent on an accurate and timely detection. Storage rot diseases can be devastating and spread quickly in potato storage. Growers should continue to monitor their storage facilities over the storage period. Potatoes are over 80 percent water and are subject to breakdown if they are unable to breathe. For more information on potato storage management consult <https://www.potatopro.com/news/2020/potato-diseases-and-tips-manage-them-storage>.



Pseudomonas bacteria that can cause a soft rot fluoresces under U.V. light

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Regulations for Importing Seed

by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

Seed potato certification programs in North America were based on lessons learned from certification systems that began in Europe in the early 1900's. By 1920, twelve American states and all Canadian provinces were involved in seed potato certification. The programs followed practices to limit virus disease and improve variety selection and purity. They also established specific seed growers who would provide propagative stock to the rest of the industry and set up separate agencies to administer and perform seed inspection activities. The success of the programs was apparent through increases in yield of commercial crops.

Prince Edward Island has a long history of seed potato production and exports seed to many other provinces, states and countries around the world. The size of our commercial industry here at home however, means that approximately 80% of our seed crop is used in our own province. There still remains a need for seed imports. This could be to gain early access to new varieties that are not grown locally or due to seed shortages in a given year.

Seed Potatoes are a highly regulated commodity around the world due to the vegetative nature of seed propagation and the potential for disease transfer on seed potatoes. This threat is minimized through the recognized procedures established as part of seed certification programs and through additional testing requirements met in order to access specific markets.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has import requirements at a national level and PEI has specific regulations in place when bringing seed into the province for both commercial planting and planting for recertification purposes. These regulations are enforced under the authority of the PEI Plant Health Act.

The first step in importing nuclear or field grown seed from the United States is to obtain a Permit to Import from CFIA. The shipment must be

accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate with required declarations on testing for various pathogens. From the CFIA website:

"Under the Seeds Act and the Seeds Regulations, seed potatoes from the U.S. must be certified and packaged in accordance with the requirements of a recognized certification agency, and the requirements must be substantially equivalent to the requirements specified in the Canadian Seeds Regulations (sections 45 to 62). "

Seed from the US to be planted for recertification also requires a copy of the North American Seed Potato Plant Health Certificate (see facing page). Full details are available on the CFIA website at www.inspection.gc.ca or from your local inspector.

In addition to federal requirements, Foundation class or equivalent, is the minimum class allowed for planting on both seed and commercial farms under the PEI Plant Health Act. In addition, provincial post harvest testing requirements must be met. This often presents challenges and a lead time prior to import to ensure all requirements are met and tests completed prior to planting. Full PEI Planting Permit requirements can be found at: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/guidelines-planting-permits-seed-potatoes-originating-outside>.



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NORTH AMERICAN CERTIFIED SEED POTATO HEALTH CERTIFICATION - CROP YEAR: _____

Grower

Name

City, State

Variety Acres

Importer

Quantity Shipped
size

Lot Certification

Certification #

Seed Class/Gen.

Certifying State

Lot origination from tissue culture No Yes

Year micropropagated for planting

Eligible for re-certification in state of origin? *A

by

Number of Years produced in field soil =

Production environment pedigree: Fill 1 column per production year, use different initials in Greenhouse and Field boxes for different farms (e.g. JSF for John Smith Farms); indicate a tuber-united lot with a '+' after farm initials; describe other footnotes in notes below.

<-- Year of Production

Field or Greenhouse?

Grower Code (if known)

Certification Lot No.

Certifying State

Summer Field Readings

Field inspections

1st	2nd	3rd *a	Final
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

equal or less than

Less Than

*a - 3rd inspection in done in special cases

%LEAF ROLL

%MOSAIC

%VARIETAL MIXTURE

%BLACKLEG

%VERT + %FUSARIUM +

%EARLY BLIGHT

'Post harvest readings

Location

FINAL (%)
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

WGO Sample No.

Plant Count

p = results pending, NS = no sample,

WTE=Winter Test Exempt (<750 lbs)

ELISA TEST RESULTS

Samples from:

%PVY:

%PVX:

Other PH tests:

Other Diseases

Not known to occur in growers area.

No. of years since last found in lot entered for certification on this growers farm, or NONE ON RECORD if free >10 years.

Not found this year during normal certification field inspections.

Bacterial Ring Rot

Late Blight

Notes:

NOTE: This certificate ONLY documents testing and inspection status of a lot and is not to be construed as a document of final certification.

The above information is accurate to the best of our knowledge:

Date

Program official / title: Seed Certification Specialist

Telephone

Agency

FAX

Passed Seed Acres 2020

by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

Overall, passed acres of certified seed were down slightly from 2019, but up from 2018 and 2017 levels. Russet Burbank remains the number one variety both in PEI and in the country as a whole, however the seed acreage of alternative russet varieties for the processing industry continues to grow. Even more are in the evaluation process.

In PEI, varieties that are showing some drought resistance are increasing in popularity such as Highland Russet, Mountain Gem and Caribou Russet. A wide range of red and yellow varieties are being grown - they are not all on the Top 25 Seed Potato Variety lists presented here as small acreages of a number of different varieties are being grown and evaluated for this market segment.

As a result of the dry weather in NB and PEI this summer it is expected that seed of certain varieties for planting in 2021 will be tight. Growers are encouraged to line up seed

Canadian Certified Seed Acreage 2020*

Variety	2020	2019	2018	2017
Russet Burbank	12,507	13,134	11,979	11,261
Goldrush	3,559	4,047	3,994	4,365
Norland	2,136	2,107	2,187	2,114
Ranger Russet	1,912	1,846	1,703	1,902
Dakota Russet	1,340	1,253	814	529
Chieftain	1,335	1,089	1,228	1,303
HO2000	1,304	2,308	2,335	2,384
Shepody	1,247	1,729	1,722	1,767
Eva	1,241	1,537	1,521	1,491
Atlantic	1,060	1,207	1,178	1,392
Prospect	971	998	na	na
Highland Russet	935	623	646	451
Clearwater Russet	861	694	379	257
Umatilla Russet	840	774	770	539
Russet Norkotah	796	858	750	758
Superior	749	937	950	1,004
Kennebec	697	707	782	984
Satina	666	503	365	556
Colomba	664	623	563	404
Ivory Russet	643	544	369	236
Envol	626	507	507	497
Sangre	623	423	442	463
Mountain Gem	618	134	na	na
Innovator	602	798	942	867
Whitney	592	na	na	na
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	56,715	57,235	55,647	53,780

* Canadian Food Inspection Agency - October 16, 2020

PEI Certified Seed Acreage 2020*

Variety	2020	2019	2018	2017
Russet Burbank	1,618	1,957	2,014	2,243
Eva	1,213	1,529	1,498	1,421
Dakota Russet	1,198	1,174	760	498
Prospect	835	862	na	na
Goldrush	687	1,025	1,031	1,434
Highland Russet	620	356	413	280
Norland	611	479	594	449
Mountain Gem	558	296	na	na
Shepody	554	848	655	905
Ranger Russet	434	642	623	709
Kennebec	411	412	435	522
Clearwater Russet	372	208	153	159
Electra	359	252	na	na
Superior	333	514	422	574
Chieftain	307	177	268	350
Atlantic	250	450	424	454
Alverstone Russet	176	na	na	na
Yukon Gold	162	106	179	116
Lamoka	138	88	38	na
Dakota Pearl	135	131	213	153
Ivory Russet	117	217	84	25
Colomba	115	128	32	123
Rosagold	111	na	na	na
Innovator	30	272	401	390
Caribou Russet	25	na	na	na
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	16,198	16,944	15,782	15,537

* Canadian Food Inspection Agency - October 16, 2020

supplies early. The PEI Seed Directory should be available online in early December and it can be accessed via the PEI Potato Board website at www.peipotato.org. Thank you to CFIA and Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator with the PEI Department of Agriculture and Land, who make sure that this information gets out to growers in a timely manner.

Post harvest laboratory testing is underway in PEI. November conditions have been much more favourable for plant growth in the greenhouse than they were in 2019 and testing of the earliest samples has begun.

CFIA has launched an initiative to review the Seed and Seed Potato Regulations. The first step is an online survey and PEI potato growers will be sent information to access the survey when it is available in early 2021.



CPMA Releases Canadian Marketplace Report

Over the past year, CPMA has been working to develop a robust research portfolio to offer members the latest information available to industry on the Canadian market and its consumers. Below is an excerpt from the Canadian Marketplace Annual Report 2020. CPMA research is available to members on the Research page on the CPMA community website, where new reports are added every month. To see the full report and for further information go to: <https://www.cpma.ca/>

The Economics of the Produce Sector

Economic Benefit (Canada 2018)



17.7 billion
total value added



26.4 billion
in production
and distribution
expenditures

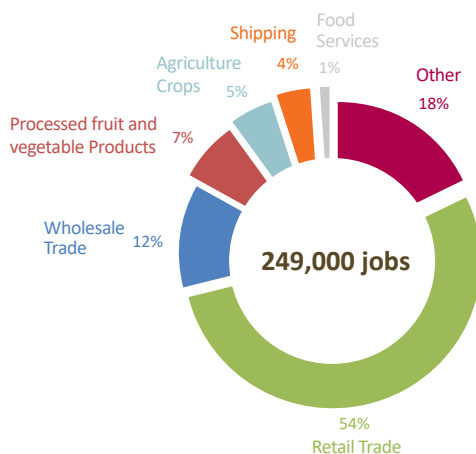


2.6 Billion
in government
revenue

The economic benefits of the Canadian fruit and vegetable sector are shared among the government and private sector. With around 250,000 jobs supported by this sector, the government collects over 2.6 billion dollars in revenue through taxes on production each year.

Total supply of products in the fruit and vegetable sector was valued at 26.4 billion in 2018. This number includes the total value of production as well as distribution expenditures such as transportation and storage costs. Total value added of fruit and vegetable sector was 17.7 billion dollars in 2018. The sector's direct contribution to the economy was 12 billion dollars. This sector contributed an additional 5.7 billion dollars to the economy by demanding inputs from other sectors creating further value through increased production in those sectors. Development in the fruit and vegetable sector directly leads to jobs for many Canadians and Canadian workers. The industry continues to do its part in creating a strong Canadian economy.

Jobs supported by the fruit and vegetable sector (Canada 2018, in Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and %)



Total Value added (Canada 2018, in Millions of CAD, in %)



Source: Authors' calculations based on Canada Supply and Use Tables 2015, (2018). Statistics Canada. Retrieved from <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/15-602-x/15-602-x2017001-eng.htm>
Table: 36-10-0594-01 : Canada Input-output multipliers, detail level 2015, (2018). Statistics Canada.

3

A Fall Research and Agronomy Update

Ryan Barrett, Research & Agronomy Specialist

It was a very busy fall for Morgan and I as we've been working to collect data on the many research trials that we're involved in. Many of these projects are multi-year trials examining different crop rotations, so getting potato yield and quality data is the big payoff at the end of the trial. While we don't have all of our testing finished and data examined yet, we'll be hard at work on that over the next couple of months in order to share key learnings with growers over the winter.

To set the stage for future meetings where we will be sharing on-farm research results with growers, I thought it would be wise to give you an idea of the range of projects that we are involved in. Some of these trials are at earlier stages than others, but all of these trials will have some level of data to share.

Potato Early Dying Complex (PED):

Each year, the Board and the PEI Department of Agriculture & Land (PEIDAL) are conducting a survey of 30 fields across the province to test for Verticillium and root lesion nematodes (causal agents of PED) as part of the Canadian Potato Early Dying Network (CanPEDNet) project under the National Potato Cluster. From these 30 fields sampled in the fall, we identify the four best and the four worst and then follow them through the potato crop next year. This includes additional soil sampling, visual ID of early dying symptoms, and yield samples at harvest. We completed our second full year of this project this year and we have also completed the 30 field survey this fall. Thank you to the growers who contributed fields to this trial. The primary goal of this project is to determine what level of Verticillium and nematodes is associated with what level of yield loss, establishing thresholds for treatment or changes to crop rotation. In addition, Dr. Judith

Nyiraneza is testing for Verticillium and nematodes in her soil-building crop rotation trial at AAFC Harrington Farm as part of the CanPEDNet project.

In addition to this, we also have two additional AIM projects that relate to PED:

- Comparing different forage legume species for their effect on PED. We are working with two growers who planted strips of different forage legumes (alfalfa, red clover, white clover, birdsfoot trefoil) compared with just grass species. These fields were established in 2019 and will be in potatoes in 2021. So far, it appears that red clover multiplies root lesion nematodes much faster than the other forages, but we'll have more data to share on that this winter and next year after potato harvest.
- Examining the use of biofumigant mustard. We are partnering with Genesis Crop Systems and the Living Labs program to look at comparing specially-bred mustard/arugula mixes with conventional brown mustard (Centennial variety), sorghum-sudangrass, and a ryegrass check for effect on yield and tuber quality. Five fields were planted to these rotation crops this year and will be in potatoes in 2021. We are also planning to set up another five fields next spring that will be in potatoes in 2022.

Building Soil Organic Matter and Cover Crops:

This is one area of research that Island growers have been very engaged in for the past few years. There is a greater diversity of rotation crops being grown and examined as well as an increased acreage of fall cover crops being grown to both protect soil from erosion as well as building soil health. Most of our current research is taking place as part

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of the Living Labs Initiative, with three main projects underway:

- **Use of full-season soil-building crops to improve soil health and marketable yield (BMP3).** Includes looking at crops such as sorghum sudangrass, oilseed radish, buckwheat, mustard, and multi-species forage mixtures for their effect on yield, tuber quality, soil organic matter, compaction, soil health metrics, and more. First fields in this project were established in 2019 and had potatoes harvested this fall. Another group of fields were set up this summer and will have potatoes grown in 2021. We should have some interesting results of these trials to share this winter.
- **Use of cover crops following potato harvest (BMP2).** Includes looking at different species, rates, and methods of establishment for cover crops for their effect on soil erosion, percentage ground cover, and reduction in nitrate leaching. This fall, we partnered with four growers to look at winter barley as a fall cover crop with the hopes that it will survive the winter and be a cash crop next year.
- **Use of cover crops following tillage in the year before potatoes (BMP1).** This trial is looking at a range of cover crops species (barley, oats, tillage radish, mustard) planted in the late summer/early fall after tillage. This allows the grower to get the field prepared for potatoes next year while keeping something green and growing in the field to build organic matter and protect from soil erosion. In this project, we look not only at soil tests like organic matter and soil health metrics but we also look at the yield of potatoes the following year. From preliminary results, it appears that early establishment (late Aug/early Sept) of a cover crop is associated with a yield bump in the potato crop compared with no cover crop. Again, more data will follow soon!

Additional Projects:

- **Soil Compaction:** We worked with four growers this year to do subsoiling ahead of the planter at specific depths to fracture compaction layers after some preliminary results in 2019. We will have data from five fields to share this winter. In addition, we are partnering with UPEI to investigate the use of soil electroconductivity (soil EC) mapping to detect soil compaction and its effect on yield.
- **Fall Hilling:** Again this year, we have results from a field where hills were made in the fall of 2019 and comparing that with conventional planting practices. Over three years, we've seen a positive trend on yield and quality associated with fall hilling. We also are

working with a grower that has more fields set up this fall for yield evaluation next year.

- **Effect of sprayer tracks on yield and PVY:** A new trial in 2020, we sampled sprayer tracks and regular rows in three fields this fall to measure the effect of wheel tracks on yield and mechanical spread of PVY. Impact on yield was already quite evident from our sampling, but we're waiting on results of post-harvest testing for PVY on these tubers.
- **Quash Fungicide:** We worked with a grower to compare the use of Quash (metconazole) fungicide at row closure versus conventional program (Luna Tranquility) on marketable yield. Some research in the USA in recent years has shown Quash to result in about a 5 to 10% yield increase independent of any effect on disease control (ie. early blight).

These are just some of the projects that we are undertaking under AIM or the Board's research program. We are also collaborating on additional local or national projects with multiple partners on topics like variety evaluation, common scab, precision agriculture, late blight, Colorado potato beetle, and more. As results become available, we'll be keen to share them with you through local meetings, webinars, factsheets, and the PEI Potato Agronomy website.

A big thank you to all of the growers that continue to participate in our AIM Working Groups and Board Research Committee, as well as the many growers providing fields for individual trials. Without your participation, our research and agronomy program would not be successful!



Spring barley on the left, winter barley on the right. Part of a Living Labs trial in Summerside. Photo: R. Barrett.

An Update From the:

PEI Department of Agriculture and Land

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



NEW FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SUPPORT ANNOUNCED FOR PEI FARMERS

PEI Emergency On-Farm Support Fund

Since the declaration of the global pandemic, many businesses have had to shut their doors; at least temporarily; to protect the health of workers and community members. As producers of food, farmers and their employees have continued working every day to feed the world. We are all grateful for this, but recognize that farmers went to great effort and expense to provide a sense of safety for workers, maintain health and positivity, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on farms. There is a new program to help producers with these costs.

On October 29 in a virtual joint press conference, Ministers Marie-Claude Bibeau and Bloyce Thompson announced the PEI Emergency On-Farm Support Fund (EOFSF) for COVID-19. This program will support farms in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the health and safety of all farm workers. Cost-sharing is 50:50 (government:applicant) with assistance up to \$30,000 per farm operation. An extra 10% cost share is available to women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, visible minorities, and Persons with disabilities owning more than 50% of the farm operation (cost sharing is 60:40 government:applicant).

This direct-to-farm support of \$945,000 is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and will be delivered to Island farms by the PEI Department of Agriculture & Land. Primary producers can apply for funding of eligible expenses that include adjustments made on farm to ensure worker safety, disposable and non-disposable PPE, and costs related to worker training and safety protocols.

Examples of expenses eligible* for funding are:

- Added cleaning and disinfection materials
- Adjustments to equipment to accommodate social distancing
- Adjustments to transportation to accommodate social distancing (ex: vehicle rental)
- Plexiglass dividers
- Enhancements to employer-provided housing to ensure worker safety
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) (ex: face shields, masks, disposable gloves, etc)

- Body temperature screening (ex: thermal scanners)
- COVID-19 related signage, training material and interpretation services

*Expenses related to regular activities and NOT resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are not eligible.

Some farms have already implemented adjustments on farms while others are thinking about what they should do in the months ahead. The EOFSF will cover eligible costs going back to March 15, 2020, as well as projects to be completed in the early winter. I encourage you to call Lorraine MacKinnon (902-314-1607) to discuss eligible projects and for assistance with the application process. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2021.

More information, guidelines and application can be found here: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/pei-emergency-farm-support-fund>

Seed Potato Recovery Program

COVID-19 hit just as farms were preparing to bring home seed and make planting decisions. Market uncertainty resulted in reduced acreage, leaving seed producers holding onto unsold seed potatoes. Eventually, the shelf life ran out on these seed lots and producers ended up disposing of seed, or selling it at a much lower value.

The government of Prince Edward Island will help the province's seed potato growers with an assistance program to compensate for the negative effects COVID-19 has had on their industry. The Seed Potato Recovery Program is a \$1.19 million fund for seed growers who can demonstrate that the pandemic has hurt their income. Seed producers will be asked to demonstrate proof of lost seed potato sales or of product that they were required to sell for less than the seed price.

Applications will be open until January 15, 2021. More information, guidelines and applications can be found here: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/SeedPotatoRecoveryProgram>



Industry Updates

Study addresses economic importance of PEI's potato industry

November 24, 2020. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island – The potato industry contributes over \$1.3 billion annually to the economy of Prince Edward Island, and is responsible for more than 5,000 full-time equivalent jobs, according to a new study prepared for the Department of Agriculture and Land.

Research carried out by Dr. Ziad Ghaith, an economist in the Department's policy division, underlined the importance of this single crop to the people of the Prince Edward Island.

"I think that people have a sense that the potato is our most important crop, but I felt we should have solid numbers," Ghaith said. "The actual numbers show just how vital potato farming and processing are to our economy and tax base in this province."

Agriculture and Land Minister Bloyce Thompson said the study shows the importance of potatoes as a single crop, but also the opportunity for economic growth.

"Potato farmers do great work to not only support this industry but to create wealth that benefits the whole province. I want to work with farmers to get the most value we can from our potato crop and, hopefully, to help the agriculture industry develop other crops that can provide similar benefits to our community," he said.

"This study re-affirms the essential role of the potato industry in Prince Edward Island's economy," said Greg Donald, General Manager of the Prince Edward Island Potato Board. "Beyond the impacts on farms, packing sheds and processors, it is enlightening to demonstrate how the potato industry generates jobs and significant economic activity in the province's retail and service sectors."

Dr. Ghaith's study is available at www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/af_potato_econ_impact_study.pdf

Media contact: Ron Ryder, Department of Agriculture and Land, 902-314-6367, rryder@gov.pe.ca

World Potato and Europatat Congresses, Ireland, 2021 – Postponed until 2022

Due to the pandemic and for the safety of participants, it is with great reluctance the three organisations World Potato Congress Inc., Europatat and the Irish Potato Federation, jointly announce the postponement of the World Potato Congress (WPC) and the Europatat Congress



planned for May/June in Dublin in 2021.

Originally scheduled for 31st May – 3rd June 2021, the WPC will now take place on 30th May – 2nd June 2022. As previously planned, the WPC will be preceded by the Europatat Congress which will take place from 29th- 30th May 2022.

It was felt the early decision to postpone was the correct and responsible one to take and is in the best interests of the global potato community.

In the course of preparing the 2021 Congresses it became very clear that there was phenomenal interest in attending both events in Ireland. The organisers are pleased to note that this initial interest has not only remained but even increased.

It is already very clear that there is now a huge appetite for full, live, in person World Potato and Europatat Congresses and early indications are that the 2021 events partners, sponsors and speakers are solidly committed to remaining on board until 2022.

In summary, the events are not cancelled - just postponed. In collaboration with its partners WPC Inc. and Europatat, the Local Organising Committee is determined to make the best use of the extra year to host even bigger and better events in 2022.

2022 will be here before you know it. Make sure you don't miss out - check out the updated website www.wpc2022ireland.com to keep abreast of developments.

We look forward to welcoming you in Dublin in 2022!

More information : Liam Glennon, liamglennon@gmail.com; Romain Cools, president@potatocongress.org; Berta Redondo, secretariat@europatat.org.

BASF Receives Health Canada PMRA Registration For New Products Teraxxa F4 And Cimegra Containing Broflanilide

CALGARY, Oct. 19, 2020 – Today, BASF Canada Agricultural Solutions (BASF) received registration for Broflanilide, its newest active ingredient (AI) from Health

Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Broflanilide, the first IRAC Group 30 available in Canada, is a powerful insecticide in two new unique products: Teraxxa® F4 insecticide and fungicide for cereals and Cimegra® for potatoes and corn. Both products will be available to Canadian growers for the 2021 season.

Featuring a new mode of action, Broflanilide targets all wireworm larval stages which helps suppress and control potential seasonal recovery of wireworm populations. While prior solutions intoxicated wireworms, leaving a potential for their recovery, Broflanilide binds to the wireworm's central nervous system causing hyperactivity of nerves and muscles, which ultimately eliminates the pest altogether. This offers growers a new, unparalleled opportunity to protect their crop from a notoriously tough-to-control pest.

Teraxxa F4

Teraxxa F4 insecticide and fungicide seed treatment is a powerful new tool for cereal growers, especially those in Alberta and Saskatchewan, who have battled significant crop damage and loss due to wireworms in recent years. The solution includes four fungicide active ingredients in a convenient pre-mix for broad spectrum protection against seed and soil borne diseases and ease of application both on and off the farm.

"Growers have struggled with wireworms in cereals for years, with available products deterring, rather than eliminating wireworms," said Chris Hewitt, Seed Treatment and Inoculant Marketing Lead at BASF Canada Agricultural Solutions. "BASF invests significantly in research and development that helps growers to manage tough agronomic challenges and Teraxxa F4 is the first of many cereal innovations to come. We're proud to offer growers the new standard for wireworm control in cereals."

Cimegra insecticide

Cimegra insecticide provides control of prevalent and difficult to control chewing insects in potatoes and corn, including wireworm, for in-season management and reduction of resident populations.

"Cimegra insecticide has demonstrated great performance and can be easily incorporated into an integrated pest management strategy. It offers a unique mode of action that delivers lasting efficacy with no known resistance, making it an excellent new tool for the management of wireworms" said Allison Friesen, Technical Market Specialist, Insecticides and Seed Treatment, Agriculture Solutions Canada.

Growers can learn more about Teraxxa F4 seed treatment and Cimegra insecticide and all other BASF Agricultural Solutions products by visiting www.agsolutions.ca.



Assurance | Accounting | Tax | Advisory

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

Charlottetown: 892-5365 Summerside: 436-2171

www.bdo.ca

Always read and follow label directions. Teraxxa® F4 and Cimegra® are registered trademarks of BASF Agrochemical Products B.V., used under license by BASF Canada Inc. © 2020 BASF Canada Inc. All rights reserved.

Changes to the Senior Executive of the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation

The Board of Directors of the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) announced that effective January 1, 2021 Luc Mougeot will become the Corporation's President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Mougeot will succeed the DRC's current President/CEO, Fred Webber. Mr. Webber, who has served as President/CEO since 2011 will be retiring from his position effective December 31, 2020 but has accepted to remain with the Corporation in a Senior Advisor capacity until June 2021.

POTATO EXPO 2021 Goes 100% Virtual

In light of on-going developments with COVID-19 and after thoughtful discussions with our Executive Committee and supporting companies, and through feedback via attendee surveys, we have decided to hold the Potato Expo 2021 as a Virtual Experience, held exclusively online. The show will take place on Tuesday, January 5 through Thursday, January 7, 2021. We believe this is the safest approach for the well-being of our attendees, along with their families, farms and colleagues.

We've reimaged the design of the Potato Expo 2021 so in this exclusively virtual format it continues to be the place where the potato community can COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW. OVER POTATOES!

We are excited about the opportunities a virtual event offers in providing insights into new technology and innovation in the potato industry and facilitate the engagement and connections the Potato Expo is known for. You will hear from leaders, connect with peers and explore business solutions to address unique challenges and prepare your organization for a new level of success.

Networking is a cornerstone of the Potato Expo and attendees will be able to partake in interactive and engaging experiences through a dynamic virtual conference platform. In addition, an interactive exhibit hall will allow exhibitors to showcase their products and services and connect with attendees, all while from the comfort and safety of their home or office.

The conference agenda will now be spread out over three tight days to ensure that content is delivered in more digestible segments. Best of all, sessions will be easily accessible on-demand for conference attendees to view at their own convenience through the end of March.

PMRA Re-evaluation Decision for Linuron Allows for Continued Use on Potatoes

Health Canada has completed the re-evaluation of linuron. Under the authority of the Pest Control Products Act, Health Canada has determined that continued registration of products containing linuron is acceptable. An evaluation of available scientific information found that some uses (carrots, parsnip, potato, asparagus, shelterbelts) of linuron products meet current standards for protection of human health and the environment when used according to revised conditions of registration, which include new mitigation measures. The full details of the re-evaluation decision can be found on the PMRA website at : <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/pesticides-pest-management/decisions-updates/reevaluation-decision/2020/linuron.html>.

CHC and CPMA Host Successful Virtual Fall Harvest Event with Parliamentarians and Industry Stakeholders

From November 2-5, the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and hosted virtual meetings with industry representatives and Parliamentarians to discuss the needs and priorities of the fresh fruit and vegetable sector.

Fall Harvest 2020 kicked off with a virtual session with the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. The Minister expressed her support for the industry, and spoke about three new AgriRisk projects to benefit the sector, totalling \$387,000, as well as the government's work with CPMA under the Surplus Food Rescue Program. The Minister also answered questions from industry participants.

Among the more than 40 officials who met with groups over the course of the week, notable discussions took place with the office of the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; MP Neil Ellis, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; the Honourable Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Official Opposition; the agriculture critics for the Conservative party, the New Democratic Party and the Bloc Quebecois, as well as senior staff at Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA).

"We are encouraged by the willingness of the more than 60 industry participants, as well as the Parliamentarians and government officials, to adapt to the circumstances of 2020 and ensure that the voices of the Canadian fruit and vegetable sector are heard, even when we cannot meet in person," said Rebecca Lee, Executive Director of CHC. "Partnership, consultation and cooperation between industry and policy makers will ensure that agriculture plays a key role in Canada's COVID-19 recovery."

A notable addition to this year's Fall Harvest schedule were education panels for Parliamentarians, including COVID-19 Challenges for Canadian Growers and the Produce Supply Chain and The Produce Supply Chain in Your Neighbourhood. These education panels gave

AIM Local Workshops

December 8-10, 2020



A
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M

Agronomy
Initiative for
Marketable Yield

Topic: Fall Cover Crops: Research Results & BMPs

Speakers: Ryan Barrett and Morgan McNeil, PEI Potato Board

Presenting results from recent AIM/Living Lab trials on fall-seeded cover crops before and after potatoes, as well as research into fall hilling ahead of potatoes the next year.

Tuesday, Dec 8	9:00 am	Emerald Community Centre
Tuesday, Dec 8	1:30 pm	Mill River Resort
Wednesday, Dec 9	1:30 pm	Potato Board Meeting Room*
Thursday, Dec 10	9:00 am	St. Peters Complex (Old School)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED TO MEET COVID PROTOCOLS

All Growers and AIM industry partners welcome

CCA credits will be available.

* Dec 9th meeting will be livestreamed by Zoom to participate from home!

participants the opportunity to hear the first-hand experiences of the Canadian supply chain, and suggestions for meaningful support that would make positive impacts in the Canadian fruit and vegetable industry.

CHC and CPMA look forward to continuing the conversations that took place online this week with Parliamentarians and ensuring that Canadian fruit and vegetable growers continue to be represented in Canadian policy developments.

UPL AgroSolutions Canada receives PMRA registration for new STRIM® MTZ Herbicide

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (November 10, 2020) – UPL AgroSolutions Canada announces that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has granted registration of STRIM® MTZ Herbicide for soybean and potatoes.

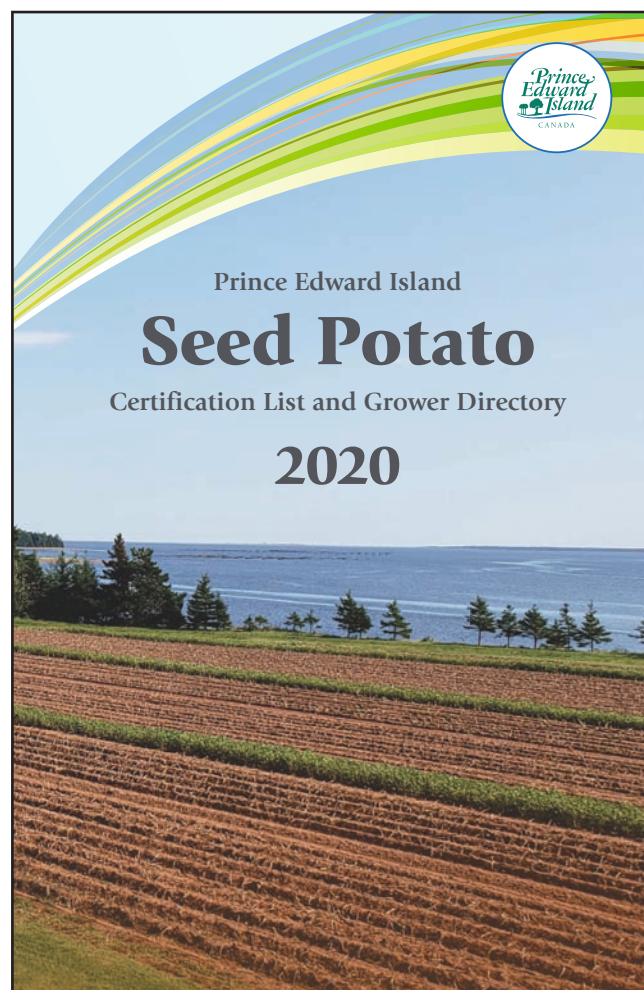
With the approval of STRIM MTZ, soybean and potato growers have a new option featuring two modes of action to control some of the most stubborn annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. “Canadian growers need flexible, new solutions they can trust on their farms,” says Chris Nowlan, Marketing Portfolio Manager, UPL AgroSolutions Canada. “New STRIM MTZ Herbicide provides soybean and potato growers a better way to manage weeds, resulting in more efficient weed control in just one application.”

A PARTNER IN RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT

As a Group 5 and Group 15 herbicide, STRIM MTZ Herbicide provides early season residual control of broadleaf and grassy weeds. The powerful combination of the two active ingredients, S-metolachlor and metribuzin, is effective against hard-to-kill redroot pigweed, eastern black nightshade, lamb’s quarters and common and giant ragweed. For even greater resistance management options, STRIM MTZ can be rotated with different herbicide groups that control the same weeds in a field.

“As growers’ needs evolve, UPL continues to offer unique product solutions to growers in Canada,” Nowlan adds. “The registration of STRIM MTZ gives growers another trusted herbicide in their toolbox to achieve optimum control of stubborn annual grasses and broadleaf weeds while managing resistant weed issues.”

UPL AgroSolutions Canada is a leading provider of agronomic and product solutions for a variety of crops. In addition to STRIM MTZ, UPL also markets several leading weed control tools, including TRICOR® ULTRA BLAZER®, KOMODOTM and BROADLOOMTM Herbicides. For more information, contact our local UPL AgroSolutions Canada representative.



PEI 2020 Seed Potato Directory available online soon

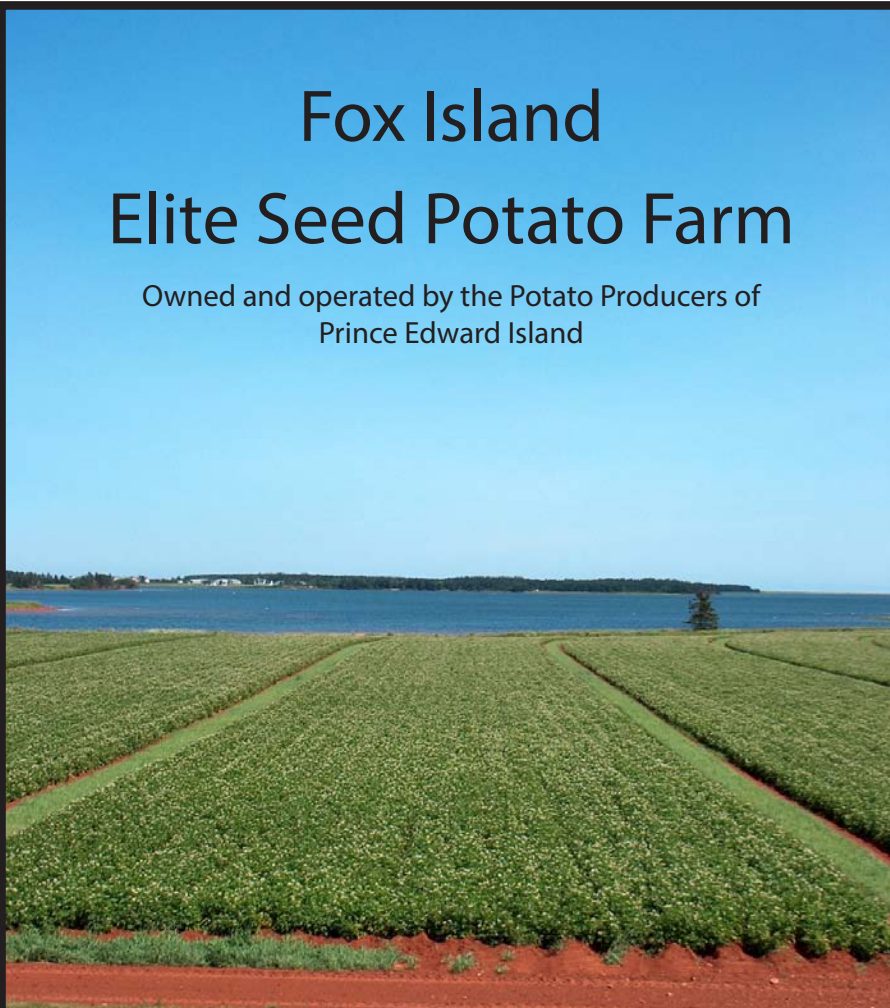
**[https://www.peipotato.org/
pei-potato-industry/seed](https://www.peipotato.org/pei-potato-industry/seed)**

**Varieties to suit every market need
from processing for french fries and
chips to fresh, specialty and off-shore
export markets. Seed available for 2021
planting.**



Fox Island Elite Seed Potato Farm

Owned and operated by the Potato Producers of
Prince Edward Island



Full tissue culture laboratory and screenhouse production facilities

Seed inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

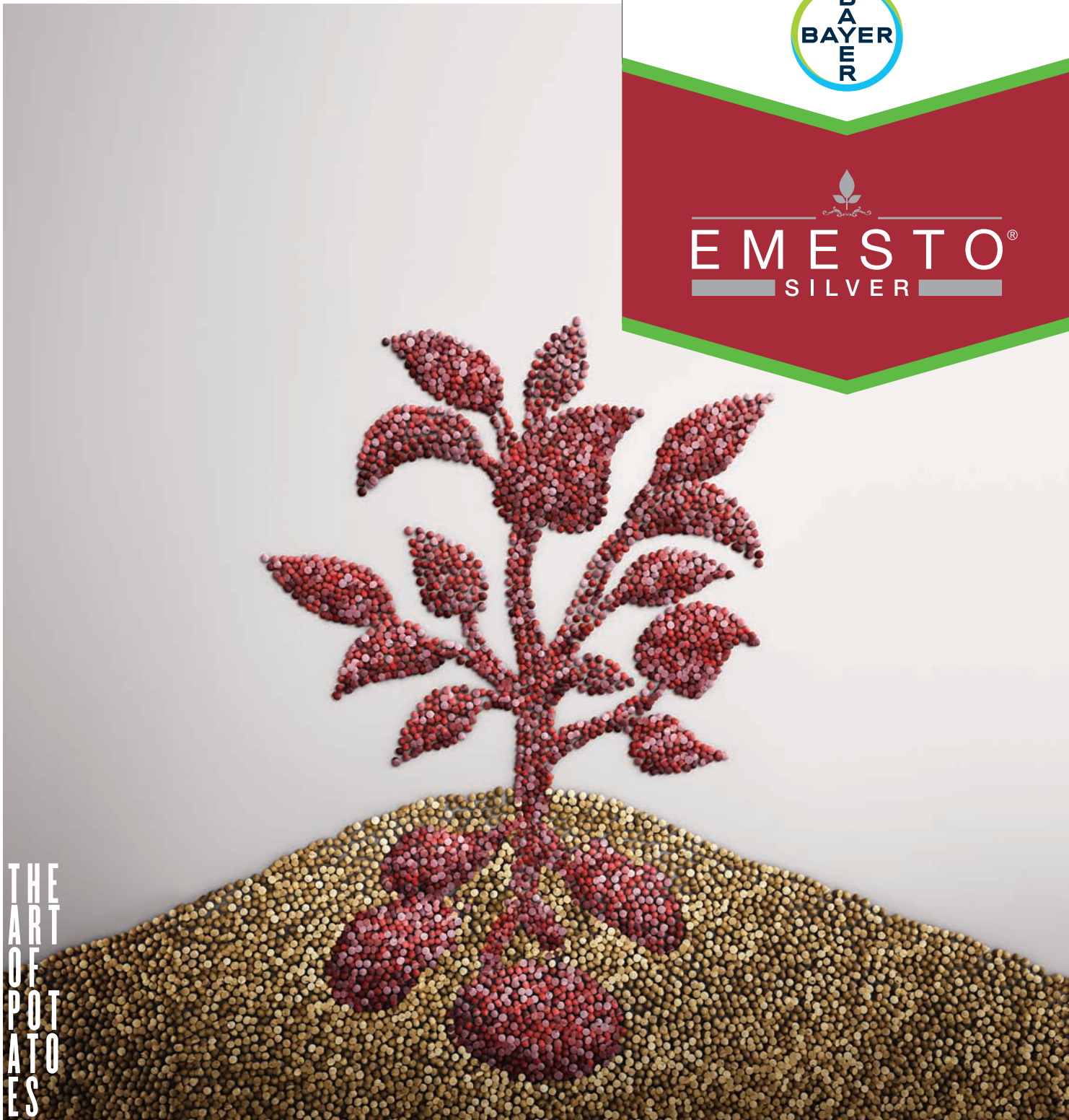
Box storage in ventilated warehouse

Contracted production of proprietary varieties with signed agreements

Wide range of public, commercial, and specialty varieties available

Pre-Elite, Elite I & Elite II Seed Potatoes

Please call Mary Kay at (902) 892-6551 or Mark at (902) 853-5490 for details on seed availability for 2021.



Your crop is your masterpiece.

We just bring the tools. The unmistakable red formula of Emesto® Silver fungicide seed treatment protects your potato seed-pieces from seed and soil-borne diseases. With two modes of action against fusarium, it even safeguards against current resistant strains. And what insecticide you choose to combine it with is completely up to you – because when it comes to art, the artist always knows best.



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