

Prince Edward Island

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POTATO NEWS



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POTATO NEWS

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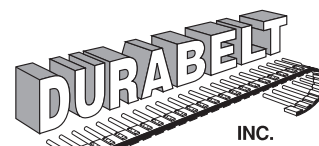
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Cover: No holiday meal is complete without PEI potato stuffing and of course mashed PEI Potatoes. Recipes available at www.peipotato.org.



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Chairman's Comments

by John Visser, PEI Potato Board Chairman



We have been dealing with potato wart in PEI since 2000. No one is denying the fact that it is present in localized areas on PEI or that it is a serious pest of potatoes. In any area of the world where it is found it is contained through quarantine and land management measures. It is handled as are other regulated quarantine pests that are found in North America that are managed while trade continues.

On December 2nd and 3rd, Potato Board representatives participated in the first in-person meeting of the Canadian Potato Council since March 2020. It was a good opportunity to have a full discussion with our colleagues from across the country and talk about the facts of the 2021 detections, how potato wart is managed and ongoing surveillance and testing programs. As a result of these meetings, the Board will be putting together a webinar of the history and management of potato wart in PEI for presentation to a wider audience of potato industry representatives in Canada.

Fresh and processing potatoes continue to move to other areas of the country while adhering to new restrictions imposed by the Ministerial Order. Our potatoes are a healthy and safe food source, the same as they have

been for over 100 years. We have met disease challenges before and will do so again. Ministerial Orders have been in place for PCN in localized areas of Quebec and Golden Nematode in British Columbia for years, and growers in these provinces outside of the regulated areas are able to move their potatoes, including seed, across the border and within Canada. We will work to get back to that same position as quickly as possible

It appears that the USDA has given CFIA a long list of work to do before the border could open. We hope that those issues can be addressed quickly using existing science. If, however, our federal government plans to participate in research to respond to concerns over the efficacy of risk mitigation measures, then they should be protecting our national potato industry by pausing to address those same concerns for fresh potatoes moving into our country.

This is a stressful time for all of our farm families and employees. We are in this together and continue to work with officials to responsibly address disease concerns while recognizing risk mitigation measures to resolve the current trade issue.

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PEI Potato Board News

Director Changes at the PEI Potato Board

Changes took place to the Board at the Annual Business Meeting as representation shifts to align with the new Board governance structure of 3 districts. Each sector (seed, tablestock and processing) elects one representative per district and one rep at-large from the Island as a whole.

Craig Wallace and John Visser start second terms in their positions as Processing Director for the Western District and Tablestock Director of the Central District, respectively. Billy Cameron begins a second term, moving from a district seed representative to an at-large seed representative.

Wayne Townshend retires after two terms as Seed Director for the Eastern District, the last year spent as Board Chairman.



The newest director on the board is Guy Cudmore who will be the Seed representative for the Eastern District. Guy grew up in Winsloe, PEI farming with his brother Arthur and father Preston who passed away in 2011. The mixed farm where they produced

hogs and elite seed potatoes has changed over the years. They sold the hogs ten years ago and now concentrate on grain and bean crops and various classes of seed potatoes. Guy has good experience with board systems, having been a Director on the PEI Hog Board in the late 90's. He is also involved in his community with Farmers Helping Farmers. The directors and staff welcome Guy to the Board and look forward to his perspective on current industry issues.

New PEI Potato Board Executive in Place for the 2021-2022 Year

Following the Annual Business Meeting of the PEI Potato Board on November 17, the new board met and elected their executive for the coming year.

John Visser of Victoria Potato Farms, Tablestock Director for the Central District was elected to the position of Chair. John is starting his second term as a Board director and this means that he has a good background in current industry issues and Board activities. He farms in Victoria with his brother, brother-in-law and two sons producing table, seed and processing potatoes.

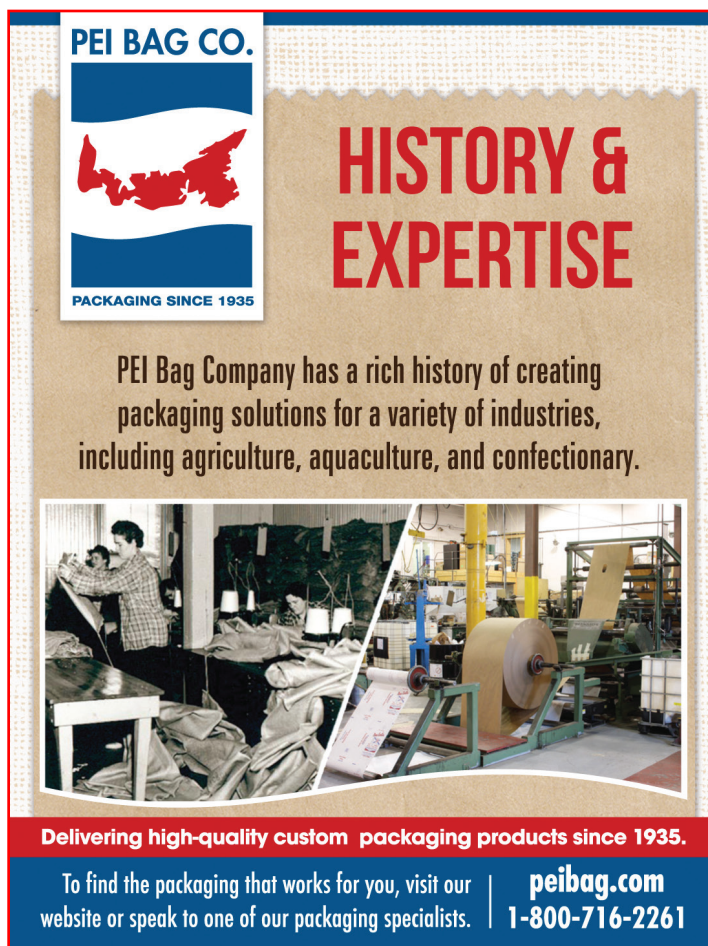
Billy Cameron, at-large Seed representative was elected to the position of Vice Chair. Billy is also starting a second term on the Board. He farms with his father in Hampton growing seed and tablestock potatoes.

Chad Robertson was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer. He is the Tablestock representative for Eastern PEI and also served in this position in 2019-2020. Chad farms with his brother and father on Munn's Road.

Recognition of Retiring Farmers

In late 2020, the Board began discussions on ways to recognize farmers who may be retiring from full-time potato farming or retiring from the industry altogether. These farmers may have been active participants in industry organizations or spent their time quietly working on their own home farms providing a steady supply of quality potatoes for our critical markets and contributing to industry advancement and continuity in their own way.

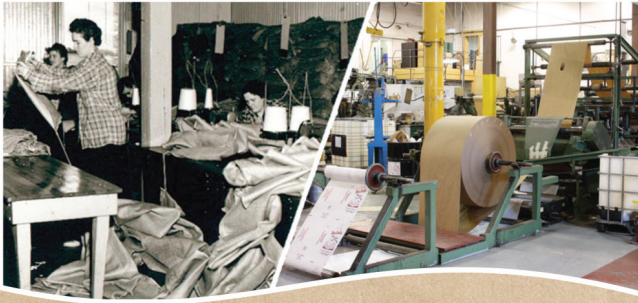
To recognize the career contributions of retiring potato farmers the Board will provide certificates of recognition and review the names and photographs of these farmers at our annual banquet.



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If you have someone on your farm, or know a friend or neighbour who fits this description, and would like to submit their name for a recognition certificate please provide the following information to the Potato Board office by December 31, 2021:

2021 Retirement Recognition

Name:

Address:

Farm Name:

Retiring from Full-time farming

Leaving the industry

Made to Enjoy - Golden Ticket Winner

The winners of the Made to Enjoy golden ticket contest, Roxanne and Carl Drover, visited the Island in September 2021. They hail from Deer Lake, NFLD and won the trip for two to PEI to take in some events for the Fall Flavours festival. However, since Feast and Frolic was cancelled they were awarded Canada's Food Island Gift Cards instead. They were happy to be here as they have family here and spent most of the trip with their grand kids. They stopped by the Potato Board office one day to meet Marketing Specialist Mark Phillips and receive a PEI Potatoes prize pack.



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Winners of the Farm Sign Draw



Thank you for all the entries to the farm sign draw. Those who were drawn will receive a \$250 Food Island gift card to enjoy.

Remaining entries will be featured in upcoming issues. Thank you for sharing the pride you have in your family farm.

2021 Supply From the North American Potato Crop

How Does It Compare?

by Kevin MacIsaac, General Manager,
United Potato Growers of Canada

The 2021 growing season in the United States has provided a potato crop that is the smallest since 2013.

The two largest players, Idaho and Washington, were hardest hit by hot, dry weather and smoke from fires that prevented the crop from maximizing the photosynthetic process. Washington yields are estimated to be down 45 cwt/acre from last year's 645 cwt/acre. Idaho's crop is the smallest since 2015, with NASS estimating yields of 420 cwt/acre compared to last year's 450 cwt/acre. Yield surveys by the United Potato Growers of Idaho actually estimate the yield even lower at 415 cwt/acre. NASS has estimated North Dakota's yield at 280 cwt/acre, which if accurate at 60 hundred weight below last year, would make it the lowest yield since 2011. Colorado's yield is estimated at 405 cwt/acre, compared to last year's record 420 cwt/acre, and also

had planted its second lowest acreage in 37 years. Three states out of the 9 major reporting ones had increased production this year. Maine's yield, like other areas in the Atlantic North East, is record setting at 345 cwt/acre after being down almost 20% a year ago. Michigan, a large chip producer, is up 14% over a year ago but back to 2019 levels. Finally, Wisconsin had a much better growing season with yields at 445 cwt/acre, surpassing their 2020 yield of 420 cwt/acre.

In addition to this year's reduced yields in the U.S., there is also a lower pack out due to heat stress related quality issues. Fresh pack out rates appear to be off by 3% in the state of Idaho, which would reduce the available fresh potato pile by 1.5 million sacks alone. As a result, the supply of russet potatoes is expected to be tight with fryers actively buying open potatoes in the western states and now travelling to the Atlantic North Eastern region to explore

United States Potato Production Estimate 2021 Crop

(million cwt)

Nine Major States

State	2019	2020	2021 Est.	Percent
Idaho	130,900	134,775	132,090	-2.0%
Washington	104,960	99,653	93,308	-6.4%
Wisconsin	28,700	28,770	31,150	+8.3%
Oregon	25,311	27,000	25,536	-5.4%
North Dakota	19,430	23,800	21,000	-11.8%
Colorado	19,666	22,596	21,141	-6.4%
Michigan	20,370	17,550	20,008	+14.0%
Maine	16,378	13,462	18,423	+36.9%
Minnesota	17,845	17,922	17,598	-1.8%
Total Fall Crop 9 States	383,560	385,528	380,254	-1.4%
Total U.S. Crop	427,420	420,020	413,162	-1.6%

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Nov 9, 2021

methods of transporting potatoes all the way back to the Columbia Basin. Freight costs and availability are creating major challenges for the industry. The reduced supply of table potatoes in Idaho has correspondingly moved the Fresh Weighted Average (FWA) above the San Luis Valley, Columbia Basin, and Wisconsin for the first time in many years of gathering data.

The Estimate of Canadian Potato Production will not be released by Statistics Canada until December 7th, but due to an early and successful completion of harvest, we have a good idea of how the crop fared out.

We expect that Canadian Potato Production could be up 18%, in the 122-123,000,000 hundred weight range. If accurate, this would move Canadian yields to 323-325 cwt/acre, which would be Canada's largest yield and production on record. Some increased production was expected as growers planted an additional 22,000 acres in the spring to meet the expanding requirements of the processing industry. A large portion of the production increase, however, was due to the excellent growing conditions in the four eastern provinces, led by NB (58%), PEI (35%), Ontario (17%), and Quebec (13%). This is in comparison to last year's crop where production was off 25-30% in the provinces of NB and PEI due to drought conditions. 2021 growing conditions, however, were much more unfavorable from the Ontario border moving westward. Hot, dry, conditions in Manitoba (temperatures exceeded 30 degrees C for 36 days) reduced yields to 310 cwt/acre in a province that would see almost 350 cwt/acre in their 5-yr. average. Even with an increase of 7,000 acres last spring, production will barely exceed last year's 24 million hundred weight and will require imported potatoes to keep processing plants running. Manitoba is also a significant tablestock producer and many fresh growers estimate their crop at two thirds of normal. Similarly, weather conditions were not favorable in Alberta this year with yields coming in around 370-375 cwt/acre, compared to 404 cwt/acre one year ago. Production is expected to move up 8% due to an additional 8,000 acres planted this spring; however, the province feels they will

still be short of potatoes for the processing sector. British Columbia also had yields reduced from 332 cwt/acre to 325 cwt/acre in a growing season that was not as good as a year ago. Excellent harvesting conditions in the country this year (with the exception of Ontario and BC) allowed a very high percentage of the crop to get harvested. It is estimated that only 3,000-3,500 acres had to be abandoned this fall across Canada.

In summary, any additional supply in the four eastern provinces this year will be needed to supply deficits in Western Canada and the United States. The challenge will be the logistics and freight challenges required to move these potatoes where they are needed in the supply chain. Growers will need to be patient in feeding the market, as industry works to get these potatoes to where they are needed. Demand is good for all sectors as consumption has returned to pre-covid levels. In addition, a smaller European crop due to reduced acreage and difficult growing conditions, should lower imports coming into North America this year. With the potato crop undercover in storages, Canadian growers are now working hard to return their investment back to their family businesses.

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Facts: Potato Wart (*Synchytrium endobioticum*)

Distribution

- *Synchytrium endobioticum* appears to have originated in the potato-growing area of Andean South America. It was introduced to Europe in the 19th century, likely as a result of the introduction of new potato stocks to Europe from South America following the Irish potato famine.
- *Synchytrium endobioticum* has been reported from almost all northern European countries, as well as countries in Africa, Asia, North and South America, and Oceania. The pathogen occurs sporadically in most of the countries where it has been reported, as a result of strict quarantine measures, the use of resistant potato cultivars and environmental conditions.
- *Synchytrium endobioticum* was detected in the US in 1918. Although thought to be eradicated by 1974, it was later reported in a survey of garden plots in Maryland in 1987. It was reported eradicated in 1994. (American Potato Journal, Volumes 66 & 71.)
- In Prince Edward Island, potato wart symptoms were first reported in a processing potato field in 2000. The CFIA immediately regulated the infested field as well as adjacent fields and identified contact fields (related to movement of equipment or potato tubers) to restrict movement and prevent spread. Since the initial detection twenty years ago, *S. endobioticum* has been detected in a total of 33 fields in PEI (with many recent detections related to previous finds) covering a total of 1,556 acres. This represents less than 0.7% of land used in the potato rotation in PEI.

Surveillance and Monitoring

There has never been a detection of potato wart in any of the 23 countries or any Canadian province or US state to which PEI Potato farmers have exported their product that can be linked to a PEI Farm.

Extensive surveillance and monitoring of potatoes takes place on PEI every year in addition to CFIA activities.

Annual Visual Surveillance:

- a. Agricultural Crop Insurance: 88% of planted acreage is covered by crop insurance - one 65 pound sample per 10 acres of production is taken by provincial inspectors at harvest as potatoes are put into the warehouse. This sampling procedure has been done for over 20 years with no signs of any reportable disease. (PEI Agricultural Insurance Corporation 2021)
- b. Post Harvest Virus Test - in 2020, 5,686 hectares distributed across 138 farms had samples that were visually assessed as part of this testing procedure. This test is carried out annually and potato wart symptoms have never been detected in samples. (PEI Potato Quality Institute 2021).
- c. Local Processor - every load that is shipped to the local french fry processor is sampled on arrival - this results in 85,000 samples per year. A new detection of potato wart has never taken place through these samples.
- d. Ongoing surveillance takes place at fresh packing plants, while shipping potatoes for chip processing, while grading on-farm research trials and during the seed grading process.

Potato Wart poses no risk to human health.

PEI fresh potatoes headed for retail markets to sell for consumption purposes are graded, washed to remove soil and have a sprout inhibition product applied - these are recognized risk mitigation measures for soil-borne pests and are accepted by CFIA for US product moving to Canada from US areas with quarantine and regulated pests.

The Domestic Long Term Management Plan

- Upon detection of potato wart, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) immediately takes measures to restrict movement of potatoes and equipment from index, adjacent, primary contact and other contact fields.
- In the short term, traceback and trace forward activities are conducted to enable CFIA to place controls on all affected fields connected over a 10 year period. Soil sampling and delimiting activities begin.
- In the longer term, production and equipment movement from affected fields continues to be regulated as per the Management Plan details and ongoing soil testing and surveillance activities take place.
- Delimiting activities take place over time to remove restrictions from “adjacent” and “other contact” fields - those that had the lowest risk of spread. This includes regulatory soil testing and visual surveillance.
- Restrictions on index and primary contact fields continues based on surveillance activities and soil test results as outlined in the plan.

The Current Canadian Ministerial Order

- Seen as a temporary measure until delimiting activities are completed to provide assurance that the 2021 detections of potato wart are contained.
- While the order is in place, fresh potatoes may continue to be shipped domestically by following risk mitigation measures.
- Fresh and seed potatoes may continue to be shipped to export markets as per import requirements.

The goal is to return to the previous land status CFIA applied in PEI where potato production on land outside of regulated areas is certified to be grown in “an area free from potato wart”.

Information taken from the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 4 (ISPM4) - a publication of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):

1.2.1 Systems to establish freedom

Two general types of systems to provide data are recognized, though variations on or combinations of the two can be used. These are:

- general surveillance
- specific surveys.

General surveillance:

This involves utilizing all sources of data such as NPPOs, other national and local government agencies, research institutions, universities, scientific societies (including amateur specialists), producers, consultants, museums and the general public. Information may be obtained from:

- scientific and trade journals
- unpublished historical data
- contemporary observations.

Specific surveys:

These may be detection or delimiting surveys. They are official surveys and should follow a plan which is approved by the NPPO concerned.

1.2.2 Phytosanitary measures to maintain freedom

Specific measures can be used to prevent the introduction and spread of a pest including:

- regulatory action such as the:
 - listing of a pest on a quarantine pest list
 - specification of import requirements into a country or area
 - restriction of the movement of certain products within areas of a country or countries including buffer zones
- routine monitoring
- extension advice to producers.

The application of phytosanitary measures to maintain pest freedom status is only justified in a PFA, or any portion of a PFA, in which ecological conditions are suitable for the pest to establish.

Potato Board AGM

The PEI Potato Board Annual meeting took place on November 17, 2021 in a mixed in-person and virtual format. The Board directors and presenters and a few industry members 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.

Chairman Wayne Townshend opened the meeting at 9 AM and presented his Chairman's report. Wayne then welcomed the Honourable Bloyce 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.

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

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



Growers were able to attend the 2021 AGM in person up to the capacity outlined under new COVID-19 Guidelines.

Howatt, Processing Coordinator; and Ryan Barrett, Research and Agronomy specialist. 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, Marketing Specialist/Market Information Officer with the PEI Potato Board.

An Annual Banquet is planned for February 2022 depending on COVID-19 public health guidelines at that time. The Board recognized the efforts of retiring Chairman Wayne Townshend with a Certificate of Appreciation for the time and effort he has spent as Board Director for the past six years, serving as Chairman in his last year.



Incoming Chairman John Visser presents a Certificate of Appreciation to outgoing Chairman Wayne Townshend.



Potato Marketing Association of North America

by Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator

For the second year in a row, the PMANA Fall meeting was held remotely via Zoom video conferencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. On November 9th, the Potato Processing Committee (PPC) gathered at the PEI Potato Board and participated virtually with our peers from across North America. Growers and organization reps from the twelve growing areas who supply potato processors were on the conference. Each area reported on the quality and quantity of their harvested 2021 crop as well as the outlook and movement in their sector. To conclude, each grower group reported on the progress of their pre-season contract talks with their customers. This article consists of the consolidation of the details from the Area reports and concludes with an opinion from this desk.

The 2021 North America processing potato crop is best described as an amazing reversal of “typical or recent” potato production trends from across the continent and one for the record books in some jurisdictions. The combined overall potato production in the Area reports submitted to the Fall Meeting is projected to be 17,850,000 hundredweight (CWT) over 2020’s production; this calculates to a 4.4% overall increase. This increase in the pile of potatoes in North America’s processing areas has been driven by record yields in the Atlantic Northeast (Quebec, Maine, New Brunswick and PEI) where year over year production is up 23,300,000 cwt alone. The rebound in the ANE’s potato production in 2021 following the devastating decrease in the 2020 production caused by that summer’s drought is outstanding. Conversely, the record heat and lack of moisture in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and Midwest combined to drive their overall production down 4.1 million cwt from their 2020 numbers, despite an increase of almost 41,000 planted acres of potatoes in the seven areas west of the Mississippi River.

The North American processing sector approached 2021 as a “recovery year” following the major downturn in sales of frozen finished products around the world caused by the global pandemic in early 2020. This approach led to over 50,000 additional acres being planted across the reporting areas, with many of these acres contracted with the fryers. From the PMANA Area reports the severe summer weather

in the west not only affected overall yields but, for some districts, also negatively impacted their quality parameters for fries. This drove specific gravities to unprecedented lows, produced higher-than-normal under-sized percentages, and created more off-type tubers. In some places, sugar-ends are an issue. These defects are indications of a potato crop grown under high-stress conditions. In the East, grower reps reported average to above average processing quality; however, there are significant concerns about the storability of the crop, especially in districts that received 3 to 5 inches of rain during the early days of harvest. It is projected that the overall pile in the ANE will shrink from issues of water-soak and pink rot. As well, there will be a reduction in payables caused by above normal deducts for hollow heart and off-type. On a positive note, all areas reported very good colour scores and this will help all NA processing plants make good quality finished.

On the supply and demand outlook for the sector, the reversal of the production trends of the past few years, in which the PNW consistently has a strong supply of good quality raw potatoes to meet the increasing demand of the fry companies, has placed the sector in a very unique situation. The big four fryers have expanded their western processing facilities. They have all built new processing plants mostly keyed to the growth potential of Alberta, Idaho, Manitoba, Oregon and Washington. Now, when those fryers need their western plants running full speed with good quality raw potatoes to meet the surging demand from the economic recovery after COVID-19, the PNW has come up short on potatoes and short on quality. Meanwhile in the East, where Mother Nature has delivered a series of blows over the past three years, from 2020’s drought to a next-to-impossible fall harvest in 2018, there is an abundance of good quality processing potatoes, compliments of the best growing season on record in the past 15 years. The outlook expressed during the conference by the growers and their reps was of strong optimism, tempered with caution. As long as North American businesses and restaurants continue their recover to a pre-pandemic level of growth and investment, and as long as the labour and transportation challenges currently faced by our industry can be managed and righted, there will be more demand for frozen finished products and the





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fryers will do what they need to do to operate their facilities and meet the demand(s) of their customers.

The most major issue that is front and centre of all the Area reports is the bulging cost projections for the upcoming crop year. Fertilizer prices are sky-rocketing; labour costs are unprecedented, machinery parts and repairs are unpredictable. IF you can even order the parts! All growers reported that almost every line item on their financials are being strongly impacted in this post-COVID world, where labour is unavailable, transportation is still unreliable and end-users feel they are at the mercy of a capitalist market gone crazy. With major, unprecedented increases to growers' costs of production funneling their way into budgets and with the demand for finished product currently out-stripping supply, the need for a major increase in the pre-season contract prices has seldom been so great. Also, it was noted by growers in most all areas, that other commodity crops and even renting out their arable land to other agricultural businesses (grass seed for instance) are

very profitable alternatives for growers.

The grower reps from the Potato Growers of Washington (PGW) shared that they arrived at a settlement with their three major fry customers in October and that the agreement is an equivalent to a 20% increase over last year's contract value, all on Base prices. This is the earliest settlement in the Columbia Basin in recent memory and most-likely the largest pre-season contract settlement ever between PGW and their processors. At the time of the PMANA conference there were no other settlements; however other Areas in the west are in discussions with their fryers and it seems there are desires on both sides to get contract negotiations concluded early so processors and farmers can make plans and finalize budgets.

Across the rest of the continent, grower reps reported they are working on projected costs of production and that there is a strong desire and even stronger need to capitalize on the demand for open, good-quality processing potatoes. From the ANE, after coming off the worst drought since 2001, growers in the east shared they need contract or better-than-contract prices for their "open potatoes" combined with their record-setting yields to help offset the losses from 2020's short crop. From this desk, hopefully the ANE growers and the western fryers can develop a mutually beneficial relationship over the coming months where very good quality potatoes can be transported to the western fry plants where the supply of raw is not meeting the demand for frozen and both parties end up surpassing the needs of their customers; while at the same time improving profit margins prior to going into the most expensive crop year ever!



Industry Updates

PEI Potato Board Marketing Specialist one of 2022 Nuffield Canada Scholars Announced for 2022



October 29, 2021.
Ottawa, ON – Nuffield Canada has selected six exceptional scholarship candidates from across the country to be awarded \$15,000 each to challenge themselves in a self-directed research program of international travel and study.

Recipients can come from any capacity of primary production, industry, or governance of agriculture and must do a minimum of 10 weeks of travel study within 24 months to examine and research an agriculturally relevant issue. They then write a report on their research findings and make a presentation to the Nuffield Board.

The 2022 scholars are:

Mark Phillips, is from Bonshaw, PEI, and is the Marketing Specialist for the PEI Potato Board. His goal is to learn more about issues producers face with respect to developing public trust and how to work with the general public to foster an understanding of agricultural practices and the reasons behind them. Mark's sponsor is the PEI Department of Agriculture & Land.

Ingrid Johnston, is a co-owner and manager of Onward Ranch near 150 Mile House in BC. Her topic of study will focus on how primary producers can direct market their farm products and ship to consumers without using a distribution company or middleman. Ingrid's scholarship is sponsored by Farm Credit Canada.

Ken Coles, is executive director of the agriculture innovation hub Farming Smarter, in Lethbridge, Alberta. Ken hopes to change the way people farm by studying grassroots on-farm innovation organizations around the world. His studies will be sponsored by the Alberta Wheat Commission.

Shawn Moen, is the CEO and co-founder of 9 Mile Legacy Brewing Co., an innovative nanobrewery located in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He plans to study how jurisdictions use a business incubation model to create environments where diverse, stratified, and multi-channel agricultural SMEs can survive in start-up and thrive in

growth. Shawn is sponsored by Nuffield Canada.

Odette Menard, is from Saint-Simon de Bagot, QC, and works in soil and water conservation for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Québec. Odette is an expert in earthworm behaviour and soil improvement under no-till conditions. Her study topic is to recognize and understand the behavioural changes required to adopt soil health practices for the long term. Odette is sponsored by Nuffield Canada.

Lauren Park, is a beekeeper with two farms - Forest Hill Apiary, and Cosman and Whidden Honey Ltd., in Forest Hill, NS. She specializes in queen bee rearing along with fruit pollination, and honey production. Her topic of study is on queen health, and the queen bee's impact on sustainability in the beekeeping industry. Lauren is sponsored by Canadian Canola Growers Association.

The goal of Nuffield is to attract mid-career scholars with a passion for agriculture who are ready to challenge themselves in a program of international travel and study. The experience results in personal and professional benefits, while adding value to Canadian agriculture as scholars assume positions of greater influence in their field.

Nuffield Canada was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986 and currently has more than 100 alumni. As part of a larger international community, Nuffield Canada has affiliate organizations in Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Zimbabwe. Scholar recipients become a member of the global Nuffield alumni network, more than 1,700 strong, who in return host and help current traveling scholars.

For more information contact: Theresa Whalen, Executive Director, Nuffield Canada, (613) 325-7321 exec.director@nuffield.ca

New Training Program For Truck And Transport, Heavy Duty and Agricultural Equipment Technicians

Government of Prince Edward Island, Wednesday, November 10, 2021: A new apprenticeship program, developed together with the provincial government, Holland College, PEI Trucking Sector Council and PEI Agricultural Sector Council, will support industry needs and strengthen the province's labour force.

Starting January 2022, Holland College will deliver the Truck and Transport, Heavy Duty Equipment and Agricultural Equipment Technical Training Program, with practical

Attention: Class A Pesticide Applicator Certificate Holders

There are three ways to renew your Class A Pesticide Applicator Certificate:

Option 1 - Continuing Education Credits Day A & Day B

Option 2 - On Line Pesticide Class A training course and Write the Exam

Option 3 - Make an Appointment to Write the Exam with no training.

Due to COVID-19, most pesticide training courses for the 2021/22 year will be delivered on-line.

Option 1

The Department of Agriculture and Land will be offering **Online** the two different training days A & B for your Continuing Education Credits. You are required to attend one **Day A** and one **Day B** over the five-year re-certification period. Only **one day per calendar year** will be credited.

Day A - Topics covered: General Information, Pesticide Regulations, Pesticides Effect on the Land, Aquatic Impact of Pesticides, Environmental Safety, and Application Technology.

Day B - Topics covered: Emergency Response, First Aid, Pesticide Monitoring & Enforcement, Labeling, Professionalism, Traceability, Integrated Pest Management, and Human Health & Safety.

Your current Pesticide Applicator Certificate will be valid until the expiry date. All renewed Class A certificates, in the CEC program, have an expiry date of March 31. **The fee is \$75 (HST included) for the 5-year certificate.**

If you have taken the Day A & Day B as required to renew your certificate, you will be mailed a renewal form. If you did not take both the Day A & Day B before your expiry date, you will be required to complete the written exam to obtain a new certificate.

The **2021/22 Online CEC training courses** are from **9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** schedule is as follows:

Day A	December 7, 2021	Day B:	December 9, 2021
	January 18, 2022		January 20, 2022
	February 22, 2022		February 24, 2022
	March 22, 2022		March 24, 2022

In Person CEC Training schedule below (Limited number of seats):

Day A	January 11, 2022	O'Leary	Day B	January 12, 2022
Day A	February 1, 2022	Montague	Day B	February 2, 2022

To register for one of the above training courses, please call (902) 368-4154 or (902) 368-4880 or email mmpower@gov.pe.ca to receive your login instructions. **Pre-registration is required.**

Option 2

You can renew your license or obtain a new license by attending an **Online** training course and writing the **Online** exam. We are using the University of Guelph's five day course (approximately 1 ½ hours daily) for this Class A training. **If you make 75% or over, you qualify for your PEI five-year certificate. The fee is \$75 (HST included) must be paid when you register.**

The **2021/22 Online** training courses schedule for the week of is as follows:

December 13 - 17, 2021	January 24 - 28, 2022
February 7 - 11, 2022	March 7 - 11, 2022
March 21 - 25, 2022	April 4 - 8, 2022

To register for one of these training courses, please call (902) 368-4154 or (902) 368-4880 to receive your login instructions. **Pre-registration is required.** Book early as spaces are limited.

Option 3

You can make an appointment to write the two-hour open book exam with no training by calling **Debbie MacRae** at (902) 368-5024 or **Thane Clarke** at (902) 368-5599 with the Department of Environment, Water and Climate Change in Charlottetown. **The cost is \$75 (HST included).**

If you have any questions or require additional details, please feel free to contact Muriel Power at (902) 368-4154 or mmpower@gov.pe.ca

training on specialized equipment from the three industries. The program will be based at the Queens Country Highway Depot and will include onsite visits to industry shops across Prince Edward Island.

“Trained technicians are crucial in addressing skill shortages and ensuring safe working environments across the Island. Supporting industry to recruit and grow the number of new technicians is essential to our provincial economy. We’re working together with Holland College and the sectors to create this program to reduce barriers and offer more opportunities for people to take this training right here in Prince Edward Island.” says Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture Minister Matthew MacKay

“I’m very pleased that our department is helping support the next generation of skilled workers in Prince Edward Island,” said Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure James Aylward. “As our economy rebuilds from the impact of the pandemic, we want young Islanders and Islanders looking for a new career to be able to learn and develop their skills from the experienced trade workers in our province. This partnership will benefit our Island businesses, our trucking and agriculture sector and our communities.”

“Having on-Island training for our truck and transport mechanics is a great step forward for our industry”, said Brian Oulton, executive director, PEI Trucking Sector Council. “With shipping demands ever-growing, so too is the need for highly skilled, certified mechanics to keep PEI’s professional drivers rolling safely down the road. By enabling apprentices to train on PEI, this partnership helps the industry resolve a pressing labour challenge.”

“The agriculture industry identified an increase in demand for skilled agricultural equipment technicians due to retirement, and growing technology and training requirements. We’ve posted several jobs for agriculture equipment technicians over the last several years and by offering this training on PEI, it will give Islanders the chance to expand their career opportunities without having to leave PEI,” said Greg Stavert, chair of PEI Agriculture Sector Council.

“Holland College is pleased to expand its technical and applied learning apprenticeship training in response to industry demands. Using the college’s expertise will enable students to stay in Prince Edward Island to complete their training and will help support the labor force requirements of these local industry sectors,” said Dr. Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald, president of Holland College.

Government will fund the cost for bringing this training to Prince Edward Island and the tuition for all participants in the program.

For more information contact: Hillary MacDonald, Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture, 902-394-6368, hpsmacdonald@gov.pe.ca or April Gallant, Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, 902-368-6449, aldgallant@gov.pe.ca

BASF receives registration for Veltyma Fungicide with new active ingredient Revysol

CALGARY, ALBERTA, September 14, 2021 – BASF Canada Agricultural Solutions has received registration from Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for Veltyma™ Fungicide. Veltyma contains the unique active ingredient Revysol® which is the first and only Isopropanol-Azole, a unique chemistry discovered and developed by BASF, that provides broader, stronger, and longer control against various diseases on multiple crops. Veltyma will be available for purchase in the 2022 growing season.

Veltyma is registered for use on multiple crops including corn, potatoes, wheat and soybeans. It provides broad spectrum control against key leaf diseases in corn, including northern corn leaf blight, tar spot, common rust, eyespot and gray leaf spot, along with protection against key foliar diseases in potatoes, such as early blight, black dot and brown spot. In wheat, it provides control against septoria leaf blotch, leaf rust, stripe rust and tan spot.

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“We know that farmers need new and innovative solutions to manage issues today, while at the same time, addressing the challenges of tomorrow. We are thrilled to be able to bring Veltyma – with the new active ingredient Revysol – to Canadian growers,” says Trevor Latta, Brand Manager for Corn, Soybean & Horticulture, BASF Canada. “Veltyma provides growers with the best of both worlds: multiple modes of systemic residual activity while delivering proven plant health benefits, including increased growth efficiency and greater yield potential. With the launch of Veltyma, we are setting a new standard of disease control.”

Veltyma contains the active ingredients Pyraclostrobin (Group 11) and Mefentrifluconazole (Group 3) – also known as Revysol. Revysol’s unique molecular structure binds target enzymes more powerfully than other Group 3 products on the market, providing best-in-class performance on a broad spectrum of diseases, including some disease strains that have become resistant to other Group 3 fungicides. It also contains Pyraclostrobin, which provides proven plant health benefits for increased growth efficiency, better management of minor stress, and greater yield potential.

“Our testing has shown that Revysol binds to the target site up to 100 times more powerfully than conventional triazole fungicides, including where target site mutations have developed. This means that Revysol gives growers a highly effective tool to not only protect their crops, but to effectively manage resistances while increasing their yield in a sustainable way,” says Latta.

BASF Agricultural Solutions invests \$4 million per day globally in research and development to bring growers the solutions they need to address agronomic challenges. Growers are encouraged to speak with their AgSolutions sales representative to learn more about Veltyma, or check out BASF’s virtual tour platform, InField Innovation Tours, at www.agro.basf.ca/vt/home. To learn more about Veltyma™, please visit www.agsolutions.ca.

Always read and follow label directions. Veltyma™ and Revysol® are registered trade-mark of BASF, used under license by BASF Canada Inc. © 2021 BASF Canada Inc.

International Potato Technology Expo Returns to Charlottetown This February

November 30, 2021. Charlottetown, PE –North America’s leading potato event, returns to the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown, February 24 and 25, 2022. The International Potato Technology Expo welcomes those who grow and package potatoes, together with the leading manufacturers of equipment and product solutions from across the Maritimes and beyond. The highly successful event has been held biennially for more than two decades.

The event, which welcomes thousands of attendees and exhibitors to the island, covers the full spectrum of the industry – from seed, to soil, to growing, harvesting and packaging. It features harvesters, sprayers, pilers, cultivators, storage and climatization technology, tractors, machinery, seed cutters, plant genetics, seeds, bagging equipment, and more.

After consulting with our exhibitors and industry partners, we have decided to host the 2022 edition of the International Potato Expo Technology Expo on a Thursday and Friday date this year, with extended hours on Thursday. Compared to previous years where the event was typically held Friday and Saturday, we feel this adjustment will increase the quality of the show for everyone.

Online pre-registration is open now. Visitors can pre-register today to save money & fast-track entrance to the show. Registration is \$10.00 online in advance (\$20.00 at the door) and is valid for both show trade days and all conference sessions.

For complete details, visit the show website at www.PotatoExpo.ca and connect with the show on Facebook.

Upcoming Events

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

January 2022

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| Jan 5 | Potato Business Summit.
Anaheim, CA, |
| Jan 5-6 | NPC Potato Expo. Anaheim, CA. |
| Jan 15 | Monthly PEI Potato Board Meeting. Charlottetown, PEI. |

February 2022

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| Feb 24-25 | International Potato Technology Expo. Charlottetown, PEI. |
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March 2022

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| Mar 8 | Canadian Potato Council Meeting.
Ottawa, ON. |
| Mar 8-10 | Canadian Horticultural Council AGM. Ottawa, ON. |

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

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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 2022.



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Shawn Murphy, Show Manager

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