

*Prince Edward Island*

January/February 2022

Volume 23 Issue 1

# POTATO NEWS

## *In This Issue:*

- Cover Crop Survey Results
- Potato Wart and PCN
- Post Harvest Test Results



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# POTATO NEWS

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## Fox Island Elite Seed Farm

Mark Pridham.....Farm Manager  
Eleanor Matthews.....Lab Manager

Tel: 902-892-6551 Fax: 902-566-4914

Email: [potato@peipotato.org](mailto:potato@peipotato.org)

Website: [www.peipotato.org](http://www.peipotato.org)

Please return undelivered copies to:  
PEI Potato Board, 90 Hillstrom Avenue,  
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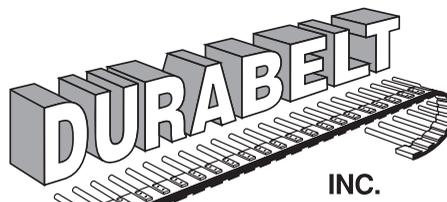
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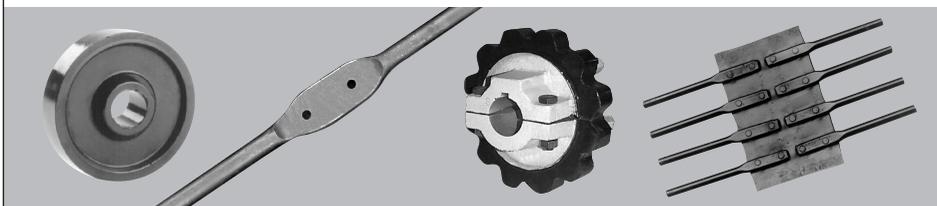
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Cover: A high quality processing crop is loaded into the bin during the 2021 harvest period. Photo: M.K Sonier.



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# Chairman's Comments

by John Visser, PEI Potato Board Chairman



Federal officials tell us that ten weeks is not much time to expect to resolve a plant health issue. It has seemed like an eternity to PEI seed and fresh growers because it is a manufactured plant health issue that never should have happened! PEI has operated under interim and then the Potato Wart Long Term Management Plan since 2001. A Plan that has worked and prevented the spread of potato wart to our markets – anecdotal evidence that is supported by the negative results of the recently completed national Potato Wart Soil survey. To rub salt in the wound, PEI had one of the best crops in recent memory in terms of yield and also had the highest quality seed crop since 2016 with Post Harvest Test pass rate of over 90%.

**“It is a plant health issue that has been blown out of proportion! PEI has operated under a recognized Potato Wart Long Term Management Plan since 2001. A Plan that has worked.”**

When two detections were made in Island processing fields in October 2021 that were related to previous investigations, CFIA officials had no data to give them reason to believe that as a result of this find, there was an increased risk that potato wart would be found outside of the regulated areas. The detections were on two large farms that were involved with multiple potato wart detections since 2000 and many of their fields were already under regulation or surveillance. The newly positive fields were growing processing potatoes for the local French fry plant, potatoes that were never destined to move more than a few miles to their destination. The fields were immediately placed under quarantine notice by CFIA, as per the Potato Wart Long Term Management Plan, and closely related fields were identified. The rest of harvest season proceeded with no further detections despite the usual extensive visual surveillance and heightened awareness following a season very conducive to symptom development. Instead of business as usual for the remainder of PEI potato farms not related to these two farms – CFIA actions started rounds of expanding trade disruptions.

This is in stark contrast to the ongoing detections and expanding circle of PCN infested land in Idaho. Notices of these detections each year (many found in previously regulated fields as are the current potato wart detections) barely raise an eyebrow at CFIA and trade continues uninterrupted. As well, our industry has been subjected to continuing press releases from the National Potato Council (NPC) in the United States providing misinformation to the press about what they consider unfavourable levels of testing for potato wart as compared to that for PCN in Idaho (please see page 13-15 later in this issue for more factual information). Despite personal visits and calls and data provided to NPC staff and directors, it is clear that NPC's only interest is in perpetuating false information and eliminating competition from the marketplace.

Since November 2021, the PEI Potato Board has been involved in an endless round of meetings with CFIA, our political leaders and colleagues at the PEI Department of Agriculture and Land. As Board Chairman, I cannot speak highly enough about the engagement and support we have received from our provincial government. They have been with us right from the start providing an immediate contingency fund set up for extra costs, accompanying the Board on visits to Ottawa and Washington and most recently topping up inadequate federal funding to provide a destruction program that recognizes the stress growers are under and addresses the physical cost of destroying high quality potatoes. As well I would like to thank all of my fellow growers who have spoken to the media to keep this issue front and centre.

We welcome the positive tone of the meeting held in Washington this week between Ministers Bibeau and MacAulay with US Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, however, the outcome of the conversation holds no assurances.

All I know right now is that we have bins full of high quality, wart-free potatoes and planting is about 90 days away. Many decisions have to be made.

Stay strong everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Visser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

# PEI Potato Board News

## Grower Updates

Grower updates are being sent to Island Potato Farmers on a regular basis each week.

Various support programs are being utilized to ensure that as many of the excess potatoes as possible are diverted to food use. Movement is supported through the following programs:

## Agrawest Program

AgraWest Foods is the local dehydration facility located in Souris, PEI. They employ 85-100 people when running at full capacity. The supply for the plant is usually provided with off grade potatoes from local packing plants. Due to reduced table shipments, and fewer packing sheds running on a consistent basis, AgraWest Foods was having difficulty maintaining a steady supply of product. The provincial government has stepped in with financial support to potato farmers to ensure a consistent supply of potatoes for the plant. The support is for farmers hurt by the border closure, and this program complements but is not replacing regular contract or packing shed supplies.

## Food Bank Loads

Truckloads of potatoes have started to arrive at food banks across Canada as a part of an effort to distribute potatoes left sitting in Island warehouses because of the 10-week (and counting) ban on exports to the United States.

The Board is helping to coordinate the shipments, along with two of the country's largest food bank organizations, with funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Six Food Charities have been selected to help distribute PEI potatoes across the country. Second Harvest has been shipping loads for a couple weeks, and Food Banks Canada will start shipping loads next week. We have also been in talks with the Salvation Army.

While the loads only make up for a small portion of the total loss caused the border closure, it ensures they get in hands of those who need

them, instead of being destroyed. It allows farmers to be paid for their product, and it's an opportunity for packing sheds to keep their crew busy in times where they might have been otherwise inactive.

The price has been negotiated with the food banks to ensure a price that can still be beneficial for the grower, but ensures the Federal funding goes as far and reaches as many growers as possible.

A lot will depend on product availability, transportation availability, and funding, but the food aid organizations hope to continue pulling product into the summer months. There will be a need for our product for as long as there is quality product available. An early estimate is 300 loads, but there are a lot of variables at play.

So far 27 loads have left and 24 have been delivered, all through Second Harvest. Food Banks Canada loads will start next week.

We have also had individuals reach out and buy full loads of potatoes to support our growers. Two individuals made



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*PEI Potatoes go to people in need across Canada with the support of food bank organizations and the Canadian government. (Photos provided by Second Harvest).*

donations to the Welcome Hall Mission in Montreal. They made a donation to the organization and the organization used the funds to buy potatoes from dealers here on the Island. This has been an incredible gesture, and we can't thank them enough. Other individuals have been inspired by these acts and are looking to make similar donations. The support on the Island and throughout Canada has been incredible.

We appreciate all the work these Food Organizations have been doing, it has provided some light in an otherwise dark time.

### **Export Support**

Federal assistance is also being provided for extra phytosanitary measures growers and exporters are required to take to meet current import requirements of various



markets.

### **Destruction Program**

Perfectly good PEI potatoes from wart-free fields with no relation to potato wart detections will soon be going to the fields to be destroyed. By the time this issue is printed, information on the program should have been sent to potato farmers. It is important that destruction takes place during the freeze/thaw cycles of the winter so that potatoes are destroyed and do not pose any plant health or environmental issues in the coming season. Destruction will be monitored closely with producers.

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# Farmers Speak Up For Their Livelihood

PEI Potato Farmers are a quiet bunch. They do not always like to be in the spotlight and there are not many who are comfortable speaking to the media. But in the middle of this potato crisis that is threatening their livelihoods, all kinds of farmers and those with close ties to the industry are speaking up in an attempt to stress the impact of government actions on their livelihoods and to press for action that will resolve the situation.

From Board directors who attend local and national meetings and contribute to the organization of events, to those who usually stay busy on their own farms and pack potatoes for markets built up over the years, to those who make their living not farming but in the farm supply business - everyone has been working to keep this issue front and centre in the media and pressure government officials to take responsibility and resolve the issue.

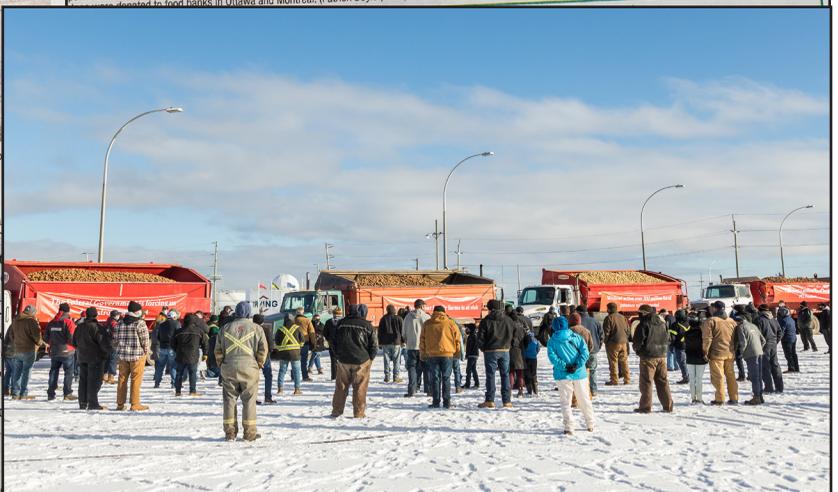
People know that we have a quarantine pest present in our province but they also know that there is a plan that is working and is comparable to plans for other quarantine pests present in North America. Our farmers need to get back to business and they need the federal government's support to do so.



through the main streets of Charlottetown on Dec. 20 blasting their horns in support of farmers facing financial trouble after Island potatoes were banned from the U.S. market.



the warehouses, a option for that, if go to the market destined for, is th go in the wintert it's cold to get spr field and then fre "It's unfortunat perfectly good po they are going to somewhere other destined markets has to happen." Visser said the government nee



Growers participate in media events and articles: clockwise from top left: Robin Stejin on Stingray News, Farm Focus newspaper January 2022 cover features a photo on the PEI potato giveaway in Ottawa in early December, the potato rally in Charlottetown December 2021, John Visser pictured and quoted in a Guardian newspaper article on December 21, 2021.

## P.E.I. seed catalogue and suppliers hit by potato wart ban



Island company ships more than 16,000 orders a year across Canada

Nancy Russell · CBC News · Posted: Dec 22, 2021 7:01 PM AT | Last Updated: December 22, 2021



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NO CHEER IN CHARLOTTETOWN

## Facing a long ban on PEI potato exports to the U.S.



## 'I just can't stand by': 2 P.E.I. women write letters lobbying politicians to resolve potato crisis



Both women have deep agricultural roots and want to help find a solution for P.E.I. farmers

Nancy Russell · CBC News · Posted: Jan 20, 2022 6:00 AM AT | Last Updated: January 20



Mary van den Broek Grant has been co-owner of Cardigan Feed Services for 40 years, and her father owned the business before that. (Submitted by Mary van den Broek Grant)

## PEI seed potato growers shut out of Canadian markets on top of U.S. export ban



About 15 per cent of potatoes grown on P.E.I. are used for seed

Nancy Russell · CBC News · Posted: Dec 23, 2021 7:27 PM AT | Last Updated: December 23, 2021



Billy Cameron grows seed and table potatoes on the family farm in Hampton, P.E.I. and is vice-chair of the P.E.I. Potato Board. (Submitted by Billy Cameron)

21 comments

P.E.I. farmers who grow seed potatoes are not only shut out of the U.S. market right now; under current rules, they can't ship anywhere else in Canada either.

## Back to the snowblower

On Monday, the federal government announced a \$28-million package to assist with the crisis.

It will help divert potatoes to food banks, help locate new markets for potatoes and provide support to farmers who have to destroy part of their crop.



**BT** Load up your holiday table with PEI potatoes and support PEI farmers this festive season

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TRAVEL DUE TO THREAT OF OMICRON VARIANT • CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES OFFICIALLY RECOMMENDS ENDING BAN ON GAY MEN

Clockwise from top left, Barry Cudmore on the CBC/PEI website, Alex Docherty on the cover of the Grower January 2022 issue, Billy Cameron on the CBC/PEI website, Andrew Smith on Breakfast Television, PEI potato destruction, Mary van den Broek Grant of Cardigan Feeds on the CBC/PEI website.

# 2021 Cover Crop/Sustainability Survey Report

by Ryan Barrett, Research & Agronomy Specialist

For the third year in a row, the Prince Edward Island Potato Board conducted a survey of potato farms to assess the amount of cover cropping that is happening on Island potato farms, as well as getting feedback from producers regarding a number of other sustainability topics and producer priorities for research and extension.

A total of 69 farms participated in the survey, with good distribution across the province. 20% of respondents were from West Prince, 41% from East Prince, 14% from Western & Central Queens, 10% from Eastern Queens & Southern Kings, and 14% from Northern & Eastern Kings.

The participating farms grew a total of 37,942 acres of potatoes in 2021. Using the Statistics Canada reported acreage of 86,000 for PEI in 2021, this survey reflects the practices of 44.1% of Island potato acreage. This is a strong level of response and is similar to the level of response in 2019 and 2020.

In 2021, survey respondents reported that 52.6% of harvested potato acres were planted with a cover crop following harvest. This is an increase from 47.8% reported in 2020 and 37.4% in 2019. The combination of an earlier-maturing crop due to adequate rainfall during the growing season as well as good harvest conditions no doubt contributed to this number reaching the 50% level this year.

In addition, survey respondents reported that 51.2% of acres destined to be planted to potatoes in 2022 had a

green cover crop established in 2021. This is an increase from 45.0% reported in 2020 and 24.0% in 2019. Research and extension on moving up land preparation to early summer followed by planting a cover crop appears to be increasing in acceptance by Island potato growers. This is not only a positive development for reducing the risk of soil erosion and nutrient losses, but research also indicates that fall cover cropping ahead of potatoes is associated with a small but significant increase in yield potential in the following potato crop. 74% of respondents indicated that they planted a greater acreage of cover crops in 2021 than over the past three years.

In this survey, we also asked questions to ascertain what crops are being grown in rotation with potatoes in PEI. Totals are provided in the following table, as well as comparison with results from 2020. Note that these are primary rotation crops, not fall cover crops.

The biggest changes from the numbers reported in 2020 is a significant decrease in pulse acres (down 65%), a significant decrease in mustard acres (down 72%), a 45% increase in corn acres, a 26% increase in sorghum sudangrass and/or pearl millet, a 26% increase in the soil building mixes and a 24% increase in alfalfa or alfalfa/grass mixtures.

On the topic of nitrogen use, 38% of respondents indicated that they used a slow release or protected nitrogen product (i.e. ESN, Super-U, Agrotain) in 2021. However, 94% of respondents indicated that they would

Table 1.

Crop	2021 Acres Reported	2021 Acres proportional to total potato acreage	% Increase or decrease	2020 Acres proportional to total potato acreage
Grains	27,154	61,574	1%	60,843
Pulses	1,485	3,367	-65%	9,605
Soybean	3,137	7,113	36%	5,238
Corn	3,275	7,426	45%	5,115
Mustard	1,576	3,574	-72%	12,675
Buckwheat	2,470	5,601	0%	5,613
Sudangrass or Pearl Millet or mixture	8,133	18,442	26%	14,628
Alfalfa and Alfalfa/Grass	6,835	15,499	24%	12,465
Red Clover and Red Clover/Grass	4,806	10,898	-5%	11,428
Other Forage	2,726	6,181	-41%	10,513
Other Cash Crop	842	1,909	66%	1,150
Radish (Oilseed or Tillage)	750	1,701	N/A	N/A
Other Soil Building Mixes	4,821	10,932	26%	8,643

be open to incorporating these products into their nutrient management programs if there was an incentive to help defray the added cost. Given that the use of protected nitrogen products has been identified as a best management practice associated with reducing nitrous oxide emissions (a potent greenhouse gas), it is likely that we will see additional programming in the vein in the near future.

We also asked producers for their feedback regarding reforestation initiatives, another tool in the toolbox for sequestering carbon and fighting climate change. 26% of respondents indicated that they are already participating in reforestation initiatives. A further 28% of respondents were very interested in reforestation program, with 45% saying that they were somewhat interest. Only 1% indicated that they were not interested.

New to this year’s survey was a list of research and extension topics, which producers were asked to rate from 1 (low) to 5 (high) in level of priority. Getting this information helps to direct research and extension efforts by the Board as well as our industry partners. Results are in Table 2 below:

I would like to thank all those who took a few minutes to respond to this survey. It is quite evident that cover crop adoption continues to increase in Prince Edward Island, which is a terrific outcome for both the long-term health of PEI soils as well as the resiliency and productivity of PEI potato farms.



Table 2.

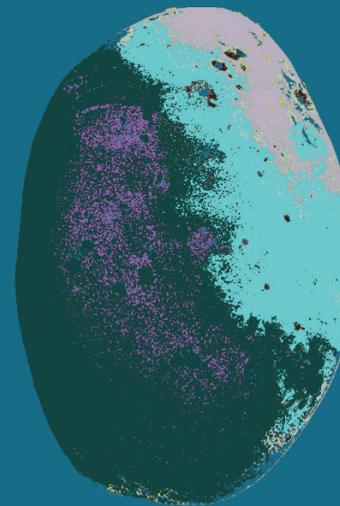
Topic	Rank	Topic	Rank
Soil Health/Soil Organic Matter	4.6	Seed Management	3.8
Crop Rotation Agronomy	4.3	Soil Compaction	3.7
Wireworm	4.1	Late Blight/Alternaria	3.6
Potato Wart	4.1	Insects (CPB, Corn Borer, Flea Beetle)	3.6
Common Scab	4.1	PVY and other viruses	3.5
Variety Evaluation	4	Blackleg/Soft Rot	3.4
Nutrient Management/Fertility	4	Precision Agriculture	3.4
Potato Early Dying Complex	3.9	Irrigation Management	2.5



*Clockwise from top: Examples from farm scale trials of Fall Seeded Cover Crops After Primary Tillage Before Planting Potatoes the Next Year - Ikarus Radish/Wheat Mix treatment in Spring Valley at Spring Valley Farms (Nov 10, 2021); a barley field in Hamilton at Oyster Cove Farms (Nov 17, 2021); and an oats treatment in Kinkora at Smith Family Farms (Nov 17, 2021). Photos by Morgan McNeil.*



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# Potato Wart and Potato Cyst Nematode

## Two Similar Pests - Why the Different Reaction to Detections?

by Mary Kay Sonier, Seed Coordinator

Quarantinable and regulated pests have been a long standing concern in the potato world due the fact that potatoes are clonally propagated and pests can spread within or on infected tubers. When pests of significance have been detected over the history of global potato production, detailed management programs have been put in place to control, and in some cases eradicate, the pest. These plans often include testing and surveillance components as well as utilizing risk mitigation practices to minimize the threat of spread while allowing continued host crop production and trade. Operating under strict phytosanitary requirements is a common part of global potato production and trade.

In North America, we have experience with numerous regulated soil borne pests. These include Potato Cyst Nematodes (Golden Nematode and Pale Cyst Nematode) and Potato Wart.

Both potato wart and potato cyst nematodes have been found in Newfoundland & Labrador – potato wart since 1909 and potato cyst nematodes since 1962. Potato Wart has been found widespread geographically in Newfoundland, which limited management options. Consequently movement of potatoes and regulated items from Newfoundland has been prohibited for many years.

Historically potato wart was found in 1918 in garden plots in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland in the US. It was thought eradicated by 1974, but found again in a soil survey of old garden plots in 1987. It was declared eradicated in 1994.

Golden nematode was found in New York State in 1941 - thought to be brought back on military equipment from WWI. It was also found in the central Saanich Peninsula on Vancouver Island in British Columbia in 1965 and in Quebec in 2006.

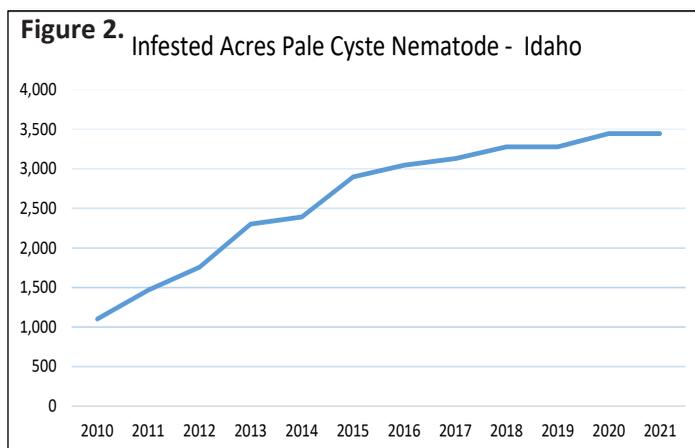
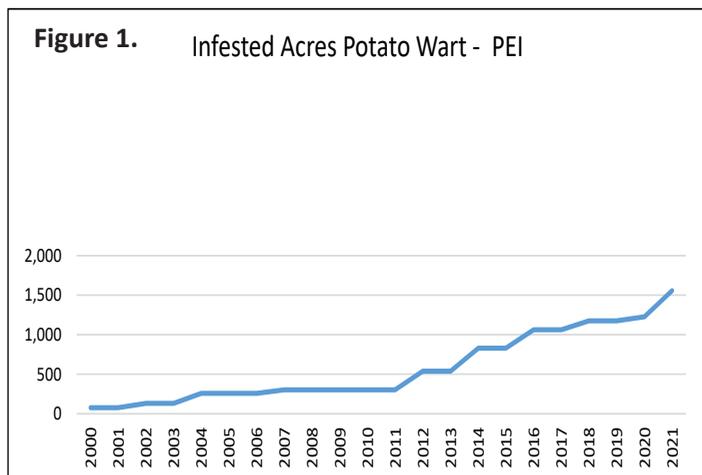
Pale cyst nematodes were found in Idaho in 2006.

All of these detections have resulted in containment and control measures to prevent spread of these pests using recognized plant health measures.

Potato Wart was detected in Prince Edward Island in 2000. As is the case with a new detection of a pest of this nature, the detection was followed by extensive soil testing and surveillance activities to determine the extent of the presence of the pest in the province. Since that time, a management plan was developed and PEI producers continue to operate under that management plan today.

Concern has been expressed in certain quarters that there have been continuing detections of potato wart in PEI since 2000. However, this is not uncommon when new pests are detected in a given area, and awareness and detection methods are heightened.

Detections of Potato Wart in PEI and PCN in Idaho have increased gradually in both areas respectively since the pests were first detected. Many of these detections, although not all, have occurred in fields related to previous detections. This is not unexpected and these detections show the testing and surveillance programs put in place are working. Figures 1 and 2 below show the progression of these pests in PEI and ID.



Infested acreage data for Potato Wart obtained from CFIA, infested acreage information for PCN in Idaho obtained from USDA PCN Program Quarterly reports and IPPC pest reports.

**PEI potato farmers are at a loss to understand why the 2021 detections in processing fields related to previous detections have been looked at so differently from ongoing PCN detections in Idaho and earlier detections of potato wart on PEI.**

In both areas, the two pests have been considered for many years to be, as per the International Plant Protection Convention definition: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

As described in the chart (Figure 3) below, due to the different nature of symptoms of infestation of the two pests, the globally accepted detection method for PCN is

soil sampling, while for Potato Wart it is visual detection. Soil sampling is of course used for both pests for delimiting, investigative and ongoing monitoring purposes.

However, due to the similar nature of the two pests in terms of human mediated spread and persistence in the soil, the difference in requirements, as outlined in the Potato Wart Long Term Management Plan and the PCN Guidelines (full details of both plans are available from CFIA), to deregulate associated fields is puzzling.

Under both plans there are production, shipping/ marketing and soil movement restrictions as long as the exposed fields (PCN) and primary contact fields (Potato Wart) are regulated. Both equivalent field categories may be cleared of cleaning and disinfection requirements in

<b>Figure 3. Potato Wart</b> <i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>	<b>Potato Cyst Nematodes</b> <i>Globodera rostochiensis</i> (Golden Nematode) and <i>Globodera pallida</i> (Pale Cyst Nematode)
<b>Pest Description:</b> <p><i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>, is the fungal pathogen causing potato wart disease. The pathogen mainly attacks the underground parts of the potato plant but stems, leaves and flowers can also be infected. It produces mobile zoospores that can move only small distances in the soil. It also produces overwintering sporangia that are very resistant and long-lived. Thus, the pathogen spreads very slowly under natural conditions but persists for very long periods in infested soil (over 30 years). It can, however, be spread by human activity (e.g. movement of soil) or anything which can carry the organism (e.g. potatoes, other plants, machinery or implements).</p>	<b>Pest Description:</b> <p>Potato Cyst Nematodes are long-lived soil-borne pests that are difficult to detect at very low populations with cysts containing viable eggs known to survive decades in the soil. Once PCN is present, there is no quick, economical and effective treatment. Control of PCN is difficult and requires integrated approaches that utilize phytosanitary measures including ongoing surveillance and testing, treatment (nematicides), and the adoption of cultural practices (e.g. crop rotation, use of resistant varieties, trap cropping, and host avoidance). The movement of seed potatoes and other articles with soil presents the highest risk for the movement of these pests. Appropriate surveillance and regulatory controls are essential to minimize the risk of PCN spread.</p>
<b>Detection and extent of infection:</b> <p><b>Natural dispersal of the pest within a field is quite low, so in a year with suitable environmental conditions (a wet, cool season) visual symptoms may indicate a low level infection before much spread has occurred.</b> The extent and severity of the infection is determined through soil sampling (delimiting).</p>	<b>Detection and extent of infection:</b> <p>By the time visual symptoms are noticed in the field (plant yellowing and death) the infestation will be well advanced. <b>Soil testing is therefore the most widely used means to detect the pest before severe infestation occurs and to determine the extent of an infection – how far it has spread.</b></p>
<b>Control of Spread:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning and disinfecting equipment that moves from an infested field and closely related fields.</li> <li>- Control of any soil movement from an infested or closely related field.</li> <li>- Test result requirements that must be met before any deregulation activities occur.</li> <li>- Restriction on host crop production in infested fields and risk mitigation measures for movement of host crop materials produced in infested or closely related fields as they progress through the deregulation process.</li> <li>- Ongoing visual surveillance and soil testing to monitor and prevent spread.</li> </ul>	<b>Control of Spread:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning and disinfecting equipment that moves from an infested field and closely related fields.</li> <li>- Control of any soil movement from an infested or closely related field.</li> <li>- Test result requirements that must be met before any deregulation activities occur.</li> <li>- Restriction on host crop production in infested fields and risk mitigation measures for movement of host crop materials produced in infested or closely related fields as they progress through the deregulation process.</li> <li>- Ongoing soil testing to monitor and prevent spread.</li> </ul>

a relatively short time period, however there is a major difference in the two plans when it comes to lifting of all regulatory requirements. (Figure 4). Under the PCN Guidelines, this can occur in as little as one crop cycle if potatoes were in the exposed field the year the exposure was identified - two negative soil tests are required, one after a host crop after following the initial exposure and one after growing one further susceptible host crop. Under the Potato Wart Management Plan, the deregulation process for Primary Contact fields takes a minimum of four crop cycles growing a susceptible variety with further surveillance required for another two.

This difference in deregulation approaches leaves PEI with regulated fields for much longer than is the case for PCN (a similar type of pest) and leads to very different statistics on field counts, regulated acres, etc.

This deregulation protocol for PCN Exposed fields comes across as a very rapid deregulation of high risk fields considering the persistence of the pest and the time it may take for potential infections to build up to detectable levels as evidenced by the following information from the USDA:

**USDA Idaho PCN 2018 4th Quarter report:**

*“In October 2018, in-field bioassay samples collected from a 136-acre Bingham County field revealed viable PCN eggs (Globodera pallida). APHIS confirmed the detection by DNA on February 13, 2019. The field was first declared infested*

*with PCN in 2006. Following a series of soil fumigation treatments between 2007 and 2012, and successful completion of lab and greenhouse bioassay tests in 2013 and 2014, the grower resumed potato production in 2015. This was the final step in the field deregulation protocol. APHIS does not believe this detection is the result of a new introduction. Most likely, soil fumigation treatments from 2007-2012 reduced the viable cyst population below the detection threshold of the program’s sampling and testing protocols, and the return to potato production increased a small viable population to a detectable level. This detection demonstrates the program’s sampling and testing protocols are effective and perform as intended to detect the presence of an incipient population prior to fully deregulating a (infested) field.”*

The above incident begs the question if permitting release of exposed fields from PCN regulation in such a short time period is adequate.

However, USDA appears confident in the PCN Guidelines and PEI potato farmers are confident that the Potato Wart Management Plan is also working well to control spread. The Island industry feels strongly that the science shows that similar to PCN in Idaho, potato wart in PEI continues to be:

**Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Figure 4.

<b>Potato Wart - Primary Contact</b>	<b>PCN – Exposed Field</b>
Parcel of land where equipment moved directly after use in an Index field (or where soil moved from an index field) or propagative host material produced in an Index field was used for planting.	A field where equipment moved after use in an infested field, or where soil from an infested field was transported, or that received propagative host material from an infested field.
Deregulation:	Deregulation:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on cleaning and disinfection will be lifted with acceptable soil test results and surveillance following the first susceptible host crop grown in conducive conditions.</li> <li>• After surveillance, Post Harvest Field Inspection and Tuber Inspection of <b>three additional</b> potato crops of a susceptible variety produced under conducive conditions with negative results, all remaining soil, production and shipping restrictions will be removed.</li> <li>• Subsequent to the removal of restrictions, mandatory surveillance of a minimum of an <b>additional two crops</b> of a susceptible potato variety grown under conducive environmental conditions is required. Following this, the field will be subject to periodic non-compulsory surveillance.</li> </ul>	<p>Exposed fields are eligible for the lifting of all regulatory controls when conditions 1 and 3, listed below, are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negative surveys. In order to proceed to steps 2 and 3, negative test results must be obtained from one survey using Method A or two surveys using Method B following host crop production. Historical survey data can be used if available and the survey method used is at least comparable to 6000 cc (15 lb) per acre and if the surveys were conducted after the original exposure event occurred.</li> <li>2. Removal of equipment-cleaning requirement. Provided the above surveys are negative, and on a case-by-case evaluation, equipment-cleaning requirements may be removed.</li> <li>3. <b>Additional surveillance. Following a susceptible host plant crop, conduct one additional survey using Method A. If this survey is negative then all regulatory controls may be lifted on an exposed field.</b></li> </ol>

# Post Harvest Test Results

by Patrick Quilty, PEI Potato Quality Institute

The proportion of samples submitted for PCR testing, rather than ELISA, almost doubled in 2021 and the number of samples overall was up slightly from 2020. Samples arrived in good time for dormancy breaking and relatively warm weather during October and November allowed for good growth in the greenhouses.

COVID and other factors have played a role in attracting short term employees this fall and in maintaining a consistent workforce from day to day. This has impacted the time to get the results back to growers. It is expected that by the end of January results for all but those samples that were short or very slow growing will be out the door.

Results have been very good so far this season with a lab pass rate to date of 91.5%. This is the best result we have seen since 2016 and follows a wet season with reduced aphid numbers seen in the Aphid alert Program traps. Growers have also been very diligent in following Best Management Practices for seed production including regular oil and insecticide sprays early in the season.

Year	% Visual Pass Rate	% PHT Pass Rate
2021	96.2	91
2020	92.2	82
2019	97.7	84
2018	95.3	86
2017	99.2	88
2016	97.1	92
2015	96.2	77
2014	97.5	89
2013	96.8	78
2012	95.7	57
2011	92.2	80

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## Tell Tale Harbour World Premiere to Headline the 2022 Charlottetown Festival

By Emily McMahon, Communications Manager,  
Confederation Centre of the Arts

Prince Edward Island Potatoes is proudly sponsoring a new musical comedy that has the whole province, and the country, buzzing – Tell Tale Harbour.

Set to kick off The Charlottetown Festival in June, the production tells the story of a struggling Atlantic fishing village looking for a miracle. An opportunity arises to bring a state-of-the-art frozen french fry facility to town, but there’s just one major obstacle; to secure the factory, the harbour must have a full-time resident doctor. Realizing this might be their last chance to save their beloved community, the townspeople come together to charm an interim doctor into moving there permanently. Part heist and part farce with lots of music, this hilarious show celebrates the people, the trials, and the triumphs of living in a small community in Atlantic Canada.

The musical is based on the screenplay *The Grand Seduction* (2013) by Ken Scott. The story caught the eye of Adam Brazier, Artistic Director of Performing Arts at Confederation Centre of the Arts, who began drafting the musical adaptation. He sought out a collaborator who could encapsulate Atlantic Canadian storytelling through song, which led him to co-writer Alan Doyle. A Member of the Order of Canada, Doyle is one of the nation’s most

treasured songwriters, revered for his solo material and the iconic band, Great Big Sea. Doyle is not only co-writing the musical but will also be starring in the lead role this summer.

“I’m stoked to give people a great night out,” says Doyle. “I hope its passionate message about the meaning of home, and the hilarious situations it portrays, will move people to laugh and cry and laugh again.”

The film version of the story is set in Newfoundland and has the community vying for a petrochemical plant rather than a frozen french fry factory. When it came to writing this musical adaptation, Brazier and his co-creators wanted it to be set in a general Atlantic Canadian location and made sure to add cultural references specific to each of the four Eastern provinces. “Potatoes are a significant part of the identity of P.E.I., so changing it to a french fry factory felt like a perfect shoutout to the Island,” says Brazier. “It is relatable to our region and adds a really fun element to the show.”

The production is sure to be a hit; it has already garnered national press coverage and become the fastest-selling show in the Festival’s 58-year history. A national marketing campaign is underway with the intention of raising the profiles of both Confederation Centre and Prince Edward Island Potatoes across the country.

The story of Tell Tale Harbour is as relatable as it is ridiculous, as hilarious as it is heartfelt, and full of East Coast pride. For more information and to buy tickets, visit <https://confederationcentre.com>.

# Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

## Summary for the 2021 season

Marleen Clark, P.Ag. Plant Disease Diagnostician

PEI Analytical Laboratories, Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
PEI Department Agriculture & Land

The Plant Disease Diagnostic (PDD) Laboratory section of PEI Analytical Laboratories, Prince Edward Island (PEI) Department of Agriculture and Land, provides diagnosis and surveillance of disease problems caused by fungi, bacteria, viruses, for commercial crops produced on PEI.

Samples for disease diagnosis are submitted to the PDD laboratory by agriculture extension staff, researchers, producers, greenhouse growers, agri-business representatives, crop insurance agents, and the general public. This service is available for all commercial crops. Diagnoses are based on a combination of investigative work, visual examination of symptoms, microscopic observations and culturing onto artificial media. When additional confirmation is necessary, culture samples may be sent to other laboratories with producer's consent for identification of associated pathogens by other means such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Samples submitted to PDD from June 7 to October 29, 2021 consisted of the following crops: potatoes (49.83%), fruit crops (33.45%), cereal crops (5.57%), cole crop (4.88%) and other crops (6.27%). Diagnoses were also completed this season on new crops such as turf grass, garlic, and watermelon.

The 2021 year saw optimum growing conditions for various crops including potato, corn, cereals and fruit crops. No potato late blight infections were reported or identified since the level of inoculum was very low and growers continue to carry out improved management practices along with their spray regimes correlating with spore trapping surveillance. It was observed that potato foliar diseases, brown spot and early blight were detected more frequently in 2021 than in the previous two seasons. The *Fusarium oxysporum* fungus was also isolated more frequently from potato seed and plant stems. Other *Fusaria* isolates involved in seed piece decay included *Fusarium solani*, *Fusarium graminearum*, and *Fusarium culmorum*. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) completed resistance work on 9 *Fusaria* isolates from potato seed. Dr. Rick Peters confirmed there was no resistance to Emesto Silver (prothioconazole and penflufen). All isolates were sensitive to this chemical. As well, other organisms involved in seed piece decay included *Pythium* sp. and *Pectobacterium* sp.

Potato blackleg infections continued this season and were found in Russet Burbank, Satina, and Colomba



Early blight/brown spot symptoms. M. Clark.

varieties. Blackleg is primarily a seed-borne disease that is often associated with cool, wet soil conditions, but new strains can develop under dry conditions.

There were four cases of pink rot tuber infection confirmed for the 2021 season. In comparison, one pink rot potato tuber isolate was found in storage, in the Superior variety in 2020. Metalaxyl fungicide sensitivity testing was completed on the *Phytophthora erythroseptica* isolate and confirmed to be sensitive to metalaxyl-m (MS) by AAFC.

As a side note, AAFC in collaboration with the PDD completed a national survey from 2013 to present and recovered metalaxyl m-resistant isolates from PEI. This work was completed by Bennett Crane for his thesis "Assessing and Managing Metalaxyl-m Resistant Strains of The Pink Rot Pathogen *Phytophthora erythroseptica* In Canada" in 2017. This showed that applications of foliar and post-harvest phosphite products reduced the incidence of infection in storage providing an effective alternative for disease control.

The physiological disorder, pinkeye was identified this season in the Clearwater Russet and Alverstone varieties. Pinkeye symptoms appear at or before the end of the harvest period and usually disappears in storage as the tuber dries up. However, this tissue is vulnerable to invasion of soft rot bacteria such as *Pseudomonas* sp. and *Pectobacterium*.

In barley this season, the *Fusarium* head blight fungus, *Fusarium graminearum* was detected in glumes that had no typical salmon-coloured symptoms. *Fusarium graminearum* was also isolated from *Fusarium* dry rot infected Mountain Gem, potato seed. This strain of *Fusarium* was traditionally known only to cereals. The clubroot fungus, *Plasmodiophora brassicae* was isolated from canola roots.

For more information go to: <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/agriculture-and-land/pei-analytical-laboratories-peial>.

# Processing Update

## Scott's Outlook

by Scott Howatt, Processing Coordinator

Looking back, it has been four years since I contributed an article in the January edition of the Potato News. Back in 2018 my opening line was: "We live in unprecedented times..." How often do we hear this? How about, "...we need to be prepared to accept change!"

How bizarre to read these words today, when our PEI potato industry and all those who serve this important sector of our Island economy are living through the unbelievable and nightmarish consequences of two finds of potato wart in processing potato fields in East Prince transforming into a full border closure to all PEI fresh, seed, and fresh for processing potatoes into the USA and restrictions on our movement within Canada. Losing access to perennial customers who want to buy their potatoes (at profitable prices, I will add) has been a very deep cut for many Island growers. The hurt is worsened by our circumstances where, with their efforts this past growing season and with Mother Nature's cooperation, most PEI potato farm families harvested their best quality and yielding crop in over ten years. Island growers filled their potato storages in October with the greatest of expectations that finally, with this crop, they were going to have the "come-back year" they all needed financially, and just as importantly, morally. This big gain for PEI farms was going to happen because outside of the Atlantic Northeast (ANE), some other major North American potato growing areas had difficult growing seasons. The results, lower amounts of potatoes in storages and some places holding lower quality spuds, resulting in higher cullage rates.

The shortfalls in the Pacific Northwest are having major impacts on the North American marketplace. Reports throughout the pre and post harvest seasons from Alberta, Idaho, Oregon and Washington showed significant shortages facing the processing sector and tight supplies for the grading/packaging sheds that supply consumer and food service table potatoes. Since November, processing quality potatoes have been leaving New Brunswick by truck and trailer, going to Manitoba and through to Alberta. Since December, Maine potatoes have been railed to Pasco,

Washington. Starting in January, PEI processing potatoes joined this movement with trailers on the road heading for Alberta. On the fresh side, record GRI (Grower Return Index) prices have been reported from Idaho and other fresh packing states. Combining the current challenges within the transportation and logistics industries in North America (mostly from the effects of COVID-19) with the record high costs of fuel, tires, labour, parts, maintenance, etc., the costs of transporting potatoes across this continent are higher than ever.

If there has been a theme to my pieces in the Potato News over these past ten years, it is that supply and demand are THE controlling factors in the potato industry. Clear example, in Idaho this year, with a reduced crop and with some districts having challenged quality, together with PEI spuds being removed from the American fresh marketplace, fresh growers in the Potato State are enjoying some of their best GRI prices in years. Another example, with the major shortfall of processing potatoes in the PNW, western fry companies are spending large amounts of money to transport potatoes to their western fry plants to meet the demand for frozen potato products.

The short supply situation has set the table for the largest, pre-season processing contract settlements ever reported out of the PNW. In early October, the Potato Growers of Washington (PGW) announced agreements with their fry customers of 20% increases over the 2021 contracts; all on base prices. Currently in Idaho and Alberta, growers and fry companies are completing their negotiations for increases which are reported to match the 20% improvement.

Now, an observer could say, "...well, the fryers had to pay more because of the major increases in growers input costs that can be documented; led by fertilizer prices being up between 65% to 80% over last year, together with all the other aforementioned cost increases as well as crop



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protectants forecasted to be up 4%-5% too!" The increased costs that are being projected are undeniable for sure; I will remind observers that, in the past, growers' documented cost projections have not been covered by their pre-season contract negotiations when there is an over-supply of potatoes or softening demand for frozen potato products. This happened last year in the Columbia Basin, where the PGW provided proof of 4% cost of production increases and ended up with a minus 3% contract settlement; a fall back of 7%.

My point, as my NSAC Economics professor would tell us, "Supply & Demand rules the roost!" In these times of great uncertainty, driven by trade restrictions, climate change, economic upheaval, and unprecedented cost increases, what are potato farmers in PEI supposed to do as they begin to plan for the spring-cropping of 2022? I have listened to a lot of growers ask that question and I wish to the heavens I knew a fair and inspiring answer; but I do not. What I do know is that "hope is not a plan."

To date, all communications from government regulators provide no clarity as to when the US border might open to PEI fresh potatoes. Over-shadowing this, is the fact that there has been massive capital investment in equipment, technology and storages, both in farm yards and at grading/packing sheds in the fresh and seed sectors

of the PEI potato industry over the past five plus years. On PEI we have had only one above-average crop in the past five years, so what do growers use as a benchmark for their production? Every grower organization in the ANE is working on their projections for input costs of 2022; it is too early to give a finished numbers but we know costs are up by hundreds of dollars per acre. On top of all this, PEI fresh and seed growers have had their USA customers taken away from them with no explanation as too what to tell those highly-valued customers. Additionally, seed potatoes cannot yet move to Canadian markets.

It is a grim picture, I am very sorry to say. Planning to plant acres of potatoes that do not have a profitable home at your five year average yield will not make this picture brighter and may only serve to make your farm's financial situation even more stressed, if that even can be imagined.



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*An Update From the:*

# PEI Department of Agriculture and Land

by Lorraine MacKinnon, Potato Industry Coordinator



## Potato Wart Navigation Line and Email

By the time you read this, we will be nearing two months since the suspension of PEI potatoes entering the US, and the implementation of the Federal Ministerial Order on Potato Wart. Industry and government alike are working tirelessly on this file, as such we appreciate your patience as we try to collect and convey new information as it is received.

In November, the PEI Department of Agriculture & Land (PEIDAL) set up a Navigation Line and dedicated email address. The toll-free navigation line (1-866-PEIFARM) is operated by PEIDAL staff 7 days a week from 7am to 7pm and is intended to connect producers with resources and support on anything related to Potato Wart (Wage Subsidy, Potato Financing Program, new regulatory requirements, mental health resources, etc). Additionally, a dedicated email address has been set up for all related inquiries – [potatowart@gov.pe.ca](mailto:potatowart@gov.pe.ca).

This is a distressing time in our industry. If you, or someone you know are struggling, please check out the resources available to you at [www.farmerstalk.ca](http://www.farmerstalk.ca) or call the Farmer Assistance Program at 1-800-736-8006.

## Compliance Agreements

The Potato Wart Order that was put in place November 21, 2021 requires some new considerations when moving potatoes and various other root crops outside of PEI. PEIDAL and Potato Board staff have been trained in these new requirements, and the Potato Board has contracted Joanne Driscoll to work with producers on one component – compliance agreements. If you are not certain what's required to move your potatoes, call Scott Howatt or myself. If you need to develop a compliance agreement, contact Joanne Driscoll at 902-940-3933 or e-mail [peihort.off@gmail.com](mailto:peihort.off@gmail.com).

## 2022 Northeast Potato Technology Forum: March 16-17 VIRTUAL

The Northeast Potato Technology Forum is an annual event giving potato industry members from NB, PEI and Maine the chance to meet and share scientific research presentations on potato production in our region. In 2022, it's PEI's turn to host the forum, and the local organizing committee has agreed to plan a virtual event for March

16-17. This two-day online event will feature presentations from researchers from the Atlantic Northeast working in potato research and agronomy. For more information and to register, please visit <https://northeastpotato.com/>.

## 2022 International Potato Technology Expo: March 30-31 IN-PERSON

The International Potato Technology Expo is back for 2022! Exhibitors and attendees alike have come out in high numbers to register for this bi-annual event encompassing all aspects of potato production. This year's event has been postponed to March 30 and 31 at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown. As always, a conference program is being developed to accompany the expo. Check out the event website [www.potatoexpo.ca](http://www.potatoexpo.ca) for more details, updates, and to register to attend.

COVID-19 is another constantly evolving issue this winter, but as of the moment that this message being written, plans are for an in-person Expo and Conference. Please continue to monitor the website for updates or call Lorraine.

## 2021 Colorado Potato Beetle Insecticide Resistance Monitoring Results

For years, the PEIDAL and the PEI Potato Board have participated in an on-going Colorado Potato Beetle (CPB) national research project led by AAFC and funded by the Canadian Horticulture Cluster. The project team takes in CPB samples submitted by partners across the country and then tests the samples for insecticide resistance to help producers plan on-farm control measures. The insecticides tested in 2021 were Actara®, Titan®, Delegate™, Entrust™, Harvanta® and Vayego®.

In the summer of 2022, eight samples of Colorado Potato Beetle populations were collected from fields across PEI and shipped to AAFC's Research Centre in Fredericton, NB. AAFC Project team members Dr. Jess Vickruck and Pam MacKinley recently shared the PEI results, and the good news is that of the 8 samples submitted, all but one show that CPB populations are still susceptible (i.e. >70% mortality) to both Actara® and Titan® - which many producers rely on at planting time. There continues to be reduced susceptibility to Delegate™ and one PEI sample showed resistance (<30% mortality) to Delegate™.

In terms of some newer chemistry, Vayego® showed promise in that 4 of 7 samples were susceptible (>70% mortality). Harvanta® consistently fell in the middle category of susceptibility, with 30-70% mortality.

One sample that was submitted from West Prince was not well controlled by any of the insecticides tested; with all products falling in the middle category of reduced susceptibility (30-70% mortality).

If you'd like to learn more about this project and the national results, head to SpudSmart Magazine's website and search their archived webinars. The researchers involved held a webinar in November of 2021, and it can be accessed through that site.

I know I'm not alone in saying a huge thank you to the project team, and to all the producers and agronomists who enabled the collection of Colorado Potato Beetles for this project.

## Upcoming Online Pesticide Applicator Training Courses

### Day A

**February 22, 2022**

**March 22, 2022**

### Day B

**February 24, 2022**

**March 24, 2022**

**Opportunity to Renew or Obtain a Pesticide Applicator License for the First Time with Online Training and an Online Exam:**

**March 7-11, 2022**

**March 21-25, 2022**

**April 4-8, 2022**

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

# Upcoming Events

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

## February 2022

Feb 15 **Monthly Potato Board Meeting.**

Feb 22 **AAFC Potato Breeding Program Stakeholder Engagement Event.** Virtual event. Contact, Erica Fava, AAFC Potato Breeding National Variety Trial Coordinator & Industry Liason, [erica.fava2@agr.gc.ca](mailto:erica.fava2@agr.gc.ca) / cell : 506-451-5198

## March 2022

Mar 8 **Canadian Potato Council Meeting.** Ottawa, ON.

Mar 8-10 **Canadian Horticultural Council AGM.** Ottawa, ON.

Mar 16-17 **Northeast Potato Technology Forum.** Virtual Event. [www.northeastpotato.com](http://www.northeastpotato.com).

Mar 22 **Monthly Potato Board Meeting.**

Mar 22-23 **2022 Canadian Spud Congress.** Presented by Spud Smart - virtual event.

Mar 30-31 **International Potato Technology Expo.** Charlottetown, PEI.

## May 2022

May 30-June 2 **World Potato Congress.** Dublin, Ireland.



# Industry Updates

## Atlantic Beef Products Inc. is Proud to Support the Prince Edward Island Potato Industry

Atlantic Beef Products Inc. is proud to provide Exceptional Quality Beef to its customers across Canada. Many family farms on PEI that supply Atlantic Beef Products Inc. cattle are also potato farmers.

Their stewardship of the land includes moving cattle across pastures and potato fields in a rotational process that benefits both products and makes for more sustainable agricultural practices. Atlantic Beef Products Inc. is proud to support PEI Potato Farmers and is pleased to work with their primary distribution partners in Ontario (Dolan Foods) and Quebec (Les Aliments Unifoods) to provide Moisson Montreal food bank and Second Harvest in Toronto with 60,000 pounds of high-quality PEI Potatoes, packed in 5 lb bags, to share for the holidays.

Russ Mallard, President of Atlantic Beef Products said, "The Atlantic Beef Products plant plays an integral part in the agricultural industry in PEI and Atlantic Canada. During these difficult times we are showing support to our potato producers. We are proud to have supplied ground beef to our PEI food banks this holiday season and now we are very pleased to supply PEI potatoes to food banks in Ontario and Quebec. The #HolidayBeef and Potatoes program will provide less fortunate families with a delicious and welcome taste of Canada's Food Island for the holidays."

Mallard added, "We have purchased these potatoes from four different potato packing operations across the Island: WP Griffin, Mid-Isle Farms, Sherwood Produce and Gerrit Visser and Sons. We know they all purchase potatoes from our beef producers across PEI. We sincerely hope delicious and safe PEI Potatoes begin to flow again to the very important US market very soon."

Greg Donald, General Manager of the PEI Potato Board said "Potatoes and beef are natural partners on the plate and in the field. We're glad to have the support of Atlantic Beef Products Inc. as our growers are severely impacted by this unnecessary and unjustified border closure. Many of our Island producers have strong connections to the Beef Industry, and we're grateful for their support of both our PEI Potato farmers and Canadian Food Banks."

"We are so grateful for this donation of fresh, surplus PEI potatoes – they'll go directly on our trucks and delivered to our non-profit partners who provide healthy meals and groceries to people dealing with food insecurity," said Lori Nikkel, CEO, Second Harvest. "Big thanks to Atlantic Beef

Products and Dolan Foods for showing strong commitment to their farm partners, to the environment, and to Canadians in need."

*Atlantic Beef Products Inc. located in Albany, Prince Edward Island, employs over 160 Islanders and provides Delicious, Healthy, Sustainable Beef products from cattle raised in pasture on small family farms. ABP supplies leading grocery retailers, food service distributors and independent butchers throughout Canada. For more information: Russ Mallard, [rmallard@abpi.ca](mailto:rmallard@abpi.ca), President Atlantic Beef Products, (902) 316 3329.*



## Decco 070 EC Granted Emergency Use Registration

On January 21st, 2022, the clove oil product Decco 070 EC was granted an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) as a sprout inhibitor for shipments within Canada. Until now, organic producers in PEI were unable to ship any of their potatoes, due to both the closure of exports to the USA as well as the requirements that all Canadian shipments must now be washed and treated with a sprout inhibitor.

The PEI Department of Agriculture & Land submitted the EUR in December, supported by the PEI Potato Board. PMRA identified some specific testing that needed to be done in order to proceed with the EUR, so product was obtained and testing was done at a CFIA lab in Ottawa in late December and early January. Our thanks to the PEIDAL as well as staff with CFIA and PMRA for accelerating their usual timelines to get this EUR approved. The EUR is in effect until June 30th, 2022.

# HERE'S SOMETHING FOR WIRE- WORMS TO CHEW ON.

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In addition, the PEI Potato Board and PEIDAL, in partnership with Decco, individual growers and other industry partners from across Canada, are moving forward with the necessary lab testing to submit a full registration for Decco 070EC. Lab work is slated to move forward immediately, with plans for submission to PMRA later this year.

### **Canadian Private Potato Breeders Elect New Leadership, Share Expertise and Genetic Material**

*January 27, 2022* - At the annual meeting of the Canadian Private Potato Breeders Network (CPPBN) on January 26, 2022, the group elected Dr Robert Coffin as President for a 2-year term. Robert has had an illustrious career as a potato specialist working both in the public and private sectors. Along with his wife Joyce they have their own private breeding program, which has released several outstanding potato varieties including the cultivar Prospect.

The Network greatly appreciates and thank Andre Gagnon of Progest/Quebec Parmentier for his leadership as President over the past 2 years.

Dr Newton Yorinori was elected as Vice President. Newton leads the large scale newly established potato breeding program for Cavendish Farms in Canada's Prince Edward Island.

The CPPBN is a network of private breeders representing 7 potato breeding programs from across Canada who share expertise and genetic material amongst themselves and cooperate with many public institutions on an individual basis.

The CPPBN members have released numerous potato varieties that are currently grown in North America and are being evaluated in many other countries of the Southern Hemisphere as well as Asia.

Source: Canadian Private Potato Breeders Network (CPPBN). For more information: Robert Coffin: Coffinpotato@gmail.com; Newton Yorinori: yorinori.newton@cavendishfarms.com; Secretary, Peter VanderZaag: Peter@sunrisepotato.com.

### **Availability of Lorox®L for the 2022 Season**

*January 26, 2022* - As reported previously, there have been multiple issues affecting the availability of Lorox L for the 2022 season. TKI, the manufacturer of Lorox L, has been doing everything possible to ensure that this important herbicide will be available this year. We would like to provide the following update to growers and others:

- Lorox L will not be available in the same amount or same timing as in previous years. We expect available

supplies to be at least 50% of those distributed in previous years.

- Lorox L will be packed out into the standard 10 L jugs. We expect the product to be available in Canadian warehouses starting in April 2022.

These supply issues are expected to be limited to the 2022 season. No limitations on the availability of Lorox L are anticipated for the 2023 season or thereafter.

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### **Potato Field Guide: “Insects, Diseases and Defects” Now Available**

*January 26, 2022* - The aim of this Field Guide, published by OMAFRA in Canada, is to help growers, scouts and crop advisors identify diseases, insects, and other problems found in potatoes. The Guide was edited by potato specialist, Dr. Eugenia Banks. It includes 554 colour photographs. The symptoms of each disease are shown in a chronological sequence of development, and disease-look-a-likes are indicated for each of them.

Several potato researchers from the US have indicated that the Potato Field Guide is an outstanding potato publication with concise and straightforward information for the field identification of potato pests and other problems. The Guide was reviewed by renowned potato researchers such as Neil Gudmestad and Gary Secor.

The Guide is only available as a PDF document. To order a free copy, contact: Robynne.Sampson@ontario.ca, or ServiceOntario Publications Contact Centre: 1-800-668-9938, 416-326-5300.





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### **\*NEW SHOW HOURS\***

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**Thursday, March 31 - 9am - 4pm**



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## Path Software Powers Packing Plants And Farms Everyday

PATH is a modular cloud-based software made specifically for the Canadian potato industry. PATH aims to eliminate paperwork and track your product at every stage of production. Mix and match our modules to customize PATH to your needs.

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