

Potato Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

January 25 2022

Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA 99336

MINUTES

Voting members present: Mark Campbell (by zoom), Brian Charlton, Rob Lane, Mike Macy, Scott Fenters, Tyler Wagstaff, Cody Fazio, Kenneth Frost, Lydia Raath, Sagar Sathuvalli

Non-voting members present: Andrew Altishin, Dan Curry (by zoom), Jeff McMorran (secretary)

Members absent: Elizabeth Savory

Guests present: Tami Brown, Terry Burr, Oscar Gutbrod (by zoom), Tim Topliff, Shaista Karim, Reagan Grabner

I. Welcome and Introductions: Chair Rob Lane opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. Formal introductions were made.

II. Approval of Agenda and 2021 Minutes: The minutes for the 2021 meeting were included in the packets and had been emailed to members in advance. No changes were recommended. A **motion**, duly made and seconded to approve the 2021 minutes without changes or additions, unanimously **passed**. The Agenda was similarly approved.

III. Program Updates:

A. Oregon Department of Agriculture. Elizabeth A. Savory, Plant Health Program. Was not present, no report made.

B. OSU - Crop & Soil Science. Dan Curry, Director, Seed Services, reviewed the information presented in the packet under "OSU Update" and "Seed Services Update". There were no questions for Dan.

C. Oregon Seed Certification Service. Andy Altishin reviewed the information presented in the packet under "2021 Year in Review" which noted acres of various crops, new hires/positions changes for OSCS employees, and some new fees.

E. Winter Grow-Out Report. Terry Burr reviewed some of the highlights of this year's WGO. He noted that we had a good student crew this year, and all lots were planted and read in a timely manner. Only 4 lots remained to be read at the time of this meeting. He noted that construction around the GH to make the West GH ADA accessible had caused some problems with OSCS access but these had been overcome. There was some concern about the growth of a few lots that may have been related to inconsistencies in the growth media. One lot was replanted. Terry used a graph (in the packet) that showed the levels of mosaic observed this year. Overall levels were low, with 78% of the lots showing no mosaic at all, and 89% having less than 1% mosaic.

F. Review of National Potato Certification Meetings. Jeff McMorran reviewed some of the items that were discussed at the national potato certification meetings held in Washington DC in early December. A summary of these meetings was included in the packet (page 6). He briefly discussed some of the most salient topics such as True Potato Seed certification, dormant tuber testing, and use of white export tags, but recommended that growers refer to the actual minutes of the NPC/PAA Certification Section meetings for more detailed information (available from him upon request, after he receives them). Reagan Grabner asked Jeff there was anything in particular that needs to be addressed at the national level regarding seed potato certification. His response was that the national group continues to try to address uniformity of terminology and practices but this is a very slow process because each state is truly intent in making it's specific rules and practices. There is no overall organizations (like AOSCA) that sets rules/standards that all participating states must adhere to (with the limited exceptions as noted in the "Potato Harmonization Plan"). There has been some progress on such items as tag colors and class terminology, but there is always a few holdouts who, for various reasons, do not want to change their practices/terms to match the whole.

IV. OSCS ISSUES & UPDATES FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION

Item 1: **Modification of Policy Sheet #2 on accepting 'no WGO lots'**. Jeff reviewed the reasons the current Policy #2 "Policy for Accepting Out-of-State lots with out a Winter Grow-Out" needed to be updated (see page 2 of the meeting packet). Specifically these related to the requirements for PVA testing, 2x tuber amount requirements for the WGO, and need to reword part C regarding accepting lots with no Post-harvest testing (PHT) to conform with current practices. After discussing these items he recommended that the rewording of Policy Sheet #2 as shown on pages 10-13 of the packet. He clarified that the item in I-1D "*Not to exceed counts of 12,000 plants (2,000 clicks)*" was added because this was the current practice, i.e., to 'cap' the required number plants needed to be observed per lot at 12,000 plants regardless of lot size. He noted that the item in blue highlight under IIA-3 were added based on previous conditions when this policy was written and receiving lots with only virus testing for the PHT was somewhat rare, and not automatically allowed. Such lots are now routinely allowed when this is the only option in the source state or province. Thus, these two items seemed unnecessary and he recommended just removing them. Part II-B addresses lots which had no PHT was re-written to reflect current practice that was based on appeals. He also stressed that though such 'no PHT lots' could be accepted as described in part II-B, this was still considered a 'special case' and not allowed to be repeated year after year from the same seed source.

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| After a bit of discussion and clarification a <u>motion</u> was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept the changes to Policy #2 as shown in the meeting packet. |
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Item 2: **Change to Bylaws related to PCAC membership.** Jeff reviewed the reasons the current Bylaws for the PCAC needed to be updated as shown on page 3 of the meeting packet. These were mostly related to there being much fewer potato seed growers in Oregon relative to when the Bylaws were written, and the uncertainty of how replacement of members are to be selected. The recommendation was to change the Bylaws so each seed farm attending the meetings had one official 'member' (one vote). The makeup of the

other positions and terms would not change. The OSCS proposal was to update Article II Membership section of the Bylaws as shown on page 12 of the meeting packet.

There did not seem to be any serious objection to the proposal. There was a bit of discussion on the representational aspect of the proposal, noting that if one individual grower decided to have multiple 'seed farms' they would have multiple votes. This was affirmed. It was also noted that one grower representing a 700 acre seed farm would have the same voting privileges as a grower with only 50 acres of seed.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed that the Potato Certification Advisory Committee Bylaws be revised as noted on page 13 and 14 of the meeting packet.

Item 3: **Update of the Crop History section of the Standards.**

Jeff explained that the two items in this section were a results of Tami reading over the Standards and finding some items that needed clarification, rewording or removal.

A. Volunteers: It is noted (as discussed in the meeting packet page 23) that Section X-B of the Potato Standards refers to tolerances found in Table 5 of the Standards (Pg 16) but Table 5 has no reference to "volunteer". Was it meant to be the same tolerances as Off-type/Other variety? The suggestion by OSCS was to modify paragraph as shown in the meeting packet page 4. If the tolerances are the same as for "volunteer" Sagar suggested we should also add the word "volunteer" to the OT/OV line of Table 5. NOTE: A volunteer is defined as plants that emerge that cannot be identified as scattered seed pieces from this year's planting.

There followed some discussion as to if having the same tolerances for "volunteer" as we have for obvious OT/OV might be too strict, especially for growers at lower elevations where some volunteers may remain from previous crops. Jeff pointed out that (1) this didn't seem to present a problem in past years, (2) excessive volunteers can be removed before the 2nd inspection to maintain original class, and (3) unlike most other crops certified volunteer plants likely pose more of a risk disease-wise than genetic mixture, so a very limited amount of volunteer is probably justified.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the wording of B. Volunteer as suggested on page 5 with a minor wording change as noted below. The motion was later amended to include the word "volunteer" on the line of Table 5 that says "Variety mixture / Off type". The motion passed unanimously.

B. Volunteers: Potato plants found between the planted rows are not permitted if they exceed the tolerance shown for "Variety mixture / off type" on Table 5, (pg. 16), except where the previous crop ~~of~~ **was** the same variety ~~was of an~~ **and an** earlier generation than that being produced.

B. Modification of Crop History (MLH): The background and concerns OSCS had about this section as noted on page 4 of the meeting packet was presented with OSCS recommendation that the section be dropped entirely. The reason OSCS would like this

section removed is that due to its limited use (none in 20+ years) we have no basis to know if a technique is “proven successful” and do not want to imply, by its presence in the Standards, that this is a routine method for reducing the field years noted in Table 3.

It was pointed out that any deviation for the requirement stated in the standards for something like a field history requirements results in a rejection of the field (or automatic downgrading to acceptable class). An appeal is possible (preferably a pre-season appeal) where the grower would state their reasons for wanting the field to be accepted even though it did not meet the field history requirements for the class. The grower would also be responsible to present evidence, to the satisfaction of the appeals group, that the technique used to shorten the field history had been proven as successful as the required number of ‘no potatoes’ years noted on Table 3 of the Standards in reducing volunteers (and disease pressure) in the planted crop.

It was noted (Scott F) that there certainly could be some techniques such as flooding combined with fumigation, that may be successful, and with the water situation in the Klamath Basin some grower may need to shorten their normal rotations and need an approved MLH. One option suggested (Scott F.) was to leave this section in the Standards but remove everything past the first sentence. Brian C. asked if other states had Field History requirements for different classes. Answer: It varies by state. Most seem less restrictive than Oregon. Some only require 1 year from known BRR infections (California, Idaho, Montana). Washington requires 4 years out for Nuclear class seed, but only 1 for other generations.

After a bit more discussion of the pros and cons of removal vs modification of the section, a motion was made to remove part X-C completely from the Standards. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

(1) **Use of white Export tags** (see example page 14 of the meeting packet). The suggested use of a White Export Tag by the US Potato Board (Peter Joyce) is summarized on Page 6 below. This was discussed, not as a suggestion for change but just to inform the group. It was pointed out that growers could have both the OSCS Blue tag and the White Export tag attached to exported bags. There did not seem to be much interest in having this option, possibly because none of those present export much seed.

(2) Inclusion of a check box on the PVY testing options form to include testing data on the NAHC was mentioned.

(3) Minor updates to the Potato Standards. Jeff discussed three items that he wanted to bring to the groups attention that involved minor (but needed) changes to the Standards. These were not in the meeting packet but presented in slides.

(a) **Modifying the Fee Section** (part E, page 7) to remove special wording for Summer and Winter virus sampling to simply say:

Fees-E. Leaf sampling for latent virus determination.

\$32/ per 400-leaf sample. If mailing required (i.e. overnight delivery to lab) grower will be billed for mailing charges. No minimum fee.

Also Table 1 is amended to simply show rates of sampling, not cost.

Table 1 - Latent Virus Sampling Rates (in-field)

A. Field Sampling

| Class | Rate | Samples/acre |
|-------|---------------|--------------|
| FY1 | 1/4 *1 L/H *a | *b |
| FY2 | 400 L/A *c | 80 |
| FY3 | 50 L/A | 10 |
| FY4-6 | 20 L/A | 4 |

(b) Expanding the Early generation class (Section VII-G, page 12) to account for separate “Pre-Nuclear” (lab derived) and “Nuclear” (Greenhouse derived) classes as follows:

VI-G. Classification of Stock Produced Through These Guidelines:

- 1. Lab produced microtubers or other tissue-cultured material purchased by the seed grower would be considered Pre-Nuclear stock.**
- 2. Plantlets or minitubers purchased by the seed grower produced in a protected green/screen house environment, and adequately pathogen tested as discussed in part D, would be considered Nuclear stock.**

(c) **2 times WGO Sample size:** Discontinue reference to of 2x WGO sample size requirements (except where appropriate) in Standards and Policy Sheets. This would include Section X-A-1, X-A-3 (Page 15), X-C (page 16). We will need to revisit this issue in 2023.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Scotty Fenters was approved as Chair of the PCAC for 2022-23, **Tim Topliff** was approved as Vice-Chair.

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Submitted 1-28-2022 by Jeff McMorran

These minutes will also available at: <http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/potatoes>

White Export tags

Situation: At the NPC Certification meeting in December the US Potato Board representative, Peter Joyce, discussed the frustration importing countries/growers have with the variety of tagging and classes displayed on potato seed from US states. He asked if US Agencies would consider using a US Export Tag, in particular, a white tag similar to that currently used by Idaho (see Appendix A4, page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**). Years ago, a Blue US Export tag was developed by the PAA Certification Section but never widely adopted.

Issues inherent with using a White US Export tag:

1. **Other uses of white tags:** White tags are used for other types of seed (Experimental varieties and for Foundation Class in Oregon for example).
2. **Grade terminology:** The tag says “Meets US Export Grade” (not a class). Grade relates to *physical* characteristics of the harvested tubers and is generally determined at a Shipping Point Inspection. Class refers to a lot meeting all the requirements of certification (isolation, field history, source, inspection criteria, PHT, etc.). Class criteria vary widely among states, grade does not. Thus universal use of a white tag that simply says the seed meets US Export Grade requirements might be misconstrued by imported to mean white tags from one state are equivalent to white tag lots from another state in regards to class.
3. **Uniformity among states does not exist:** Though it would be nice to have some uniformity among states in terms of certification terminology or class requirements, this is currently not the case. In particular, a lack of uniformity among class terminology can make universal use of a “White Export Tag” just a confusing as different color/types of state tags. Peter Joyce noted that the main item importing growers look at is “the number” (i.e. G1, G2, G3 or FY1, FY2, FY3). So if, for example, Montana and Oregon both used White tags with Montana having class as G1 and Oregon having the equivalent class as FY2, Oregon exports might be at a disadvantage, where as having different looking tags from each state might clearly relay that non-congruity of the imported seed in regards to class and field years.

Question: Should Oregon consider using a White Export Tag in the future?

Additional Notes/Considerations: (1) Use of a White Export Tag does not preclude the use of the ‘regular’ blue or yellow Oregon certification tag on the same bag. (2) Exports generally require additional inspections by ODA as part of the official Shipping Point Inspection (grade) and any needed inspection for phytosanitary certificates. Thus it might actually make more sense to have the ODA issue any White Exports Tags rather than OSCS.