

**2023 Potato Certification Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, Jan 24 at 10:00 AM**  
**WA/OR Potato Conference, 3 Rivers Convention Center**

**Minutes**

**Members present:** Scotty Fenters, Lydia Raath, Rob Lane, Cody Fazio, Mike Macy, Tim Topliff, Sagar Suthrapoli, Ken Frost, Brian Charleton, Mark Campbell, Tami Brown (secretary)

**Visitors present:** Dale Brown, Mick Peck, Terry Burr, Romaine Eisiminger, Gregg Hayes, Martin Trujillo, Jeff McMorran, Dwight Hansen, Gerard Buster, Tiziana Oppedisano

**Zoom attendees:** Dan Curry, Andrew Altishin

**Call to Order:** Scotty F. (Chair) Scotty called the meeting to order at 10 am.

- I. Scotty started the meeting with introductions.
- II. Approval of 2023 Agenda. The agenda was approved as written.
- III. Approval of updated 2022 Minutes included in the packet.

Minutes were sent out before the meeting and were provided in the packet that was an update from minutes presented to the Board. The change was the reference location in the Standards, which did not reference the correct section. The motion was made to accept the minutes as updated, seconded and passed.

- IV. Certification Board actions concerning PCAC. (Tami B.)

Tami explained that the updates from the previous Board Meeting were located on page 3 of the Standards. She briefly described what was presented to the Board and stated that all the items moved forward to the Board from this committee were passed last February.

- V. Program Updates:

- A. Oregon Department of Agriculture. (Elizabeth A. Savory) No report.
- B. OSU - Crop & Soil Science & Seed Services Reports (Tom Chastain / Dan Curry)  
Dan reviewed the updates provided from Tom for Crop & Soil Science (Appendix 1). He covered the positions opened as well as recently filled and that the Hyslop Field Day was planned for May 24<sup>th</sup>. He also mentioned a CSS Recognition Event on June 7<sup>th</sup> for scholarships, award and years of service awards. For the Seed Services Update (Appendix 2) he covered the creation of Gulf and Kentucky 31 Foundation seed this year in Washington as well as the committee working to create a PCR test to

determine perennial ryegrass from annual ryegrass and a computer vision program that will help the seed lab sort off-type seed.

C. Oregon Seed Certification Service (Andy Altishin)

Andy gave a brief update on the Certification Service (Appendix 3). He noted that acres were down about 6 percent, but that total potato acres were staying consistent. He reviewed some of the other crops certified. He also mentioned Jeff retiring officially and moving to part time status, and that, as this group knew firsthand, Tami Brown had stepped up to take lead for potatoes. He moved on to changes in several sampler positions, the most important to this group being the hiring of Karen Courtney who would also be the potato harvest inspector in Union County. The final hire he mentioned was in the certification office, with the hiring of Emily Litke.

D. Winter Grow-Out Report (Terry Burr)

Terry provided a chart in the packet (Appendix 4) that detailed the planting program in the greenhouse. He described the issues with hiring the students, but the bigger problem being the retention of those students. He showed the percent virus for the last four years as well as the percent germination observed. Even with some lots not emerging well, the germination still averaged 96.7%. There are still 7 lots not read. Mark mentioned that he had a chance to visit the greenhouse and that the lots were uniform and he thought it looked really good. Scotty asked if the lab was caught up on PVY testing, Tami said yes, the supply issue was fixed and testing should be coming soon.

E. Review of National Potato Certification Meetings (Tami Brown)

Tami attended the Potato Association of America and National Potato Council meetings in Washington DC at the end of November. Many topics were repeated from previous years including Canada working on the Nectrotic Virus Management Plan (the old one stays in effect until the new wording can be adopted), the nematode quarantine areas in Idaho and New York (acreage under quarantine has declined due to leaving agriculture), and Potato Wart in Prince Edward Island. She mentioned that the certification updates from other states which included that North Dakota and Minnesota lost their post-harvest tests. Oregon has already created a protocol for accepting lots without a post-harvest test and this protocol could be given out as needed. Rob stated he definitely wanted the protocol. Scotty asked that the protocol be emailed to all of

the growers so they know what to expect. True Potato Seed is still being released in Europe, the PAA has been trying to determine the use here in America to determine how to get ahead of the certification of it. Dormant tuber testing is moving forward for many certification agencies. There will be a workshop in Wisconsin that Tami and a technician from the OSU Seed Lab plan to attend in April. The final item discussed was whether or not to have a BRR trial established by the PAA so inspectors know what it looks like, since it hasn't been seen since 2015 and that was not a certified field. Ken Frost asked if we needed to see it since we can test for it. Tami stated that inspectors are more confident in their readings if they understand what they are looking for and that certification doesn't want to send a whole bunch of samples and leave many pink flags in the growers' fields if they don't need to be alarmed.

## **VI. OSCS Issues and Pending Updates (Appendix 5)**

### **Item 1: 2022 Season – Lot Identification**

Tami reviewed the rule in the Standards that states that when two lots are planted together even with a skip row that flags must be in the field marking every 300 feet. Several growers did not do this for the 2022 crop year and that it would not be accepted for the 2023 season. She did say that every attempt would be made to put it in the report following the first inspection so the grower understands the flagging is required.

### **Item 2: Typos in Standards – updates for re-printing.**

Tami explained that she has found several typos in the standards and wanted the committee to agree to update them without bringing each one to the committee as a line item. She promised not to change any rule or protocol. She stated since she was new to the group as secretary, she would like the group to agree to the edits. A motion was made and seconded to allow the edits. All in favor.

### **Item 3: Appendix E. Remove from Standards.**

An appendix in the Standards referring to the Experimental Line Selection Program has been used one time since its creation. It was a one-year pilot program that has not been used since. Tami asked if it would be acceptable to remove it from the Standards but leave it as a policy. Jeff gave a little more information on the creation of the program and why it was requested. Scotty asked if the program could be removed all together. Jeff explained that if a company wanted to use it for planting in May, the committee would not have time to put the program back so that it could be used. Scotty asked if anyone had

any discussion. A motion was made to retain the program but remove it from the Standards with a reference to it under section VII. This was seconded and passed all in favor.

**Item 4: Booth – Storage and Handling.**

The booth used in the past by Oregon growers was given to Certification by ODA. This booth has been stored in the Oregon Seed Certification Office. It was suggested to offer the booth to the Oregon Potato Commission. The growers agreed that they did not intend to have a booth in the near future and that it would make sense to give it to the Potato Commission. Terry and Tami agreed to bring it next year for the Oregon Potato Commission.

- VII.** Other Business: Jeff mentioned updating the bylaws and asked if that would be part of the agenda. Tami stated that she intended to revisit the bylaws next year, mostly the intent was to update the categories for the OSU members for the committee. No other business was brought up.
- VIII.** 2024 Meeting: Chair (Mark C.), Vice Chair (Shawn C.). Location/day of 2024 Meeting. The committee agreed to have the meeting in the same place and time. Mark Campbell said he would Chair.
- IX.** Elect Representative for 2023 Board set to occur on Feb 23, 2023. Mike Macy has been the past representative to the Board for several years. The group discussed what was involved with attending the meeting. Mike agreed to represent the committee again. With no other individual volunteering, Mike was made the representative.
- X.** Scotty adjourned the meeting at 10:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Tami Brown

Action Items:

No items were presented for the Board to approve.

## OSU Update January 2023

The following are highlights of activities in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) and the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS.

### Crop and Soil Science

#### Personnel

- Dr. Garry Stephenson has announced that he will retire effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Garry has served CSS as Director of the Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems and as Extension Small Farms Specialist.
- Assistant/Associate/Professor of Wheat Breeding and Genetics – Corvallis. Interviews for the two candidates are scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Assistant Professor (Practice) – Salem. The position search has closed on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The committee is working on identifying candidates for interviews from the applicant pool.
- Extension General Ag Educator – Malheur. The position search closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Assistant Professor (Practice) – Prineville. The position search closed on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Assistant Professor and Irrigated Crop Entomology Specialist – Hermiston. The position has been posted and will close on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Assistant Professor of Soil Science - Pedology – Corvallis. The position has been posted and is scheduled to close on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Assistant Professor of Precision Agriculture – Corvallis. The search committee has been formed and has started work on the position description.
- Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Weed Science – Corvallis. The search will commence soon.

#### News

Planning is starting for Hyslop Farm Field Day – this year's event is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The CSS Recognition Event will take place on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the MU Horizon room on the OSU campus. The purpose is to recognize student scholarship and award winners as well as our graduating class; faculty and staff winners of awards and election as fellows, and years of service awards. Attendees will include faculty, staff and students, and donors and parents. There will be a Zoom option.

## **Seed Services Update**

January 24, 2023

A team of Certification specialists and other seed industry professionals increased a small amount of Gulf annual ryegrass to 50 lbs. of breeder seed. The Oregon Ryegrass Commission hired a seed stock grower this fall in Washington to grow two acres of Foundation Gulf. The goal is to have Foundation Gulf available for Oregon growers.

The Tall Fescue Commission hired the same Washington grower to raise two acres of Foundation Kentucky 31 for the next two years. The goal is to have Registered K31 available for Oregon growers.

An ISTA sub-committee is working on developing a PCR test that would distinguish the difference between annual and perennial ryegrass. Multiple primers have been sent to four labs, including the OSU Seed Lab so that one or two best primers will be chosen. Once a primer and procedure has been chosen, a referee will be developed and shared with up to eight international seed labs, to test the efficacy of the primer. It is hoped that a protocol using the new primer will be approved by both AOSA and ISTA to distinguish between annual and perennial ryegrass.

A team of researchers have been assembled to use computer vision, neural networks, and robotics to develop a prototype machine that could be used to sort off-type seed from pure grass seed. The team will be applying for a grant to fund the major portion of the project.

## 2022 Year in Review

**Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 215,444 (-6%)**

**Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 178,311 (-6.3%)**

Tall fescue – 101,580 (-3.1%)

Perennial ryegrass – 34,957 (<1%)

K. Bluegrass – 10,152 (-33%)

Annual ryegrass – 7,858 (-13%)

Chewings fescue – 5,836 (-11%)

**Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 21,269 (-5.8%)**

**Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 5,148 (-20%)**

Red clover – 3,641 (10%)

Crimson clover – 319 (-69%)

**Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 10,716 (11%)**

Radish – 935 (-34%)

**Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 3,082 (1%)**

Total Acres of PVG Certified – 107 (159%)

Total Acres of Corn – 2,825 (13%)

**Active Warehouses in 2022 - 168**

**Active Growers in 2022 - 641**

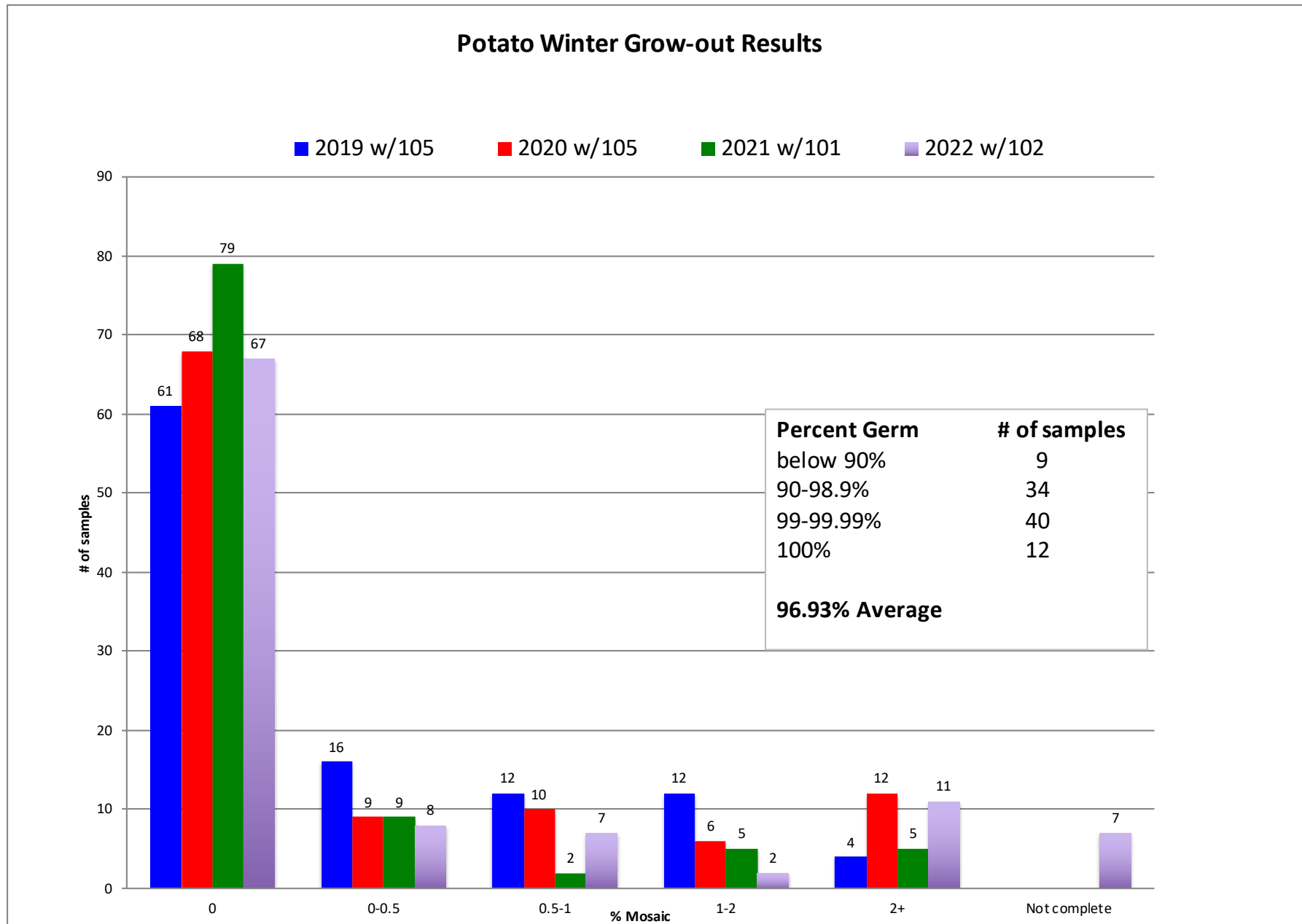
### Updates

- Jeff Mc Morran retired
- Tami Brown shifted responsibilities to take over the potato program
- Jennifer Vahl – Linn, Lane and Benton sampler
- Karen Courtney – Union sampler
- Paula Mills retired in June
- Open Position
  - o Yamhill, Polk, Washington Co. sampler

### OSCS Staffing

- 3 Administrative staff
- 2 Information Technology Staff
- 6 Seed Certification Specialists
- 6 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Specialists
- 8 Seed Certification Samplers
- 1 Manager and Seed Certification Specialist
- Various part-time student employees





**Item 1:** 2022 Oregon Potato Seed Certification Standards: PG 14

Reference: XI. Field Management. B. Lot Identification: Seed lots must be staked at both ends with lot number and variety, and flagged at least every 300 feet along dividing rows. A skip row is required between different varieties.

Field was marked on the ends. Plants spread over the skip row. When walking in the center of the field the inspector had no idea where lot break was. This will not be accepted in the future.



## Item 2: Typos in the Standards

New eyes looking at the standards: permission to update as needed, when it does not affect rules or protocol.

Examples:

### PG 14

A. **Spread of Potato Pathogens:** Precautions should be taken when roguing, irrigating, or cultivation to prevent the spread of potato pathogens.

### PG 15

D. **Inspection of Non-Certified Fields:** All acreage planted to potatoes, but not entered into the certification program for re-certification on a seed farm, must be inspected at least once during the growing season for the presence of bacterial ring rot, except: (1) when a grower plants his own certified seed, or (2) when the adjacent certified lots are for the producers 'own use only' and will not be eligible for sale as certified seed. \*\*\*

\*\*\* Asterix do not appear to go to anything.

## Item 3: Remove Section from printed Standards\*\*

\*\* KEEP PROGRAM\*\*

Currently on Pages 28-31 – Experimental Line Selection Program

As stated in the Standards, this was a one-year pilot program and has only used the one introductory year. Program would remain available for those who desire to use it.

Program will be referred to in the Standards on PG 11 just under VII. Micropropagation.

## Item 4: Booth

The Booth used in the past for this group was given to us from ODA and has been stored at our offices. The growers have decided not to have a booth at this time. Would it be acceptable to offer the use and storing of the booth to the Oregon Potato Commission? Other ideas?

## VII Chair and Vice Chair Schedule

### Rotation for Chair Position

2024 Chair Cal-Ore  
2025 Chair Cascade Seed  
2026 Chair Cheyne Bro/Easy Grow  
2027 Chair CSS Farms  
2028 Chair Ed Stastny  
2029 Chair Grande Ronde  
2030 Chair Lane Farms  
2031 Chair Macy Farms  
2032 Chair Shasta Seed

V.Chair Cascade Seed  
V.Chair Cheyne/Easy Grow  
V.Chair CSS Farms  
V.Chair Ed Stastny  
V.Chair Grande Ronde  
V.Chair Lane Farms  
V.Chair Macy Farms  
V.Chair Shasta Seed  
V.Chair Cal-Ore