

2024 Potato Certification Advisory Committee
Tuesday, Jan 23 at 10:00 AM
WA/OR Potato Conference, 3 Rivers Convention Center

Minutes

Members present: Mark Campbell (Chair), Scotty Fenters, Lydia Raath, Tim Topliff, Rob Lane, Mike Macy, Bart Crawford, Cody Fazio, Kenneth Frost, Taylor Grant, Andrew Altishin, Elizabeth Savory, Tami Brown (secretary)

Visitors present: Dale Brown, Dallas Dominguez, Terry Burr, James Macy, Jeff McMorran, Josephine Antwi, Romaine Eisiminger, Caitlin Leslie, Reagan Grabner

Call to Order: Mark C. (Chair). Mark called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

I. Welcome and introductions.

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting would be recorded.

II. Approval of 2024 Agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the agenda as presented in the packet and on the screen.

III. Approval of 2023 Minutes.

Tami informed the group that the 2023 minutes were posted online and had been sent out to the group. She stated that there was one change: Sagar's name had been incorrect and that was now updated. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the one correction already made.

IV. Certification Board actions concerning PCAC.

Tami said that there were no action items this past year from the Board.

V. Program Updates:

A. Oregon Department of Agriculture. (Elizabeth A. Savory)

Elizabeth shared her document (Appendix 1) that included the shipping point inspections completed in the last 3 years as well as the export by destination for the last 3 years. She stated that most of the shipping point data comes from the Klamath and Columbia Basin districts. She noted that there are three rules that apply to seed

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potatoes and that any part of them could be corrected or amended with a formal request. She then said that they are updating the potato rules for Wallowa and Union Counties to match the generation system that had been updated by OSCS and presented the changes provided to her by Tami. The group quickly noted that the Wallowa update was incorrect, as Generation III to FY 3, that it should be Generation III to FY4 and that they were on board with the changes to the rule with that correction.

B. Winter Grow-Out Report (Terry Burr)

Terry started with stating that he had the best group of students that he can remember: good attitudes, punctual and efficient. Terry showed his graph (Appendix 2) which showed an average germination of 96.5% and that there were 18 lots left to read. The percent mosaic at this time is on average lower than previous years. He noted the difficulty we are having with some lots emerging consistently and that several varieties are difficult to work with, Clearwater being the most difficult. He noted that we held one grower's lot of Clearwater 2 weeks in the warming room before treating, and another grower's 1 week before treating with GA and setting in the warming room for 2 weeks and even one week was an improvement in germination.

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

Tami reviewed the national meetings stating that they seem like the same thing over and over, but that there was some good information that came from them. Hawaii has continued to be an issue with having a cooperator to help maintain the ground and plants and they need to update the planter. She mentioned the dormant tuber testing workshop that Wisconsin hosted, that it was very informative. She noted that there was a sub-committee formed by the PAA to attempt to get data so that certification agencies can better consider moving forward with dormant tuber testing. There are rules for the Necrotic Arc Management Plan, at this time the 2003 rule is still in affect, and for Canada's Potato Wart plan that are waiting for final approval. True Potato Seed is being reviewed by USDA to accept seed from The Netherlands. Nematode is discussed every year and most acres that are no longer regulated are either no longer in agriculture or had never been positive but were regulated because of a possible infection from equipment that finally has enough data to state it is negative. She summed up with a note on Potato Wart that the growers at the NPC meeting do not

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want Potato Wart to cross the border and NPC followed up the meeting with a strong public statement that Canada needs to up their rules and quickly implement them to protect US growers from the disease.

D. Certification Year in Review (Appendix 3) no report

VI. OSCS Issues and Pending Updates

Item 1: Review of Policy Statement #2. Grower is requesting option to have a second test conducted under Section B, Field Virus Sampling.

Tami reviewed the policy that was created to allow lots that arrive without a post harvest test into the Oregon Certification system. She stated that the policy does not include an appeal of the initial results. A grower this year was told no, when this occurred. She stated there were 3 options that were created and described each of them. After discussion it was proposed to accept a retest but that OCSC should require double the testing from 400 leaves to 800 leaves to get better reading of the percent in the field. After some discussion the motion made was to use option A to allow the retest but require a two times sample for a total of 800 leaves, specifically: "A virus sample of 400 leaves per lot is taken at the first inspection at random across the field and are tested for PVY. The PVY levels must not exceed tolerance levels for mosaic at the specific class. Downgrading is permissible. The grower is charged a 'sampling fee' by OSCS and billed by the OSU lab for the virus testing required. If the grower appeals the testing within 5 days of receiving the results, a re-sample could be scheduled required to be double the leaves. Price of re-sampling will include the travel and per diem of returning to the field plus the \$32 per 400 leaf sampling fee." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Item 2: Should Certification be allowed to plant an uncertified lot in the post harvest test? Tami asked to add verbiage to the standards to either allow or disallow uncertified seed in the post harvest test. She gave an example of how it would be stated if they did not want to have uncertified lots in the green house. Scotty asked about the historical information as he remembered something like this in the past. Jeff reminded the group of some uncertified seed and some certified Canadian seed that had been in the greenhouse in the past. Tami mentioned that because she is new, when she is reading the standards,

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she doesn't know the historical background. That is why she would like to know if the growers want it in the standards. Many growers said they didn't like the idea of uncertified lots in the post harvest test. Rob said that Tami's example of how it was stated at the beginning of not being allowed is how he thinks it should be in the standards. Tami read a statement she had written during the discussion: "No seed may enter the post harvest test unless officially signed up for certification." It was moved to accept as read, seconded, all in favor.

Item 3: Latent varieties require PVY testing in winter test (FY1 & FY2) or will be switched to Own Use Only. New verbiage: ALL FY1 & FY2 must be tested.

Tami explained that the change from latent variety verbiage has left this part a little vague as it wasn't stated in the standards that all FY1 and FY2 must be tested in the standards. She said the suggested verbiage would put into the standards is the protocol that they are currently following. The motion was made and seconded to accept the new verbiage as described: "All FY1 and FY2 generation seed entered into the post harvest test will be serologically tested and are subject to being downgraded as necessary. FY3-FY6 WGO readings are used solely as a basis for determining a seed lots' eligibility for re-certification, and no longer used for downgrading of lots. The final class of the lot (other than rejection for 'zero tolerance' factors) will be based on the final field inspection."

Item 4: Pg 17; lots shipped within 90 days of harvest: update to mimic Pg 9 F.5.

Tami explained that when she created this agenda item that she was concerned that page 17 appeared to only refer to out of state shipping, not all shipping. On further review she felt the statement referring to 90 days needed to be removed completely. Jeff gave some background on where the 90 days came from and stated that it was always a little incorrect since the tag (and all other documentation) states "Pending Winter Grow Out" until the winter grow out is complete. Rob made a motion to continue with the pending winter grow out statement on documentation and to remove the reference to 90 days from the standards. Motion was seconded and all were in favor.

Item 5: Review of subclasses

Tami explained that the subclass system was confusing to her. She stated that if the lot is tested at the lab then it would get the PVY subclass, so a report will go out that the lot is FY3-PVY, which seems to imply that it does have PVY, not that it is free of it. Jeff

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added that this all started before the Health Certificate. Tami mentioned that not all subclasses should be removed, true potato seed (TPS) and own use only (OUO) should stay. Jeff stated that it maybe the line selection program (LSP) should also stay, even though it hasn't been used in years, but that it could return. The group asked for a recommendation of what should be done. Tami suggested to remove all the sub-classes that refer to disease and the stem cutting from the standards, that they would stay in the system and the database, just not show up on the table and that the PVY designation would not be used on the health certificate or official reports. After making sure that they understood that the testing does show up on the health certificate when requested it was moved and seconded to remove all sub-classes except TPS, LSP and OUO.

Item 6: Update to lab testing, remove option of calling if more than 5 wells are positive. It was explained that there was a request from the lab to not have a call if more than 5 wells are positive. It disrupts the flow of the samples and can cause a delay in reporting. It was suggested to remove that line and not have that option to call. The new options for strain testing will be none, five, or all. The request was made to have a blank in the number of wells so that the grower could choose the number of wells they wanted tested. Tami said that the answer was logistically yes, but it could create errors. Dallas from the seed lab stated that the lab could easily make that work. Ken asked how many times they get more than one strain in a well, as he had only seen it recently. Scotty stated that he has often seen more than one strain. Tami said the other thing that she wanted to comment on was the cost of testing. She said that the numbers are changing often and it is hard to state what the cost will be. The group asked that she keep the historical cost on the sheet understanding that it could be slightly outdated, especially since there could be a new grower that wouldn't know the cost. Tami re-iterated that she will make the number of wells blank for the grower to fill out and will update the lab fee as best as possible for next year.

Item 7: Request from Frito-Lay: dormant tuber testing, BRR?

Reagan started the conversation stating that he was approached by the Frito-Lay representative that they ask for certification agencies to move to dormant tuber testing. One argument was that it was time to move away from Hawaii or Florida and to move forward not relying on the 'old ways'. He admitted that he wasn't sure if he was asking

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the group to get comfortable with the idea of moving forward, or if he was just starting the discussion. Frito-Lay is committed enough that they may pull their business from the states that do not move forward with dormant tuber testing. Tami mentioned that the representative from Frito-Lay stated to her that both dormant tuber testing and bacterial ring rot both need to be part of certification. She made it clear that she understands what he wants but he is not a grower and she did not have data for moving forward at this time. She did state that the winter grow out team and seed lab are investigating moving forward with dormant tuber testing. She is not comfortable with the data at this time to move forward as part of certification, but is willing to look into ways to complete the test for growers who grow Frito-Lay varieties. The comment was made that it shouldn't have to be part of the certification process if the Frito-Lay growers do move forward with dormant tuber testing. Reagan said that his understanding is that the Frito-Lay people think we are behind in the times and need to step up now that the testing is there. The comment was made that Oregon is special because they are able to use the greenhouses. Rob agreed that the Hawaii reputation is not great and that he has had headaches from the issues that Hawaii has had, but we need much more homework completed before we can move forward with this. For instance; what is the cost, what are the diseases, etc. Terry mentioned that we find chemical and variety mix often. Lydia said that the Frito-Lay representative is trying to get all the certification agencies together, and that he understands that he is trying for something hard. She said in Nebraska she has to have two samples for when, not if, there is a failure in Hawaii. Jeff reminded everyone if they do not trust the dormant tuber testing that they should watch the health certificate because some states are moving to dormant tuber testing and that may be the only result they get. Mark asked if there was a standard location on the tuber that the cores are taken from. Tami described what was covered in the dormant tuber workshop: 4 cores, 1 bud, 2 lateral, and 1 stem. This is not a stated protocol, but a recommendation. Ken Frost shared with the group the testing and trials that are being completed to try to get on board with dormant tuber testing. Mark asked if there was enough discussion or if Reagan wanted to put anything into a motion. Reagan said no. Mark then asked if there was any other discussion. Tami had one more comment in reference to Frito-Lay asking for bacterial ring rot as part of certification and she realizes that he is very test driven, but

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that we complete the harvest inspection as a way to screen for bacterial ring rot and that Oregon is a visual program.

VII. Other Business

No other business was presented.

VIII. 2025 Meeting: Chair (Mark T.), Vice Chair (Scott F.). Location/day of 2025 Meeting. Tami noted that the location and day are part of the by-laws. We will no longer have a query of location and day, but that it will be at the Oregon Potato Conference.

IX. Elect Representative for 2025 Board. Feb 7, 2024.

Mike mentioned that he would do it again, but he is having surgery before and it would be better to have someone else cover it. Scotty made the motion that Cody should be the representative. This was seconded, all in favor. Following the meeting Cody told the secretary and chair that he would be traveling for vacation and wasn't sure if he would be able to zoom in or not. Mark immediately found a replacement and chose Caitlin Leslie of Cal-Ore to be the representative.

X. Adjourn

Mark Adjourned the meeting at 11:40AM.

Respectfully submitted



Tami Brown

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Action Items:

- 1) Update Policy Statement #2. II B. Field Virus Sampling to allow a retest at double the sample.
- 2) Add to Page 18, XIV: Create: H. No seed may enter the post harvest test unless officially signed up for certification.
- 3) Update Page 18, XIV G: include lab testing for all FY1 and FY2 lots which are entered into the greenhouse which may result in downgrading.
- 4) Remove references (Pg 17) to a lot being exempt from the post harvest test if it is shipped within 90 days of harvest.
- 5) Remove references from the standards for sub-classes PVY, PVX, PLRV, and SC; retain OUO, TPS, and LSP

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Export & Inspection Volume Statistics

- Please see attached summary documents.

Oregon Seed Potato Rules

There are three administrative rules related to seed potatoes in Oregon:

- 603-052-0830 requires that “Commercial Potatoes Produced in Oregon to be Grown from “Certified Seed””. This was last updated in 1990.
- Union (603-052-0395) and Wallowa (603-052-0390) have stricter rules, ie., control area orders for potato disease control and they include home growers. The Wallowa County rule was written in 1980 and Union County in 2008.

The language in the Union and Wallowa County rules needs to be changed to reflect the correct generation language used by seed certification.

Wallowa County OAR 603-052-0390 (see attached)

- Generation III changed to Field Year (FY) 3 (OAR 603-052-0390(2)(b))
- Oregon Foundation Class changed to FY 5 (OAR 603-052-0390(2)(c))

Union County OAR 603-052-0395 (see attached)

- Generation 2 (field year 3) changed to Field Year 3 (FY3) (OAR 603-052-0395(2)(b))
- Oregon G4 changed to FY5 (OAR 603-052-0395(2)(c))

Plant Health Program Move to the North Valley Complex

The Plant Health laboratory is moving in January 2024. After February 1, all correspondence and seed samples should be sent to:

North Valley Complex, ATTN: Plant Health
26755 SW 95th Ave
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Potato Export Volume - By Destination (CWT)

Country	2021	2022	2023
Canada	108,316.00	133,588.20	31,091.00
Costa Rica	-	2,184.82	114.08
El Salvador	2,520.00	425.00	-
Guatemala	105.00	-	-
Japan	241,460.00	138,780.00	125,820.00
Korea	7,558.48	0.44	-
Malaysia	1,050.00	-	-
Mexico	128,129.10	170,161.78	170,001.00
Panama	2,527.00	1,900.00	-
Philippines	59,203.69	105,548.26	50,245.32
Taiwan	116,641.50	73,955.00	30,865.00
United Arab Emirates	-	-	525.00
	667,510.77	626,543.50	408,661.40

Data reflects volume (cwt) of potatoes exported based on phytosanitary certificates issued by the department

Potato Inspection Volume (lbs)

Type	2021	2022	2023
Fresh	85,818,833	60,682,614	40,542,798
Seed Potatoes	720,640	425,450	12,000
Processed	5,823,903,580	5,561,489,295	4,658,236,422
	5,911,288,429.96	5,623,405,427.76	4,699,283,539.72

Data reflects volume (lbs) of potatoes inspected by the department

OAR 603-052-0830 <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/view.action?ruleNumber=603-052-0830>

Commercial Potatoes Produced in Oregon to be Grown from “Certified Seed”

(1) As authorized by ORS 570.405 to 570.435, a control area is established for the protection of the Oregon potato industry against the introduction and spread of serious bacterial, fungal, viral, and nematode diseases of potatoes. Such control area includes all of the state of Oregon.

(2) The following methods of control are declared to be proper methods to be used in the control area described in section (1) of this rule:

(a) All commercial potato plantings in Oregon in excess of one acre in size shall be propagated from “certified seed” only;

(b) All Oregon potato growers shall be responsible for obtaining proper certification documents or tags to verify that all seed potatoes used for potato propagation comply with this rule. Such documents shall be retained by the grower for one calendar year and shall be provided to the Oregon Department of Agriculture upon written request for such documentation. Such documentation shall include the total weight of certified seed potatoes received by the grower in questions, and shall be issued only by a legal certifying agency in the state or country of origin. Falsification of seed potato certification documents shall be deemed to be in violation of ORS 570.410;

(c) Oregon Department of Agriculture officials may sample any potato seed lot for the purpose of testing and verification of compliance with “certified seed” only standards. Such department official may enter any potato field for the purpose of conducting inspections which may be required to carry out this rule;

(d) Definitions: “Certified seed” shall be limited to seed which meets those standards established for “certified seed” by the representing agency officially recognized by the state or country of origin.

(3) Exceptions to the “certified seed” only requirement may be permitted by the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture when availability of “certified seed” does not allow compliance with this rule. Such exceptional permit shall be obtained prior to planting. Specific requirements may be stipulated in the Director’s permit.

(4) Any violation of this rule shall be deemed to be a violation of ORS 570.410 and may subject the violator to the penalty provisions of 570.990.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561 & 570

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 561.190, 561.510 - 561.600, 570.305, 570.405 & 570.410 - 570.415 **History:**

AD 5-1990, f. & cert. ef. 3-19-90

OAR 603-052-0390 <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/view.action?ruleNumber=603-052-0390>

Wallowa County Potato Disease Control Area and Procedures

- (1) As authorized by ORS 570.405 to 470.435 a control area is established for the protection of the seed potato industry in Wallowa County against the introduction and spread of potato diseases, including viruses and pests. Such area includes all of Wallowa County, Oregon.
- (2) The following methods are to be used in the control area described in section (1) of this rule for the control of potato diseases and pests within the control area and to prevent the introduction of such diseases and pests into Wallowa County:
- (a) All potato seed imported into the control area shall have a Federal-State Shipping Point inspection and certification prior to entering the control areas;
 - (b) All potato seed planted in the control area for the purpose of producing commercial or seed quality potatoes shall be of a quality which meets the minimum requirements of the Oregon State University potato seed certification standards for **Field Year (FY) 3 Generation III**, VT-SC Stock established via stemcutting, and must be eligible for recertification in the growing area. Recertification quality shall be based on a winter test and must meet the Oregon State University potato seed certification standard for **FY3 Generation III**, ~~VT-SC winter test tolerances~~;
 - (c) All potato seed sold in the control area for the purpose of home garden or noncommercial potato production shall be of a quality which meets the minimum requirements of the Oregon State University potato seed certification standards for ~~Oregon Foundation Class~~ **Field Year 5**;
 - (d) Copies of all certification tags and shipping point certificates shall be forwarded to the Department for final approval of potato seed stock intended for use in the production of commercial or seed quality potatoes within the control area; and
 - (e) All cull potatoes accumulated at the time potatoes are dug and moved into storage shall be destroyed within 30 days thereof, and all cull potatoes accumulated during shipment process shall also be destroyed within 30 days thereof.
- (3) Exceptions to the requirements specified in subsection (2)(b) of this rule shall be permitted only when planting stock of the quality specified in said subsection is not available for certain potato varieties. Varieties or clones considered under this exception shall be converted to the requirements set forth in subsection (2)(b) of this rule as soon as seed stock is available. Potato seed intended for use in production of commercial or seed quality potatoes which do not meet the recertification requirements of subsection (2)(b) of this rule are subject to the following limitations:
- (a) Written approval to plant such potato seed stock shall be secured from the Department prior to planting in the control area;
 - (b) Such potato seed stock shall be limited to no more than twenty cwt. for any one variety, and for each cwt. of such variety planted at least ten tubers must be virus-tested in accordance with standards established under the Oregon State University seed potato certification program, and such variety of potato seed stock shall be brought up to the Oregon State University potato seed certification standards for Generation III, VT Stock within three years;
 - (c) All such potato seed stock shall be planted in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (A) Tuber Unit: a tuber unit shall consist of two or more seed pieces produced from a single tuber. The seed pieces so produced from a single tuber shall be planted in successive hills in the seed row with two or more hills skipped between tuber units;
 - (B) Single Drops: uncut single tubers selected from the allowable twenty cwt. may be planted as single drops provided that the single drop planting area is clearly marked within the field.
- (4) Persons subjected to subsection (2)(b) of this rule shall have three years within which to convert their seed stock programs so as to meet the requirements set forth in said subsection, and seed stock used for the 1983 planting season shall meet the requirements of subsection (2)(b) of this rule.

(5) Any violation of this rule shall be deemed to be a violation of ORS 570.410 and subject the violator to the penalty provisions of ORS 570.990. Additionally, any potato seed found to be in violation of this rule shall be destroyed or disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Department.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561 & 570

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 561.190, 561.510 - 561.600, 570.305, 570.405 & 570.410 - 415

History:

AD 3-1980, f. 4-22-80, ef. 5-12-80

OAR 603-052-0395 <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/view.action?ruleNumber=603-052-0395>

Union County Potato Disease Control Area and Procedures

(1) As authorized by ORS 570.305 and 570.405, a control area is established for the protection of the seed potato industry in Union County against the introduction and spread of potato diseases, including viruses and pests. Such area includes all of Union County, Oregon north of the Craig Mountain Range: i.e. all of Union County north of a west to east line starting at the intersection of the Western border of Union County and the northern border of T4S R34E sec 34 and continuing due east to the eastern border of Union County at the northern border of T4S R43E sec 31.

(2) The following methods are to be used in the control area described in section (1) of this rule for the control of potato diseases and pests within the control area and to prevent the introduction of such diseases and pests into Union County:

(a) All potato seed imported into the control area shall have a Federal-State Shipping Point inspection and certification prior to entering the control area;

(b) All potatoes planted in the control area for the purpose of producing seed quality or commercial potatoes shall meet the minimum disease tolerances of OSU Potato Seed Certification Standards for **Field Year 3 (FY3)** ~~generation 2 (field year 3)~~ stock and must be eligible for re-certification in the growing area based upon a winter grow-out test. All production larger in scope than a home garden (potatoes not grown for re-sale in commercial markets are considered home garden or noncommercial potato production) must be entered into the OSU Seed Certification Program as a seed production field or into the Un-certified Field Inspection Program as a commercial production field;

(c) All potato seed sold in the control area for the purpose of home garden or noncommercial potato production shall be of a quality that meets the minimum requirements of the Oregon State University potato seed certification standards for **FY5 Oregon G4** ~~or earlier~~ generations;

(d) All cull potatoes accumulated at the time potatoes are dug and moved into storage shall be destroyed within 30 days, and all cull potatoes accumulated during shipment process shall also be destroyed within 30 days;

(e) Diseases, such as potato late blight, or viruses vectored by aphids require preventative management. Therefore, appropriate control measures are required throughout the growing season to prevent late blight infection or buildup of insects that vector viruses. Specific ways to prevent these problems require using widely accepted methods such as found in the Pacific Northwest Disease/Insect Management Handbooks, or as recommended by local experts in disease/insect control.

(f) All farm equipment related to potato production (used to till and level farm ground or handle potatoes), must be steam cleaned or power washed to remove all soil and plant debris before entering the control area.

(3) Potatoes in transit through the control area shall be in containers or vehicles covered or sealed to prevent lost of tubers or soil.

(4) Destruction of volunteer potatoes. Each grower within the control area is responsible for destroying volunteer potatoes growing on summer fallow, set-aside, non-cultivated, and rotational crop areas of the grower's property. In the event that the grower fails to destroy such plants, the Director may order them

destroyed at the expense of the grower. Volunteers in rotation crops should be controlled in the best way possible.

(5) Potatoes in home gardens may be subject to inspection by the Oregon Department of Agriculture should the need arise, and effective control measures shall be taken if necessary.

(6) Any violation of this rule shall be deemed to be a violation of ORS 570.410 and subject the violator to the penalty provisions of ORS 570.990 and 570.995, including civil penalties of up to \$10,000. Additionally, any potato seed found to be in violation of this rule shall be destroyed or disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Department. The grower shall pay the cost of destruction.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 561.190, 570.305 & 570.405

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 571.057

History:

DOA 10-2008, f. & cert. ef. 2-28-08

Potato Winter Grow-out Results

Appendix 2



