

2026 Potato Certification Advisory Committee
Tuesday, Jan 27 at 10:00 AM
WA/OR Potato Conference, 3 Rivers Convention Center
Conference Room – Comfort Suites

Minutes

Members present: Cody Fazio, Mike Macy, Rob Lane, Lydia Raath, Scott Higgins, Tim Topliff, Ken Frost, Teresa Nicholson, Andrew Altishin, Caitlin Leslie, Tami Brown (secretary)

Visitors present: Jesse Benbow, James Macy, Terry Burr, Dale Brown

Call to Order: Lydia R. (Vice Chair). Lydia called the meeting to order about 10:05 am.

I. Welcome and introductions

Lydia opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Tami reminded the group that the meeting was being recorded she also reminded the group who the current voting members were.

II. Approval of 2026 Agenda.

Lydia noted that some of the dates were incorrect on the original agenda and asked for a motion to approve the motion with corrected dates. The motion was made and seconded, all were in favor.

III. Approval of 2025 Minutes.

Lydia asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Minutes which were posted online. The motion was made and seconded, all were in favor.

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

Tami referred to the two action items that were approved by the 2025 committee and moved forward to the Board. She said both items were approved at the Board and were incorporated into the 2025 Potato Standards.

V. Program Updates:

A. Oregon Department of Agriculture. (Teresa N.) Appendix 1

Teresa presented the ODA report which included the export volume and location. In addition, she shared the inspection volume of fresh, seed potatoes and process potatoes for the year. Appendix 1.

B. Oregon Seed Certification Service (Andrew A.) Appendix 2

Andrew presented the OSCS Year in Review which reported 8% reduction in acres mostly from the grass industry. He referred to the plantings report (can be accessed online) and noted that the

plantings were stable this year, with a couple crops increasing. He observed the number of acres of potatoes were down by 18%. He then informed the group of the full retirement of John Zielinski. He shared that he did not receive any complaints from the potato growers, and that we had a good inspection year.

C. Winter Grow-Out Report (Terry B.) Appendix 3

Terry presented his report of number of lots that were entered in the winter grow out, including the number of lots that had virus. 92 lots were entered and 5 were left to read. There appeared to be slightly more virus than in previous years, but overall it was an average year. He hired 13 students and before the project started, he lost three. He mentioned the difficulty and reliability of using student labor. He also shared a spreadsheet with the average number of days each variety grew before they were read. Some varieties were slower growing and the team was considering a change in the way those varieties were handled to get overall more consistent growth. Terry felt that this might make it more complicated for the growers getting their results; however, Tami noted that some varieties are taking more than two extra weeks to get results and if adjusting the system helps, it could result in a net gain. Terry said that the average greenhouse germination is usually around 95%. One variety that had about 50% germ, replanting brought it up to the 80's. When the group asked the variety Terry told them it was Reveille Russet. Tami shared that Colorado has tried many things to break dormancy with that variety and ultimately decided to switch their protocol to direct tuber testing. Tami stated that anyone planning to grow Reveille Russet should remember that it is difficult in the winter grow out. Tami also mentioned Hamlin Russet was extremely slow growing in the greenhouse and that these issues appear to be variety specific. Tim asked if holding them an extra week causes any extra rot. Terry stated no, there hasn't been too much rot in the last two years.

D. Review of National Potato Certification Meetings (Tami B.)

Tami reviewed the national meetings that she attends in Washington DC, the important updates being that Idaho is voting to include Direct Tuber Testing (DTT) into certification which means they could move forward with not having a winter grow out. Also that the potato certification agent in California retired and California *may* be planning to inspect those acres. In addition, she updated the group on quarantined nematode acres, DTT for other certification agencies and potato wart. She mentioned the state national harmonization program will be signed by all states soon, but that it was a 2019 version. Tami said that the protocol for importing true seed is expected to be accepted within the next two years. She said there is a push from Europe to have yellow potatoes in America. Ken mentioned that the yellows are susceptible to many necrotic viruses and show symptoms. She noted that there was no change in the nematode acres that are under quarantine

and that Canada has come up with a plan to monitor potato wart, although it still seems weaker than the nematode plan. The final item she shared was that the PAA is attempting to create trainings to assist all certification agencies to be better at inspecting. North Dakota has had BRR trials and Colorado has yearly trainings and the discussion was to involve more certification agencies in these trials, as well as create new trainings. No one has seen BRR in a seed field since 2016, making it harder to recognize when it does appear. She asked the group if there was anything that they were interested in knowing from these national meetings. Lydia asked if Nebraska gave an update. Tami said yes, they were now using DTT in Nebraska for the lower generation lots, she then asked Lydia to give more information as her company was more intimately involved with it. Lydia explained that the push for DTT was due to the poor germination in Hawaii for the post harvest test. They are outsourcing to Wisconsin's lab because Nebraska did not have the resources. Lydia said that FY3 and down would only need DTT, but all FY1 and FY2 must be sent to Hawaii. Also, summer field reports could require the lot to go to the grow out. Tami also mentioned that Wisconsin now has greenhouses and could go three directions (DTT, Hawaii, Greenhouse).

VI. OSCS Issues and Pending Updates (Tami B.)

Item 1: Update to Potato Standards: Varieties certified in the last 10 years.

Tami explained that she was moving forward with removing varieties that had not been inspected in the last 10 years, but that it should not affect the group. If they wanted to use one of those varieties, they would just be added back. Tami reminded everyone that she sends emails asking what is new to each grower, so she can get permissions from the owner for them to grow that variety. She said that there would be 50 public varieties, 20 private varieties and 20 heirloom varieties that would no longer show up, but could be added back if they are again grown in Oregon.

Item 2: Update on Direct Tuber Testing this year.

Tami gave an update on direct tuber testing. She mentioned that last year there was a delay in the growth of the tubers that appeared to be from coring for DTT first. This year the tubers were cored for planting first, then DTT which was a much better result. A comparison study was completed using leaf testing and DTT coring on the same tubers, but the lot was extremely high in PVY. It may be beneficial to run the study one more time. She mentioned that there had been a push on the national scene to make it part of certification, but that pressure has eased some. She reminded the group that if the outside agencies only completes DTT, that Oregon will accept the lot.

Item 3: Dormancy issues in the WGO

Tami commented that this topic had been discussed earlier and that we probably didn't need to revisit. Terry mentioned that in the field inspections we are not seeing the virus. However, it seems to be a result of chemical symptoms on the potatoes. He asked if there was a way to see the potatoes before the chemical is sprayed. Ken said that it was most likely an environmental issue that cooler springs have made the potatoes emerge slower and that is making the symptoms from the pre-emergent chemicals more striking. Tami shared that in field inspections it would be expected that the virus plants when affected by chemicals would have stronger symptoms, instead it seemed to make them all look alike. Next year's plan is to inspect more plants in the fields, but that may not help since the virus can't be seen in certain conditions.

VII. Other Business

Tami asked if there was any other business. Rob said if we can't fix the prices that are in the tank that there isn't anything to talk about. Tim then brought up that for other states are only completing DTT he would be interested in having a grow out on his lots that are received at the same time that he bringing his lots to the greenhouse. He said he would like to know the associated cost to have the seed grown out in the greenhouse during the winter test. Lydia asked about the timing of the shipping and Tim answered the area they purchase from begins harvest in August. Tami asked if others would interested in using this system or if anyone was against it. Mike stated that he would not be interested, but would not be against it. Lydia agreed. Tami made sure that everyone knew that this seed would not slow Oregon grown seed lots being planted in the greenhouse, Oregon grown certified seed would have priority. The question came up what kind of testing is being completed for DTT. Ken said that there is a publication reporting the number of cores that need to be taken to accurately detect the virus. He also confirmed that the testing is PCR not ELISA. Tami said those involved in the PAA have many questions about standardizing the testing before making the test fully accepted across the certification agencies. For instance, Michigan does not have a set amount of time the tubers are to be warmed before testing. She shared that she is part of the DTT sub-committee with the PAA so she can share what they learn. Ken mentioned that there is a computer system/robot that is being created in Washington state to help the coring process. Tami stated that she will create a form explaining the cost of the program to test incoming certified seed into the Oregon winter grow out. Mike confirmed that this program would only be for the grower planting their own seed, not from another certification agency. Tami confirmed that he was correct.

VIII. 2027 Meeting: Chair (Lydia R.), Vice Chair (Tim T.). 2027 Meeting will be at the WA/OR Potato Conference the Tuesday before the conference.

Tami reminded everyone that they chose years ago to have the seed growers take turns being the chair and who would be chair and vice chair next year. She stated that the bylaws state the time and

place of the meeting, however, she asked the group for other options to get more people to attend. She then commented on the absence of several Extension members due to a scheduling conflict, and that this was the second time this had happened. She asked if there were other times or dates that would work better for the group. Terry mentioned that the Board meets in February and that there is not a lot of time to get the minutes out. The group stated that they like the time and place and would like to stick with the room they were in.

IX. Elect Representative for 2026 Board. (2025 Rep: Cal-Ore) Feb 18, 2026 9 am.

Lydia asked for a 2026 representative to the board. Caitlyn offered to be the representative for the Board. The group gladly accepted her offer.

X. Adjourn

Lydia adjourned the meeting at about 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tami L. Brown".

Tami Brown

2026 Potato Certification Advisory Committee

Action Items: none

Potato Certification Advisory Committee

January 27, 2026



Export & Inspection Volume Statistics

- Please see attached summary documents.

Potato Export Volume - By Destination (CWT)

Country	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Canada	108,316.00	133,588.20	31,091.00	9,281.00	30,401.50
China				1.10	-
Costa Rica	-	2,184.82	114.08	2,154.68	13,171.84
El Salvador	2,520.00	425.00	-	1,265.00	821.00
Guatemala	105.00	-	-	1,685.00	-
Japan	241,460.00	138,780.00	125,820.00	125,280.00	244,848.76
Korea	7,558.48	0.44	-	-	-
Malaysia	1,050.00	-	-	2,100.00	1,575.00
Mexico	128,129.10	170,161.78	170,001.00	399,631.38	123,549.89
Panama	2,527.00	1,900.00	-	6,035.64	-
Philippines	59,203.69	105,548.26	50,245.32	69,743.40	103,249.72
Taiwan	116,641.50	73,955.00	30,865.00	96,133.50	64,578.50
United Arab Emirates	-	-	525.00	-	-
Vietnam				210.00	
	667,510.77	626,543.50	408,661.40	713,310.70	582,196.21

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

Potato Inspection Volume (lbs)

Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fresh	85,818,833	60,682,614	40,542,798	66,150,073	49,890,759
Seed Potatoes	720,640	425,450	12,000	1,419,260	1,357,233
Processed	5,823,903,580	5,561,489,295	4,658,236,422	4,862,271,323	3,657,877,420
	5,911,288,430	5,623,405,428	4,699,283,540	4,930,722,078	3,709,877,461

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

2025 Year in Review

Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 179,710 (-8.6%)

Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 141,603 (-7.9%)

Tall Fescue – 74,665 (-13.1%)

Perennial ryegrass – 26,053 (-1%)

K. Bluegrass – 8,541 (26.4%)

Annual ryegrass – 10,177 (1.5%)

Chewings fescue – 5,171 (-7.5%)

Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 21,165 (-16.4%)

Wheat – 19,790 (-15.2%)

Barley – 480 (-48.4%)

Oat – 243 (-58.7%)

Triticale – 430 (151.5%)

Club wheat – 158 (-21%)

Red oat – 64 (-32.6%)

Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 7,008 (34.2%)

Red clover – 4,141 (18.3%)

Crimson clover – 1,018 (234.9%)

Field bean – 770 (100%)

Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 9,934 (-19.3%)

Radish – 1,019 (-29.1%)

Hybrid Canola – 2,799 (-0.1%)

Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 2,748 (-18.3%)

Total Acres of PVG Certified – 124 (-26.6%)

Total Acres of Corn – 2,142 (-34.6%)

Active Warehouses in 2025 - 189

Active Growers in 2025 – 554

Samples submitted in 2025 – 7,486

Updates

- John Zielinski retired
- Tami Brown has taken over John's Willamette Valley areas
- Jesse Benbow has expanded his Willamette Valley areas to take over some of Tami's old area



Andrew Altishin

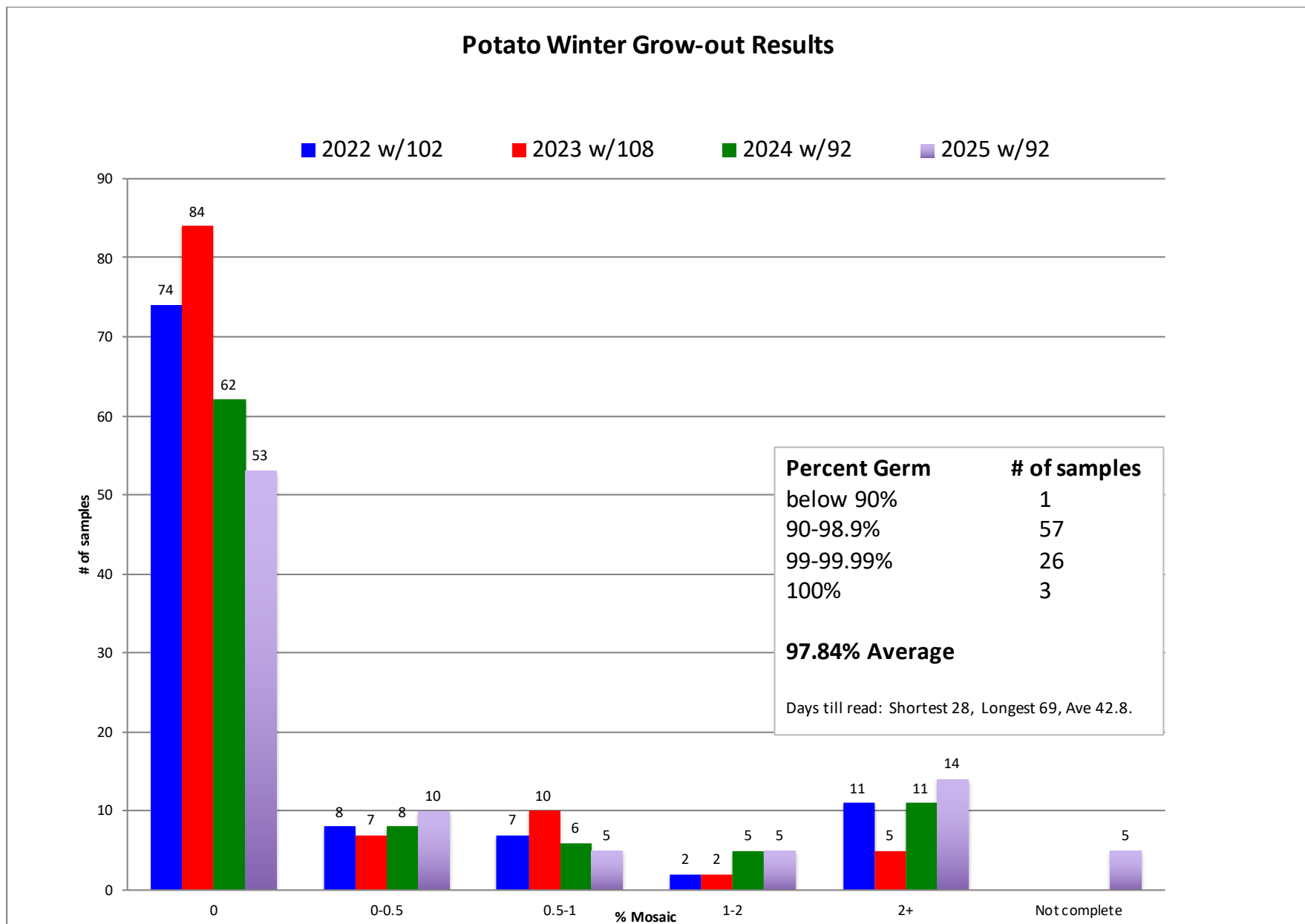
Oregon Seed Certification Service

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OSCS Staffing

- 3 Administrative staff
- 2 Information Technology Staff
- 5 Seed Certification Specialists
- 3 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Specialists
- 6 Seed Certification Samplers
- 3 Seasonal corn inspectors
- 1 Manager and Seed Certification Specialist
- Various part-time student employees (office and potato greenhouse)



VARIETY	DTR
907-15	31
DNP	32
DNP	46
Agata	32
Alturas	38
Amarosa	41
Anouk	28
Atlantic	35
Austrian Crescent	36
Banana	35
Bliss	59
Chieftain	61
Ciklamen	31
Clearwater	51
Dakotah Russet	32
Dundee	41
DNP	60
DNP	51
DNP	36
DNP	36
Hamlin	60
Lamoka	56
Mackinaw	43
Modoc	46
Paige	35
Ranger Russet	40
Russet Norkotah	45
Russet Norkotah 278	47
Russet Norkotah 296	45
Russian Banana	42
Sangre	41
Saraya	38
Umatilla Russet	47
Waneta	48
Yukon Gold	46